

For Immediate Release

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County Executive Joanie Mahoney Introduces New Penguin Chick, Invites Community to Enter Naming Contest

Syracuse, N.Y. (June 3, 2014) – County Executive Joanne M. Mahoney joined staff at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo today to introduce the newest Humboldt penguin chick, a female hatched on April 16. Mahoney invited the community to help chose the chick's name via an online naming contest which begins today.



The female chick is the 39th to hatch at the zoo. Her parents are Phil and Carmen. She weighed 83 grams when she hatched.

“It is wonderful to be able to introduce this beautiful new addition to the zoo’s flourishing penguin program,” said Mahoney. “It’s great to have new babies at the zoo; we always look forward to the arrival of penguin chicks. I am thrilled to invite our

community to participate in naming her.”

“The Rosamond Gifford Zoo continues to play an important role in conserving Humboldt penguins,” said Ted Fox, zoo director. “Penguins from our colony will travel to other zoos and aquariums to ensure efforts to continue populating the species.”

Humboldt penguins are named after the Humboldt Current, a cold nutrient-rich ocean current that flows along the west coast of South America. They are endangered with only 12,000 to 30,000 remaining in the wild.

Penguin Naming Contest Guidelines:

Complete contest details and steps for submitting a name are available online at rosamondgiffordzoo.org/naming-contest.

- Name suggestions will be taken for five days, June 3-7.
- All entries must be received by 4 p.m. on June 7.
- The contest is open to ages five and older, with a limit of one submission per person.
- Given the native habitat of Humboldt penguins, names of Spanish origin are preferred and strongly encouraged.
- A committee at the zoo will select the top 5 names from those suggested.
- Top names will be posted on the contest page for voting by the community from June 11-15.
- Voting closes at 4 p.m. on June 15.
- The name that receives the highest number of votes will be selected as the winner.
- The chick's name will be announced via a media alert and on the zoo's website and social media platforms on June 17.
- The winner will receive a Humboldt penguin Adopt an Animal package courtesy of Friends of the Zoo.

Female penguin names already in use or previously used at the zoo:

Amaya	Cocotea	Gisela	Mara	Poquita
Beatriz	Danta	Isa	Marisol	Rosalita
Belleza	Esperanza	Juanita	Montana	Sonia
Bianca	Evita	Lola	Nero	Tierra
Carmen	Gabriela	Magdalena	Pilar	Viviana

History of the zoo's penguin breeding program:

Year	Number of Chicks Hatched
2006	4: Carlos, Diego, Montaña & Tierra
2007	5: Andrés, Nicolas, Raul, Sergio & Cuzco
2008	3: Horatio, Javier & Esperanza
2009	5: Pedro, Hugo, Marisol, Amaya & Viviana
2010	9: Esteban, Gabriela, Guillermo, JJ, Juntos, Veinte, Sonia, Eduardo & Beatriz
2011	3: Gisela, Santiago & Paddington
2012	5: Alberto, Ava, Hota, Isa & Rosalita
2013	1: Magdalena
2014	3: Ernesto, Desi, <i>New Female Chick</i>

Total number of penguins currently in zoo's colony: 33

Males: 16

Females: 17

Two male chicks, Ernesto and Desi, hatched early in the season and were named by zoo staff. They are now on view with the colony at the zoo's Penguin Coast exhibit. The female chick will remain under the care of her parents until July before she is weaned. She will join the rest of the colony later this summer.

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The Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park is **among the top 10 percent of zoos in the country** as an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and is focused on conserving, exhibiting and interpreting a living animal collection in order to promote public recreation, understanding of the relationships between animals and people, and action to sustain the environment we share.

Committed to conservation, the zoo actively collaborates with Friends of the Zoo to save endangered Asian elephants, Amur tigers, golden lion tamarins and amphibians, which are facing a global crisis due to the Chytrid fungus. Other projects include studies on Chittenango ovate amber snails, Turkmenian markhors and Humboldt penguins.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is open daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$8 for adults (19-61), \$4 for youth (3-18) and \$5 for seniors (62+). Children two and under are free. For more information, call the zoo at (315) 435-8511 or visit the zoo's website at www.RosamondGiffordZoo.org.

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www.rosamondgiffordzoo.org

County Executive, Joanne M. Mahoney • Commissioner of Parks & Recreation, Bill Lansley
Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director, Ted Fox • Friends of the Zoo President, Janet Agostini

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