

An insider's view of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

My ZOO

JAN-APRIL 2020

Magazine

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A Message from the Friends President

It is with great honor and pride that I write my last message for *MyZoo Magazine* as the President and CEO of Friends of the Zoo. I recently announced my plan to retire effective January 10, 2020.

It has been a great privilege to lead the Friends organization for the past 13 years and to serve the millions of guests who have visited the zoo, the creatures that have called the zoo home --and, of course, you, our wonderful members!

I am exceedingly grateful for all the hard work and creativity of the team at Friends of the Zoo that have helped establish one of the most effective partner organizations in the zoo and aquarium world. These are not accomplishments that a CEO makes alone – they are the accomplishments of a dedicated team who work together relentlessly for a common goal.

Among the accomplishments that give me the greatest satisfaction are:

- Transforming an organization that was \$2 million in debt when I arrived into a financially healthy, debt-free entity with over \$6 million in our endowment fund.
- Raising more than \$30 million in earned and unearned revenue to support the zoo.
- Conducting successful capital campaigns that brought great zoo improvements including the Helga Beck Asian Elephant Preserve, Primate Park and renovations to the zoo banquet facilities and gift shop.
- Our recent campaign that raised \$400,000 to fully fund a new exhibit for our family of Amur leopards.

I have loved my years at Friends of the Zoo, and it has been my pleasure to lead the team at this fine organization. With a milestone year approaching, there's a lot to look forward to -- Among other highlights, 2020 will be the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's 50th anniversary year!

I hope you will continue to support the Friends with your membership and your contributions to your world-class zoo. Thank you for making my time here so very special.

My best,

Janet Agostini
President + CEO
Friends of the Zoo

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ON THE COVER:
Male Amur tiger Thimbu arrived at the zoo on December 4.
Photo courtesy of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

ROSAMOND GIFFORD
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THE INCREDIBLY ELUSIVE JUSTUS

KIWI SPOTTING GUIDE

Justus the kiwi may be “on exhibit” at the zoo but it may require patience to glimpse this brown bundle of long, fringed feathers foraging around his turf in the Nocturnal Animals wing.

SOME TIPS

- Take your time! Once you enter the nocturnal area, allow several minutes for your eyes to adjust to the dark.
- Look down: Kiwi are low to the ground and spend their time foraging in the soil.
- Look for a long, straw-like beak moving around – it may be attached to a kiwi!

You could say that the zoo’s new resident, Justus the North Island brown kiwi, is a picky eater.

To prepare his meals, zookeepers cut apples, banana, cantaloupe and beef into long, skinny worm shapes and insert them into plastic tubes. Then they plant the tubes in the soil of his exhibit at various locations. To keep him guessing, they put the tubes in different spots every day. Justus uses his unique beak to forage for food in the darkness of his nocturnal habitat, just as kiwi do in the wild.

Justus – pronounced “Eustace” – represents a species native to New Zealand, which has produced some amazing animal adaptations. Kiwi are super specialized because they evolved as island dwellers that had few predators until humans introduced dogs, cats and weasels into their habitat.

ANIMAL UPDATES

Two Southern tamanduas, a male and a female, were acquired on August 9. After a period of quarantine, they went on exhibit in the zoo's Nocturnal Animals wing this fall. Keepers named them Dexter and Derby in keeping with the zoo's 2019 "I Love New York" animal-naming theme.



Female slender-tailed meerkat Ducky moved to the San Francisco Zoo this past summer, while four male meerkats, Kingsley, Little Foot, Petrie and Spike, went on loan to Zoo Atlanta.

Four Anthony's poison arrow frogs and 17 Golfodulcean poison dart frogs that hatched at the zoo were donated to the Toledo Zoo in July.

A troupial chick hatched at the zoo on July 30.

Female ring-tailed lemur Be passed away on August 9. She was 30 years old.

Male ring-tailed lemur Francois, age 24, was transferred to the Buffalo Zoo to join a group of older lemurs. Lemurs are social animals and need company.

Three green jay chicks hatched at the zoo on August 14 and 15.

A baby Kimberley rock monitor hatched at the zoo on August 21 – a first for this species at the zoo! The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is one of only three AZA facilities in North America to have these lizards, and the first to have one successfully hatch. Kimberley rock monitors are native to North Western Australia's Kimberley region, which is famous for prehistoric fossils and dinosaur footprints. Keepers named the hatchling JJ, for "Jabberwocky Junior," in honor of its dad.

Female bald eagle Cheveyo was donated to Northwest Trek Wildlife Park in Washington state on August 28. She was a rescue animal who lived on the zoo's Wildlife Trail while recovering from a gunshot wound that left her unable to fly.

Two Polish rabbits and two Netherland dwarf rabbits were acquired on September 1. They will join the zoo's outreach animals that participate in zoo education programs.

Four banded archerfish were acquired on September 4.

Two neon day geckos were donated to Como Park Zoo & Conservatory in St. Paul, MN, on September 10.

A male North Island brown kiwi was acquired on September 15 from the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston, MA. The bird is on loan from Zoologischer Garten in Frankfurt, Germany, and is named Justus, pronounced "Eustace." He resides in the Nocturnal Animals wing of the zoo's Animal Adaptations exhibit. (See Feature story, p. 3)

Male fennec fox Todd was transferred on loan to Mesker Park Zoo in Evansville, IN, on October 4. A male fennec fox, Taz, was acquired from the Capron Park Zoo in Attleboro, MA to join our female, Pink.

Two black-billed whistling ducks, a male and a female, were transferred on loan to Tracy Aviary in Salt Lake City, UT, on October 9.

Andean bear Kahless, one of twin Andean bear brothers, passed away on December 18. He would have turned 26 years old on January 1. His brother Morath is the same age and has the choice of whether to go on exhibit or stay in his den.

IN MEMORIAM

Both of the zoo's elderly Amur tigers passed away this fall within a few weeks of each other. Male Amur tiger Toma passed away on September 19. He was 18 years old and a cancer survivor who had lived at the zoo since 2010 and sired three cubs with female Amur tiger Tatiana in 2011.

Tatiana passed away five weeks after Toma at age 19. She came to the zoo in 2002 at age 2 and grew up here. She had three cubs with her first mate in 2004 and went on to have three more cubs with Toma as part of the Species Survival Plan for their endangered species. Both tigers were receiving treatment for geriatric-related health issues and had been spending time off exhibit in recent months.

The zoo will continue to participate in the Species Survival Plan and has just welcomed a new male tiger from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. Donations in Toma's and Tatiana's memory can be made to Friends of the Zoo.

Amur Tiger, Toma



Amur Tiger, Tatiana with cubs



RED PANDA UPDATE

Several red pandas have moved among Association of Zoos & Aquariums' accredited zoos recently as part of the Species Survival Plan for their endangered species.



Red panda Doofah moved to the Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, MI, to meet his intended female, Mahila, this past summer.



Loofah, Doofah's twin brother, recently moved to Sunset Zoo in Manhattan, KS.



Red panda Basil, age 8, has relocated to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Washington, D.C., while a female named Nutmeg, age 5, arrived here from SCBI on October 16. Nutmeg can be seen at the red panda exhibit on the Wildlife Trail.

While we will miss Basil, Loofah and Doofah, we are proud that they are fulfilling a vital role in the Species Survival Plan to save red pandas from extinction.

CREATURE
FEATURE:
**AFRICAN
RED RIVER
HOG**



The Rosamond Gifford Zoo recently welcomed two colorful new animals: male African red river hogs named Nile and Zambezi! “The boys” came to us from the Oklahoma City Zoo, where they were born in 2018. Their new home at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is an exhibit our staff created on the site of the former swan pond next to the American bison exhibit.

FUN FACT:

African red river hogs are also called “tufted pigs” due to their long white whiskers and tufts on their ears.

The African red river hog is the most colorful member of the pig family. They are named for their red coat and their love for wallowing in rivers and streams. Red river hogs are the smallest of the African pigs, growing on average 40 to 50 inches and weighing 100 to 125 pounds.

African red river hogs are native to central and western Africa where they primarily live in rainforests and savannas, but they can also be found in dry forests and cultivated areas where they prefer lots of brush for hiding and foraging. Red river hogs mark their territory using their tusks to scrape against tree trunks and rubbing their feet, neck and preorbital glands near their eyes against them to leave their scent.

Red river hogs are omnivores that consume roots, fruits, seeds, nuts, insects, bird eggs, snails and more. Most of their foraging occurs at night, but with the protection of the shaded forest, foraging can extend into morning and evening.

**AT THE
ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO:
2 Males: Nile and Zambezi**

They are a social species that usually live in groups of up to a dozen individuals. They can live 15 to 20 years. These animals are not currently threatened in the wild. The zoo acquired them as part of our plan to add an African savanna exhibit in the future.

Greening Your Spring Cleaning

Why should you care what's in your cleaning products? Most cleaning products contain or are made with petroleum, which is NOT a renewable resource. Most also contain toxic chemical cleaning agents that make their way into our water supply and into natural bodies of water, causing harmful effects on wildlife. In addition, volatile organic compounds such as phosphorous, nitrogen and ammonia in cleaning products affect air quality, both indoors and out.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- First, become an informed consumer! Don't be misguided by claims like "Eco-Friendly" on the label.
- Look for the following when purchasing cleaning products:
 - Performance:** If it's a degreaser, it should remove grease without harsh chemicals. Same for window cleaners, laundry detergents, etc.
 - Packaging:** Is it minimal, recyclable or made from sustainable sources?
 - Ingredients:** Is it manufactured with renewable resources such as solar or wind power and natural materials? Does it have low or no volatile organic chemicals? Is it biodegradable?
- You can make easy and cost-effective switches to refillable bottles and fill them with natural cleaning agents you can make yourself. You can find some good recipes at keeperofthehome.org.
- You can also choose pump sprays vs. aerosols, microfiber cleaning cloths vs. paper towels and be sure to dilute any concentrated cleaners. Freshen air naturally with houseplants or by saving your citrus peels and boiling them.

For non-biased ratings of healthy cleaners, check the Environmental Working Group website at ewg.org/guides/cleaners. Also, as part of your spring cleaning, make sure to deep clean such things as dryer vents and refrigerator coils to help your appliances be more energy efficient.

Here's to a healthier environment for you and for wildlife this spring! Be sure to attend our Party for the Planet on April 25 to learn more ways that you can make a difference!

As with Justus, a kiwi's diet is just one of many special things about them!

Kiwi are:

- **Nocturnal:** They sleep during the day and are active at night foraging for worms, insects, grubs and small amphibians.
- **Flightless:** Adapted for terrestrial life, they have strong legs and hips, but their wings are tiny vestigial structures, so they can't fly.
- **Super smellers:** They are the only birds that have external nostrils – called nares – at the very tip of their long beaks. They use them to sniff out food underground.
- **Giant egg-layers:** The kiwi lays the largest egg in proportion to its body size of any bird. Kiwi eggs are one-fourth the size of a kiwi's body, which weighs 2 to 3 pounds.

Justus, age 16, came to us on loan from the Zoologischer Garten in Frankfurt on September 15 – but first our zoo spent many months on preparation and paperwork to meet all the requirements for kiwi care.

We had to create a special habitat for him in the nocturnal wing of our Animal Adaptations exhibit, with 12 inches of substrate on the ground to accommodate his long beak, two nest boxes (he gets to choose) and special blue LED lights to protect his sensitive eyes.

We had to sign international agreements for keeping kiwi, which are native only to New Zealand. Kiwi are considered sacred by New Zealand's native Maori people and all kiwi are regarded as charges of the New Zealand government. New Zealanders even refer to themselves as "kiwis."

We also had to have four staff members qualified to care for a kiwi. While zoo General Curator Dan Meates and zookeeper Leisje Meates had experience with kiwi, two more staff – April Zimpel and bird keeper Ryan Shostack – traveled to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) in Front Royal, VA, for hands-on kiwi training.

Among the skills they learned was proper kiwi handling. Since kiwi are terrestrial, they lack the extended breastbone – or "keeled sternum" – of flighted birds. That leaves their internal organs vulnerable to injury if handled. So instead of picking up a kiwi around its body, "you hold its feet and cradle it in your arm," April said. "It looks like holding a baby."

They also learned to make the special kiwi diet that, along with long, thin pieces of fruit and veggies, contains soaked macaw pellets, high protein feline diet and mineral grit.

"He also gets three nightcrawlers per feeding, presented in a big bowl with soil in it, and five red wigglers tossed into the substrate of his exhibit for him to forage," Ryan said.

April and Ryan got to feed and handle more than a dozen kiwi at the SCBI before meeting Justus, who they described as "shy."

"He is kind of like a grumpy little old man when you come in and wake him up in the morning," Ryan added.

Besides caring for Justus, the keepers are required to keep an eye out for his feathers! The Maori tribes of New Zealand have traditionally incorporated kiwi feathers in their weavings and ceremonies – so zoos that house kiwis must agree to collect any intact feathers when their birds molt and send them "home" for use by the Maori.

The North Island brown kiwi was listed as "vulnerable" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2017 – however, it is already extinct in many areas of its former habitat and its current population is declining rapidly.

There were an estimated 25,000 kiwi remaining in the wild in 2008, but due to predation by dogs and other introduced carnivores, their numbers have been dropping 2 to 3 percent per year. If the decline continues at this rate, this species could be extinct in two generations.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is one of only eight institutions in the U.S. qualified to care for kiwi, said Zoo Director Ted Fox. "We are fortunate to have the resources to care for Justus, and we hope to eventually introduce a female as part of the Species Survival Plan for kiwi," Fox said. "As always, we owe our ability to care for rare species to great support from our community, our county and the Friends of the Zoo."

"Kiwi are an extremely unique species. I think the most exciting things about the kiwi are how rare they are and how difficult it is to be approved to house them. Not many zoos have the nocturnal facilities and the ability to care for them."

**April Zimpel,
Bird Collection Manager**





Bob and Zalie Linn offer naming gift for new Amur Leopard habitat

Bob and Zalie Linn of Manlius, supporters of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo for over 15 years, are putting their names on a new big cat exhibit at the zoo, Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo President and CEO Janet Agostini announced.

“Bob and Zalie have assisted the Friends of the Zoo with other important projects in the past, and now they’re providing a very generous donation for an exhibit that will bear their names,” Agostini said. “We are really thrilled that the new Woodland habitat will be named for a couple whose love for animals and for their community goes above and beyond.”

The new project will renovate the former African lion exhibit at the zoo for Amur leopards, a critically endangered species of big cat native to the forests of Siberia. The exhibit could potentially also be shared on a rotating basis with another endangered species of big cat, Zoo Director Ted Fox said.

The zoo began planning for a new exhibit when it joined the Association of Zoos & Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan for Amur leopards in 2018. The zoo welcomed Rafferty and Tria, a male and a female Amur leopard from two other accredited zoos, and the pair produced twin cubs, Milo and Mina, born June 19.

Agostini said the new habitat will provide the cats an outdoor space to include trees, climbing structures and a high mesh ceiling, as Amur leopards are acclimated to cold weather and are proficient climbers.

Bob and Zalie said they signed on to support the project as a gift to the zoo and their community. Bob, an Albany native, and Zalie, a native of Wellsville, NY, have called Syracuse home since the early 1970s. They both graduated from Ithaca College with degrees in accounting and found jobs at Ernst & Young in Syracuse, where they met and fell in love.

While Bob had never had pets, Zalie grew up with dogs, rabbits, turtles and birds. She gave Bob an English Setter puppy as an engagement gift, and they have had English Setters ever since. They went on to support many animal-related causes in Central New York, including the zoo, the SPCA and Helping Hounds Dog Rescue, among others.

Over the years, the Linns enjoyed the zoo as members and donated to campaigns to build the zoo’s Penguin Coast, Primate Park and the Helga Beck Asian Elephant Preserve. Bob has served on the Friends of the Zoo board, which he chaired from 2009-2011, and on the Friends’ finance committee. The Linns are members of the zoo Circle of Friends and also the Elephant Society for donors who have named the zoo in their will.

“We think the zoo is an extremely important part of what makes this community an attractive place to live,” Bob said. “I think our community should be very proud of what the county, the Friends of the Zoo and its many volunteers have achieved. We are excited and interested to see the next phase.”

PRECIOUS CARGO



A Tiger's Journey to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

How do you get a 450-pound adult male tiger from Colorado Springs, CO, to Syracuse, NY? Very carefully.

On Wednesday, December 4, as the Rosamond Gifford Zoo was closing for the day, a seven-member team from the zoo set out on an important mission. Their assignment: meet a FedEx plane carrying precious cargo – a 9-year-old Amur tiger named Thimbu – and transport the big cat safely to his new home in Syracuse.

By the time the plane landed in Rochester, Thimbu (pronounced “Tim-boo”) had traveled 1,600 miles by air, accompanied by two of his former animal care team from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo (CMZ) in Colorado Springs.

While zookeepers at nationally accredited facilities always keep animal welfare top of mind, transporting an animal to another location is “probably the most nerve-wracking thing they do,” said Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director Ted Fox.

“We all know that a lot can go wrong when we travel,” Fox said, “so, we plan every detail and have contingency plans for any issues that may arise. We maintain strict safety protocols for transporting a wild animal.”

Thimbu’s arrival would be especially significant because the zoo recently lost both of its elderly tigers, Toma and Tatiana, who were nearly 20 years old when they passed away within weeks of each other this past fall.

The Amur Tiger Species Survival Plan then recommended Thimbu come to Syracuse to be paired with a new female in the next few months. Amur tigers are critically endangered in their native Far East Russia, where fewer than 500 exist in the wild.

Welcoming Thimbu involved intense planning with CMZ, the Amur Tiger SSP, FedEx, TSA and our own Team Thimbu, which included General Curator Dan Meates, Collection Managers Seth Groesbeck and Ashley Sheppard, zookeepers Theo Campbell, Tyler Mesick and Leisje Meates, and Cornell veterinarian Dr. Rebecca Eddy.

FedEx staff secure Thimbu's crate at their cargo terminal in Rochester.



On the appointed day, the team left Syracuse about 4:15 p.m. Rain, snow and rush hour traffic slowed their drive to Rochester, but they arrived at the FedEx terminal in time to see the plane carrying Thimbu dock and unload.

They watched from a distance as a giant flatbed cargo lift rose about 15 feet to the plane's cargo hold and a crew gently eased the huge steel crate carrying Thimbu onto the lift. Once lowered, a FedEx crew used a forklift to place the crate onto a cargo tractor, called a tug.

Routine unloads involve four people on the tarmac, but word of the precious cargo had spread among FedEx staff, so about 30 people gathered hoping to catch a glimpse. A FedEx manager narrated the process for our team -- stating the total weight of crate, pallet, netting and tiger exceeded 600 pounds and remarking, "That's a big kitty cat!"

As the tug drove into the hangar, FedEx crews shut all doors, closing staff and cargo inside. TSA also monitored the unloading process, "so we had to stay really close together and behave ourselves," Leisje said.

As it drove toward them, Ashley noticed the tug ferrying Thimbu had the word TIGER on the front. It turned out the cargo tug was a model Tiger TC50.

Although the team was well-prepared to lift the crate into their van, they were grateful when FedEx offered its forklift for the task. Soon, Thimbu's crate was secured in the back of the van, and Dan, Ashley, Leisje and vet Becky strapped in around it while Seth took the wheel for the trip back to Syracuse.

During all this, "the tiger never made a peep," Ashley said. "He was extremely calm, even while being lifted," Tyler said.

The team from CMZ picked up their rental car, then followed our team to Syracuse to help get Thimbu into his new home.

In the van, our team was amazed to find Thimbu so relaxed that he took a nap. "Our ride back was almost eerie because of how quiet he was," Ashley said. "He was six inches from our backs and we were continually checking to make sure he was OK."

They arrived around 9:15 p.m.; Zoo Director Ted was there to meet them. They guided the van off-road through mud and ice to get up close to the tiger building. This time, they had no forklift - luckily the crate had handlebars on the sides. Ted and the other seven keepers lifted Thimbu's crate to the ground, then carried it inside.

"We were excited, but we had to stay as quiet as we could and keep the lights dim to make sure Thimbu stayed calm," Leisje said. "We had to line the crate door up with the shift doors, and we needed him to walk through into his holding area."

A big concern is getting the tiger to exit the crate. "The last tiger I moved refused to leave his crate for eight hours," Leisje said. "We were expecting the worst - and it didn't happen."

When they opened the doors, Thimbu immediately walked through, sniffed around his new den and lay down.

"It proved he really is a mellow cat, because if he was charging or moving around it would have been another story," Ted added. "Thanks to Thimbu, it all went really well."



Photo courtesy of Cheyenne Mountain Zoo

Meet Thimbu!

Thimbu was one of quadruplet cubs born at the Denver Zoo in 2010. He lived there with his brother Nikolai until last year, when he moved to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo. Keepers there quickly fell in love with him, but the Amur tiger Species Survival Plan recommended he come to Syracuse to be paired with a new female (coming soon) from Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo.

Here are some Thimbu fun facts from our friends at CMZ:

- Thimbu's nickname is "Thim" and he's a big boy, weighing about 450 pounds.
- His distinctive markings include a freckled nose and charcoal-gray coloring near the tip of his tail.
- He is known for rolling around on his back like a cub and vocalizations that sound like moaning and "huffing" in addition to the usual tiger "chuff."
- He loves scents including Prada perfume and the smell of fresh-brewed coffee.

Thimbu can be seen at the Amur tiger exhibit from now on. Come see him at the zoo!

TAMANDUA

Tree Climbing Anteaters!

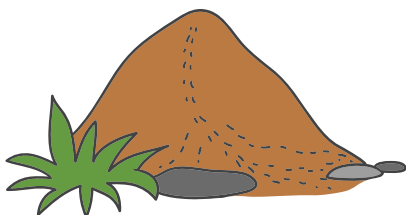
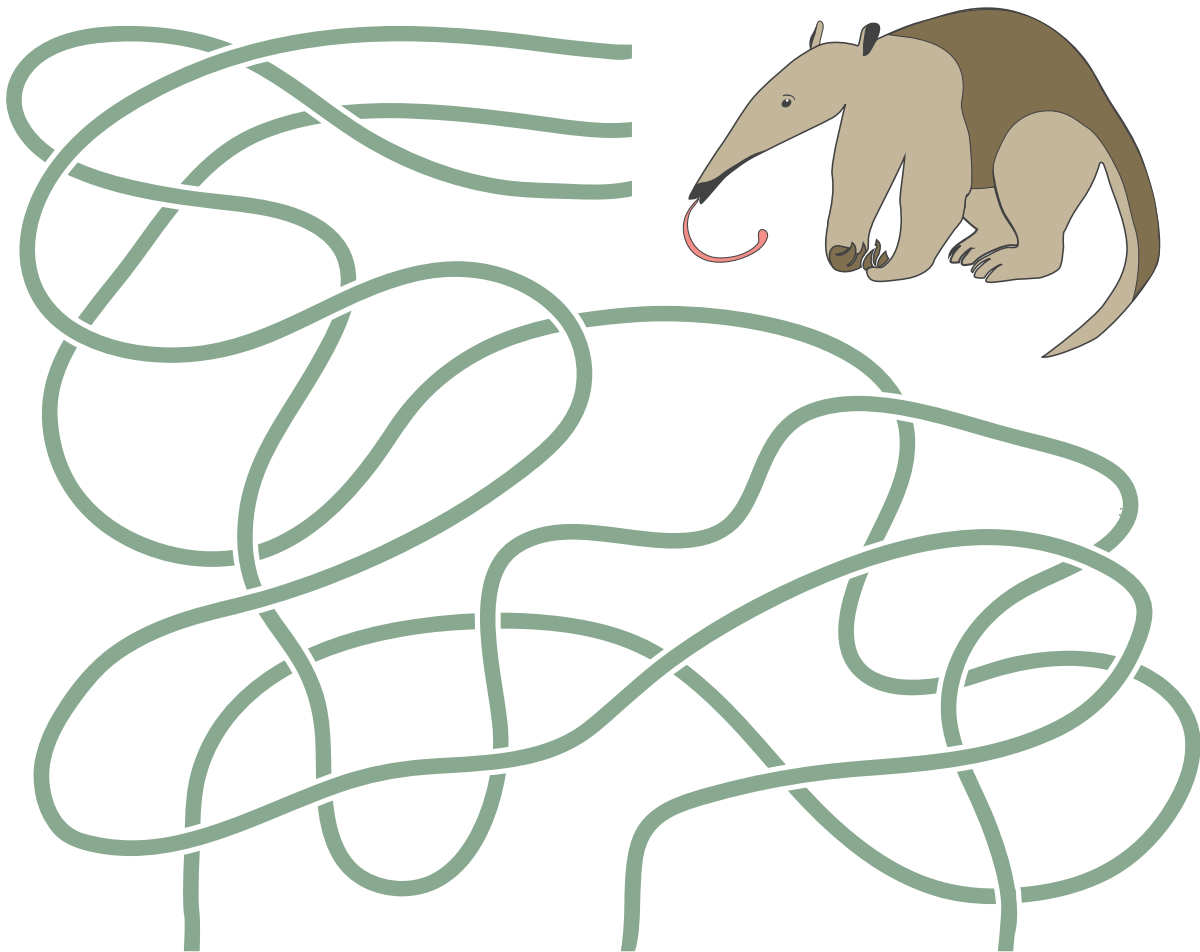
Tamanduas are a species of anteater that is arboreal, meaning they spend most of their time in trees! The two new tamanduas at the zoo are Southern tamanduas native to South America. They are mostly nocturnal, active at night and sleepy during the day.

Tamanduas eat social insects such as ants, termites and bees. "Social" means they live together – it's easier to feast from anthills,

termite nests and beehives than to find prey one insect at a time. Tamanduas have long, thin tongues that they use to forage for their food – and no teeth!

They also have long claws that help them climb trees. In fact, they are sort of clumsy on the ground and have to walk on the outsides of their feet to avoid scratching themselves with their own sharp claws!

Help the tamandua find its next meal by following the right trail in this tamandua maze. Then come see tamanduas Dexter and Derby in the Nocturnal Animals wing of the zoo!





edventure academy

A JOURNEY OF EXPLORATION AND LEARNING



Edventure Academy

For kids ages 3-10 (and parents, too!)

Each class includes animal biofacts, a keeper chat or zoo tour, a craft and a snack!



Edventure Academy: Wild Beginnings!

Specially tailored for ages 12 months to 3 years.

Little ones will explore with their senses as well as develop language and motor skills in the process during this early-learning adventure.

Desert Dwellers

Have you ever wondered how desert dwellers thrive in such a hot and arid environment? Join us at the zoo while we learn all about these scaly creatures and how they make the most out of their desert home.

Ages	Date	Time
3-5 with parent	Friday, January 10	10:30 a.m.-noon
3-5 with parent	Saturday, January 11	10:30 a.m.-noon
6-10 parent optional	Saturday, January 11	1:30-3 p.m.

Tundra

Even though it sometimes seems like it, we do not live in a tundra in Syracuse! Join us as we learn where this habitat really is found, which animals call it home, and how they survive such harsh, frigid temperatures. (Hint: Hibernation)

Ages	Date	Time
3-5 with parent	Friday, February 7	10:30 a.m.-noon
3-5 with parent	Saturday, February 8	10:30 a.m.-noon
6-10 parent optional	Saturday, February 8	1:30-3 p.m.

Freshwater

Freshwater ecosystems account for less than 0.01 percent of the planet's total surface area -- yet more than 100,000 species live there! They are one of the most endangered habitats in the world due to human interference. Find out what creatures live there, why they are threatened, and what you can do to help.

Ages	Date	Time
3-5 with parent	Friday, March 6	10:30 a.m.-noon
3-5 with parent	Saturday, March 7	10:30 a.m.-noon
6-10 parent optional	Saturday, March 7	1:30-3 p.m.

Rainforests

Did you know that rainforests are full of layers and are home to over 50 percent of the Earth's plant and animal species? Join us as we learn about which animals live in each layer and how they have adapted to survive in such a unique environment.

Ages	Date	Time
3-5 with parent	Friday, April 17	10:30 a.m.-noon
3-5 with parent	Saturday, April 18	10:30 a.m.-noon
6-10 parent optional	Saturday, April 18	1:30-3 p.m.

How do Animals Prepare for Winter?

Have you ever wondered where animals go in the winter? Join us while we discover the secret life of animals in the winter!

Ages	Date	Time
1-3 with parent	Friday, January 10	10-10:45 a.m.
1-3 with parent	Friday, January 10	11:15 a.m.-noon

Animal Opposites

Is it big or small, hard or soft, quiet or loud? Join us at the zoo as we explore different animals and their opposites. We will compare animals to their opposite and see what makes them alike and different from each other.

Ages	Date	Time
1-3 with parent	Friday, February 7	10-10:45 a.m.
1-3 with parent	Friday, February 7	11:15 a.m.-noon

How do Animals See?

Why do some animals have eyes on the side of their head while others have eyes in the front? How many eyes do animals have? Come join us at the zoo as we explore how animals see and how eyesight is important to their survival in the wild.

Ages	Date	Time
1-3 with parent	Friday, March 6	10-10:45 a.m.
1-3 with parent	Friday, March 6	11:15 a.m.-noon

How do Animals Taste/Smell?

Ever wonder how animals taste and smell the world around them? Join us at the zoo while we explore the different ways animals use their senses of taste and smell to survive in the wild.

Ages	Date	Time
1-3 with parent	Friday, April 17	10-10:45 a.m.
1-3 with parent	Friday, April 17	11:15 a.m.-noon

TUITION PER SESSION

Members: \$18 per child or child/adult pair
Non-members: \$23 per child or child/adult pair
Additional seat (child or adult) \$12

TUITION PER SESSION

Members: \$8 per child/adult pair
Non-members: \$10 per child/adult pair
\$5 per additional child in same session

Classes fill quickly! Register online today at: syracusezooevents.org/edventure-academy.
 For details, call (315) 435-8511 x8531 or email education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org

SEASONAL ZOO CAMPS

JOIN US FOR SCHOOL BREAK ZOO CAMPS. CHOOSE ONE DAY OR ALL WEEK!

TOPICS VARY EACH DAY. YOU CAN EXPECT ZOO TOURS,
ANIMAL INTERACTIONS, CRAFTS, SNACKS AND
DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES EACH DAY AS WE EXPLORE THE ZOO.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Camp

**One-Day Camp for Ages 6-11
Monday, January 20
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Join us for this exciting one-day camp! Campers will tour the zoo, see animals up close, play games and make awesome crafts! A pizza party lunch is also included.

**Members: \$55 per child
Non-members: \$65 per child**



Winter Break Camp

**Monday-Friday
February 17 - 21**

TOPICS:

Monday: Good Eats!
Tuesday: Zoo Safari (ages 6-8)
and Photo Safari (ages 9-12)
Wednesday: Roars and Rumbles
Thursday: Winter Warriors
Friday: Cool Coverings

Spring Break Camp

**Monday-Friday
April 6 - 10**

TOPICS:

Monday: Zoo Babies
Tuesday: Enriching Lives
Wednesday: Animal Music
Thursday: Protect our Planet!
Friday: Animal Art

SESSIONS FOR WINTER AND SPRING BREAK ZOO CAMPS

AGES 3-5: Monday, Wednesday, Friday

Morning Session: 9 a.m. to noon
Afternoon Session: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Members: \$28 per child per day
Non-members: \$38 per child per day**

Note: Activities will repeat in each daily session. Please note that supervision is not available for this camp between sessions from noon-1 p.m. All campers MUST be potty-trained to attend this camp.

AGES 6-8: Monday through Friday

AGES 9-12: Tuesday and Thursday
Sessions: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Members: \$45 per child per day
Non-members: \$55 per child per day**

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

**Register online today at: syracusezooevents.org/seasonal-camps.
For details, call (315) 435-8511 x8559 or email education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org**



Summer Zoo Camp

Make Your Child's Summer Zooriffic!

Don't forget to register your child for Summer Zoo Camp!
Week-long day camps for children ages 9-14 years.
Campers tour the zoo, meet keepers and animals up-close,
play games, make crafts and participate in many more fun activities.

Questions? Call the education department at (315) 435-8511 x8559.

**Registration for
members begins
Wednesday, March 18!**

**Watch the mail for
your brochure.**

Family Twilight T

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

Family Twilight: The Scoop on Poop

Friday, March 13 | 6:30-8 p.m.

Everyone does it, including all the animals at the zoo! Some animals even put poop to good use, like our Humboldt penguins do! Come explore the wonders of poop in this stinker of a class!

For 6-12 year olds! Caregivers must stay

Members: \$20 per child/adult pair

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

Classes fill quickly for this popular class!

Register online today at:

syracusezooevents.org/edventure-academy



Kids' Night Out ♥

Friday, February 14

5:30 – 9 p.m. | Ages 6-12

Looking for a babysitter for Valentine's Day? Drop

will enjoy pizza upon arrival; meet animals up close, tour the zoo after hours, make crafts and play games throughout the night.

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

Classes fill quickly for this fun-filled night!

Register online today at:

syracusezooevents.org/seasonal-camps.

For details, Call (315) 435-8511 x8560 or

email education@rosamondgiffordzoo.org



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Snow Leopard Soirée

NORTHERN LIGHTS

FEBRUARY 7, 2020

6:30 p.m. - 11 p.m.

HONORING

JIM BURNS

AND J.W. BURNS & COMPANY
INVESTMENT COUNSEL

\$220 per person or \$1,750 for a table of eight
Reservations required; register online at
syracusezooevents.org

ZOO EVENTS: JANUARY - APRIL 2020



SNOW LEOPARD SOIRÉE: NORTHERN LIGHTS

Honoring Jim Burns and
J.W. Burns & Company Investment Counsel
Friday, February 7 | 6:30 p.m. – 11 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - Cocktail reception and auction
8 p.m. - Dinner and live auction,
followed by dessert and dancing

Friends of the Zoo's annual winter fundraiser and gala features gourmet dining, entertainment, live and silent auctions, and animal greeters. Black tie attire and animal prints are encouraged. Proceeds help benefit the zoo's education programs, which connect more than 150,000 children and adults to the natural world each year.

\$220 per person or \$1,750 for a table of eight
Reservations required; register online at
syracusezooevents.org or call (315) 435-8511 x8518.

WINTER BREAK ACTIVITIES

Saturday, February 15 - Sunday, February 23
10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy the winter break with a visit to the zoo! Special keeper chats and animal demonstrations offer a chance to learn what happens behind-the-scenes at zoo exhibits.

For details visit syracusezooevents.org.

SWEET TREATS

Sunday, February 16 | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Watch the animals receive special Valentine treats and heart-shaped items throughout the day as part of the zoo's animal enrichment program.

TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

Monday, February 17 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Children of all ages and their favorite teddy bear or plush animal are invited to attend this special clinic. Bring your plush friend for a checkup at the zoo! Medical staff from St. Joseph's Health, along with zoo volunteers, will give your favorite plush animal a full exam and offer any needed "first aid." This fun event also educates kids about health care!

Sponsored by:  **ST. JOSEPH'S
HEALTH**
A Member of Trinity Health

BREAKFAST WITH THE BUNNY

Saturdays and Sundays

March 29, April 4, 5 and 11 | 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Come visit the Easter Bunny at the zoo and enjoy a fun-filled morning of delicious food and activities. Bring your camera for a photo with our special guest! Ticket includes post-breakfast zoo admission.

Tickets are **\$15.95 members | \$19.95 non-members**
Children 2 and under are free, but must be included when making reservations. Reservations required; register online at syracusezooevents.org or call (315) 435-8511 x8589

SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES

Saturday, April 4 - Sunday, April 12 | 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Enjoy the spring break with a visit to the zoo! Special keeper chats and animal demos offer a chance to learn what happens behind-the-scenes at zoo exhibits.

For details visit syracusezooevents.org.

ANIMAL EGG-STRAVAGANZA

Saturday, April 11 | 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Watch the animals as they enjoy their very own "Egg-Stravaganza." A variety of animals will receive eggs and egg-shaped enrichment items throughout the day. Presenting unusual items to the animals is part of the zoo's enrichment program, designed to promote natural behaviors and keep our animals engaged, curious and happy.

EASTER BRUNCH

Sunday, April 12 | 10 – 11:30 a.m. and 1 – 2:30 p.m.

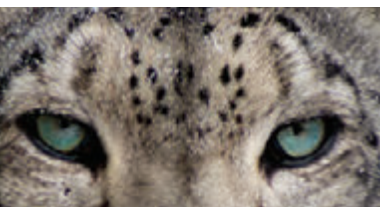
Join us for a wildly unique Easter Sunday celebration. Indulge in our delicious brunch buffet along with a dessert table rich with pastries and a chocolate fountain as well as a Bloody Mary and mimosa bar. Our pint-sized guests will enjoy their very own buffet featuring items created just for them. Round out your day with a meet and mingle with our animal "ambassador" and enjoy free admission to the zoo.

Tickets: **\$34.95 adults, \$15.95 youth age 4-12**
Children 3 and under are free, but must be included when making reservations. Reservations required; register online at syracusezooevents.org or call (315) 435-8511 x8589

PARTY FOR THE PLANET

Saturday, April 25 | 10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Come to the zoo to celebrate Earth Day! Learn about our efforts to sustain biodiversity and see how you and your family can make a difference. Chat with zoo staff about some of the zoo's resident endangered species and visit "green" activity stations representing Seafood Watch, Save the Rain, Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener Program and more!



SNOW LEOPARD DAYS: REDUCED ZOO ADMISSION
JANUARY 2- FEBRUARY 29

Adopt an Animal Special

Be among the first to
Adopt a
Red River Hog

just **\$55**

Package includes:

A personalized certificate of adoption,
4x6 color photo, 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 the 2020 Member Appreciation Event.



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

Adopt an Animal Young Philanthropist Honor Roll

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

Evelyn Emmi
Claire Emmi
Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways
Girl Scout Troop 60030
Lilyanna Kupiec

Nathan Latreille
Joanna Latreille
Ashton Miller
Regan Robbins
Makenna Robbins

Snow Leopard Lovers
Lukas and Dania Snyder
United Methodist Church Sunday School

For more information go to
syracusezooevents.org/members/adopt-an-animal

Shopping with a Purpose at The Curious Cub Gift Shop

The Curious Cub Gift Shop at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo offers shopping you can feel good about. Not only do proceeds from the gift shop benefit the animals at the zoo, many of the items sold here support our environmental conservation mission with sustainable manufacturing.

The Curious Cub Gift Shop also raises money for projects to protect endangered species in their native habitats. Thanks to shoppers who say "Yes" when asked to round their purchase up to the nearest dollar, we have been able to donate over \$10,000 a year to wildlife conservation projects around the globe!



**SEE YOU AT THE CURIOUS CUB GIFT SHOP.
ZOO MEMBERS ALWAYS RECEIVE A 10% DISCOUNT!**

 **The Curious Cub** 
GIFT SHOP



2020 Member T-shirts are Here!

Next time you're at the zoo, pick up your exclusive 2020 member T-shirt (complimentary with coupon). This year's design features our new moon jellyfish! Shirt coupons can be redeemed at the membership desk in the lobby during zoo hours.

Members can purchase additional T-shirts for \$10 each.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

2020 Member Appreciation Event!

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020 | 5:30 - 8 p.m. (rain or shine!)
No RSVP required.**

This is a free, after-hours event exclusively for members and Adopt an Animal parents. There will be keeper talks, entertainment, complimentary refreshments, and more!

Special Jr. Keeper Adopt an Animal packages for \$25.

We encourage you to wear your zoo member T-shirt for a photo op!

Bring a friend! Additional tickets may be purchased at the door for \$10.

Questions? Contact the membership department at (315) 435-8511 x8503 or x8537.

EXCLUSIVELY FOR MEMBERS!

Early-Bird Member Mornings at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo



**Sunday, May 17 and Saturday, September 12
the zoo opens for members only at 9 a.m.**

Enjoy special early access to the zoo! Walk the trails before the general public arrives. You will have the opportunity to see the animals emerge in the quiet of the morning and watch our zookeepers prepare for opening. Enjoy specialty coffees and breakfast specials in the Jungle Café and early-morning shopping at The Curious Cub Gift Shop. We hope you take advantage of this special member benefit!

Members will enjoy an extra 10% OFF in the gift shop from 9-10 a.m.!



CATERING AT THE ZOO

Catering for a Cause

Besides caring for animals and saving endangered species, the Rosamond Gifford Zoo also boasts one of CNY's top event venues that produces spectacular events in a one-of-a-kind setting.

While any event that requires a special venue is cause for celebration, events at the zoo have the added significance of celebrating your support for wildlife conservation. Catering at the Zoo is catering for a cause – every event held here benefits the animals in our care and the zoo's conservation mission.

Whether it's a wedding, family party or corporate event, occasions at the zoo consistently garner rave reviews. CenterState CEO called the zoo "the perfect venue" for its company holiday party.

"Our staff really appreciated the attention to detail that the zoo provided," said CenterState CEO Marketing and Events Coordinator Bethany Holbrook. "Plus, it was a really unique opportunity for our staff and their families to tour the indoor zoo exhibits during the party. We received nothing but compliments and gratitude from our guests."

Among other amenities, the zoo offers:

- A beautiful banquet space designed as a customizable canvas that lends itself to any décor or theme, with a great sound system, AV equipment and free WiFi,
- A top-notch menu that routinely receives five-star reviews, from enticing appetizers to exceptional entrees to delectable desserts,
- A team of event experts ready to assist you in tailoring a fun, stress-free gathering that your guests will never forget!

Book your event during zoo hours and receive free zoo admission for your guests (50 minimum). Special rates are available for weekday afternoon or evening events. Our team is standing by to help curate your lunch or dinner selections and specialty desserts. Best of all, your event helps the zoo care for over 275 species of animals, many of them endangered.

The year 2020 will be a milestone year – why not hold your milestone event at the most unique and meaningful venue in Central New York? There are still select wedding dates available for summer 2020! To explore your options, call our events team at (315) 435-8511 x8543 or email events@rosamondgiffordzoo.org.

*Newlyweds Diana Dunn and Ramzi El-Hassan
Photo courtesy of Ray Alvarez Photography*

"We chose to have our wedding reception at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo because it holds a special place in our hearts. Not only was it where we had one of our first dates, but we also just love animals. We wanted to make sure that we were putting our money into a good cause, and what better way to celebrate our marriage then to help all of the animals at the zoo!"

**August 10 Newlyweds
Diana Dunn and Ramzi El-Hassan**

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ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO **PIC OF THE MONTH** CONTEST

Enter Our Pic of the Month Contest!

Our new Pic of the Month contest is designed to highlight our animals in all seasons, year-round! We invite you to submit your best photos (one per person per month) to our monthly contest for a chance to win fun prizes.

For details, visit syracusezooevents.org.



Steller's Sea Eagle
by Nick Panagakis
Winner October 2019
Pic of the Month



African Yellow-Billed Duck
by Amanda Todt
Winner November 2019
Pic of the Month



Andean Bear
by Brent Farrell
Honorable Mention
October 2019
Pic of the Month



Caiman Lizard
by Jan Miner
Honorable Mention
November 2019
Pic of the Month