

An insider's view of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

My ZOO

FALL 2020

Magazine

MOBILIZING MARCY:

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TEAM HELPS CUB
CONQUER
SWIMMER
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A Message from the Friends Interim Executive Director

As we approach the upcoming season of gratitude, I am thankful to all of you who made it out to the zoo this summer and showed such great appreciation despite our many safety restrictions. I am also thankful to the many of you who “adopted” zoo animals, renewed or purchased memberships, attended virtual education classes or otherwise supported the zoo during these unusual and difficult times.

Despite the challenges, the zoo continues to fulfill its conservation and scientific mission. Our cover story for this issue of *MyZoo Magazine* chronicles how our animal care and veterinary staff turned things around for little Marcy, a snow leopard cub born on May 18 while the zoo was closed.

Our zoo education team also has risen to the occasion, pivoting from holding on-site classes to producing virtual ones. The story of their hard work can be found on page 10. This issue also holds plenty of other “insider” content that we share with you as a member perk. I hope you enjoy catching up with the goings on at your zoo.

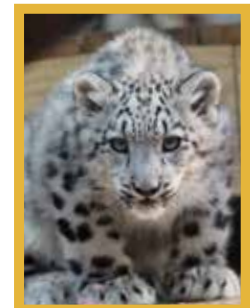
As we enter the last quarter of 2020, I'd also like to remind you of our Friends of the Zoo 50th anniversary fundraiser, the \$50K for 50 Years campaign to raise \$50,000 to help the zoo recover from the significant revenue losses during the pandemic. If you have not yet made a donation, please consider a gift of any amount at syracusezooevents.org/Friends50. Your help is central to the zoo's success.

Since we reopened on May 23, more than 50,000 visitors have ventured to the zoo and found it to be a safe, relaxing and fun change of scenery even though some areas are still closed. The zoo remains on a reservation system and as a member, you simply need to call our Member Reservation Line at (315) 435-8511 x8589 to schedule your next visit.

Thanks again for your support!

Quentin “Skip” Lockwood, III
Interim Executive Director, Friends of the Zoo

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ON THE COVER:
Snow Leopard Cub Marcy
Photo by Maria Simmons

ROSAMOND GIFFORD
ZOO
AT BURNET PARK
Ted Fox, Director

ONONDAGA
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Brian Kelley
Acting Commissioner

J. Ryan McMahon II
County Executive

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

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo One Conservation Place, Syracuse, NY 13204 is owned and operated by Onondaga County. Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing a level of excellence that makes the Rosamond Gifford Zoo a national leader in animal care, conservation and visitor experience.

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MOBILIZING MARCY:

Animal Care Team Helps Cub Conquer Swimmer Syndrome

Snow leopard cub Marcy is able to walk thanks to physical therapy, collaboration with other AZA zoos

When the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's carnivore team realized that the zoo's female snow leopard, Daania, was expecting, their main goal was to ensure the pregnancy and birth went smoothly. Thirty days before her due date, they set up a closed-circuit camera to monitor her 24/7. Each morning, they reviewed video from the night before to ensure nothing unusual occurred. A second-time mom, Daania had zero complications. On May 18, the team arrived to find her grooming and nursing a newborn cub. Snow leopards usually have twins – as Daania did in her first pregnancy -- so they continued to monitor her for signs of labor. There were none. Daania had just one cub, but it was healthy, eating and a valuable addition to the population of a critically endangered species.

All this meant hands off. Unless complications arise, animal care specialists at accredited zoos give mother and baby six weeks to form a solid bond before the baby's first wellness check and vaccines. They observe from a distance or via camera to ensure the cub is nursing, breathing normally and moving around. The general rule is Do Not Disturb.

But about three weeks in, Carnivore Manager Seth Groesbeck noticed the cub was not moving normally. At this age, a cub starts to crawl, but this one couldn't get its hind legs under it. It would try to pull itself forward with front paws but remain on its belly with rear legs splayed to the sides, pushing air.

Seth alerted Cornell University veterinarian Dr. Becky Eddy, who practices at the zoo in a

MOBILIZING MARCY continued on pg. 8

Baby animals with Swimmer Syndrome fail to develop the adductor muscles on their inner thighs that allow them to stand.



ANIMAL UPDATES

A female Humboldt penguin chick, Cuatro, hatched at the zoo on May 22. Her parents are Hugo and Malia. She recently went on exhibit at Penguin Coast.



One of our laughing kookaburras, Sydney, passed away on June 6. She was 16 years old.

A yellow-spotted Amazon river turtle hatched on June 17.

A pied imperial pigeon and a Venezuelan troupial hatched on July 1 in the Diversity of Birds aviary.

Two Kimberley rock monitors hatched on July 5. They are only the second and third Kimberley rock monitors to hatch at a zoo in the U.S.

A male Thorold's white-lipped deer was born on July 7. He is the offspring of male white-lipped deer Stag and female Kaila. He was named Colden in keeping with our "I Love New York" naming theme. Colden is a town in Erie County.

A baby Chinese muntjac was born on July 28 to female muntjac Rosalyn and male Alfred. The fawn, a male, is named Campbell in keeping with our "I Love New York" naming theme. Campbell is a town in Steuben County.

A male Cape porcupine, Bristle, was acquired on August 3. He came to us from the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston. He has been introduced to our female Cape porcupine, Holley, in hopes of having baby porcupines in the future!

IN MEMORIAM

Lisa the ocelot, a longtime resident of our Social Animals wing, passed away on June 30. Lisa was a favorite of zoo visitors and a popular subject for photographers for many years before she retired off exhibit in 2018. Since then she had been in comfort care for chronic declining health issues related to old age. She will be missed.



Our Andean bear exhibit stands empty for now with the loss of our elderly twin Andean bears, Kahless and Morath. Kahless passed away last December at age 25 and Morath on July 21 at age 26½.



Kahless and Morath were born January 1, 1994 at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo. They came here as a duo in 2005 and were close companions. They were named for mythical Klingon warrior brothers from Star Trek. They spent most of their time together, often reclining alongside each other to soak up the sun.

Stay tuned to see what exciting new species will come to call this beautiful exhibit home, and thank you for your support on the loss of our bear brothers.

CREATURE FEATURE: RED- BREASTED GOOSE

AT THE
ROSAMOND
GIFFORD ZOO:

1 Female

3 Males



FUN FACT:

Besides being one of the most attractive species of geese, red-breasted geese also are among the rarest. They breed in arctic Russia and winter in only five sites along the Black Sea in Bulgaria, Romania and Ukraine.

One of the most striking bird species on the zoo's waterfowl pond is the red-breasted goose, a small goose native to the Arctic tundra of northernmost Siberia. This bird is easily distinguished by its colorful plumage, with reddish-brown, black, and white body and a rusty and black-and-white head pattern.

The red-breasted goose is a migratory bird that weighs on average three pounds. Their native habitat includes Siberian wooded tundras, grasslands, wetlands or near coastlines. They usually feed on small fish, crabs, aquatic plants, grasses and grain.

A male-female pair came to us in 2014 from the Livingston Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy, and hatched two male goslings in 2018. The Species Survival Plan for this species has recommended that the two younger males be sent to another Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) institution for display, probably sometime this fall.

The red-breasted goose is currently listed as Vulnerable. The current wild population is estimated at fewer than 80,000 individuals and is in decline due to habitat loss. Other threats include climate change, human disturbance, overuse of biological resources and oil/gas drilling as well as hunting in Russia and Kazakhstan.

In the wild, red-breasted geese often nest on high rock outcrops or cliffs near different species of birds. Their predators include snowy owls and arctic foxes who prey on their eggs. The geese will often nest in colonies of four or five pairs and deliberately build nests near Peregrine falcons or other birds of prey for protection.

At the zoo, they tend to stick together and advertise their territorial nature by loudly vocalizing at other birds. Their call is a jerky "kik-yoik, kik-yik" sound. When they feel threatened, they will drop their head and hiss at other birds.

Meet Iniko! The First Baby Patas Monkey to be Hand Reared



On Friday, September 18, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo introduced a baby patas monkey with a very unique story. Her name, Iniko, means “born in troubled times,” not only because she was born during a pandemic, but also because her mother didn’t survive the birth. As a result, Iniko is the first baby patas monkey in North America being hand reared in human care.

Iniko’s mother, Becca, had three successful births in the past, but experienced a difficult labor with her on June 8. The zoo had to call in a specialist from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine to perform an emergency C-section to deliver the baby. Sadly, Becca succumbed and could not be revived. A necropsy found that she had renal failure and other health issues. Without a mother to care for her, the baby would have to be hand reared.

The zoo’s general curator, Dan Meates, and his wife, zookeeper Leisje Meates, had the experience to care for her at their home. They devised a special formula and took turns feeding her every two to

three hours. Iniko is now 3 ½ months old, and that’s how long it’s been since Dan and Leisje last slept. They have been bringing Iniko to the zoo to acclimate her to a new environment. Their ultimate goal is to introduce her to her extended family of patas monkeys, known as a “troop.”

Patas monkeys form close social groups that make it a challenge to bring in a newcomer, especially a defenseless baby. Dan and Zoo Director Ted Fox are hoping that the dominant female in the group, Sarah, will take Iniko under her wing. Sarah loves babies and can no longer conceive. She has already shown great interest in Iniko (with a barrier between them).

The zoo is closely documenting its experience, feeding schedule and formula and the baby’s development to share with its fellow accredited zoos in the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). “This information will be important for institutions caring for this species and other related primates,” Fox said.

Zalie and Bob Linn Amur Leopard Woodland Opens



On September 24, the zoo held the grand opening of our new habitat for the rarest of big cats, the Zalie and Bob Linn Amur Leopard Woodland. The new exhibit, located in the former African lion exhibit, provides an enriching outdoor space for our Amur leopards, whose species is critically endangered in their native Far East Russia.

Zalie and Bob Linn of Manlius were on hand to celebrate the results of their generous naming gift, along with Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon and zoo officials.

The new habitat features a high mesh ceiling and platforms 20 feet off the ground as well as log bridges and tunnels to encourage their natural penchant for climbing.

The exhibit will be home to the zoo’s breeding pair of Amur leopards, Tria and Rafferty. Their twin cubs, born in 2019, also will be able to use the space until they move to other Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) zoos as part of the Species Survival Plan for Amur leopards.

Other key donors to this project include: the Herbert and Eleanor L. Howard Charitable Foundation, Triad Foundation, The Gifford Foundation, Laura and Rick Iorio, and the Rosamond Gifford Zoo Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers.

Animal Health Center Update

Onondaga County and Rosamond Gifford Zoo officials recently started construction of the new Animal Health Center to be completed in 2021.

The new health center will be a free-standing building with more than 20,000 square feet of exam, testing, surgical and quarantine space. It will replace the 40-year-old clinic and quarantine room at the zoo, which has only 2,500 square feet.

At our last two accreditation hearings in 2013 and 2018, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) noted that the old clinic is too small for a zoo of our size, cannot provide hospitalization for most of the larger species in our care and lacks proper quarantine space to meet best safety standards. AZA recommended we build a new facility to maintain our accreditation and provide the very best health care available to every animal in our care.

The zoo also seeks to maintain and even grow its reputation as a leader in animal care and welfare in partnership with one of the world's top veterinary schools. Staff and students from Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine practice at the zoo as part of their studies and research in zoological medicine.

Onondaga County allocated \$7.5 million for the project and the Friends of the Zoo has committed to \$1.1 million to outfit it with state-of-the-art diagnostic and medical equipment. Construction is starting with the goal of completing the building's outer shell before the severe CNY winter months, so that crews can work on the interior in harsh weather.

The building will front on the zoo courtyard behind Primate Park and be accessible from the zoo parking lot. The construction necessitates moving the zoo's American bison to other facilities. Bactrian camels Patrick and George will relocate to the bison area.

Stay tuned for a capital campaign to raise the Friends' share of the cost for the new health center.

Already interested in putting your name on an exam room or surgical suite? Contact Heidi Strong at (315) 435-8511 x8526 or hstrong@rosamondgiffordzoo.org.



Friends of the Zoo Welcomes New Development Director

Heidi Strong has joined the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo as director of development. She will be responsible for all Friends of the Zoo fundraising, including major gift solicitation, individual gifts, corporate sponsorships, planned giving, grant writing, events and fund drives.

Strong comes to the zoo after 13 years at Turning Stone Resort Casino, most recently as director of events and entertainment.

Strong has a bachelor's degree in marketing from SUNY Oswego. She spent six years as event and marketing manager for Oswego Harborfest before joining Turning Stone in 2007 as tournament services manager for the resort's PGA TOUR tournament, the Turning Stone Resort Championship.

In 2013 she was named director of events for the resort, creating and executing fundraising and consumer events, sporting events and casino VIP events such as the AHL Hall of Fame Induction and Awards ceremony, the PGA Professionals Championship and appearances by "The Cake Boss" Buddy Valastro and boxing champ Mike Tyson.

Friends of the Zoo Interim Executive Director Quentin "Skip" Lockwood said Strong has the enthusiasm and the ability to greatly enhance fundraising opportunities for the zoo.

"Heidi has already come up with some great ideas for how we can offer more opportunities for companies and individuals to be involved with the zoo," Lockwood said. "We are very excited to have her join the Friends of the Zoo team."

Zoo Director Ted Fox said he is looking forward to working with Strong on behalf of the zoo. "Heidi's experience and her passion for animals will be a great asset for the zoo," he said.

Strong said a job helping to support a nationally accredited zoo fulfills a personal goal for her. "I have always wanted to help and be around animals, and this is an opportunity to do just that," she said.

Strong resides in Granby, Oswego County, with her partner, Chad. They have two rescue cats, Penny and Cooper (from "The Big Bang Theory") and just adopted a yellow Labrador puppy named Ryder.



partnership with Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine. The decision was made to examine the cub and assess the situation.

After luring Daania into a separate area with her favorite food – pork – keepers removed the cub long enough for Dr. Eddy to learn it was a female, listen to her heart and lungs and examine her back legs. They didn't take time to weigh her before getting her back to mom, but they could tell the cub was well-fed. "She had a big belly since she was a singleton and getting all of mom's milk," Dr. Eddy said. She had a strong suspicion: The cub was a "swimmer."

Swimmer Syndrome is a condition most often seen in domestic kittens and puppies, but also observed, though rarely, in tiger cubs, clouded leopard and snow leopard cubs. So-called because they paddle their hind legs as if swimming, baby animals with Swimmer Syndrome fail to develop the adductor muscles on their inner thighs that allow them to stand.

"We are unsure if there is a genetic component, but it is likely related to weight," Dr. Eddy said. "Often, swimmers are singletons that consume more than the normal share of mom's milk as the only offspring. Because they have more weight, it's a little harder to lift their bodies." So, in the first weeks of life, their adductor muscles weaken instead of strengthening.

If left untreated, swimmers would never be able to walk. They're also at risk for flattening of the chest due to lying on their bellies, which can result in breathing problems.



Dr. Eddy did some research and found that two fellow zoos in The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) had treated snow leopard cubs with Swimmer Syndrome: the Bronx Zoo, whose cub was featured in a 2018 episode of "The Zoo," and the Sacramento Zoo a few months later.



See the Swimmer Syndrome segment of "The Zoo" at [youtube.com/watch?v=mTYMRaVdbbY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTYMRaVdbbY).

Dr. Eddy consulted with Bronx Zoo veterinarian Dr. John Sykes and devised a plan for physical therapy to train the cub's legs into normal position and strengthen her muscles. That would mean taking her away from Daania repeatedly at just 4 weeks old.

The big question was, would Daania allow it? With her first cubs -- twins Ozy and Strut in 2018 -- she was so protective that removing them for their 6-week vaccines was a victory. The team had been working with her daily in the two years since. They would need her cooperation in order to treat this cub and have mom continue to raise her.

Zoo Director Ted Fox said the team met to discuss the options. "Everyone agreed we had to intervene to ensure a normal adult life for this cub, especially given how valuable she is to the population," he said.

"Plan A was to do evaluations and physical therapy with her removed from the mother for a short time, but always returned to Daania. Plan B was, if the mother became too agitated or stressed or unwilling to allow us to do what we need to do, we will have to permanently remove the cub and hand rear her."

Ted said the team's expertise and many hours of training allowed them to quickly gain Daania's trust that if separated from her cub, it would not be for long. The first couple days, they performed 20 minutes of PT – massage of the cub's hind limbs, range of motion exercises and placing splints on her legs to correct her posture – in the den right next to mom.

Over the next few weeks, Daania only refused to shift a handful of times. "After a few sessions, we saw she was not stressed at all," Ted said. "In fact, she began taking naps while the cub was away and there was always a warm welcome when she returned."

On June 24, the zoo welcomed Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon and the media to introduce the cub to the public and announce a naming vote. Keepers submitted five names in keeping with their "I Love New York" theme, and voters chose the name Marcy. Few knew then how fitting it was to name her after New York's highest peak. By then, the rest of the team was excited that the PT seemed to be helping. Dr. Eddy was cautiously optimistic: "It took three or four weeks before I allowed myself to get excited that the PT was working really well," she said.



Over a total of 36 sessions, they increased physical therapy (PT) to three hours a day in the zoo clinic.

The PT included:

- “hobbles,” or stretchy material around the cub’s hind legs to pull them closer together
- having her walk on a rough surface for traction
- using a harness to support her hind end while manipulating her legs to walk
- creating a “tunnel,” a chute just wide enough for her to walk through without her legs splaying
- using toys donated by the zoo’s chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) to get her to kick and play using hind legs.



They had to discontinue the tunnel exercise when Marcy began trying to climb out of it. They put her in hobbles to climb a ramp and hay bales. Finally they removed the hobbles and encouraged her natural behaviors of play and exploration by adding a low platform, logs and climbing blocks.

At 67 days old, in mid-July, Dr. Eddy noted that Marcy made her first big leap from a hay bale over a gap to the platform. They decreased the PT to three times a week for about three weeks, at which point it was clear: Marcy was now a walker, runner and climber thanks to their efforts. “I consider her recovered and resolved,” Dr. Eddy said.

Carnivore Manager Seth Groesbeck said the zoo benefitted from and added to knowledge of how to treat Swimmer Syndrome with help from our partnership with Cornell, our collaboration with other AZA zoos, years of training by our staff and “lots of patience.”

“When we share this information, I would stress the amount of time and energy it takes to make this happen,” he said.

Dr. Eddy called the entire enterprise, from Daania cooperating to the cub improving, “absolutely the best-case scenario” for Marcy. “Nothing is more fulfilling than seeing an endangered species cub that’s having difficulty come out of it thriving and able to perform her natural activities and behaviors,” she said.



Conservation Education Goes Virtual!

On a recent day at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, Senior Education Coordinator Ben Trowbridge is in Studio 1, formerly the zoo's birthday party room, to host a program introducing viewers to zoo animals. After adjusting lights, camera and the computer connection to his audience, Ben goes live on Zoom with members of Syracuse's Century Club.

About 20 yards away in Studio 2 – formerly the zoo's education classroom – Education Coordinator Leo Rode stands by with Hamilton the San Clemente Island goat. Leo watches the monitor for his cue while Ben introduces the program, then cuts to the goat.

"Hi!" Leo greets the Century Club viewers. "My name is Leo and I'm here with Hamilton, an endangered Heritage Breed of goat here at the zoo."

In the next hour, viewers get to meet Hamilton, Eagon the Eurasian Eagle-owl and Araña the Hoffmann's two-toed sloth as zookeepers bring the animals to Studio 2.

Welcome to the new, virtual version of Zoo to You, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's mobile education program that brings outreach animals and conservation lessons to libraries, schools, community centers, hospitals and nursing homes as part of the zoo's education mission.

Last year, Zoo to You educators visited 147 different locations to bring 184 programs to 4,688 people. This year, they held only a handful before COVID-19 shut everything down. The pandemic forced the zoo to step up its distance learning to bring Zoo to You to you, virtually.

Even before COVID struck, zoo educators knew distance learning was in their future, said Education Director Kim Coons. The zoo's classrooms could hold only so many people and Zoo to You could travel only so far by SUV.

"We knew we had to implement distance learning because our classroom was filled to capacity and we wanted to broaden our audience to meet our global education mission," Kim said. "We just didn't know it would need to happen overnight."

When the zoo closed March 16, the team had commitments to provide spring programs at several schools and summer programs at every library in Onondaga County.

"What really forced our hand is that Jamesville-Dewitt School District had a contract for three Zoo to You programs they had already paid for, and they were asking, 'What can you do that our families can watch from home?'" Kim said.

Education coordinator Leo used his laptop to record the classes via Go To Meeting, presenting a popular program comparing animal adaptations to super powers. It was hugely appreciated by J-D's at-home audience.

The zoo also added a Learn at Home page to its events website and loaded it with StoryTime videos from Miss Kim, keeper chats, activities and craft videos.

Syracuse's local PBS station, WCNY, also created a TV Classroom series to support teachers, students and families during the pandemic and invited the zoo to participate. Ben Trowbridge went to the studios to film two segments, that met our annual commitment to provide on-site science classes for first- and second-grade classes in the Syracuse City School District.

FAMILY TWILIGHT

By the time the zoo partly reopened May 23, it was clear Zoo to You would not be taking its show on the road soon. The team converted two of their three education spaces into virtual learning studios and invested in \$2,800 worth of equipment including two state-of-the-art video cameras that provide closer views of animals than can ever be allowed in person.

Instead of bringing small outreach animals like tenrecs and rabbits to 32 libraries over the summer, they produced 19 “live” versions of an Animal Myths class held virtually via county public library websites. The classes included participatory elements like multiple-choice quizzes and choruses of “Myth Busted!” to engage online students.

“Most people said they liked the interaction, the closeness of the views of animals and the enthusiasm of the teachers,” Kim said.

“We can zoom in so close you can see a poison dart frog’s throat move as it breathes, the pores of its skin and right into its eyes,” Ben said. “You can get a much better view than if you’re holding the animal up in front of a room full of people.”

Having the classes filmed on-site also allows the team to feature animals that would not fit in the back of the Zoo to You van – like a PBS segment featuring yoga with elephants.

The zoo is now a partner of the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (cilc.org), an organization offering live, interactive learning opportunities from over 200 content providers -- including museums, science centers, art galleries and zoos – around the world.

The partnership recently allowed our team to provide a virtual Zoo to You for first-graders in Ponchatoula, LA. Christian Delmotte, Education Program Manager at the Zoo, said the team is recording each virtual class so they can have a stockpile of footage for future projects.

“We have gained a lot of video we can use for future in-person programs,” he said. “And in the event that the education team must go back to working from home, we know we will be able to provide quality content without a ‘live’ animal component.”

A unique opportunity for families to explore the zoo after hours with a zoo educator!

Family Twilight: Zoo-per Heroes

Friday, October 23 | 6:30-8 p.m.

Ages 5-10, one parent or guardian required!

Come dressed as your favorite superhero (or villain!) as we discover which animals have the power of super speed, strength, flight, and nearly x-ray vision. We’ll learn about some extraordinary animals, like an axolotl, who may not have all of Deadpool’s healing abilities, but is certainly close. This animal can regenerate perfectly: limbs, jaws, even parts of the brain! Get ready for a super snack and craft as well as zoo-themed obstacles that will test and sharpen your skills and inspire us to be out of this world!

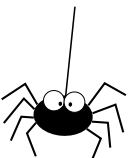
This class will be held in our indoor classroom. Masks must be worn at all times. One adult/child pair per or family group per table. Limited to 15 children.

Members: \$30 per child/adult pair

Non-members: \$35 per child/adult pair

**Classes fill quickly! Register online today at:
syracusezooevents.org/edventure-academy.
For details, call (315) 435-8511 x8559
or email education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org**

Virtual Zoo to You October Spotlight – book now before these topics scurry away!



Ooky Spooky Animals

Ages 6-9

Why do we cuddle a teddy bear yet fear a tarantula? What creepy creatures are you afraid of? What makes them scary and gross actually helps them to survive and protect themselves. Find out why we need these important species in the world and just maybe they will be less frightening!

Spooky Species

Ages 10 and up

Snakes, spiders and scorpions, OH MY! Meet some real-life animals that inspire creepy creatures in some of your favorite movies and stories. Join us as we discuss some creepy crawlies and crazy critters that make scary stories chill us to the bone and discover the misconceptions about them.

For information or to book a virtual Zoo to You, please visit syracusezooevents.org/education/virtual-zoo-to-you.

For more info on our learn-at-home resources, please visit syracusezooevents.org/learn-at-home.



edventure academy

A JOURNEY OF EXPLORATION AND LEARNING

Dazzling Disguises

Saturday, October 24 | 10:30 a.m.-noon
Ages 3-5, one parent or guardian required!

Members: \$20 per child/adult pair
Non-members: \$25 per child/adult pair

Come to the zoo in an animal disguise for a pre-Halloween celebration! While we are in costume, we will learn about the dazzling disguises and startling surprises animals use to stay alive! From mammals to birds, amphibians to insects, we'll explore the incredible ways animals camouflage themselves, mimic other animals and perform visual tricks! Join us for a class to unmask these clever creatures and meet one up close!

Zoo-per Heroes!

Saturday, October 24 | 1:30-3 p.m.
Ages 5-10, one parent or guardian required!

Members: \$20 per child/adult pair
Non-members: \$25 per child/adult pair

Come dressed as your favorite superhero (or villain!) as we discover which animals that have the power of super speed, strength, flight, and nearly x-ray vision. We'll learn about some extraordinary animals, like an axolotl, who may not have all of Deadpool's healing abilities, but is certainly close. This animal can regenerate perfectly: limbs, jaws, even parts of the brain! Get ready for a super snack and craft as well as zoo-themed obstacles that will test and sharpen your skills and inspire us to be out of this world!

Cats vs. Dogs

Friday, November 20 | 10:30 a.m.-noon
Ages 3-5, one parent or guardian required!

Saturday, November 21 | 10:30 a.m.-noon
Ages 3-5, one parent or guardian required!
Ages 6-10, one parent or guardian required!

Members: \$20 per child/adult pair
Non-members: \$25 per child/adult pair

Are you a cat or a dog person? Join us as we learn about our feline and canine residents at the zoo. Find out which is scientifically proven to be superior at this class that might leave you barking mad or purr-fectly content.

Animal Artists

Friday, December 11 | 10:30 a.m.-noon
Ages 6-10, one parent or guardian required!

Members: \$25 per child/adult pair
Non-members: \$30 per child/adult pair

Saturday, December 12 | 10:30 a.m.-noon
Ages 6-10, one parent or guardian required!

Saturday, December 12 | 1:30-3 p.m.
Ages 10 and up, one parent or guardian required!

Members: \$30 per child/adult pair
Non-members: \$35 per child/adult pair

Wild about art? Our animals use their trunks, paws, hooves and brushes to paint like Picasso. Roll up your sleeves, bring a smock and join us as we paint like animals and watch an animal artist create a masterpiece. Children will come away with a holiday themed craft perfect for gift giving!

All classes will be held in our indoor classroom. Masks must be worn at all times.
One adult/child pair per or family group per table. Limited to 15 children.

Classes fill quickly! Register online today at: syracusezooevents.org/edventure-academy.
For details, call (315) 435-8511 x8559 or email education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org

Meet our ZooGuides Class of 2020

Our ZooGuides program is a grant-supported high school internship program that employs local youth from underserved populations as educators at the zoo.

Through community partnerships with Syracuse City Schools, Hillside Work-Scholarship Connection and CNY Works, youth are recruited, complete intensive training and learn to interpret biofacts and share other educational information with zoo visitors. During their service, ZooGuides develop skills such as workplace readiness, leadership and public speaking while increasing the diversity of zoo staff. The program has employed 140 youths since it began in 2010.

This year's ZooGuides were scheduled to start training classes on March 10 – but due to COVID-19, the zoo closed. Our education team worked to assemble a virtual training program via Google Classroom enabling our ZooGuides to train before they began their work at the zoo this summer. They returned to the zoo on July 20 – enhancing the visitor experience with great enthusiasm! Many plan to continue to work weekends at the zoo throughout the fall due to the shortened summer season.



Ari Acevedo, 17, is in 12th grade at the Institute of Technology at Syracuse Central High School. He hopes to work in filmmaking or teaching elementary drawing. He enjoys making movie storylines, watching movies and reading comics. "I applied for the zoo because I like having the chances of learning different things and being able to teach what I learned back to someone else. I also really like animals, so being able to learn more about them is really great! It even gives me ideas for future animated shows I'd like to make."



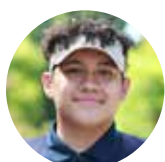
Natalia Amado, 16, is in 12th grade at Corcoran High School. She is interested in engineering and enjoys drawing and playing games. "I applied to be a ZooGuide to learn how to be a better public speaker and teach people about animals."



Domni Blenman, 16, is in 11th grade at Corcoran High school. He hopes to become a forest ranger and animal rescuer. His interests include video production, dancing, sports and physical fitness. "I want to be a ZooGuide because I want to learn how to teach people to learn about animals and their habitat."



Carlos Carrasquillo, 16, (returning) is in 11th grade at OnTech Charter High School. He is interested in a career in business offering bilingual public speaking and customer service. "I applied to be a ZooGuide because I loved working here last year and It helped me grow as an individual. I believe that continuing as a ZooGuide is the best way for me to keep growing my people skills and professional skills."



Luis Guerrero, 17, (returning) is in 12th grade at the Institute Of Technology at Syracuse Central High School. He hopes to study Zoology and become an environmental journalist. He enjoys baseball, hiking and watching the Red Sox. "I applied to be a ZooGuide because last summer was a great experience where I got to work with amazing people like Carlos and Aliciana. I wanted to be just a journalist a few years ago, but being part of this made me realize how much I enjoyed educating people about animals. That's the main reason why I applied to be a ZooGuide again."



Unique Graves, 16, is in 11th grade at OnTech Charter High School. She plans a career in nursing and enjoys working with children and dancing. "I wanted to be a ZooGuide because I wanted the experience of working on my public speaking and to interact with other people."



Jose Malave, 17, is in 11th grade in the Promising Futures Leadership Academy. He is interested in a career in computer forensics. He likes taking things apart and putting them back together, basketball and video games. "I wanted to be a ZooGuide because I love animals. Being a ZooGuide can also help me with my fear of being non-social with others and I think this a good experience."



Aliciana Manuel, 16, (returning) is in 11th grade at OnTech Charter High School. She hopes to work in the veterinary or communications field and enjoys working with children. "I applied to be a ZooGuide because I love animals - each and every one of them brings a great excitement to me when learning about them. I enjoy teaching others about their favorite animals as well as learning about the career choice I desire."



Lola Rivera, 16, is in 11th Grade at OnTech Charter High School. She hopes to become a veterinarian. Her interests include cooking, basketball, softball and dog training. "I want to be a ZooGuide because it's my passion to learn more about animals and to have more experience working with animals. Not only that, but in front of a crowd as well. It also will help me get rid of my fear of speaking up."



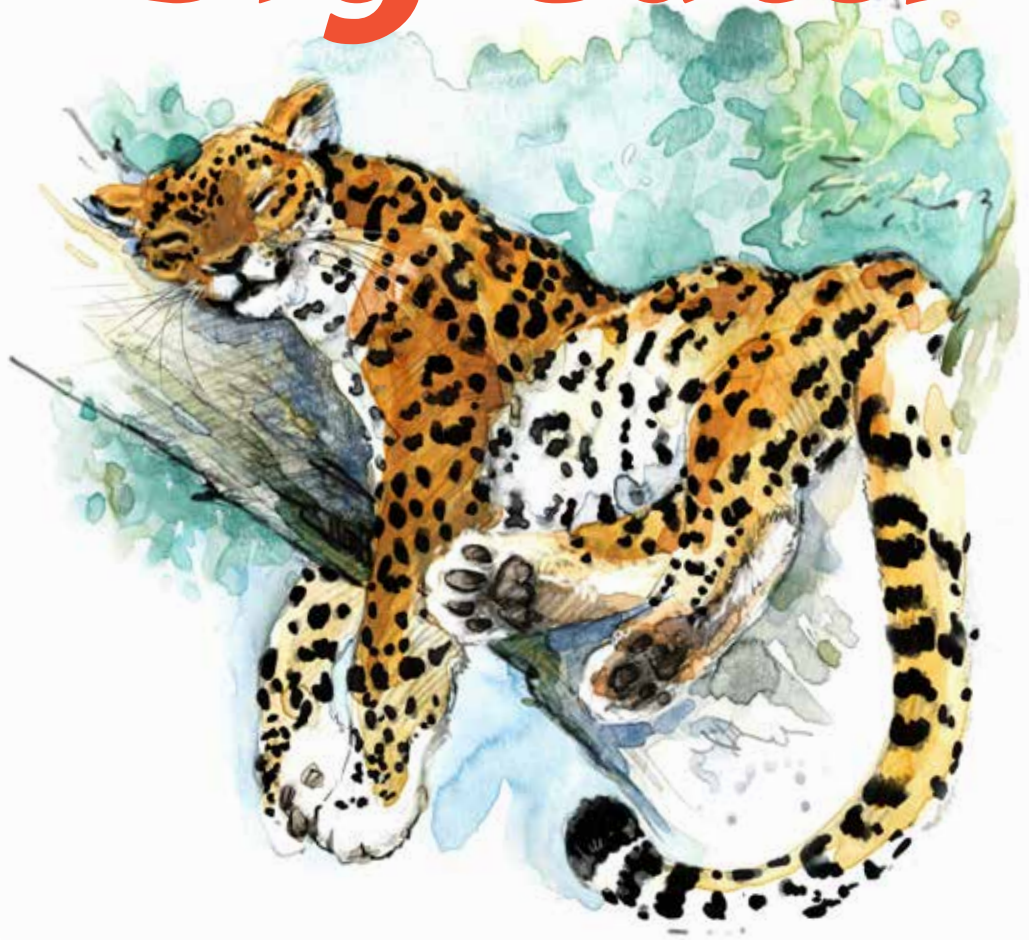
Mason Thai, 16, is in 11th grade at Nottingham High School. He is interested in a career in Wildlife Biology or Occupational Therapy. He enjoys Volleyball, building and fixing things and making others smile :) "I joined the program because I love animals and I enjoy teaching others about animals. I also applied so I can boost my public speaking skills."



Tanyra Young, 17, is in 12th grade in the Public Service Leadership Academy at Fowler High School. She would like to work in human relations or science communications and enjoys babysitting and braiding hair. "I applied to be a ZooGuide because I love learning new things and I want to have many experiences communicating with others. Also, I like science and learning how everything works."

Big Cats!

Celebrate Big Cats with a big puzzle! All words in this search are related to our very own Amur tiger, Amur leopards and snow leopards at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.



Find these words!

- AMUR LEOPARD
- AMUR TIGER
- MOUNTAINS
- CARNIVORE
- SPOTS
- SNOW LEOPARD
- RAINFOREST
- PREDATOR
- HUNTING
- ASIA
- ENDANGERED
- TERRITORY
- SOLITARY
- STRIPES
- CAMOUFLAGE
- POACHING
- CUBS
- JUNGLE

Q Q P R P E N D A N G E R E D
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 R N L T U P Y O O G D M W S I
 E G E S O Z S T R I P E S A A

**Adopt
an
Animal** 

just
\$55

Adopt Marcy, our Snow Leopard Cub

Package includes:

A personalized certificate of adoption, 4x6 color photo of your animal, animal fact sheet, 12" animal plush, special zoo parent gift, an adopt parent bag, copy of *MyZoo Magazine*, listing on adopt parent board for one year and admission for four to our next Member Appreciation Event.

Adopt an Animal online at
syracusezooevents.org/members/adopt-an-animal
Looking to adopt another animal at the regular rate?
Call our membership department
at (315) 435-8511 x8537
or stop by the membership desk.



When it comes to animal adoptions, the more the merrier!
Meet two of our more enthusiastic Adopt parents!



Joey Zaccaria, 10, of Liverpool became an Adopt parent after his school, Soule Road Elementary, closed in March due to the pandemic. Joey spent a lot of "quarantine" time at home on one of his favorite activities, baking. With encouragement from his mom, he decided to offer his baked goods for sale to benefit one of his favorite places, the zoo!

Joey put an offer for his homemade cookies, brownies and blondies on his neighborhood Facebook page, and orders poured in. He suggested a donation of \$5 a dozen, but many happy cookie-lovers gave more. **He ended up baking 35 dozen cookies in 3½ weeks and raised \$525!**

Joey put the money toward the zoo's Adopt an Animal program to symbolically adopt five zoo animals: meerkat, red panda, Amur leopard, Komodo dragon and green tree python.

Thanks, Joey!



Brian Kloss, an emergency room physician at Upstate Medical University and the Veterans Administration Hospital, is one of our biggest Adopt supporters. In the last two years, Brian has adopted several animals every time he visits the zoo. He grew up near the Turtleback Zoo, one of our fellow Association of Zoos & Aquariums zoos in West Orange, N.J. He became a fan of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo while a resident at Upstate.

Dr. Kloss has purchased 22 Senior Keeper Adopt packages since 2018, 13 since the zoo reopened in late May! He also favors some of the more offbeat animals like turkey vulture and San Clemente Island goat.

"I like to support the zoo in any way I can," Brian said. "I like that you get the opportunity to focus your support directly to a specific animal. I give the stuffed animals to the children of friends so they can learn more about conservation and appreciate the connection between humans and animals."

Thank you, Dr. Kloss!

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and The Environment – Ways to Help

Since the coronavirus pandemic first gripped the United States in March, personal protective equipment (PPE) has been necessary for all of us to wear in public. To contain the spread of COVID-19, masks are currently required in all public spaces, including the zoo.

One problem stemming from increased use of PPE is people improperly disposing of it. In recent months it has become common to see masks and gloves strewn in parking lots and roadsides near wildlife habitats. When disposable masks and latex gloves are thrown on the ground, no one wants to pick them up for fear they could potentially be contaminated with the coronavirus.

A majority of PPE equipment is non-biodegradable, meaning it will not naturally decompose over time. All disposable gloves, masks and wipes have plastic in them, and some forms of plastic take up to 1,000 years to decompose. When more plastic is introduced to the ecosystem, it can cause exponential damage along with the plastic pollution from grocery bags and water bottles harming our waterways and marine life.

Increased use and improper disposal of PPE is already threatening wildlife habitats around the world. Marine animals can easily mistake colorful masks and gloves for food. Animals can become entangled in or eat plastic pollutants. Mask straps have been found wrapped around birds' legs or wings, leaving them flightless and helpless.



It is important that PPE be worn correctly, but equally important that it be disposed of correctly! **All PPE should be thrown into a bagged trash can, not a recycling bin.** Be sure to find the nearest trash can to discard your masks or gloves so as not to harm environments or wildlife.

An even better idea is to invest in reusable, washable cloth masks

to decrease waste and prevent plastic pollution.

The zoo offers stylish, fun animal-themed masks for sale at The Curious Cub Gift Shop. Masks for Conservation are available in youth and adult sizes, and proceeds from their sale benefit three different conservation organizations.

Let's all take steps to make sure everybody stays safe while also protecting our environment!

A special Thank You to our friends at The Upstate Cancer Center for providing three touchless sunblock dispensers at the zoo!



Richard Kilburg, Associate Administrator at Upstate Cancer Center, Zoo Director Ted Fox and Matthew Capogreco, Upstate Cancer Center Program and Events Coordinator with one of the new touchless sunscreen dispensers at the zoo.

The Upstate Cancer Center has donated three sunscreen dispensers to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo to help protect guests against skin cancer. The free SPF30 sunscreen stations are located at the entrance to the zoo courtyard, near the snow leopard exhibit and at the tiger pavilion. Funding for this project was made possible through a NYS grant focusing on community cancer prevention, as well as funds from the Upstate Foundation. The Upstate Cancer Center is committed to educating our community on the effects of the sun and skin cancer and hope to have more dispensers installed in various locations. "Our partnership with the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is ideal and we are grateful for their role in the success of this project," said Matthew Capogreco of Upstate Cancer Center, noting that Upstate Cancer Center will supply sunscreen for the dispensers "for years to come."

Thanks to Upstate Cancer Center for another way of keeping zoo visitors safe!

Online Gift Shop Coming Soon!

Many of you have requested online gift shop sales and we listened. A new site is in the works and will be live via syracusezooevents.org in plenty of time for your holiday shopping.

Meanwhile, stop in at The Curious Cub Gift Shop at the zoo for animal masks, seasonal attire and a great selection of gift items for the animal lovers in your life.

You don't need a zoo reservation to visit the gift shop!

Members receive a 10% discount!

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



Holiday Gift Membership Special!

In this turbulent year, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is more grateful than ever to our loyal group of member supporters. It is our privilege to be able to continue providing exciting benefits and lasting family memories for years to come.

With the holiday season approaching, we ask that you consider us in your gift giving to friends and family. And at just \$75 for an entire family, membership is the best deal in town for the best cause around!

Support your zoo this gift-giving season:

Purchase a gift membership between November 15 - December 25 and your recipient's membership will be valid for the full 2021 year, PLUS they'll receive 2 single-use guest passes – an \$18 value!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Free zoo admission 362 days a year
- Discounted admission to more than 150 AZA-accredited institutions
- Discounts on education programs and zoo camps
- Discounts on purchases at The Curious Cub Gift Shop
- Discounted prices for Zoo Birthday Parties and most special events
- Free limited edition T-shirt (one per membership)
- Free admission to our annual Member Appreciation Event
- Subscription to our full color zoo publication, *MyZoo Magazine*
- Easy phone reservations and expedited entry for zoo visits

To view membership levels and to purchase your gift online, visit syracusezooevents.org/members or purchase in person at the membership desk or by phone at (315) 435-8511 x8503.

Please note: In order to qualify for this membership special, the gift membership must be purchased for someone other than the purchaser.



Our First-Ever Virtual
Syracuse Zoo Brew to You
Was Brought to You By



Although we were forced to cancel Brew at the Zoo this summer, we were excited to present a virtual event, the Syracuse Zoo Brew to You, on August 21. Our "virtual happy hour" presented musical entertainment, animal, keeper chats, beer tasting segments and celebrity shout-outs, followed by our Silent Auction of animal art, experiences and other unique items. We added a VIP component that allowed us to sell "swag bags" filled with a variety of craft beers, a commemorative pint glass, snacks from Tops Markets and zoo guest passes.



We are especially grateful to our presenting sponsor, **Middle Ages Brewing Company**, for stepping up to support the event! **TOPS Friendly Markets** donated charcuterie items. **C's Market and Beverages** in Oswego and C&S companies sponsored our

animal segments. **Stillwork Consulting Group** and **Laura and Rick Iorio One World For All Foundation** sponsored the music, which included appearances by Prime Time Horns and The Jess Novak Band.

Thanks to our sponsors and to everyone who bought a VIP package, bid in the silent auction or otherwise attended our Virtual Brew to You!

If you didn't get a chance to participate, you can still view our Virtual Brew to You video by visiting youtube.com/RosamondGiffordZoo



HALLOWEEN SCAVENGER HUNT AT THE ZOO!



**FRIDAYS, SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS
OCTOBER 9, 10, 11,
COLUMBUS DAY, OCTOBER 12
OCTOBER, 16, 17, 18,
OCTOBER, 23, 24, 25
OCTOBER 30 & 31**

Due to Covid 19 regulations, we are unable to hold our traditional Zoo Boo events this year. But we can't let Halloween pass without doing something special, so please join us for a Halloween-themed scavenger hunt to celebrate the season at the zoo!

Dress up in your favorite costumes and visit the zoo for some family fun amid Halloween décor and fall photo ops. Enjoy a scavenger hunt through the zoo to find your favorite furry friends and some Halloween-themed objects along the way.

Costumes are encouraged for all ages – you'll want to enter your photos in our October Pic of the Month Contest for a chance to win a spooktacular Halloween gift basket!

Note: costume masks are not a permissible substitute.

This event is free with zoo admission!

**Admission is by reservation only
at syracusezooevents.org.
Members may use the dedicated
Member Reservation Line at
(315) 435-8511 x8589**

Big Cats! ANSWER KEY:

Q	Q	P	R	P	E	N	D	A	N	G	E	R	E	D
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CATERING AT THE ZOO

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CATERINGATTHEZOO.ORG

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The Future of Events at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

by *Brittany Waszkiewicz,*
Events Manager

Navigating the world of events in the current health crisis has been a huge challenge for the Catering at the Zoo team. When the pandemic first struck, the short-term response to social events was to cancel them. Popular zoo events such as Breakfast with the Bunny and Member Appreciation Night fell by the wayside, along with several corporate events and a couple of weddings.

As weeks passed and social distancing became the rule, we ventured into virtual events and were able to provide online celebrations such as Upstate Cancer Center's National Cancer Survivor's Day and our first ever Syracuse Zoo Brew to You. Now with social events allowed for groups of 50 or fewer, we've been able to host our first masked weddings and are planning a socially distanced version of Zoo Boo.

The pandemic led our events team to adopt a new form of event planning, now and for the foreseeable future. Our top priority remains guest and client safety, but we always strive for optimal engagement and fun when creating our events. In an ever-changing climate, I thought it would be best to develop plans for all -- or most -- potential situations. Therefore, we are now creating Plans A, B and C for every event at the zoo.

Plan A: In-person, on-site. In Plan A, we roll out the event as planned, but with additional social distancing measures and mandated masks. This works well for our wonderful wedding clients. We keep our brides informed, involved and connected to all guidance we receive to make their day memorable, intimate and very safe for all of our grateful guests.

Plan B: In-person + virtual. Plan B entails creating a hybrid event – incorporating some physical elements while also going virtual. For example, we launched Brew to You, the virtual replacement for our popular Brew at the Zoo fundraiser. The virtual event streamed on our Facebook for our “guests” to watch along. The physical component was our VIP package. VIPs could pre-purchase swag bags containing a variety of local brews, a commemorative pint glass, snacks and free zoo passes.

Plan C: 100 % virtual. The value of a full-on virtual event this is that anyone, anywhere can participate! In June, the zoo partnered with Upstate Cancer Center on its virtual Cancer Survivor's Day event. It was especially important for this group to be completely virtual due to guests' compromised immune systems. The virtual event featured animal footage, shoutouts from cancer survivors and other fun elements.

Going forward, the Catering team is eager to tailor creative ways to hold events at the zoo, virtually or both. I am incredibly proud of the work being done to pivot our events to virtual platforms while maintaining fun and engagement, design intimate and socially

distanced onsite encounters and pave the way for new zoo events in the future. When in-person events return, our top-of-the-line event team will ensure a safe, enjoyable and entertaining venue that above all will be safe for guests to attend.



\$50^K FOR 50 YEARS!

50 for 50 Campaign
Help us to the
Finish Line!

We have raised nearly \$20,000 so far, but we're also nearing the end of our anniversary year. We hope you will assist in pushing us over the finish line with a donation of any amount.

If you have not yet donated to 50 for 50, please consider doing so at syracusezooevents.org/Friends50.

Please join us in this effort to give our zoo a strong start to the next 50 years.

THANK YOU!

