



FRIENDS

OF THE
ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO

2018

ANNUAL
REPORT

Providing a level of excellence that makes the Rosamond Gifford Zoo a national leader in animal care, conservation and visitor experience.



A JOINT MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT OF THE
FRIENDS OF THE ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO
AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

When we look back on 2018 at the zoo, one word roars to mind: **Dinosaurs!**

With only 12 weeks and a limited budget, and thanks to our dedicated board, staff and supporters, we launched our Dinosaur Invasion! Memorial Day weekend and enjoyed an enormous amount of excitement on the part of our guests through Labor Day and beyond.

The dinosaurs demonstrated how well our Friends and County teams can rise to the occasion on behalf of the zoo, they gave us yet another opportunity to talk about the zoo's conservation mission – through a story about extinction and they lent excitement to all areas of the zoo.

Perhaps most importantly, the dinosaurs helped us attract over 350,000 visitors and gain close to 1,500 new memberships! And we received wonderful feedback about zoo memories that will be cherished for years to come.

Friends and the County also worked together to negotiate the rigorous process of gaining accreditation by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). AZA remains the gold standard for measuring the performance of zoos and aquariums in animal care, wildlife conservation and guest experience, and 2018 was our 30th year of continuous AZA accreditation.

After months of submitting records and documentation to AZA, we had a thorough three-day inspection by the Accreditation Committee in July. We were very pleased to be granted another five years of accreditation in September, and we remain one of only 233 facilities with that designation.

Also in 2018, we acquired a pair of very rare animals, Amur leopards, the world's most endangered big cats. Welcoming Tria and Rafferty to the zoo allows us to participate in the Species Survival Plan for these critically endangered animals. In 2019, the Friends will be fundraising to renovate the former lion exhibit for these beautiful and rare felines.

As always, we couldn't accomplish any of this without your support. Every visit you make, every membership you purchase, every lunch, gift or event you enjoy here directly contributes to animal welfare and conservation at your zoo.

Sincerely,

Janet Agostini
President & CEO

Carl Isley
Chair of the Board

ON THE COVER:
Rafferty, a male Amur leopard, was acquired from the San Diego Zoo on June 27. Amur leopards are the most critically endangered species of big cats.

ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO AT BURNET PARK

BY THE NUMBERS

796 animals at the zoo 53 Golfodulcean poison dart frogs hatched

721 animals sponsored through the Adopt an Animal program

355,621 visitors 7,633 member households 1,449 new members

35,572 volunteer hours valued at \$1.06 million

84,400 social media followers

34,552 plush animals sold at The Curious Cub Gift Shop

Nearly 100,000 visitors engaged with our summer Zoo Guides

85,250 gemstones and fossils discovered at EarthWorks!

1,437 Zoo Camp and Edventure Academy attendees

9,081 Zoo to You traveling education program participants

\$12,473 earmarked for conservation through The Curious Cub Gift Shop round-up feature

325 birthday parties and catered events



Dilophosaurus, a fan favorite during Dinosaur Invasion!, delighted guests by spraying water across Wildlife Trail.



A female Caiman lizard

ANIMAL UPDATES

Two male Bactrian camels, Patrick and George, were acquired from the Milwaukee County Zoo in January. They have been in training and appearing at daily camel demonstrations for several months.

Two female Caiman lizards were acquired and are now on exhibit together in the USS Antiquities Cave.

Fred the red fox, a rescue animal who spent his first three years at the zoo, went to live at the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Indiana.

A male Humboldt penguin chick hatched at the zoo on February 25. A naming vote resulted in his being named Felix, which means “happy” in Spanish.

A female fennec fox, Pink, was acquired from the Kansas City Zoo. She is on exhibit with our male fennec fox, Todd, in Animal Adaptations.

The zoo acquired two Heritage Breeds of livestock for our Domestic Animal Barn. **Four San Clemente Island goats and three Black Welsh Mountain sheep** arrived on April 5 from Mack Brin Farms in Ballston Spa, NY. These are both endangered breeds of domestic livestock.

A male capercaillie and a female green jay were acquired on loan from the Bronx Zoo in March.

A violet turaco chick, Beaker, hatched at the zoo in March and was hand-reared by staff. He recently was transferred to the Philadelphia Zoo.

Four baby meerkats were born at the zoo on May 1. They were the first meerkats to be born here since 1990.

A pair of Amur leopards was acquired in May and June. The female, Tria, came from the Greenville Zoo on May 6. She was joined by a male , Rafferty, from the San Diego Zoo on June 27.

Two Von der Decken’s hornbills were acquired, a female from the Charles Paddock Zoo and a male from Sea World San Antonio.

A female golden lion tamarin, Elsie, was acquired from the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo in May. She has joined our male GLT, Picante, on exhibit in the Social Animals wing.

The commitment and generosity of the individuals, groups, corporations and foundations listed here help make the Rosamond Gifford Zoo a national leader in animal care, conservation and guest experience. We thank you for your support.

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2018 ANIMAL UPDATES CONTINUED

Twin male markhors were born on May 22 to mother markhor Sasha and father Thor.

Twin snow leopard cubs, Ozzy and Strut, were born on May 30 as part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP) for these endangered cats.

Twin red panda cubs, Loofah and Doofah, were born at the zoo on June 21 as part of the red panda Species Survival Plan (SSP).

Baby patas monkey Etta was born to mother Becca and father MJ on August 1.

Several parrots retired from the zoo to live with current and former keepers. The retirees include Simon the macaw, Eclectus parrots Ruby and Sparky, and Amazon parrot Max.

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ZOO SUPPORT

In an effort to provide our visitors with the “best day ever” experience, **\$276,000 was allocated to bring the summer-long Dinosaur Invasion! exhibit** to zoo grounds from May 25 through September 15. The exhibit drove zoo attendance past 350,000 and generated immense positive feedback.

The Friends **dedicated \$4,200 to upgrade a deteriorated retaining wall near the Amur tiger exhibit** with a sturdier and more aesthetically pleasing replacement.

A fiber network connection was installed in preparation for a new high-tech Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phone system for the zoo, at a cost of \$1,980.

With help from bidders at the previous Snow Leopard Soirée reverse auction, **we were able to invest \$20,955 to install a new in-wall Jellyquarium system** in the USS Antiquities cave in preparation for our upcoming Jellyfish Exhibit.

As part of our expansion of Asian Elephant Preserve, the old shade sail in the main preserve was replaced with **a new shade structure and roof at a cost of \$21,160.**

The Friends purchased a washer and dryer for the Penguin Coast exhibit at a cost of \$3,094. This saves zoo staff considerable time from having to use laundry facilities in the main building.

To save water while keeping our snow leopards well hydrated, **\$2,398 was spent to purchase a Nelson automatic drinker system for the Snow Leopard exhibit.**

The Friends contributed \$10,850 to conservation projects working to save endangered species in the wild.

More than \$10,000 was spent on landscaping projects throughout the zoo.



Twin snow leopard cubs, Ozzy and Strut

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Memorial Gifts

A memorial gift is a meaningful way to honor the memory of someone who has touched your life or recognize a life-cycle event or accomplishment.

In Honor of Bill and Kathy Murphy
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The Mihou Family
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In Memory of Nancy Nevin
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In recognition of those who have left a legacy to Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo through a planned gift

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YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

Young Philanthropists make donations, often collected from their birthdays, graduations or other special occasions, to adopt their favorite animal(s) at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

Friends of the Zoo thanks the following Young Philanthropists for their support:

- Bolivar Road Elementary's Kindergarten
- Bolivar Road Elementary's First Grade
- Bolivar Road Elementary's Second Grade
- Bolivar Road Elementary's Third Grade
- Bolivar Road Elementary's Fourth Grade
- Audrey Emmi
- Claire Emmi
- Evelyn Emmi
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- Regan Robbins
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- Snow Leopard Lovers
- United Methodist Church Sunday School
- Weedsport Third/Fourth Grade Summer STEM 2018
- Adalyn Widmayer
- Jaxin Widmayer

STATEMENT OF OPERATING FINANCES

SUPPORT AND REVENUE	2018		2017	
	\$	%	\$	%
Membership	\$593,769	20%	\$536,602	17%
Retail operations	948,352	32%	801,622	25%
Program fees	384,152	13%	394,747	13%
Contributions and grants	436,334	15%	770,160	24%
Fundraising and events	102,589	4%	74,357	2%
Rental and catering income	383,697	13%	491,319	16%
Interest income	82,864	3%	84,844	3%
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,931,757	100%	\$3,153,651	100%
EXPENSES	\$	%	\$	%
PROGRAM SERVICES				
Zoo support	\$1,097,446	38%	\$773,398	30%
Gift shop	232,710	8%	208,555	8%
Educational programs	241,657	9%	247,311	10%
Facility rentals/catering	436,994	15%	491,595	19%
Total program services	\$2,008,807	70%	\$1,720,859	67%
SUPPORTING SERVICES				
Administration	\$567,771	20%	\$534,046	21%
Fundraising and Membership	294,458	10%	303,342	12%
Total supporting services	862,229	30%	837,388	33%
Total expenses	\$2,871,036	100%	\$2,558,247	100%
INCOME (LOSS) FROM OPERATIONS		\$60,721	\$595,404	
Net change in market value of investments		(\$250,717)	\$518,008	
Increase (Decrease) in net assets		(\$189,996)	\$1,113,412	
Net assets at beginning of year		6,318,770	5,205,358	
Net assets at end of year		\$6,128,774	\$6,318,770	

A full set of financial statements, including a report of independent auditors, is available for review during normal business hours at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

Guests enjoy one of two T-rex photo ops during Dinosaur Invasion!





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Photo credits: Jane Duprey, Terri Redhead, Maria Simmons, Chuck Wainwright.