



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Friends of the Zoo Announces New Board Members

Syracuse, N.Y. (November 12, 2015) – Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is pleased to welcome to its board of directors Al Gough, Hal J. Mevec Jr. and Melissa A. Piper.

Al Gough returns to the Friends of the Zoo board of directors after serving as treasurer of the board from 2003-12. He presently serves as chair of the finance committee and treasurer of the board. Gough is CFO of the Hotel Syracuse Restoration. He is a financial executive and business strategist with a broad corporate leadership background. His previous experience includes serving as vice president of finance and operations at CXtec and financial leadership positions with Pyramid Management Group and ONBANK. He resides in Sherrill.

Hal J. Mevec Jr. is a supplier quality engineer with Welch Allyn Inc. and has been with the company since 2001. An engineer with over 15-plus years of experience in the electronics, chemical and medical industries, he previously worked for Anaren Microwave and Buckbee Mears Corporation. He holds a bachelor's degree from Le Moyne College in applied management analysis. Mevec serves on the Friends board's government relations committee. A lifelong resident of Central New York, Mevec resides in Syracuse with his wife, Vira Zownirenko. He is the father of two grown children, Michael and Jessica Mevec.

Melissa A. Piper has been with National Grid/Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation since 1991. Newly named project manager for the company's New Energy Solutions Delivery team, she was previously responsible for the company's New York clean energy program portfolio. A 2015 graduate of Leadership Greater Syracuse, Piper holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Colgate University, a master's degree in economics from The Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University and an MBA from Le Moyne College. In the local community, she is also a member of the Girl Scouts and Ducks Unlimited. Piper serves on the Friends board's education committee. An avid and lifelong horseman, she resides in Camillus with her family.

Founded in 1970, Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is a non-profit, 501 (c) (3) support organization to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, which is operated by

Onondaga County Parks. Friends of the Zoo supports the mission of the zoo by providing educational programming to zoo visitors and the surrounding community, marketing efforts, fundraising and development activities.

Friends of the Zoo operates The Curious Cub Gift Shop, Catering at the Zoo and Jungle Café. Over the years, the organization has helped build new exhibits, improve existing habitats and upgrade facilities. Membership to the zoo through the Friends organization affords members discounts on educational programs, events, and in the zoo gift shop; a quarterly publication, *MyZoo Magazine*; and free admission to the zoo year-round.

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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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www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org

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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