

An insider's view of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

# MyZOO

SUMMER 2024

Magazine

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LEOPARDS,  
IT'S IONA!**

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## A Message from the Friends Executive Director

I hope you are filled with excitement for the wonderful summer season ahead of us as much as we are! As we transition into the warmth of summer, we paused and took a moment to say thank you to our dedicated volunteers.

We recently hosted a dinner to thank all our volunteers for their unwavering dedication and hard work, with some reaching a significant milestone of 100+ hours of service. Their remarkable commitment to making our zoo the best it can be and making connections with our guests is truly awe-inspiring. Rain or shine, through snow or heat, these volunteers show up, ready to serve. Words cannot adequately express our gratitude for their tireless efforts, and we are fortunate to have such steadfast support enriching our community and mission.

As we kick off this summer, we are delighted to announce the arrival of our newest and most enchanting exhibit yet – animatronic dragons! These majestic creatures will captivate guests of all ages with their lifelike movements and presence. Get ready to embark on a mythical journey like never before as we explore the fascinating world of these legendary beings. Keep an eye out for themed days happening throughout the summer, designed to engage individuals of all ages. I invite you to join us in celebrating the magic of summer at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Whether you're a long-time member or first year, there has never been a better time to experience the wonders of nature right here in our own backyard.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of animals and inspire future generations to cherish and protect our planet's precious biodiversity.

Wishing you all a summer filled with joy, wonder, and endless adventures!

Have the best day ever,

*Carrie Large*

Carrie Large  
Friends of the Zoo Executive Director

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Please direct questions regarding this publication to [editor@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:editor@rosamondgiffordzoo.org).

**ON THE COVER:**  
Iona the Amur leopard and Chinese Dragon  
*photo by Camille Murphy*

### A Word from the Board

*I'm so honored to serve the Rosamond Gifford Zoo! The Zoo is a crucial part of our community, supporting education, offering a wide range of volunteer opportunities, driving conservation efforts, and providing something for everyone. It is an essential link between humans and the natural world, deepening our appreciation and understanding of wildlife and plant life, and while emphasizing our collective responsibility to protect our planet.*

**Terry Hopkins**  
Friends of the Zoo Board Chair



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## Zalie and Bob Linn Amur Leopard Woodland Home to New Female Cat

*The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is proud to announce the acquisition of a female Amur leopard from the Toledo Zoo. Named Iona, the leopard joins male Rafferty in the Zalie and Bob Linn Amur Leopard Woodland Exhibit.*

The Amur leopard is an elusive and exhilarating hunter native to the far east reaches of Russia and China, commonly referred to as the Amur region. With large paws and a thick coat of fur that grows even thicker in winter, Amur leopards are well adapted for their remote, unforgiving habitat. These cats are sneaky, solitary creatures that spend most of their lives apart, coming together only to mate.

“The Amur leopard is a special species at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, both stunning and incredibly rare,” Zoo Executive Director Ted Fox said. “Coming from snowy Siberia, these leopards demonstrate the same resilience to the cold as us Central New Yorkers. Our community should be inspired by the Rosamond Gifford Zoo’s acquisition of another Amur leopard, which is a great achievement for the conservation of this awesome species.”

*continued on pg 6*

# ANIMAL UPDATES

## Did You Know?

At over nine feet long and weighing over 400 pounds, Thimbu was the largest feline at our zoo – and a big favorite among our zoo community. Thimbu is one of five siblings and the only one to have fathered cubs, so he was transferred in the hopes that he may sire more cubs with other genetically valuable Amur tigers. With only 500 Amur tigers left in the wild, rebuilding their population hinges on tigers like Thimbu passing on his healthy genetics to the next generation.



# CREATURE FEATURE: NORTH ISLAND BROWN KIWI

*Apteryx Mantelli*

AT THE ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO: 1 MALE, EUSTACE



**Female red panda Spring** arrived from the Sunset Zoo in Manhattan, KS on January 4.

**10 Northern seahorses** were sent to the Nashville Zoo on February 21.

**Sara the female patas monkey** was humanely euthanized January 16.

**Fern, a female San Clemente Island goat**, was sent to the Brandywine Zoo in Wilmington, DE on January 25.

**Luan the female white-lipped deer** was humanely euthanized on February 1. Luan was the oldest recorded white-lipped deer in human care.

**Rosalita, a female Humboldt penguin**, was humanely euthanized on February 22.

**A male Southern tamandua named Oso** arrived from the Dallas Zoo on March 14.

**Two female Ross's geese** were sent to Livingston Ripley Bird Conservancy on March 17.

**Jose, a male Humboldt penguin**, was humanely euthanized on March 26.

**Dexter, a male Southern tamandua**, was sent to the Dallas Zoo on March 27.

**Two San Clemente Island goats**, (a male named Gingko and a female named Magnolia), were born to goat parents Herb and Lydia on March 28.

**Male Amur tiger Thimbu** was sent to be cared for by the Omaha Zoo as recommended by the Species Survival Plan.

## The Pride of New Zealand!

*One of the more iconic species at the zoo is one you may not have ever laid eyes on: the North Island brown kiwi!*

This little bird with a big beak and an even bigger vocalization can only be found in the northern reaches of North Island, New Zealand, a country which recognizes the kiwi as its national bird. New Zealanders even refer to themselves as “kiwis.”

So, what’s all the fuss about? Well, the brown kiwi isn’t just notable for its limited range; it’s also quite a unique bird species. Though it is most closely related to the ratites, (the ostrich, rhea, emu, and cassowary), the little kiwi doesn’t share much in common with its massive cousins. For starters, brown kiwis are small, standing 18-24 inches and weighing three to eight pounds (with females outweighing males). Like its fellow ratites, the kiwi is a flightless bird. Unlike its cousins, though, the kiwi has very poor eyesight.

No flight? Poor sight? No problem! The brown kiwi is a masterful hunter, thanks in part to its incredible sense of smell. Unlike any other bird species on Earth, the kiwi’s nostrils are located at the tip of its long beak. This adaptation, paired with one of the keenest senses of smell among all bird species, makes the kiwi an adept hunter in the sub-tropical and temperate forests it calls home. The kiwi is an expert at burrowing, and its diet consists of earthworms, beetles, snails, crayfish, insects, fruits and berries. Kiwis also use their digging prowess to dig burrows, rather than nests, for shelter.

The zoo’s resident kiwi, Eustace, is quite particular about his diet. According to the animal specialists who work with Eustace, he has a voracious appetite for earthworms. His care specialists use this treat in training sessions, allowing them to perform regular welfare checks. When handfeeding Eustace his full diet; bugs, mites, insects, and even crayfish are all on the menu. But if the keepers try to feed Eustace a piece of cantaloupe or another unwanted snack, this kiwi quite literally turns up his nose (or beak) and sprints back to his nestbox – with zero compliments to the chef! The nestbox which Eustace retreats to is an important aspect of his enclosure, simulating the dark coziness of a burrow in the wild. That darkness is essential for the wellbeing of this nocturnal New Zealander, even if it presents a bit of a challenge for guests angling for a view of our brown kiwi. This species live up to 50 years, and Eustace is just 25 years old – so he may be with us for decades to come!

Next time you find yourself in the Adaptations wing, spend a bit more time to let your eyes adjust to the darkness – you just might manage to spot Eustace!

## Fun Fact:

*Like their cousins, kiwis are swift runners. These little birds use their long legs to run up to 12 miles per hour, which is faster than the average person!*

*The kiwi holds the Guinness Book of World Records title of largest bird egg relative to body size.*

## Meet the Dragons!

**The dragons have arrived from parts unknown, and each brings its own fascinating distinctions!** Here are just a few of the dragons that you can observe throughout the zoo grounds:

- The impressive Quetzalcóatl (feather-serpent) has come from somewhere in Meso-America, and boasts all the royal eminence and tenacity as foretold by the great dragon experts of the ancient Mayan empire! You can view this dragon near the Takin exhibit on the Wildlife Trail.
- The elegant Chinese dragon looks to be almost as long as the Great Wall of China! Well, he may not be quite that long, but this dragon did fly thousands of miles to assume his perch in the old elephant yard, and brings with him the rich history of the Far Eastern world!
- We're not exactly sure just where the ice dragon came from – but we're pretty sure they traveled here under cover of the last big snowstorm of winter! This frosty dragon sure knows how to stay cool in the heat! Check them out near the Amur Tiger on the Wildlife Trail, and grab yourself a cold-as-ice cup of Dip'n'Dots from the stand nearby!

Scan to See More!





As the rarest felid species on the planet, the Amur leopard is considered critically endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) with less than 60 individuals estimated to remain in the wild. So, AZA-accredited institutions are coordinating to rebuild this species' population through the Amur leopard Species Survival Plan (SSP).

Iona comes from the Toledo Zoo to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo on a breeding recommendation per the Species Survival Plan, in the hopes that she and Rafferty may have genetically diverse cubs, and, in the process, help preserve this incredible species.

"Both Rafferty and Iona have parented leopard cubs with their respective mates in the past," said Zoo Executive Director Ted Fox. "So, we have high hopes that these complex cats can form a bond together and contribute more cubs to a species whose wild population is in real peril. The Amur leopard is the rarest cat in the world, and it is an honor to have been trusted by the AZA with the care of another of these amazing apex predators."

Iona was born at the Thrigby Hall Wildlife Gardens in Britain in 2017, and was imported by the Toledo Zoo. She was paired with an SSP recommended mate and gave birth to two cubs in 2022, and was described as an "exceptional mother" by her caretakers. Her cubs will likely one day follow in their mother's footsteps and receive breeding recommendations of their own.

For his part, Rafferty has sired two cubs himself, fathering male Milo and female Mina in 2019. These cubs have since been transferred to other AZA-accredited facilities after the SSP assessed their genetics and determined where they would have the biggest impact for their species.

Currently, Rafferty and Iona are spending most of their time in close proximity to each other after a slow, well-planned introduction process which first allowed them to see, smell, and hear each other – but did not allow them to physically interact. To prioritize the welfare of these breathtaking animals, the zoo's animal care specialists are ensuring both Rafferty and Iona get the space and seclusion they need.

After a bit of initial timidity, Iona soon adjusted to her new home. When on exhibit, Iona is often full of energy, leaping, sprinting, and smelling her way around the Zalie and Bob Linn Amur Leopard Woodland. She is smaller than Rafferty, but what she lacks in size, she more than makes up in spunk.

Stay tuned to the zoo's social media for updates on the zoo's new Amur leopard pair.

# Jellyfish Mucus Could Conquer Microplastics in Oceans

Our oceans and the marine life within them are facing multiple existential challenges – and jellyfish are both a problem and a solution.

Overfishing of the fish species that eat jellyfish and rising ocean temperatures have resulted in a massive surge of jellyfish populations, as other fish species populations decline at an alarming rate. This problem has a snowball effect: as jellyfish populations grow, their ranges spread as well. So, jellyfish are invading other species' ranges and are altering food chains, leading their populations to rise further, while native fish populations plummet. To address this expanding issue, it may be necessary to cull jellyfish populations around the world.

In culling these excessive jellyfish, conservationists may acquire a unique tool to combat another huge threat to ocean life: microplastics. In the Eco-Notes of the recent winter *MyZoo* edition, we explored the effects of microplastics on sea life, and in consequence, on humans. The plastics are so small, though, that scientists have yet to develop an effective way to collect these plastics for removal from the oceans. Researchers recently determined, though, that jellyfish mucus can be a useful tool to "catch" these microplastics. In fact, jellyfish slime is more effective than any currently available artificial techniques for microplastics removal.

Once excreted by jellyfish, the mucus floats about throughout the ocean, and any nearby microplastics that come into contact with the slime become stuck. The slime floats around and grows, becoming a big blob of mucus and microplastics. It may sound gross, but it's not as gross as consuming 40 pounds of plastic throughout a lifetime (as the average human does)!

Of course, this isn't a magic solution that will fix our plastic pollution problem completely. This story does demonstrate, however, that when it comes to conservation, sometimes the solution can be found in the problem itself.

# International Elephant Foundation Hosts Conservation Chats

Late last year, Zoo Executive Director Ted Fox joined the Board of Directors of the International Elephant Foundation. Since then, Fox and the Rosamond Gifford Zoo have been coordinating with the IEF and other partners to learn and share more information about the incredible, multi-faceted initiatives of elephant conservationists around the world.

The zoo has had the pleasure of learning about human-elephant conflict grassroots mitigation efforts in Asian elephant range countries like India. The IEF also shared information on the Kenya Mountain Trust's work to protect African elephants in Kenya from poachers and harmful poaching devices, like snares, which can injure or kill elephants and all other animals in the ecosystem.

One very significant chat came in March, when we learned from Tabitha Hoornweg about her research into Endotheliotropic Elephant Herpes Virus (EEHV), the number one killer of young elephants. Dr. Hoornweg is a researcher at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Utrecht University in the Netherlands. Her research is primarily concerned with understanding the immune response against all seven EEHV subspecies, with the goal of eventually developing a vaccine for EEHV hemorrhagic disease (EEHV-HD).

In her March chat with the IEF, Dr. Hoornweg outlined her research comparing the levels of EEHV antibodies among juvenile Asian elephants in European zoos, versus those levels present in juvenile Asian elephants at the Elephant Transit Home (ETH) in Sri Lanka. Among other preliminary conclusions, Dr. Hoornweg data suggested that the hygienic care provided by animal specialists at European zoos – such as trunk washes – may be vital in reducing the risk of EEHV infection of Asian elephant calves.

"This IEF-supported research demonstrates the significance of caring for these endangered species," said Ted Fox, Zoo Executive Director. "By not only providing for the elephants in our care, but also conducting vital research, we can also benefit the health and wellbeing of elephants in the wild."

In December 2020, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo tragically lost two Asian elephant calves, Ajay and Batu, to EEHV, and has since dedicated significant time, funding, and energy into researching a cure to this terrible virus. So, it was rewarding to hear from an expert colleague who, together with many other scientists, is dedicating her time toward working to create an EEHV vaccine.



# Volunteer Reflections

Volunteering is an essential component of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's continued success. Behind every event and initiative, large and small, stand numerous dedicated volunteers. The zoo has great appreciation for all the various tasks and responsibilities that our volunteers complete and fulfill. Volunteering is a great way to learn, educate, give back, and engage with the zoo — but don't take it from us! Read these testimonials and hear about their experiences straight from our volunteers themselves:



## ELLENROSE GALGANO – volunteer since 1990

I enjoy Zoo Volunteering because it's fun! Where else can you help Santa or the Easter Bunny have breakfast, wear a Halloween costume and give out hundreds of treats, be part of a spectacular Holiday light show, or serve beer to over a thousand spirited adults? I consider the Zoo my happy place!

**Fun Fact:** As a former 1st grade teacher, I have always loved sharing the Zoo with my students. RGZ Elephant Collection Manager, Seth Groesbeck was my 1st grade student... and yes, we went on a field trip to the Zoo. I hope I inspired him!



## EMMA GORMAN – volunteer since 2021

I volunteer at the RGZ because I have a love for animals and people. I believe that teaching people about animals and the environment is important. I see myself working with people and animals in my future. I chose to volunteer here because I want to make a positive impact on my community, and I am able to do that by interacting and volunteering here at the Zoo. I also chose to volunteer here because the environment is so welcoming, and both the staff and the guests are so kind. It's also super fun and a way for me to share my gift of positivity with others.

I enjoy getting to spend time with the Zoo staff members and learning about the animals they get to work with. My favorite thing about volunteering is being able to help with the Zoo Camps, I love working with the younger kids and getting to meet so many friendly faces and even reconnecting with friends I met in years past (that has happened a few times!) The awesome programs at the Zoo can't run without the help of volunteers, and I'm honored that I can be one of them!



## CAROL LEBIEDZINSKI – volunteer since 2007

After 34 years as a secondary science teacher, I was looking for a new way in retirement to share my love of animals, educational skills and to meet new people. In 2007, I began my new life adventure at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

I love seeing the look of awe and wonder when someone sees an animal, learns a fascinating piece of information or meets a friendly Zoo person — priceless!

My volunteer directive might be, 'keep doing what you love and share the experience with others'. I love being at the Zoo. We all need to be good earth stewards and the Zoo is a great place to learn how to cherish and care for what we love — our planet and its biodiversity!



## DAVE BURCH – volunteer since 2020

For me it is important to 'give back' to the community. Whether we choose to acknowledge it, we are all much better together than apart. We are the species that has taken 'social animal' furthest after all. It is heart-warming to be part of a team working to accomplish goals and making the world a little bit better place to inhabit. The conservation mission of the zoo resonates with me and being able to support that feels good.

**Interested in becoming a volunteer at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo? Use the contact information below to reach out and get involved today!**  
Chris Omolino | Event & Volunteer Coordinator  
Call (315) 435-8511 x 8528 or email [comolino@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:comolino@rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

## New male sloth joins females in the Adaptions Wing at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

*The Adaptions wing has welcomed a new male Hoffmann's two-toed sloth named Foley!*

**He arrived on December 4 from the Pueblo Zoo, on a breeding recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for this species.**

This suitor sloth joins our five female sloths Emma, Gummy, Basil, Cayenne, and Ruth on exhibit. This mirrors the social structure of this species in the wild; male sloths will often form and lead small groups, (or harems) of female sloths.

"We are so excited to once again have a male sloth joining our females on exhibit," said Ted Fox, executive director of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. "This amazing species is well-known and well-loved among our zoo community, and we're proud to have acquired another of these arboreal animals!"

Hoffmann's two-toed sloths are among the six species of sloths, animals known for their slow and deliberate movements. They are named "Hoffmann's two-toed sloths" after German naturalist Karl Hoffmann and because they have only two digits on their forelimbs. These Central American tree-dwellers have a very low metabolism and spend up to 20 hours per day sleeping.

Hoffmann's two-toed sloths live in tree canopies of lowland and upland tropical forests of Central America and South America, including Peru and Brazil. Being arboreal (tree dwelling), sloths eat, sleep, mate and give birth while suspended from tree limbs – only venturing down to the ground about once a week to relieve themselves.

Everyone knows sloths are slow, but not everyone knows just how slow this species really is. Hoffmann's two-toed sloths are so slow-moving, algae often grows in their fur, giving their coat a greenish tint. The green color provides camouflage for the sloths within the treetops.

Hoffmann's two-toed sloths are most vulnerable on the ground, where they move very clumsily by digging into the dirt with their claws and dragging their bellies. In the wild, these sloths eat leaves, buds, twigs, plant shoots, fruit, flowers, and occasionally, bird eggs. At the zoo, their diet consists of fruits, vegetables, hard-boiled egg, greens and canned primate diet.

"For animals that are so iconically slow, the sloths here at the zoo are still very active and social," said Tammy Singer, a collection manager at the zoo. "Watching them interact with each other and explore their exhibit, slowly yet steadily, never gets old."

With a lifespan of 12-20 years in the wild, but can live much longer in human care. So, Foley will hopefully reside on exhibit in the Nocturnal Animals wing for many years to come! For updates on bachelor sloth Foley's journey to find a mate among his five female friends, **check out the zoo's Instagram page to follow our resident "Sloth-elor" on his search for love!**

# The SLOTHELOR



## Inspiring International Efforts Continue to Save the Golden Lion Tamarin

*One of the smallest species at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo has faced some massive threats of extinction in the past 50 years.*

The Golden Lion Tamarin (GLT) is a small social South American primate with a big golden mane as handsome as a lion's. This little tree-dweller is actually the largest of the more than 40 tamarin species native to the Amazon Rainforest, and this species has demonstrated a larger-than-life resilience to some extremely difficult challenges. Human stewardship from the National Zoo, Save the Golden Lion Tamarin (SGLT), and other partner organizations has safeguarded these arboreal animals from annihilation.

Brazil's wild GLT population teetered on the edge of extinction in the 1960-70's, mainly due to habitat destruction and capture for the pet trade, (legal and illegal). Decisive action from conservation groups prevented this remarkable species from disappearing forever. The National Zoo spearheaded a groundbreaking initiative that introduced a portion of the North American zoo GLT population into the forests of Brazil, leading to a population resurgence over time.

"Only a few hundred remained in the wild when we began the Golden Lion Tamarin Conservation Project in 1983," said James Dietz, vice president of SGLT. "The number in the wild is now about 4,800, recovering nicely from heavy losses to yellow fever in 2017-18."

That yellow fever epidemic was a disaster for wild GLTs, prompting experts to seriously consider reintroducing more zoo-born GLTs. Besides the 115 GLTs cared for in AZA zoos, AZA facilities maintain an ex-situ GLT population of roughly 500 individuals in case of catastrophe in the wild. Concerned conservation groups eventually determined that reintroduction was not necessary, but yellow fever remains a threat to the future of GLTs. Meanwhile, ALMD partners developed the first YF vaccine for a non-human primate, and have safely vaccinated 454 GLTs as of today.

Unfortunately, even though there are hundreds of humans dedicating their energy and expertise toward protecting GLTs, there are also numerous humans working hard to exploit these little primates. Indeed, SGLT and its Brazilian-based partner organization Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado (AMLMD) said that trafficking of GLTs for the international exotic pet trade poses a significant threat to this species' future.

Earlier this year, SGLT and AMLMD collaborated with international authorities and successfully repatriated 17 abducted GLTs that poachers had brought all the way to Togo in Africa. The repatriation was good news, but nevertheless demonstrates that this kind of illegal trafficking of GLTs is on an alarming rise. This is the third group of GLTs that were confiscated by authorities in the past year or so. The previous two groups, seven and two GLTs, were both confiscated in Suriname, a South American nation bordering Brazil. The group of seven GLTs were repatriated, but the group of two died in Suriname. That brings the known total of trafficked GLTs to 26 in roughly a year.

"These traffickers spent a significant amount of money to trap, care for, get fake CITES [Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora] papers, and transport these GLTs to countries where they would be sold, perhaps in Europe or Asia," Dietz said. "The threat to the wild population is severe."

The consistent vigilance of SGLT and AMLD is far-reaching and multi-faceted, constantly evolving to respond to any and all threats. This sees the conservation groups doing everything from vaccinating wild GLTs against yellow fever and Covid-19, to applying small ID tattoos to identify GLTs should they be captured by traffickers.

Beyond the threats that yellow fever and trafficking pose, current and future fragmentation of GLT habitat presents an existential threat to the stability of this species' wild populations. Among the obvious detrimental effects caused by human encroachment of any ecosystem, the separation of GLT habitat results in isolated local populations that struggle to reach genetically diverse individuals to breed with. The SGLT describes a viable GLT population as 2,000 GLTs living in 25,000 hectares (62,000 acres) of connected and protected forest. Fortunately, AMLD is very close to reaching this goal.

By planting "forest corridors", AMLD rejoined many forest fragments into six "functional units", each containing a population of GLTs. In February, AMLD purchased a ranch that divides two of the largest functional units, furthering habitat connection. SGLT is fundraising for AMLD to reforest the cattle pasture and agricultural land that separates the units. This area is named "Jennifer's Forest Corridor", in honor of SGLT director and Zoo Atlanta Vice President Jennifer Mickelberg, who passed away unexpectedly in October 2023. So far, SGLT has raised enough money for AMLD to restore seven of 18 hectares of Jennifer's Corridor.

"When GLTs use that corridor, (about six or seven years post-planting), over 2,200 GLTs will be in connected and protected habitat," Dietz said.

As one of the AZA-accredited zoos entrusted with the care of two golden lion tamarins, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is inspired by the impressive conservation work of SGLT and AMLD. The Rosamond Gifford Zoo has had a very productive population of GLTs over the years and has raised 16 to date. Nature is resilient, and dedicated humans can play an important role in stewarding species and creating a better world for all living things.





# Zoo Events Recap



## Zoo Run Run Sets New Highs

Hundreds of guests raced round the Wildlife Trail on April 14th at the zoo's third-annual Zoo Run Run!

The zoo opened its doors extra early for this 5K walk/run event in support of animal care and conservation.

The run featured a Dragonling Dash for the young animal enthusiasts in attendance, and four additional waves to participate. As each wave completed their five laps around the Wildlife Trail, they had the opportunity to observe some surprised and curious animal onlookers!

Altogether, 694 runners participated in the run to support our conservation mission – **almost 150 more than last year!**

Participants in the Zoo Run Run received a Dragon-themed Finisher Medal on completion of the run, and were granted free admission to the zoo for the rest of the day. Runners enjoyed well-earned snacks and refreshments, engaged with exhibitors, and explored the zoo at a more leisurely pace!

Altogether, Zoo Run Run racers raised a massive \$40,268 for the Friends of the Zoo.

Thanks to sponsors **Countryside Credit Union, Community Bank, Empower FCU, Blink Fitness, and Cumulus Media** for making this fun 5k possible!



## Novelis Party for the Planet Honors Our Earth

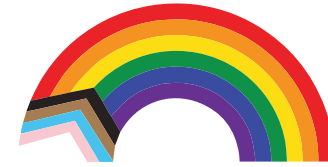
The annual Novelis Party for the Planet brought more than 800 guests to the zoo to celebrate our shared environment!

Before the party on April 20, the zoo hosted an Earth Day Clean-up event that saw hundreds of volunteers work to not only beautify our grounds, but also to help with the zoo's

conservation goals. Volunteers helped clean up the Wildlife Trail hillside, weed garden beds, paint exhibit fences, build blue bird boxes and screech owl boxes, pick-up trash and much more – all while taking joy in working alongside other eco-enthusiasts determined to take care of our shared planet! **370 volunteers contributed their hard work during our Earth Day Clean-up!**

This environmental-minded event was the perfect precursor to the Party for the Planet, where engaging and educational exhibitors gave guests a chance to enjoy eco-friendly festivities while learning more about how to take care of the planet that we all call home.

Altogether, **843 guests** partied with us at the Party for the Planet, and we are grateful to Novelis and supporting sponsor Equitable for making this celebration possible!



## LGBTQ+ Day Of Visibility presented by Pride and Joy Families

Our zoo community is made up of all colors and stripes, and no day is that more evident than on LGBTQ+ Day of Visibility! Held on May 5, this event attracted over 650 attendees to brave the rain and

join us in taking pride in all the zoo families of our diverse community.

The Day of Visibility included LGBTQ+-specific exhibitors, educational offerings, and entertainment. Food trucks from Ji-Woos Korean Seoul Food and Baga Bowls provided visitors with a range of tasty treats to snack on. Guests also enjoyed an animal enrichment schedule that saw various species, (such as the Asian elephant herd and Andean bear Bjorn), receive rainbow-themed enrichment.

It is important that everyone feels safe, welcome, and appreciated at the zoo, and this colorful celebration is a great way to make this goal a reality.

The Friends of the Zoo thank presenting sponsor **Pride and Joy Families – and supporting sponsors Advocates, Community Bank, Fair NY, Girl Scouts of NY Penn Pathways, and the Q Center at ACR Health** – for helping us recognize our LGBTQ+ community members!



## SENIOR CITIZENS APPRECIATION DAY

## Senior Citizens Appreciation Day presented by Hill Insurance Service, LLC

The third-annual Senior Citizens Appreciation Day, presented by Hill Insurance Service, LLC, saw almost 400 senior citizens join us for an early-morning celebration on May 8.

Registrants had the unique opportunity to enter the zoo before regular hours with free admission and enjoy a delicious continental breakfast from 8:30 to 9:30 am. Then, seniors could engage with senior-specific exhibitors, learn from our animal specialists through Creature Chats, and after, enjoy the zoo grounds at their leisure.

**387 seniors attended** this splendid Spring celebration. Thanks to **Hill Insurance Service, LLC and supporting sponsors Aetna, Alzheimer's Association of CNY, Empower Parkinson, Energy Savers, Excellus Blue Cross Blue Shield, Hearing Aid Consultants, Hearing Life, The Nottingham, UnitedHealthcare, and WellCare**, we were able to host an elegant and exciting event for the elders of our zoo community!



## Dragon Quest

Before the Dragons Reign officially began, signs of the mythical monsters appeared throughout the zoo grounds! 10 dragon eggs mysteriously appeared throughout the zoo grounds, and guests were challenged to match the eggs to their corresponding dragon species. Using a special guidebook

containing 10 reptilian riddles, scores of visitors participated in the first Dragon Quest! **Stay tuned for more dragon-themed fun all summer long!**



# 2024 Save the Dates



**Tee Off FORE the Animals  
Charity Golf Tournament – Monday, June 24**  
Spend a late-spring day playing golf for a very worthy cause on one of the most coveted golf courses in the state of New York – the elegant and historic Bellevue Country Club. This Captain-and-Crew tournament features breakfast on the cart, lunch on the course and a post-tournament dinner in the luxurious clubhouse, as well as oncourse contests, and 18 holes of championship golf.



**Penguin Palooza – Sunday, July 7**  
Kids of all ages enjoy this ice cream party featuring an incredible array of fun activities, entertainment, free ice cream, kid-friendly foods, music, face painters, and of course, demonstrations with our colony of Humboldt penguins!



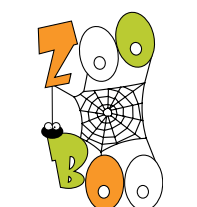
**Brew at the Zoo – Friday, August 2**  
Make plans now to attend one of the most anticipated events of the summer. More than 100 tastings of craft beers, wines and other adult beverages, live music performances throughout the zoo and a great gathering of food trucks, plus animals on exhibit.



**Asian Elephant Extravaganza –  
Saturday, August 17**  
Come celebrate the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's Asian elephant herd and the cultural traditions of their native countries in South Asia. Daylong activities include performances of traditional Indian music and dance, demonstrations with our eight-member elephant herd, birthday celebrations for our two eldest elephants, Siri and Romani and more!



**Fall Conservation Bash – Thursday, September 12**  
Join us for an evening of fantastic food, energizing entertainment and raffles of the most sought-after gifts, all to benefit animal care at the zoo and conservation in the wild. You won't want to miss your chance to win an epic prize!



**Zoo Boo Weekends in October**  
Join us for a "kooky-not-spooky" daytime Halloween celebration. The zoo transforms into a hauntingly fun destination for the whole family with trick-or-treat stations, creepy-crawly animal encounters, keeper chats, games, activities, photo-ops and a costume parade!

These and many more events await you in the upcoming months. Best of all, these events help support the zoo's mission of animal care, conservation and nature education.



Scan the QR Code for all event information or visit, [rosamondgiffordzoo.org/events](https://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/events)



A ticket to the Gourmet Dinner series has fast become a hot commodity!

Throughout 2023, this unique dining experience was a consistent sell-out. The dinner series features a different theme each month, inspired by the various cuisines of our animals' range countries. The series brings in guests from all around Central New York, many of whom have become regulars at the dinners.

The best part is that educational messaging accompanies all the delectable dishes, and guests can find even more enjoyment in the knowledge that their presence at the dinner is benefiting animal conservation.

### 2024 Dinner Pairings

**Amur Tigers and Amur Leopards – Friday, July 19**

**Asian Elephants – Friday, August 9**

**Bees and Pollinators – Friday, September 6**

**Dragons – Friday, October 11**

**Friendsgiving – Friday, November 8**

**Enrichment – Friday, December 13**



\* Schedule subject to change.  
**Must be at least 21 years old to attend.**

## The Significance of Accreditation

You often hear us talk about the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's status as an accredited member institution of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). **But what does it mean to be AZA-accredited?**

AZA accreditation means that our zoo is one of roughly 240 zoological institutions in North America that ethically and effectively maintain animal populations in pursuit of a collective conservation mission. There are numerous institutions throughout the continent that possess animals, but not all zoos are made equal. Accreditation from the AZA grants credibility to zoological institutions, denoting that their purpose is to preserve dwindling populations of threatened species and promote environmental education through research and public outreach.

"The Rosamond Gifford Zoo, like its AZA partners, is entrusted with the critical responsibility of protecting and providing for the various species in our care," Zoo Executive Director Ted Fox said. "Through conservation collaboration with our partners, we can carve out a future for vulnerable species around the planet."

### RESEARCH

The member institutions of the AZA are committed to rebuilding animal populations and creating a future for all species. Beyond caring for hundreds of different species – many of whom are considered endangered in the wild – the Rosamond Gifford Zoo conducts extensive animal research, sharing its findings with our partner institutions. Among the various research projects to which our zoo has contributed, (including studies on honeybees, Humboldt penguins, red pandas, and snow leopards, to name a few), the zoo's animal specialists are contributing vital research on Asian elephants as AZA-accredited institutions work together to create a vaccine for the deadly Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV). The research conducted at our zoo and others has the potential to help save wild animals from extinction.

### CONSERVATION

Beyond crucial research contributions, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo participates in Species Survival Plans (SSPs), safeguarding the populations of some of the most endangered species on the planet. SSPs track the genetic information of animals in AZA institutions; by maintaining SSPs, the AZA can determine the valuable genetics of animals throughout North American zoos and make breeding recommendations in the hopes of rebuilding populations with healthy, genetically complex individuals.

The zoo proudly cares for critically endangered species like the red wolf and endangered species like the Amur tiger, as well as the Panamanian golden frog (a species now considered to be extinct in the wild). The red wolf is another species that once went extinct in the wild, but thanks to the maintenance of a red wolf population in human care, this species has since been reintroduced to its habitat. The Zoo helps to raise awareness about these amazing species connecting guests to conservation initiatives.



### ANIMAL WELFARE

AZA-accreditation denotes that the animals entrusted to an institution are treated humanely, and are not being bred for profit nor for trade. Like our partner institutions, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is committed to providing the best possible care for our animals. The zoo's animal specialists consistently monitor the welfare of animals both on and off exhibit. Creating choices for animals, (such as the choice to be off exhibit), is an important component of each animal's mental well-being, stimulating their minds and protecting them from unwanted stressors.

Dedicated personnel maintain thorough observation of the species in their care, ensuring the animals are in good health. Through steady stewardship, the animal care team catches changes in animal health or behavior early on, swiftly responding to any irregularities. The state-of-the-art Animal Health Center allows the zoo's veterinary team to conduct regular health assessments, annual physical examinations, perform necessary surgical procedures, and administer applicable vaccinations. Providing exceptional animal welfare, both physical and mental, is the animal care team's greatest priority.

### EDUCATION

Inspiring people to care about nature is another focus of our zoo. While AZA zoos perform all the aforementioned conservation work, a critical focus of these institutions is promoting a connection between humans and nature. By empowering guests through education, our zoo and our partners have the potential to create a more conservation-minded world, where humans consider their role in preserving our shared world. Through accurate and frequently updated signage, educational classes and experiences, and consistent digital engagement, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo conveys our work, and that of our partners, to our community – encouraging consideration and action for our environment.

"Maintaining our zoo is more than just caring for our animals," Friends of the Zoo Executive Director Carrie Large said. "Our consistent accreditation from the AZA speaks to the vital conservation contributions, research, and education that our institution proudly performs. Friends of the Zoo are proud to partner with Onondaga County to help educate the community, connecting people to animals."





# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Kids' Night Out

Ages 6-12 | Fridays | 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Looking for a night out? Drop your kids off at the zoo to party like an animal! Kids will enjoy pizza upon arrival, learn about animals, tour the zoo after hours, make crafts and play games all night long.

Session 1: October 25

**Tuition per session:**  
Members receive a 7% discount  
Non-members – \$40 per child

## Wild Beginnings!

Ages 1-3 | Mondays | 9:15 - 10 a.m. or 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Join the education team for a three-week program tailored just for the little ones, ages 12 months to 3 years. Each themed class includes animal biofacts, nature-themed sensory play, a story, and hands-on learning! Young ones will explore with their senses as they develop language and motor skills in this early-learning adventure. **This program is designed for one child/one caregiver pair.**

Session 1: Animal Colors | October 7, 21, 28

**Tuition per series:**  
Members receive a 7% discount  
Non-members – \$50 per child/adult pair

## Adventure Days!

Ages 3-6 | Saturdays | 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Do you know a child that is curious about the natural world? Join us for this unique hands-on adult/child exploration-style "Ed-Venture!" **This program is designed for one child/one caregiver pair.**

Session 1: October 5

**Tuition per session:**  
Members receive a 7% discount  
Non-members – \$30 per child/adult pair

# SUMMER ZOO CAMP!

Week long camps from July 1 through August 30. Limited spots still open for kids ages 6-17!

Ages 6-11 Zoo Camp | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. \$295 | Week 1 and Week 5 Exceptions | \$245

Jr. Zookeeper Camps | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. Ages 12-17 | \$460

Jr. Zookeeper 2.0 Camps | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Ages 14-17 | \$485

Before and After Care available and runs from 8-9 a.m. and 4-5 p.m. – \$50/week

Weekly meal plan also available – can be added during registration.



Choose from nine wild weeks that are full of hands-on projects, performance, games, and interactive animal experiences.

There's even more in 2024! Explore all the wonders of the animal world and beyond in one of the most exciting and interesting places possible – the zoo! Our programs will also feature some extra-specials guests this summer...DRAGONS

## One-Day Zoo Camp

Ages 6-12 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join us for a dive deep into the incredible world of animals for a full day of Zoo Camp! Each camp day is different, allowing your child to explore something new about the animal world through hands-on science, artistry, technology, and engineering projects – whether they're registered for just one, or multiple, days! **For your convenience you can select to pre-order lunch from the HoneyBee Café during registration.**

Session 1: October 14

**Tuition per series:**  
Members receive a 7% discount  
Non-members – \$65 per child

All members will receive a 7% discount on camps

Pre-registration required. Sessions fill fast, sign up today! Register online at [rgz.campbrainregistration.com](http://rgz.campbrainregistration.com)  
Questions? Call the education department at (315) 435-8511 x8559 or email [zoocamp@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:zoocamp@rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

# EDUCATION PROGRAMS

## Adult Zoo Camp

**Why should kids have all the fun?** Immerse yourself in elevated zoo experiences guaranteed to inspire your inner child. Join our education staff for an afternoon of hands-on projects, themed tours, insider animal stories, engaging activities, and more, while you learn how the Rosamond Gifford Zoo provides exceptional care for all your favorite animals.

Ages 18+ | 1 - 4 p.m.

Non-members: \$60 | Members receive a 7% discount

### Conservation in Action

Saturday, July 20 | Saturday October 5

Dive in to why are good zoos important, and what you can do to help. There is so much going on behind the scenes at the RGZ that helps enhance the wellbeing of our animals at the zoo and the wild populations. Join us for an exclusive experience and discover what species survival plans we have in place and how you can conserve in your own home.

### Designed to Survive

Saturday, September 28 | Saturday, October 19

Why do animals look the way they do? Why does an elephant have a trunk, or does an owl have a head that can turn 270 degrees? Find out the answer to these questions at Adult Zoo Camp. We will explore this topic with exclusive experiences and the opportunity to design your own creatures based on real animal adaptations.

## Programming on Your Schedule:

Join us on your schedule for these other opportunities year-round!

### Zoo School on the Go!

Created for groups of 5+ adults and between 10-20 kids

Available times for checkout: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or 1-3:30 p.m.

\$115 tuition, includes zoo admission

Learn at your own pace on a school trip or with your family and friends! This self-guided tour through the zoo incorporates biofacts, fun facts, games, and more to get you to learn about some of your favorite animals while connecting with them in real time. Great for ages 6 to 15 with adult support/supervision and includes extension activities for a fun challenge!

### Guided Zoo Tour

\$5 per child/ \$10 adult (Minimum: \$50)

Family trips, small groups, curious scouts- you name it. Learn about the zoo with one of our educators or docents who will be happy to answer your questions and help you see, think, and wonder about the animals who live here at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo!

### Zoo-To-You: In Person

With a mission is to increase awareness of the natural world and encourage participants to be environmentally conscious, our traveling programming brings an educator to your scout group, day care center, senior center/facilities, community center, library, school, and more! Each program includes biofacts (animal-related artifacts such as furs, feathers, and skulls) to create a hands-on experience for participants. Please note: For their health and safety, we do not travel with live animals.

### Zoo-to-You: Virtual

With our state-of-the-art equipment, you can tour our zoo, see our exhibits up-close, and get close enough to care – no matter where you are!

Prices for Zoo-To-You Programming range from \$125-\$200 and can accommodate both large and small groups of all ages – almost anywhere! See Education Pricing Sheet on our website under "Learn". For questions and to reserve a Zoo-to-You or Virtual Zoo-to-You Program: Contact (315) 435-8511 x8531 or email [zootoyou@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:zootoyou@rosamondgiffordzoo.org).



Pre-registration required; a minimum number of participants are needed to run all programs.

Questions?  
Call the education department at (315) 435-8511 x8506 or email [education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org).

Sessions fill fast, sign up today!

Register online at [rosamondgiffordzoo.org/learn](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/learn)

or  
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



Register for Adult Zoo Camp  
SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW



# Our Honey Bee Hive Is Growing!

Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is pleased to announce that the HoneyBee Café has expanded to the Skaneateles Community Center.

This expansion is the first of its kind for the Friends, and promises to strengthen community bonds. There is high hopes that the new cafe will encourage more interest in the zoo and bring even more community members into the fold. Even purchasing coffee can have a positive impact on conservation by generating funds for at-risk species. Friends of Zoo Executive Director Carrie Large said that the new cafe will invite new neighbors to support the zoo while inspiring them to realize the power that each individual has to support conservation.

"The zoo is committed to supporting both nature and our community. This partnership is an exciting new step to advance animal conservation and expand our influence," Friends of the Zoo Executive Director Carrie Large said. "We are fortunate to be surrounded not just by nature, but by lively neighborhoods worth supporting."

The Skaneateles Community Center hasn't had a functioning concession stand since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. The zoo is proud to provide a sought-after service while broadening the reach of one of its most popular brands; in just a year and half, the Honey Bee Cafe has become a popular eatery with a small but successful menu – which will carry over to the new Skaneateles cafe.

The Friends were interested in deepening our community inroads, so this new partnership was the perfect choice for both institutions. The new HoneyBee Café features the best-loved options from the original menu, paired with stadium staples like nachos. Of course, we made sure to offer Hofmann hot dogs to round out our food offerings.



Pictured left to right: John-Michael Emmons, Jillian Moczara, Carrie Large, Chuck Anthony, and Tiffanie Clark

Opening a second café at the Skaneateles Community Center is not just about offering delectable treats; it's a commitment to extend our dedication to conservation beyond the zoo grounds. This venture symbolizes our commitment to fostering connections beyond the zoo's borders, nurturing a shared appreciation for nature, and inspiring environmental stewardship in every community we touch – all while serving great food.

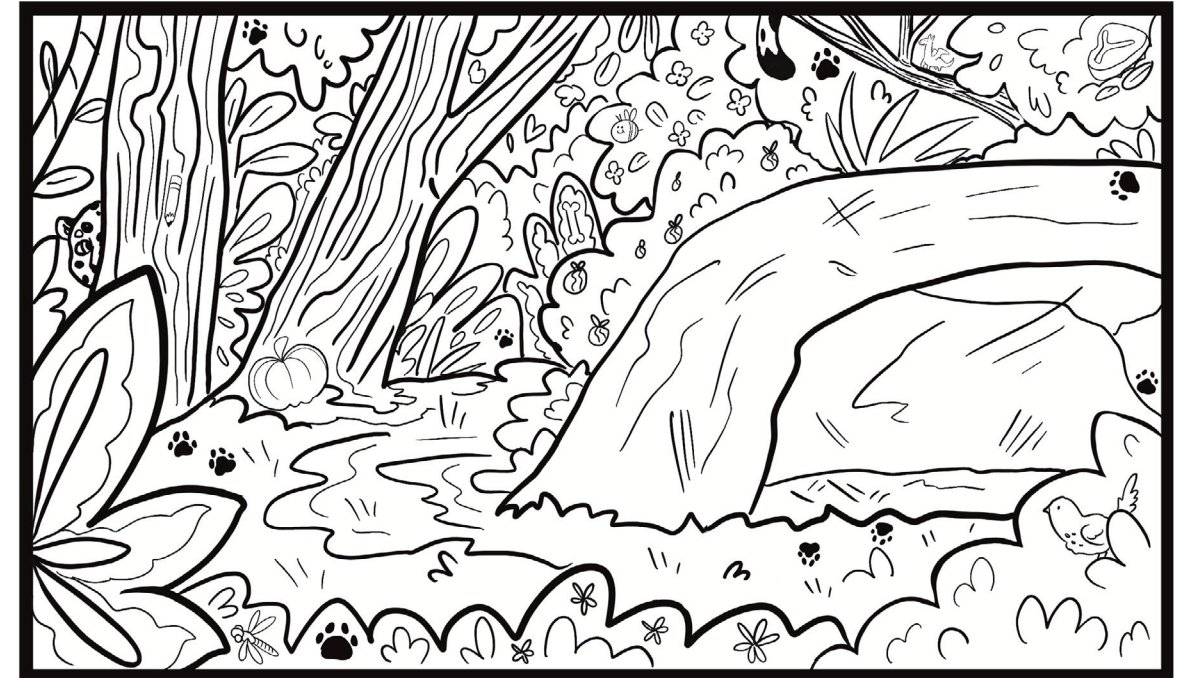
"The new Skaneateles location will not only offer a menu consisting of concession favorites, Salt City Coffee, and fresh made to order sandwiches, but items that will recognize fitness lifestyles such as: protein powders, supplements, and sports drinks. This location complements our zoo operation as the two locations enjoy opposite seasons. It will provide a year round opportunity to raise funds through food service and keep Café employees working during the zoo's slow season."

The zoo is excited to have opened the new Honey Bee Cafe to the Skaneateles community, and encourages the public to follow the zoo's social media accounts to stay tuned for relevant updates and announcements. Next time you're near Skaneateles and work up a hankering for something tasty, stop in the Community Center for a bite!

## MYZOO JR.

# AMUR LEOPARD FIND IT!

The Amur Leopard needs your help! Find each item hidden in their habitat!



FIND ME!

10



Scan for the Answer Key!



## MYZOO COMIC!



MyZoo Jr. Find It and Comic Art by Alissa Creno



Adopt an Animal

Patas Monkey

Senior Keeper Special

\$55

Package includes:

A certificate of adoption, 4x6 color photo, animal fact sheet, 12" patas monkey plush, an adopt parent gift, copy of MyZoo Magazine, and listing in online adopt parent board for one year.



Adopt an Animal online at [thecuriouscubgiftshop.org](http://thecuriouscubgiftshop.org)  
Looking to adopt another animal at the regular rate?  
Call (315) 435-8511 x8563  
or email [giftshop@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:giftshop@rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

# ECONOTES

## MEMBER NOTES

### Botanical Garden!

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo and Botanical Garden has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

The vibrant life of our zoo extends beyond the confines of animal habitats and lies within the spaces between them. Our botanical diversity has always been a source of pride, and we're thrilled to announce a long-awaited enhancement: the establishment of a Botanical Garden.

This first garden project will not only add to the aesthetic appeal of our zoo but will also serve a multitude of purposes beyond mere beauty. By nurturing a diverse range of plant life, we can offer valuable information on plant conservation, including guidance on creating pollinator gardens to support local bees and insects. Plants are not merely ornamental; they form the foundation of almost every food chain on Earth. Healthy plant life fosters healthy habitats, contributing to a healthier planet overall.

Moreover, the Botanical Garden presents opportunities for sustainable practices, such as growing food for animal enrichment, thereby reducing our environmental impact. Additionally, the produce can be utilized in our HoneyBee Café and dinner pairing series, making our institution more eco-friendly. Through this initiative, we aim to raise awareness and appreciation for plant life among our visitors, fostering a deeper connection with the natural world.

"We've envisioned evolving into a true botanical garden at our institution for a long time, and we are eager to see this initiative grow and blossom into something as beautiful as it is impactful," said Friends of the Zoo Executive Director Carrie Large.

**Donate online:** [rosamondgiffordzoo.org/donatenow](https://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/donatenow)



As the first step in this transformation of our zoo grounds, we plan to repurpose the waterfowl pond into a garden. This decision aligns with our conservation mission, as maintaining the pond generates unnecessary water waste and poses risks of disease transmission from wild birdlife to our animals. By removing the pond and replacing it with a diverse garden, we can reduce our water waste and focus more on supporting the birds and other animals entrusted to our care. Although the pond may be a picturesque feature of our zoo, we are confident that the new, breathtaking garden will captivate our visitors even more.

"Safeguarding all the living things on our planet is the sacred duty of our institution," said Ted Fox, Zoo Executive Director. "We are so excited to extend our stewardship beyond our current commitments, to include a vast array of flora and fauna in our charge."

The new garden won't just be aesthetically pleasing – it will be a thought-provoking, action-inspiring installation with educational opportunities. The zoo will have the chance to captivate our visitors while providing them with the necessary tips, tools, and tricks to begin to cultivate their own gardens!

The design and implementation of our first Botanical Garden marks a significant milestone for our zoo, ushering in a new era of appreciation for plant life. We are immensely grateful for your unwavering support of our conservation mission.

**Want to be part of this monumental change?**  
**Contact Director of Philanthropy Gina Rapasadi**  
**at (315) 435-8511 x8534 or [grapasadi@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:grapasadi@rosamondgiffordzoo.org)**

Artist rendering of the Botanical Garden at the Zoo.



### Membership Reciprocal Travel

We often tout reciprocal travel as one of the best perks of our zoo membership package, but what does it really mean?

Well, your zoo membership earns you unlimited access to our zoo grounds – and also to over 150 other AZA-accredited institutions! That means you can visit our partner institutions – such as Utica Zoo, the Buffalo Zoo, and the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester for 50% off admission price! By becoming a member of your local AZA-accredited zoo or aquarium, you can gain access to discounted admissions to other AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums that choose to participate in our Reciprocal Admissions Program.

As a member of AZA, our zoo focuses its resources on providing for the species that we have been entrusted with. Many zoos care for the same species, but there are also many species that vary from zoo to zoo.

Here is a quick breakdown of some nearby AZA-accredited zoos and their distances from Syracuse, along with some of the species unique to that institution:

#### Utica Zoo, Utica (56 miles)

- African lion
- Striped hyena
- Mountain zebra
- Painted dog
- Spider monkey
- Pallas cat
- Burmese python

#### Seneca Park Zoo, Rochester (91 miles)

- African bush viper
- African elephant
- Sea lion
- Lynx
- Madagascar tree boa
- Masai giraffe
- Polar bear
- Plains zebra
- White rhino

#### Buffalo Zoo, Buffalo (147 miles)

- Western lowland gorilla
- Black howler monkey
- Capybara
- Sea lion
- Japanese macaque
- Ocelot
- Arctic fox
- Green anaconda
- King cobra

#### Questions?

Call at (315) 435-8511 x8503 or email [members@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:members@rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

### New for 2024 – Motorized Wheelchairs!

The Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is committed to providing a safe and accessible environment for all zoo guests. In April, our Membership Department launched a motorized wheelchair rental program, which enhances our mobility options even further! **These units (ECV's) are available for guests to rent at NO COST, with funding generously provided by The Jewish Federation of Central New York.**

**Safety features of these units include:** Dual Brake System, Programmable Speed, Seat Sensor for Auto-Shutoff, and rugged tires for our terrain.

**Guest comfort features include:** Oversized seat, Adjustable armrests and spacious legroom, Impressive Turning Radius, and up to 500 Lb. weight limit to accommodate guests of all needs and sizes.

Our motorized wheelchairs are available for guests 18 years and older, with a renter liability form. First come, first served.

**Stop by the membership desk next to the front entrance at the beginning of your next visit to rent a motorized wheelchair!**



### 1st Quarter 2024 Membership by the Numbers! January – April 2024

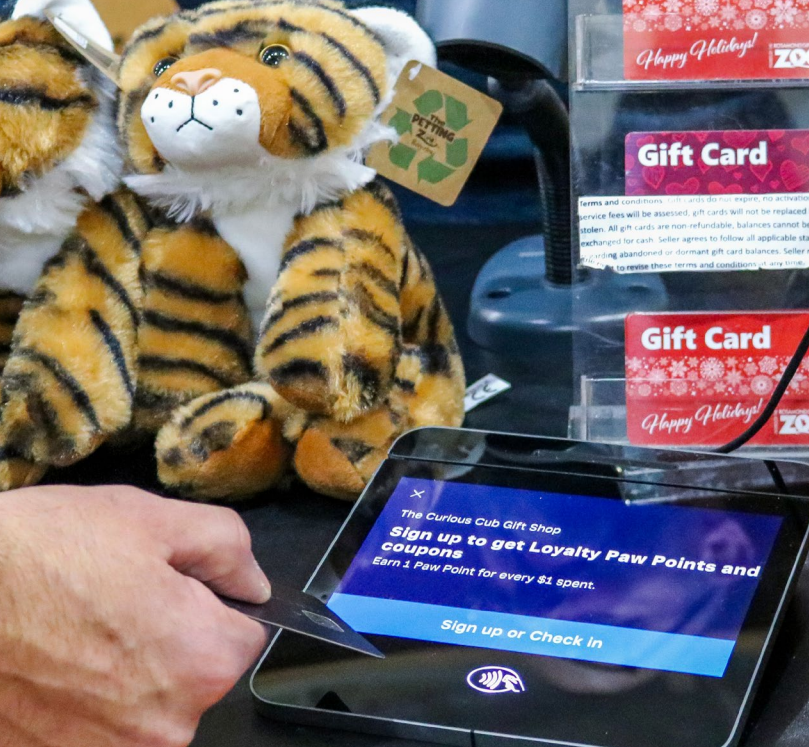
We have gained over **800 new members** since January. Over **150 membership levels** have been upgraded. We have over **10,000 active member** households at this time.

Members have accounted for over **30%** of daily visitor attendance so far this year. (In comparison to general ticketing, military, event and program attendees, volunteers, and others).

**Members!** Don't forget you can enjoy discounts at:

- The Curious Cub Gift Shop
- HoneyBee Café
- Zoo Events
- Education Classes – Like Zoo Camp!

Thank you for your support!  
 We look forward to having you with us in 2024.



## Save \$\$ with our Paw Points Loyalty Program!

Join our Paw Points Loyalty Program. All purchases at The Curious Cub Gift Shop, the HoneyBee Café, the Hofmann Dog Haus, and the Trunk and Tusk Canteen allow guests to accrue points for their purchases. With these points guests receive discounts and free items!

Make sure to enter your phone number during your next purchase to start earning points toward these discounts!

-  Free small fountain drink (50 Paw Points)
-  Free small drip coffee (50 Paw Points)
-  5% off Gift Shop sale (50 Paw Points)
-  10% off Gift Shop sale (100 Paw Points)
-  Sandwich & small fountain drink (200 Paw Points)



## The Curious Cub GIFT SHOP

### New in the Gift Shop!

Check out our new seasonal items, including newly arrived apparel and more! Stop in and see our great selection of conservation-themed gift items for the animal lovers in your life next time you visit.

### Members Receive 10% OFF!

Best of all, your purchases benefit animal care at the zoo and conservation in the wild.



Can't come to the zoo? Scan the QR code to visit our online store or go to [syracusezooevents.org/shop](http://syracusezooevents.org/shop)



# ENJOY SUMMER WITH CATERING AT THE ZOO!



## BOOK YOUR NEW ENGLAND STYLE CLAMBAKE

Steamed Littleneck Clams  
Peel and Eat Shrimp  
Cornell BBQ Chicken Quarters  
Hamburgers and Cheeseburgers  
Hofmann Hot Dogs and Coney  
Baked Beans, Salt Potatoes, Sweet Corn  
Appropriate Condiments  
Potato Salad

**\$59**  
(Priced per person)



Scan to Learn More

PERFECT FOR A COMPANY OUTING!

## BIRTHDAYS AT THE ZOO!

FOR CHILDREN 2 AND UP  
Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. | Noon | 2 p.m.

**MEMBERS: \$375**  
Up to 12 children (includes 2 adults accompanying birthday child, plus 1 adult for each attending child)

**NON-MEMBERS: \$415**  
Up to 12 children (includes 2 adults accompanying birthday child, plus 1 adult for each attending child)

### BIRTHDAY SPECIAL FOR DRAGONS REIGN!

- Exclusive Limited Time Dragon plush gift for Birthday child valued at \$29.99!
- Special Dragon Craft
- Apple Juice and Dragon Punch



Scan to Learn More

For more information contact Events Manager Wendi at (315) 435-8511 x8577 or [events@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:events@rosamondgiffordzoo.org)

## DIPPIN' DOTS ARE BACK AT THE ZOO!

This fan-favorite frozen treat is the perfect way to beat the summer heat! Dippin' Dots are available inside the HoneyBee Café (always), and outside at the stand across from Explorer's Outpost (weather permitting).





# Upcoming Events!

**MAY – OCTOBER**



**Dragons Reign!**



ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO • SYRACUSE, NY



**JULY 7**



**Penguin Palooza!**



**AUGUST 2**



**AUGUST 17**

