

For Immediate Release

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Longsnout Seahorse Newest Aquatic Resident at Rosamond Gifford Zoo

Syracuse, N.Y. (December 30, 2014) – The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is pleased to announce the addition of the longsnout seahorse to its aquatic collection. There are three males and four females in the group, which can be seen on exhibit in the aquarium located in the zoo's Adaptation of Animals area, across from the sloths.

"In the wild, populations of most species of seahorse are declining due to overfishing. This particular species is very impressive and can reach sizes of up to seven inches, larger than any other species the zoo has had previously," says Ted Fox, zoo director. "The longsnouts have particularly vivid coloration to blend in with their environment. Like all species of seahorse, they have very interesting social behavior which makes them especially fun to watch."

The longsnout seahorse is native to the temperate to tropical western Atlantic Ocean, from North Carolina and Bermuda to Brazil, including the Gulf of Mexico. They reside in coral and rocky reefs, and adjacent to seagrass beds and manmade structures. Longsnout seahorses are poor swimmers. They rely on camouflage and bony plates covering most of their bodies to fend off predators. Like other seahorses, their tails are highly maneuverable and are used to attach the seahorse to places where it hides.

FUN FACT:

Though longsnout seahorses eat tiny plankton, they are small enough and have enough vision to see and attack individual prey. Because their heads are relatively larger than their tiny mouths, they can concentrate enough pressure to easily suck in their prey.



Longsnout seahorse (photo by Terri Redhead)

Winter is a fantastic time to visit the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Outdoor exhibits feature animals chosen for their ability to adapt to the

region's climate. In addition, sixty percent of the zoo's exhibits are indoors, making it a great destination even on cold and snowy days.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For those planning to visit during this week's school break, the zoo is closed on New Year's Day. For more information, call (315) 435-8511 or visit the zoo's website at rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

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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.

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Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

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