

*For Immediate Release*

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## **Rosamond Gifford Zoo Acquires Rare Clouded Leopard**

Syracuse, N.Y. (December 6, 2016) – The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is pleased to announce the addition of a rare clouded leopard. The female, named Natida, was born in March 2015. She was acquired from the Nashville Zoo at Grassmere. She can now be seen on exhibit in Adaptation of Animals, the nocturnal area of the indoor zoo.

“We are pleased to bring clouded leopards back to our zoo, as part of our participation in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan (SSP). The SSP is a collaborative effort among North American zoos to support conservation of wildlife at risk of extinction. Clouded leopards are a vulnerable population, making our involvement in the SSP all the more important for continuation and preservation of the species. We hope to pair Natida with a male once we receive recommendation from the SSP,” says Zoo Director Ted Fox.



*Natida, clouded leopard at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo (photo by Jaime Alvarez)*

The clouded leopard, native to Southeast Asia, gets its name from the large cloud-like spots on its body. The species faces significant threats in the wild due to human-wildlife conflict, poaching and habitat loss. The smallest of the “big cats,” clouded leopards are nocturnal (active at night) and spend most of their time in treetops and rock formations. Their long tails are used for balance while moving about in the trees.

**FUN FACT: Unlike other cats, clouded leopards have the unique ability to turn around and come down a tree or cliff head-first thanks to flexible and rotating ankle joints.**

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Founded in 1914, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is dedicated to connecting people to the natural world by providing engaging guest experiences, exceptional animal care, and unparalleled conservation education.

The zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to provide its guests “the best day ever,” ensuring experiences that excite, memories that endure, and knowledge that inspires worldwide conservation.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org).

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County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley  
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

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