

An insider's view of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

My Zoo

FALL 2022

Magazine

PREPARING
FOR A VERY
**SPECIAL
DELIVERY!**
P3

**CONSERVATION
IN ACTION:
HONEY BEES
AND ELEPHANT
CONSERVATION**
P8





A Message from the Friends Executive Director

The fall issue of *MyZoo Magazine* is here, and we are thrilled to show you all the exciting things that have been happening at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo!

Friends of the Zoo has been busier than bees this summer with the many events we host during the warmest months of the year. We held successful fundraisers like Brew at the Zoo and Tee Off FORE the Animals and proudly hosted annual events like Penguin Palooza, Dreamnight and Asian Elephant Extravaganza. (Page 12-14)

Additionally, this summer we won the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration Pinnacle Award for all the outstanding virtual education classes we offered throughout the past year. Friends of the Zoo put a lot of time and effort into our virtual programs, and we are honored to be recognized as educational leaders while we spread our message of conservation! (page 15)

As many of you have probably “herd,” our Asian elephant Mali is pregnant and expecting her baby this fall! This issue contains an insider’s look into Mali’s incredible life story and our preparations for this enormous event. (Page 3)

I am especially excited to share the story of our new honeybee hive which arrived in May. Throughout the summer, our bees have thrived in our oasis of pesticide-free flower gardens and various plant-life. These pollinators hold a special place at our zoo and are the namesake of our new HoneyBee Café. Learn how these honeybees will contribute to our zoo and elephant conservation in our story on page 8.

Thank you all for being a part of our Friends of the Zoo member family and your commitment to supporting the animal care and conservation work we do at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. None of this could happen without your support. We look forward to seeing you all at the zoo this fall!

With gratitude,

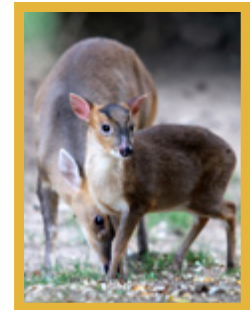
Carrie Large

Carrie Large
Executive Director, Friends of the Zoo



IN THIS ISSUE

- 3 Preparing for a Very Special Delivery!
- 4 Animal Updates
- 5 Creature Feature
- 8 The Unique Function of Honey Bees in Elephant Conservation
- 10 Hot-Diggity Dog!
- 11 Celebrating Our Partnerships
- 12 Friends of the Zoo Puts the Fun in Fundraisers!
- 15 Friends of the Zoo Earns CILC’s Pinnacle Award
- 16 Education Programs
- 18 MyZoo Jr.
- 20 Econotes
- 21 The Curious Cub Gift Shop
- 22 Member Notes
- 23 Say “I Do” at the Zoo!



ON THE COVER:
Baby Chinese Muntjac Violet
with mother Rosalyn
Photo by Camille Murphy

ROSAMOND GIFFORD
ZOO
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Please direct questions regarding this publication to editor@rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

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Preparing for a very Special Delivery!

If you haven't already heard, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo has huge news! Our beloved Asian elephant Mali is pregnant and almost ready to give birth to her new calf. Between the anticipation and preparation for the not-so-little one, the elephant care team is in full gear and on high alert for the big event.

This new addition will be the third calf to our Asian elephant pair Doc and Mali. Our keepers estimate that Mali became pregnant in late January of 2021. The average gestation period for elephants is 20-24 months – the longest of all mammals. After two long years, Mali is expected to finally give birth between mid-October and late November.

Unlike other animals at our zoo, elephant ultrasounds are especially tricky when it comes to determining the gender of the baby. The calf, expected to be over 200 pounds when it is born, is so big that ultrasounds can only get peeks of different body parts at a time.

Mali's prenatal care is a collaboration between our zoo's elephant staff – with a combined experience of over 80 years in elephant care – and experienced veterinarians from Cornell University. Between the two teams, Mali and her baby are in exceptional hands!

While there is no prenatal vitamin equivalent for elephants, our keepers are making sure that Mali stays nourished and healthy through extra blood monitoring and behavior observation.

“We want everything to be as calm and normal for her as possible,” Elephant Manager Ashley Sheppard said. “Meanwhile, behind the scenes, we're all preparing for a birth.”

Our elephant and medical teams at the zoo have undergone several birthing drills, and everyone has been given specific roles for when the time comes. While Mali is expected to do most of the work, the staff will be nearby and ready in case of an emergency.

ANIMAL UPDATES

Female Chinese muntjac fawn, Violet, was born at the zoo on June 19! The Chinese muntjac is one of the world's smallest species of deer and is known as the "barking deer" because it can make a dog-like sound when alarmed by a predator.



One male juvenile Von der Decken's hornbill was sent to Safe Haven Animal Discovery Experience on September 8.

Twenty-three guinea fowl arrived at our zoo on June 7. Guinea fowl are endemic to Africa and rank among the oldest of the gallinaceous birds. They are often domesticated because they act as natural pest control, feeding on mice and insects.

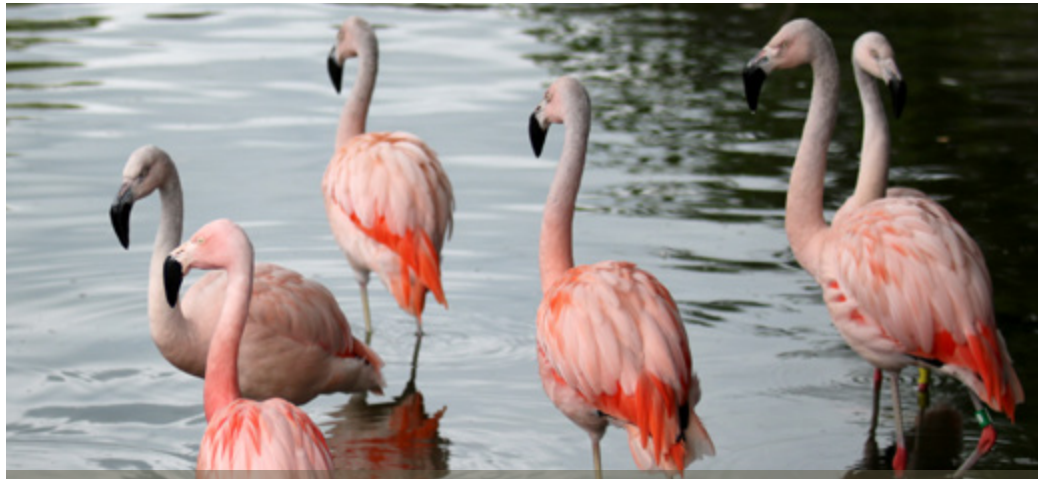
One of our male Ross geese was humanely euthanized on June 1.

Twenty-four yellow-spotted Amazon river turtles hatched at the zoo on June 11. Yellow-spotted Amazon river turtles are some of the largest turtles in South America and can live up to 70 years.

One male Fiji banded iguana arrived from the San Diego Zoo on June 15. Fiji banded iguanas are bright green lizards and male lizards have blue stripes on them. They are an endangered species only found on the Fiji Islands.

Our male Humboldt penguin Jose was humanely euthanized due to cancer on September 6. Jose came to us from SeaWorld in 2005, making him one of the first penguins at our Penguin Coast. He was 25 years old and one of the oldest penguins at our zoo.

Our female red wolf Cheyenne passed away on July 6. She was born at the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem, NY, in November of 2015 and came to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in 2019 as part of the Species Survival Plan (SSP), a population management and conservation program designed to save critically endangered animals. The plan includes hopefully releasing red wolves into the wild, where fewer than ten remain. The zoo plans to acquire a new female red wolf in the future.



Avian Flu Returns: Bird Exhibits Closed

Last spring, there was an influx of the deadly Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), which affected birds across New York state. As a precaution, penguins, eagles, flamingos and other outdoor birds were moved indoors, and the Diversity of Birds aviary was closed to the public.

Due to the diligence of the animal care team, all birds were kept safe from influenza and were on display throughout the summer.

However, wild birds are beginning their fall migrations, and HPAI has been detected in the area again. As a result, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is taking the appropriate measures to protect our birds again. All outdoor birds will be safely quarantined off exhibit, and both the Diversity of Birds aviary and the Domestic Animal Barn are temporarily closed to the public.

While the birds are sure to be missed during this time, we appreciate your understanding as we fulfill our mission of protecting the animals under our care. The birds will return to their public exhibits once the Avian Influenza is no longer a threat.

CREATURE FEATURE: ARMENIAN MOUFLON

AT THE
ROSAMOND
GIFFORD ZOO:

1 Male: Sahak

1 Female: Waverly



FUN FACT:

Armenian Mouflon were proudly featured twice on Armenian stamps – first in 2012 for their “Flora and Fauna of Armenia” collection and secondly in a 2016 cartoonish collection.

Wow, would you look at those horns! The Armenian Mouflon, a subspecies of mouflon, made their public debut at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo this summer.

Native to Iran, Armenia, Turkey and parts of India, these graceful sheep have a Vulnerable conservation status, meaning they are threatened with extinction unless their circumstances in the wild improve. Farming, hybridization and habitat deterioration harm their wild populations as well as hunters who pursue mouflon for trophies due to their signature curled horns.

Armenian Mouflons usually live in open spaces at medium or high altitudes, where they inhabit rocky terrain, shrub land, alpine forests, meadows and grasslands. Sahak and Waverly are exhibited at our Wildlife Trails in the zoo, which replicate their native habitat with a tall grassy slope, patches of large rocks and a lower valley.

They are not territorial or aggressive, and in the wild they can form large grazing herds while they feed in the early mornings and evenings. Males and females roam in separate herds and only mingle when it's time to mate. During the day, these sheepish creatures usually hide among bushes to stay safe from predators. Like other sheep, they are herbivores who eat grasses, shrubs and tree bark.

At our zoo, you can identify Sahak by his huge ridged horns, which are only sported on male mouflon. Females tend to have no horns but can potentially grow tiny ones. Visit Sahak and Waverly in their new exhibit between the markhor and takin exhibits on the Wildlife Trail.



“The birth of an elephant makes the earth shake, and we want to make sure, to the best of our ability, that everything goes right with this highly anticipated calf,” Ashley said.

After the calf is born, staff will immediately check that it is properly breathing and healthy, then quickly return it to Mali so the two can start bonding.

At first, the calf is anticipated to stay close to Mali as she nurses. Elephant keepers will keep a close eye on the duo to make sure Mali is nurturing the calf as she should. The calf will then be slowly introduced to all members of the herd here at the zoo – starting with Grandma Targa and ending with Doc.

Ashley describes baby elephants to be extremely fun-loving and entertaining while they learn the ropes of their new world. “My favorite thing is to watch the calf when it first becomes aware of its trunk,” Ashley says. “They have to learn how to use it and sometimes they will trip over it as they get more comfortable with walking!”

After the calf gets acclimated and the team deems it to be safe, it will join the rest of the herd in the elephant preserve in view of the public. This could be as quick as a week after birth or up to a month, depending on the needs of the calf.

For now, the new calf will stay here at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo and be our seventh elephant at the Asian Elephant Preserve.

Mali and Doc

Mali, meaning “flower,” has an undeniably sweet personality. Mali loves to interact with her keepers and likes when new people come to visit her. She also has a mischievous side, as she is a curious elephant who is often the first one to break in new enrichment items.

Born in 1997, Mali was one of the first Asian elephant calves born at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo and quickly became a beloved member of the Syracuse community.

In 2006, Mali was sent to Canada with her mother Targa while the Rosamond Gifford Zoo started expansion of the Elephant Preserve. It was at the African Lion Safari in Ontario where Mali became a mother for the first time to male calf, Chuck. Since male and female elephants tend to travel in same-sex herds, Chuck would eventually go to the Denver Zoo with his half-brother Jake, to continue to be a resource for bull behavior research.

A few years after their mother-daughter trip abroad, Mali and Targa returned home to a newly expanded preserve at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, reuniting with the rest of the herd in 2011. Mali didn’t know that she would meet Doc only a year later and become a mother for the second time.

Doc came to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in 2012 from the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Center for Elephant Conservation. Doc was initially shy around his new herd and keepers described him as having an “awkward teenage” demeanor. But with Mali’s more outgoing personality, the two took to each other quickly and formed a wonderful relationship. Now Doc is described to be the best bull elephant our zoo has ever had due to his calm, peacekeeping personality. Together, their two temperaments complement each other beautifully.

In 2015, Doc and Mali welcomed their first calf together, Batu. Four years later, Doc and Mali welcomed another named Ajay.

Ajay and Batu quickly became inseparable. Visitors gathered at our Elephant Preserve to watch the two brothers play and get into fun trouble. The calves, especially Ajay, amazed our elephant team with their larger-than-life personalities and rapid development.



Events took a sad turn for the the family on December 3, 2020, when Batu’s weekly routine blood-test came back positive for Elephant Endotheliotropic Herpes Virus (EEHV), a lethal strain of herpes that targets young Asian elephants. EEHV is believed to naturally occur among elephants in a dormant form and can become active without warning. It is the leading cause of death amongst young elephants.

Although neither of the brothers were showing symptoms of the virus, our zoo staff started aggressive treatment for the young elephants, knowing the danger of EEHV. Ajay succumbed to the virus first, only a month before his second birthday.

His older brother Batu, only five years old, died three days later after eight days of around-the-clock treatment. The loss took an emotional toll on not only the herd, but the community as well.

After the tragedy, the community rallied around our herd, looking for ways to give support in a time of mourning. In response, Friends of the Zoo created the Ajay and Batu Memorial Fund where people could donate any amount in memory of the young elephants.

“It took a while for our herd to recover after the loss of Batu and Ajay,” Ashley said. “Just as humans mourn after a loss, our elephants did too. We all did.”



Turning Pain into Progress

With extra attention and care, our elephants were able to move forward, and Mali is ready for this new chapter in her life. However, Batu and Ajay are not forgotten, and their legacy continues to this day.

The money from the Ajay and Batu Memorial Fund was used to provide EEHV resources to the zoo – including equipment to test for EEHV in-house at our new state-of-the-art Animal Health Center. The medical team at the Animal Health Center continues to train on more and more of the new equipment that arrives every day.

Our veterinarians are expected to travel to the Smithsonian National Zoo to receive EEHV-specific training. Researchers at the Smithsonian were the first to identify EEHV in 1995, following the death of one of their young elephants.

The testing and research done at our Animal Health Center will contribute to the efforts to someday eradicate EEHV and help elephants both in human care and in the wild. All training and equipment installations are expected to be completed by the time Mali's new calf arrives.

Until then, visitors can see Mali and her impressive baby bump here at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Make sure to wish her good luck when you see her this fall and stay tuned for the big news that's coming right around the corner!

Young Asian elephants Ajay and Batu



One Huge Step for Asian Elephant Conservation

Asian elephants are endangered due to a scarcity of suitable habitat, ivory poachers and human conflict. Because of their dwindling numbers in the wild, it's of extreme importance to maintain their populations in human care.

Doc and Mali were recommended to breed through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan (SSP), a researched strategy to safely breed Asian elephants in a way to maintain a genetically superior bloodline.

Of the 238 zoos and aquariums accredited by the AZA, only 11 are Asian elephant breeding facilities – including the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

Our zoo has been a leader in elephant husbandry and conservation since 1986 by participating in programs like AZA's Asian Elephant SSP, while also raising anti-poaching awareness, researching ways to prevent human-elephant conflict in the wild and investing in conservation organizations like the International Elephant Foundation.

Due to the scarcity of their habitat, the SSP does not currently entail releasing new elephants into the wild – although that is the goal for the future. If conservation efforts succeed and the habitat for Asian elephants is restored, there will be a healthy line of elephants ready. Without this plan, it is likely that any attempt of repopulation would fail, and Asian elephants would go extinct.



The Unique Function of HONEY BEES in Elephant Conservation

In May, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo embraced a new species – honey bees!

The new beehive is a short hike down a woody trail, off-exhibit behind the elephant barns. It sits on a pallet between a small pond and meadow – strategically positioned to be bathed in sunlight each morning but in cool shade by the afternoon. The hive looks like five white boxes stacked on top of each other. The bottom two are deeper than the others and contain the eggs the queen bee lays daily. The top boxes are shallower and hold the excess honey the bees make and store away.

Our singular hive is home to around 60,000 honey bees – the majority being female worker bees and only about 700 male bees. The male bees do not have stingers, nor do they assist with the upkeep of the hive. In the winters, they are shunned from the hive so that the collected resources can be rationed amongst the worker bees.

The only purpose of the male bees is to potentially mate with the queen once a year. Afterward, she can dictate not only the number of eggs she lays but the gender of the eggs as well. About 1,500 bees die naturally from old age every day and are removed from the hive by worker bees. They are immediately replaced by the 2,500 eggs the queen lays each day.

Beekeepers Cody Kautzman and Jessi McCarty, who double as zookeepers, met while attending Paul Smith's College in the Adirondacks. Jessi, who has been beekeeping since the age of 15, started a beekeeping club on campus while studying Natural Reserve Conservation and Management. The club successfully built and kept five hives.

Cody, who studied Wildlife Science, was inspired by the beekeeping club, and carried his experience with him during his internship at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in 2019. At the end of his internship, he wrote a proposal to bring honey bees to the zoo – a proposal that would be revisited two years later and put into action by our Animal Management Team and the Rosamond Gifford Zoo Chapter of the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK).

"In my proposal, I shared how I believed the presence of a beehive would be an educational tool and resource about the importance of pollinators," Cody said. "With the development of the hives, I saw an opportunity to host programs about bees, maybe even to teach people the practice of keeping honey bees."

FUN FACT:

In the winter, honey bees will huddle around the queen bee to keep her warm. Their wings will constantly vibrate, generating enough heat to keep the queen at about 90 degrees. The bees on the outskirts of the huddle will rotate with the bees towards the center when they get cold.

BIO-RETENTION

The pond next to the beehive is actually our bio-retention basin where water from the elephant pool goes after it is used. The retention basin allows the water to seep naturally back into the earth, creating a rich water source for wildlife and plant life. This system prevents the water from entering the municipal storm or sewage systems, making it an entirely green alternative that aligns with our conservation mission.

Playing a Unique Role in Elephant Research

In addition to its educational role, the honey bee hive will have a unique function in elephant conservation.

Elephants are endangered partially due to the creature-human conflict that arises when elephants wander into farmlands for food. Elephants can eat an entire harvest in one day, and farmers resort to killing the animal in desperation to save their crops – their source of livelihood.

This is where the honey bees come in. Researchers have discovered that, despite being approximately 300 times the size of a honey bee, elephants are hesitant around bees and their nests. So, conservationists are using elephants' respect of bees to help save their lives.

Studies show that elephants are deterred from wandering inside farmland when farmers place beehives around their property. These beehive fences are strung on wire, which sways when the elephants try to wander into the farmland.

The swaying disturbs the bees, causing them to swarm. While bee stings cannot penetrate the thick skin that covers most of the elephant, bees are smart enough to sting sensitive areas like its trunk, belly, mouth and eyes. And like bee stings hurt humans, they hurt elephants too. Ouch!



Check out our first
**CONSERVATION
CONVERSATIONS**
video featuring the new
Honey Bee exhibit

This conservation method is extremely effective and benefits the elephants, farmers and bees.

"We've been working closely with the elephant keepers to study the connection between elephants and bees," Jessi said. "We were able to feed the elephants some beeswax and saw they had an interesting reaction – they shook their heads and stepped away from the wax, almost acting with caution." Elephants can sense the pheromones from the bees in the wax and take it as a warning there are bees nearby.

"The elephants can see the hive from their preserve and will often watch us when we inspect the beehive," Jessi described.

The beehive sustains itself, so beekeepers only need to interact with the hive when they inspect the bees biweekly for diseases. Despite what you may think, Cody and Jessi have only been stung once or twice this summer!

"They only sting as a last resort," Jessi explained. "Bees get a bad rap, but they are an intelligent and amazing species."

Unlike commercial beekeepers, Cody and Jessi can slowly work with the bees, monitoring them for dangerous diseases and parasites. Through their observations, the beekeepers can learn more about bees and better ways to care for them.

While new beehives usually take a year or more to start producing honey, our hive has already produced 80-100 pounds of excess honey in only three months. Jessi attributes the fast development to the healthy variety of pollination at the zoo, along with good summer weather.

"It's been a successful summer for bees this year in Central New York," Jessi said.

And good thing too, because bees only have the warmer months to make honey from flowering plant life. Honey bees need about 90-100 pounds of honey to sustain them throughout the winter months. Jessi says they plan to leave their bees more than that, "just in case."

While the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is not currently selling the honey produced, our catering team has been incorporating it into their unique food creations during events like our Fall Conservation Ball.

So, while you are at the zoo this fall, make sure to bee kind to our new pollinator friends! Visitors can catch a glimpse of the white hive from standing at the Elephant Outlook and looking towards the wooded area behind the preserve.



Hot-Diggity Dog!



Hofmann's Dog Haus is Sizzling!



This past summer, Friends of Rosamond Gifford Zoo partnered with Hofmann Sausage Company – a Central New York favorite treasured across the country – to bring their delicious hotdogs to our zoo. The ribbon-cutting ceremony in June launched the new partnership, with guests eagerly gathering to chow on their favorite hotdog!

"We are incredibly excited to bring a community favorite to the zoo for our guests to enjoy," said Friends Executive Director Carrie Large. "Our goal is to bring together the very best our community has to offer and make it available for our guests – many of whom visit us from Buffalo, Rochester, Albany and beyond – right here at our zoo."

Hofmann's Dog Haus provides our zoo with its iconic hotdogs along with pretzels, ice cream treats and tasty condiments.

"Hofmann is proud to be the Official Hot Dog of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, a hometown's favorite company supporting its hometown's favorite zoo," said Ron Tomacchio, Hofmann Sausage Company's Chief Operating Officer. "We are committed to our community and in partnership with the zoo to bring exceptional food to visitors and Hofmann fans."

The Hofmann's Dog Haus sits in the zoo's courtyard where guests can lounge at shady picnic tables or under the gazebo with a direct view of the monkeys in Primate Park and the Chilean flamingos in the waterfowl pond.

Immediately after bringing Hofmann's hotdogs to the zoo, our guests have increasingly sought them out.

We are proud to partner with Hofmann as they help us with our mission of conservation – one hot dog at a time. So, next time you visit our zoo, make sure to stop for a Hofmann's hotdog! **The Hofmann's Dog Haus is open from 10:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. on weekends for the fall season.**



CELEBRATING PARTNERSHIPS

Arts Stroll Through Wildlife Trail

Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo brought the arts to the animals on the Wildlife Trail with the opening of Arts Stroll, a sensory experience featuring artistic sights and sounds. The installation comes through partnerships with Symphonia, Central New York's premier orchestra and local Syracuse artist Ally Walker.

The Stepping Out of the Frame exhibit featured renderings of our zoo animals which appear to be stepping out of their frames and into the wilderness of our Wildlife Trail. Outdoor speakers played music of Symphonia, giving the guests a soundtrack to connect with the nature around them.

The artwork was auctioned on September 23 at our Fall Conservation Ball, with proceeds going toward our mission of animal care and conservation.



Get Active: Move Like an Animal!

Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo partnered with the Onondaga County Health Department over the summer to promote healthy choices and physical activity at the zoo. The team created an animal-themed activity trail across from Explorer's PlaySpace with twelve stations encouraging kids to embrace their wild side. The station signs encourage children to dance like a penguin, march like an elephant, stretch like a monkey and more!

This initiative was funded through the NY State Department of Health's initiative of "Creating Healthy Schools and Communities," which also provided our catering team with a gardening tower to grow our herbs indoors! These are just some of the many changes at the zoo that encourage healthier living. This commitment toward health started with our new Honeybee Café which brings nutritious sandwiches, fruits and vegetables to replace the previous café's fried foods. We want to ensure the well-being of not only our animals but our visitors as well.



Chef Dan Guest-Stars on Spatchcock Funk

In September, Spatchcock Funk filmed two segments with Catering at the Zoo Executive Chef Dan Hudson. For the program, they cooked some delicious food in front of our Asian Elephant Preserve including a fresh salad and a creamy pumpkin bisque. They made sure to let the elephants in on the fun by sharing some pumpkin with them as a treat.

Watch *Spatchcock Funk* every Sunday morning on CNY Central. Scan the QR code to view the first episode or go to youtube.com/SpatchcockFunk



FRIENDS OF THE ZOO PUTS THE **FUN** IN FUNDRAISERS!

Best Dressed: Rohe Family



TEE OFF FORE THE ANIMALS

Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo held its second-annual charity golf tournament in June, **raising \$54,375** in support of animal care and conservation.

On June 20, 88 golfers joined us at the historic Bellevue Country Club for 18-holes of championship golf, with animal ambassadors present on the course to “bring the zoo to Bellevue.” Guests were served breakfast off the cart, lunch and a post-tournament dinner in Bellevue’s luxurious Clubhouse.

Congratulations to the tournament winners!

Ben Alexander won the men’s Closest to the Pin award with a distance of 14’ 11”, Jackie Penfield took home the women’s Closest to the Pin award with a distance of 6’ 6”. Longest Drive went to Ryan Poplawski and Madelyn Hornstein. First place teams were Specialized Distance Systems with 15 under par and 1 World for All with 2 under par. Second place teams were Hancock Estabrook with 14 under par and Berry Good Dental with 4 over par. The Best Dressed winners were Dr. Zina Berry and also the Rohe Family.

Thank you to our golf tournament sponsors, 1 World for All, OneGroup, RBC Wealth Management, Dannible & McKee, LLC, Fishers Island Lemonade, Hancock Estabrook, LLP, LPA Software Solutions, LLC, TJ Sheehan Distributing and The Image Press for your support.

SAVE THE DATE!

Next year’s Tee Off FORE the Animals golf tournament will be on June 26, 2023. Watch for updates on the zoo’s website, social media and upcoming issues of *MyZoo Magazine*.



Best Dressed: Dr. Zina Berry



Presented by



It was quite the party on August 5 when more than 2,153 people came to our annual Brew at the Zoo fundraiser. Guests enjoyed local beer and wine tastings and live music while viewing our animals on evening exhibit. The event included a silent auction that featured animal artwork, collectibles, dining experiences and movie/rock star memorabilia.

Brew at the Zoo raised \$139,352.50 in support of our mission of animal care and conservation education.

Brew at the Zoo was made possible by sponsors CXtec, Hayden Jewelers, Construction Associates, LLC, Nave Law Firm, Hancock Estabrook, LLP, NBT Bank, Bousquet Holstein, PLLC, Grossman St. Amour CPAs, PLLC, C&S Companies, Tops Friendly Markets, TJ Sheehan Distributing, Onondaga Beverage, 93Q and 95X. Thank you for your support!

SAVE THE DATE!

Party animals and beer lovers alike can join us again next year on August 4, 2023. Make sure you buy your tickets early as this popular event often sells out!



Meier's Creek Elephantastic

Our "Elephantastic" IPA made its informal debut at Brew at the Zoo! The beer, created for the zoo by Meier's Creek Brewing Company, helps support the conservation efforts for Asian elephants in the wild.

Scan the QR code to learn more and donate



THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED, CONTRIBUTED OR OTHERWISE SUPPORTED THESE EVENTS!

Providing A Funfilled Summer for Our Community

Every year, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo participates in Dreamnight – an evening dedicated for children with special health care needs and disabilities to experience the zoo.

Originating in the Netherlands at the Rotterdam Zoo in 1996, Dreamnight is celebrated in 23 countries around the world. In New York, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is the only zoo to participate.



On June 10, 680 people came to our zoo to enjoy a sensory-inclusive after-hours walk around the zoo with keeper chats, games and various performances! Children received a stuffed animal upon their arrival and families were provided dinner and snacks throughout the night.

This night was made possible by sponsors Mohawk Global Logistics Corp., The Marsellus Family, The O'Donnell Family, Tops Friendly Markets, Wild Republic and the 100 plus volunteers from agencies like ACCESS, Exceptional Family Resources, Elmcrest, Liberty Post, ACR Health, ARISE, Upstate University and many more.

Tickets are provided to families cost-free through several organizations. The number of tickets is limited to reduce any risk of exposure or overstimulation for the children who attend.



On Sunday, July 10, Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo hosted our annual Penguin Palooza event with over 2,000 guests!

The penguin party included complimentary ice cream donated from Stewarts Shops and an appearance from Rick's Polar Pops.



Children of all ages could be seen with face-paint and smiles as they enjoyed keeper chats, rock painting and a storytime around our Humboldt Penguin Coast exhibit. Some guests took this occasion as an opportunity to show their support for our penguins by wearing our Penguin Family Pride t-shirts, which celebrate our first Humboldt penguin chick to be raised by a pair of male penguins.



Friends of the Zoo and the zoo's elephant team hosted a daylong slate of activities for our annual Asian Elephant Extravaganza, an event celebrating our Asian elephant herd and the cultural traditions of their native countries in South Asia.



The day included performances of traditional Indian music and dance, an Indonesian orchestra called a gamelan, demonstrations with our six-member elephant herd and birthday celebrations for our two eldest elephants, Siri and Romani. Guests also saw Mali and her impressive baby bump!

Precious artwork and crafts created from our elephants were featured in a silent auction that people could take part in both in-person and online.

Over 2,000 people attended this celebration to support our elephants.





Friends of the Zoo Earns CILC's Pinnacle Award for Outstanding Virtual Programming

The Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) has awarded Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo its Pinnacle Award for 2021-2022.

The CILC is a nonprofit that breaks down educational barriers through distance learning and connects young minds to virtual educational experiences from cultural organizations worldwide. Each year, the CILC gives the Pinnacle Award to museums, zoos, aquariums, science, historical and performing arts centers for their distinguished work in interactive virtual learning.

The Pinnacle Award recognizes Friends of the Zoo's virtual education programs to be of high educational value and high engagement amongst learners.

Our virtual live field trip experiences are utilized by schoolteachers, public libraries and elderly care facilities worldwide. More than half of the programs requested from our zoo were for organizations out of state and in Canada.

"Friends of the Zoo has the distinct mission of connecting people with the natural world to inspire them to care – whether that's at the zoo or via Zoom," said Friends Executive Director Carrie Large. "Having the ability to break down the barriers of transportation and connect with people all over the world is truly amazing."

After the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Friends of the Zoo took the opportunity to fuel time and effort into starting virtual learning classes. "The education team jumped into virtual programming with not only speed but quality at a moment's notice." Education Director Kimberly Arnold said. "While distance learning was in our plan for 2021, we were able to expedite the process when COVID hit and transferred all our programs to virtual offerings."

All grade-school programs were carefully designed to align with the New York State Science Learning Standards – meaning they could be used as fun virtual field trips or educational class lessons. Our virtual debut earned us the Pinnacle Award for the first time with programs like our fan-favorite Halloween series, Scary Species and Ooky Spooky Animals, and Amazing Adaptations, Animal Myths Busted and The Rainforests.

Education Coordinator Ben Trowbridge takes pride in how these virtual programs are thoughtfully planned and executed. "The beauty of our virtual programs is that they show animals in extreme detail using multiple high-quality cameras and provide unique visuals of the animal exhibits," Ben said.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo joins esteemed institutions like the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery, the Manhattan School of Music, and many others on the list of winners this year. The Pinnacle Award highlights our zoo as a leader in conservation education and animal awareness, not only within the community but throughout the world.

In addition to CILC programs, the education team provides an array of virtual content on our YouTube page. "We are proud of our team for their creativity in connecting people with the natural world through exceptional programs offered on a variety of platforms," said Kim.

Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo will continue to provide our award-winning virtual programs through CILC and post virtual content on our social media. To learn more about the virtual education programs at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, visit rosamondgiffordzoo.org/virtual-zoo-to-you.



Education Programs

Pre-registration is required for all education programs as a minimum number of participants is needed to run all programs. Sessions fill up fast, so sign up today! Register online at rosamondgiffordzoo.org. Questions? Call the education department at (315) 435-8511 x8559 or email education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org.



Join the education team for three-week Zoo Adventure programs tailored just for your age group. Each series includes three days of fun! Perfect for home-schooled children or anyone wild about learning!

Wild Beginnings

Ages 1-3 | 9:15-10 a.m.

Join the Education Team for a three-week learning series tailored just for the little ones. Each themed class includes animal biofacts, nature-themed sensory play, a story and an opportunity to see an animal up close! During this early learning adventure, young ones will explore with their senses while developing language and motor skills in the process. *This program is for one child/one parent pair.*

Series Options:

Biomes for Babies: October 17, 24 and 31

Wild Homes: November 14, 21 and 28

Tuition per series:

Members: \$30 per child/adult pair

Non-members: \$45 per child/adult pair
\$15 per additional child in same session

Adventure Days!

Ages 3-5 | 10:30 a.m. – Noon

Join the Education Team for a three-week learning series that provides a unique opportunity for your child to learn more about the animals at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. This class consists of stations for learning, experiencing, creating and utilizing the outdoors, weather permitting! *This program includes optional drop off.*

Series Options:

At Home in my Biome: October 17, 24 and 31

Beastly Builders: November 14, 21 and 28

Tuition per series:

Members: \$60 per child | **Non-members:** \$75 per child
\$60 per additional child

EcosySTEM Explorers

Ages 6-8 | 1-2:30 p.m.

Ages 9-12 | 3-4:30 p.m.

In this three-week series, learning Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics has never been more exciting! Join us for some hands-on fun connecting to the animal world. This class uses a project-based learning approach. *This program requires drop off.*

Series Options:

At Home in my Biome: October 17, 24 and 31

Beastly Builders: November 14, 21 and 28

Tuition per series:

Members: \$60 per child | **Non-members:** \$75 per child
\$60 per additional child

Kids' Night Out

Ages 6-10 | 5:30-9 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, meet animals up close, tour the zoo after hours, make crafts and play games throughout the night.

Friday, November 18 and December 16

Daily Tuition: Members: \$30 | Non-members: \$35

Family Twilight:

Ooky Spooky Paired Painting

Friday, October 14 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Treat yourself to this spooky paired painting experience for you and your child. Bring your frighteningly good painting skills to the pumpkin patch as we create artwork guaranteed to give you goosebumps. Join us for a howling good time!

Family Twilight: Light Up the Holidays

Friday, December 9 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Light the way with a unique gift for the holiday season. This illuminating craft is good for both the beginner and the accomplished artist.

Members: \$30 per child/adult pair

Non-members: \$40 per child/adult pair

Zoo Camp

One-Day Zoo Camp

Ages 6-11 | 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Join us as we explore the zoo, play games, make crafts and meet animals up close! **Pizza Party lunch included!**

Monday, October 10, Tuesday, November 8, Friday, November 11, Wednesday, November 23

Daily Tuition: \$65 per child | Members receive a 7% discount

School Break Zoo Camps

Join us one, two, or all 5 days as we explore the zoo, play games, make crafts and meet animals up close!

Monday, December 26 – Friday, December 30

Ages 3-5 | Morning and Afternoon Session

Morning Session: 9 a.m. - Noon

Afternoon Session: 1 - 4 p.m.

Tuition per Session: \$38 per child | Members receive a 7% discount

All campers MUST be potty-trained to attend this camp!

Ages 6-10 | All Day Sessions

9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday through Friday

Daily Tuition: \$55 per child | Members receive a 7% discount



Register online at rosamondgiffordzoo.org. Questions? Call the education department at (315) 435-8511 x8559 or email education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Festive Fun Paint-N-Sip

Thursday, December 15 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Get into the holiday spirit with a festive painting experience you are sure to remember! Our event includes light refreshments, raffles, animals and more! Come alone or bring a group. Light refreshments include complimentary wine and beer (limit of 2 per person). **21 and over only.**

Individual Member: \$55 | Individual Non-member: \$60

Member Pair: \$100 | Non-member Pair: \$110

Member Group (4): \$180 | Non-member Group: \$200

Register online today at rosamondgiffordzoo.org or scan the QR code.



CATERING AT THE ZOO

Don't Miss Out On Our Amazing Gourmet Dinner Series

For ages 21 and older



Oktoberfest Dinner Pairing
Friday, October 2
6-9 p.m.



Fantastic Friendsgiving Feast
Friday, November 11
6-9 p.m.



Buone Feste!
Italian Holiday Dinner Pairing
Friday, December 16
6-9 p.m.



Learn more about hosting your own private dinner pairing at the zoo. Contact us today!

Email events@rosamondgiffordzoo.org, call (315) 435-8511 x8543 or visit cateringatthozoo.org/private-dinners.

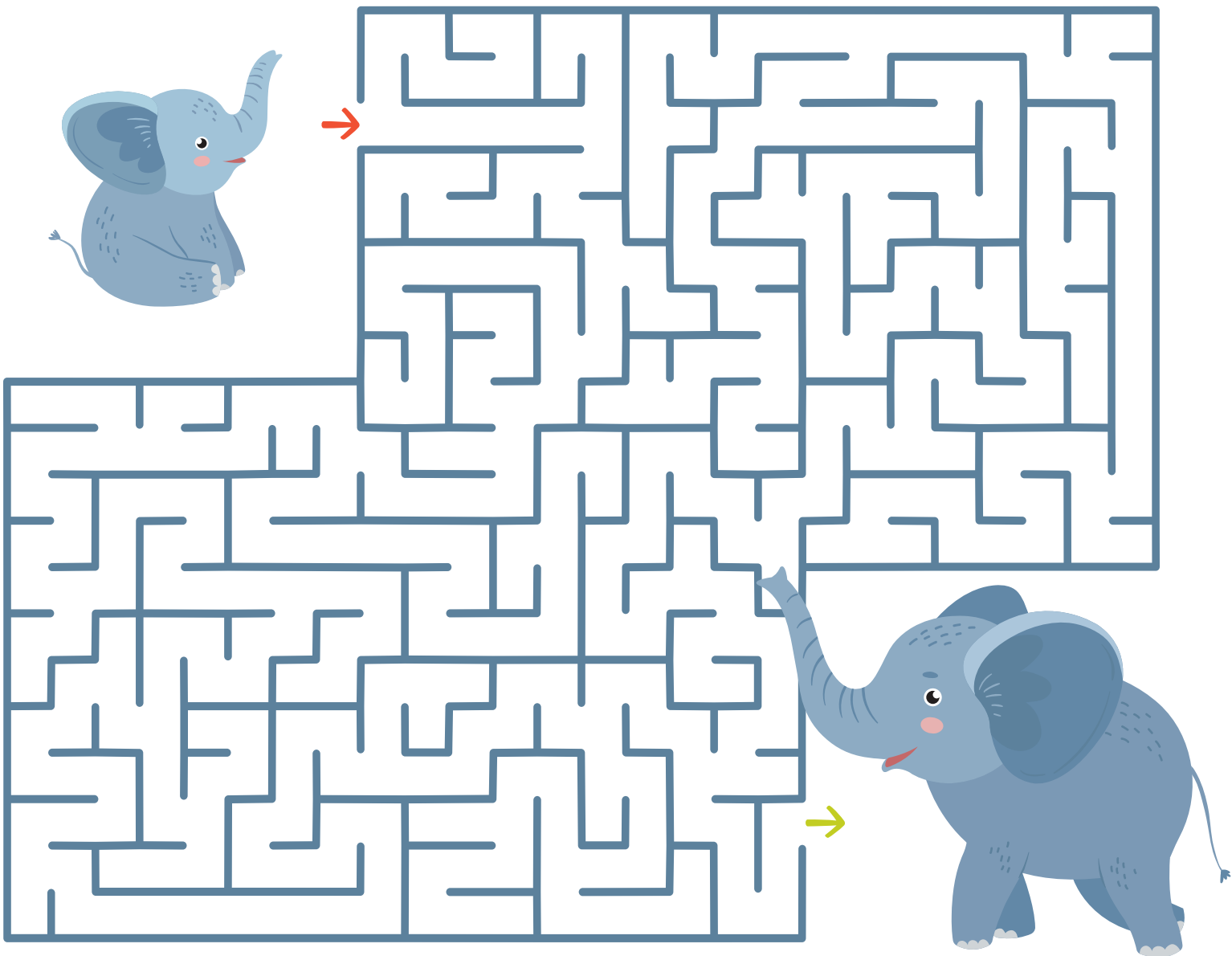
A Maze of Pachyderm Proportion!

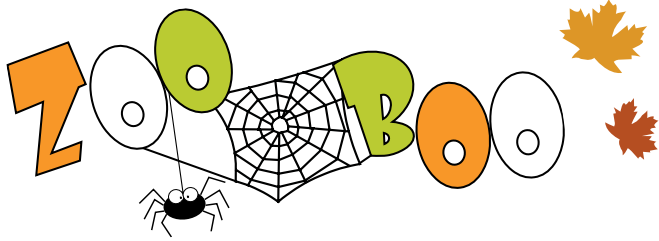
Although baby elephants can be curious, they tend to stick close to their mothers. Mother elephants spend a lot of time with their babies while they are young to guide and comfort them. Just like humans, the bond between an elephant and her baby lasts a lifetime.

Help the baby elephant go through the maze and find its way back to its mama!

FUN FACT:

A pachyderm is an animal with really thick skin! Elephants are considered pachyderms as well as hippos, rhinos and pigs.





TRICK OR TREAT WITH THE ANIMALS!

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS,
OCTOBER 15-30

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 and photo ops, parade and costume contest!

A new feature to Zoo Boo this year will be **Spooky Stroll**, with eerie music and fog spilling over the decorated Wildlife Trail. So, wear your costumes and **bring your treat bags** for this fall-favorite event!

Note: Zoo Boo tickets are required for trick-or-treaters only. Parents that do not wish to trick-or-treat are not required to purchase a Zoo Boo ticket.

For tickets and event information visit, rosamondgiffordzoo.org or scan



THEMED WEEKENDS!

October 15-16: Superheroes
October 22-23: Witches & Wizards
October 29-30: Your Favorite Movie Characters!

SPECIAL GUESTS

Leanna’s Art Room – Face Painting



October 15, 16, 23, 29, 30

Syracuse Crunch

October 15,16

CNY Section of the American Chemical Society

October 22, 23

Ghostbusters of CNY

October 29

...and more!



Presented by **amazon**

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS,
DECEMBER 2-17 | 5-8 P.M.

Enjoy a festive and fun after-hours stroll amid sparkling displays of holiday lights that transform the zoo into a winter wonderland. Warm up by the fire pits and enjoy hot chocolate, s’mores, live performances of holiday music, ice carving, roving entertainers.

TICKETS ON SALE STARTING NOVEMBER 1



Performances by CirqOvation



For more information visit, rosamondgiffordzoo.org or scan

Ice Carving by



An Environmentally Friendly Fall



Enjoy That Crisp Autumn Weather

Take advantage of crisp autumn days as they slowly start to shorten. We New Yorkers know how long the winter season is ahead, so get outside as much as you can this season. By enjoying our time outdoors, we can decrease the energy consumption that comes from being at home. Bring your family to a local state park or spend your day with us at the zoo!

Crisp Autumn air gives us a much-needed break from hot and humid summer days. Take the comfortable temperature as an opportunity to walk or bike to as many locations as you can. Through these alternatives, you can cut down on emissions given by your vehicle. On your commute, make sure to bring a reusable water bottle to stay hydrated or a travel mug so you can stop at your favorite café for a warm beverage.

Explore the beautiful outdoors in the Syracuse area this season. Scan for more information or go to visitsyracuse.com/blog/post/explore-outdoors-syracuse



Get Your Harvest Locally

New York State is the Queen of Autumn Harvests. We have pumpkins, apples, potatoes and squash that all grow locally this season. Local produce is often fresher, healthier, and tastes better. It supports local farms and families, which is beneficial for our community.

Getting your food from local sources also reduces “food miles” – a word to describe the countless hours of fossil fuels and labor it took to deliver food to a grocery store. By cutting down some food miles, you can decrease carbon emissions and have a smaller environmental footprint!

Additionally, did you know consuming local honey can help with your seasonal allergies? Get the good stuff for your warm teas this fall! You can also pick up a cozy beeswax candle while you’re there for a more environmentally friendly fall favorite!

For more information visit downtownsyracuse.com/events/signature/downtown-farmers-market



Leave Those Leaves

While the fall season is a favorite for many, raking leaves is not. Thankfully, there is a solution that’s as great for your time as it is for your lawn – mulching your leaves! You can use a regular mower to chop up the fallen leaves on your lawn. Leaving a thin, dispersed layer of leaves on your lawn will enrich your soil, aid ground ecosystems and reduce the energy it takes to dispose of leaves. It also leaves you with more time to enjoy those fleeting sunlight hours instead of raking!

Learn more about mulching at greenthatlif.com/leaf-mulching



Get Tucked In

As temperatures drop, it’s time to ensure you’re warm at home. By better insulating your home, less heat can go a longer way. Easy ways to insulate are coating your windows with window film to keep the heat in, door-draft stoppers to prevent chilly breezes and thick curtains which won’t only make your home look cozier but feel cozier too!

Once you’ve bundled up your home, it’s time to bundle up yourself! By wearing thick sweaters, fuzzy PJs and comfy crew necks you’ll be able to kick down the heat a notch or two! This not only saves you money, but it helps the planet too – it’s a win, win!



Thrifting Fall Fashion

At the start of a new season we can often think, “Out with the old, and in with the new.” While this practice can feel good for the soul, it’s not always good for the planet. Thankfully, there are ways to refresh your space and your look in an eco-friendly manner.

Instead of hitting the mall for some new fall clothes, visit your local thrift store for a sustainable alternative. By reusing clothes, we can cut down on the waste and energy it takes to make new ones. Before you go, collect a bag or two of the clothes you didn’t touch all summer and donate them to the thrift store. By donating your items, your clothes will end up beloved in someone else’s closet instead of harmfully sitting in landfills.

Additionally, thrift stores often hold shelves of seasonal decorations that people get rid of every year. Save your trip to the craft store and reuse seasonal decorations instead!



Holiday Sale!



December 5-9

All shoppers receive **10% off** purchases in store and online at syracusezooevents.org/shop.

Zoo Members—add another **10% off** your existing member discount for a **total of 20% off!**

Discount does not apply to Adopt an Animal packages



Adopt an Animal

Red Panda

Senior Keeper Special **\$55**

Package includes:

A certificate of adoption, 4x6 color photo of a red panda, animal fact sheet, 12" animal plush, an adopt parent gift, copy of *MyZoo Magazine*, and listing on adopt parent board for one year.

Adopt an Animal online at syracusezooevents.org/shop

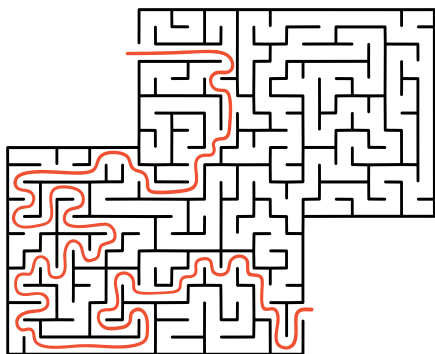
Looking to adopt another animal at the regular rate?

Call (315) 435-8511 x8563 or

email giftshop@rosamondgiffordzoo.org



MYZOO JR. ANSWER KEY



New This Season:



Elegant Ladies Leopard-Print Gloves



Pathfinders Fine Porcelain Necklaces



12" Ram Plush



FAHLO BRACELETS!

Your direct connection to conservation efforts around the world is waiting for you at The Curious Cub Gift Shop.

Fahlo bracelets open you to the world of an animal of your choice – penguins, sea turtles, elephants, lions, polar bears or sharks.

Each bracelet tracks an animal and helps save wildlife.

Your bracelet gives you an insider's look into the tracking technology conservationists use to understand new ways to protect each incredible species. Wearing your bracelet displays your passion for conservation while also providing you with the chance to see where your sponsored animal is day to day and learn more about their life story.

Guests can purchase Fahlo bracelets at our gift shop. Funds from each purchase go toward saving your animal species in the wild.

Store Hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

No admission required to shop!

Scan the QR code to visit our online store or go to syracusezooevents.org/shop





Give the gift that lasts all year long... a zoo membership!

Memberships provide year-round activities, savings and memories— making it the perfect gift for anyone (and everyone!) on your list.

Members enjoy a wide variety of zoo programs and events at a special price, as well as many other members-only perks at the zoo. We're here all year, and members can be too!

Best of all, purchasing your membership directly benefits the precious creatures in our care and supports your local AZA-accredited zoo.

If you have been considering a gift membership, now is the BEST time to do so. You won't want to miss all the exciting things we have planned for 2023!

Grab your gift early this year, and we'll be sure their membership lasts through next holiday season!

Purchase a gift membership between November 1 and December 15 and your recipients will be valid for the FULL 2023 year, PLUS we'll include 2 free single-use guest passes! (an \$18 value)

ALL MEMBERSHIPS INCLUDE:

- Free zoo admission 362 days a year
- Discounted admission to more than 150 other AZA-accredited institutions
- Discounts on education programs and zoo camps
- Discounts on purchases at The Curious Cub Gift Shop
- Discount at the HoneyBee Café and concessions
- Discounted prices for birthday parties and special event tickets
- Subscription to our full color zoo publication, *MyZoo Magazine*
- Free limited-edition t-shirt





Say "I Do" at the Zoo!

Have a wedding that is both timeless elegant and unforgettably wild at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

Located among tree covered hills only minutes from downtown, your wedding at the zoo would have picturesque scenery and incredible animals at every turn.

Somewhere beyond the sea, our penguins are waiting to join your wedding party while wearing their natural tuxedos at Penguin Coast. Or start your happily ever after at the Elephant Overlook where you can say your vows as elephants wish you good luck from their preserve below. Either way, our animals will bring magic to your wedding day and leave your guests mesmerized. As your friends and families marvel over your unbelievable wedding guests, make sure they know that your special day is contributing to their care and conservation.

After your ceremony, head inside to our beautiful ballroom where we can accommodate parties large and small. Our catering team will create an exceptional menu that your guests will mention for years to come. Have cocktails on our private outdoor patio or a champagne toast in our courtyard at sunset. With more than 200 animal species, the possibilities for your special day are limitless.

Your wedding with us will be one-of-a-kind and leave your guests with memories for a lifetime. Whatever your vision is, our team will work with you to make sure your wedding day is unforgettable.

"I can't say enough about the entire catering staff. I don't know if I could have asked for a more perfect wedding. Everyone thought it was beautiful, everyone loved the food and they thought it was so cool that it was at the zoo and incorporated elephants!"

Kelly and Brian Bruckner



CATERING AT THE ZOO

**Book your wedding
by December 31, 2022**

and receive a complimentary Meet and Greet
with an animal ambassador.

**PLUS – Receive 50% off your ceremony venue rental
including Elephant Overlook or Penguin Coast!**

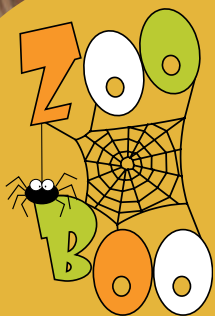


**Learn more about celebrating your own special wedding day at the zoo. Contact us today!
Email events@rosamondgiffordzoo.org, call (315) 435-8511 x8543 or visit cateringatthezoo.org.**



Upcoming Events

Scan QR code for full event details or visit, rosamondgiffordzoo.org/events



**WEEKENDS
OCTOBER 15-30**



Presented by **amazon**
**WEEKENDS
DECEMBER 2-17**



**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 31**