

An insider's view of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

# My ZOO

SUMMER 2021

Magazine



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# IN THIS ISSUE



## A Message from the Friends Executive Director

I am pleased to present you with this extremely informative summer issue of *MyZoo Magazine*! Its pages come filled with lots of excitement, new Friends of the Zoo faces and new events to look forward to this year.

Check out page 12 to Save the Dates for our 2021 events, starting with our June 7 TEE OFF Fore the Animals golf tournament at Bellevue Country Club, followed by the 25th anniversary edition of Brew at the Zoo, our new Fall Conservation Ball in September and the Zoo Run Run virtual and in-person walk/run.

This issue also offers an update on our capital campaign to support the new Animal Health Center being built at the zoo, including a beautiful story of a family honoring their mom with a fundraiser to place her name within the building.

We also hope you have noticed our efforts to boost the content of *MyZoo Magazine* over the last couple years with more in-depth information on the important work that takes place behind the scenes at the zoo. Since receiving this magazine is a member perk, we want to give you a true "insider's view" of your zoo along with the animal updates and advance notice of zoo events and programs that you rely on to plan your zoo activities.

This issue contains one such inside story -- about the enormous amount of data our animal care team gathers and shares with our fellow AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums to further animal welfare at AZA institutions and contribute to research for conservation of endangered species. The information they record ranges from each animal's vital statistics to their favorite foods, enrichments and activities. (This feature story starts on the next page.)

As always, we are so grateful for our Friends of the Zoo member family and your commitment to supporting the work of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Thank you for your membership, and I look forward to seeing you at the zoo!

*Carrie Large*

Carrie Large  
Executive Director, Friends of the Zoo



**ON THE COVER:**  
Humboldt Penguin  
Photo by Amelia Beamish

ROSAMOND GIFFORD  
**ZOO**  
AT BURNET PARK  
Ted Fox, Director

ONONDAGA  
COUNTY  
*Linker*  
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Please direct questions regarding this publication to [editor@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto: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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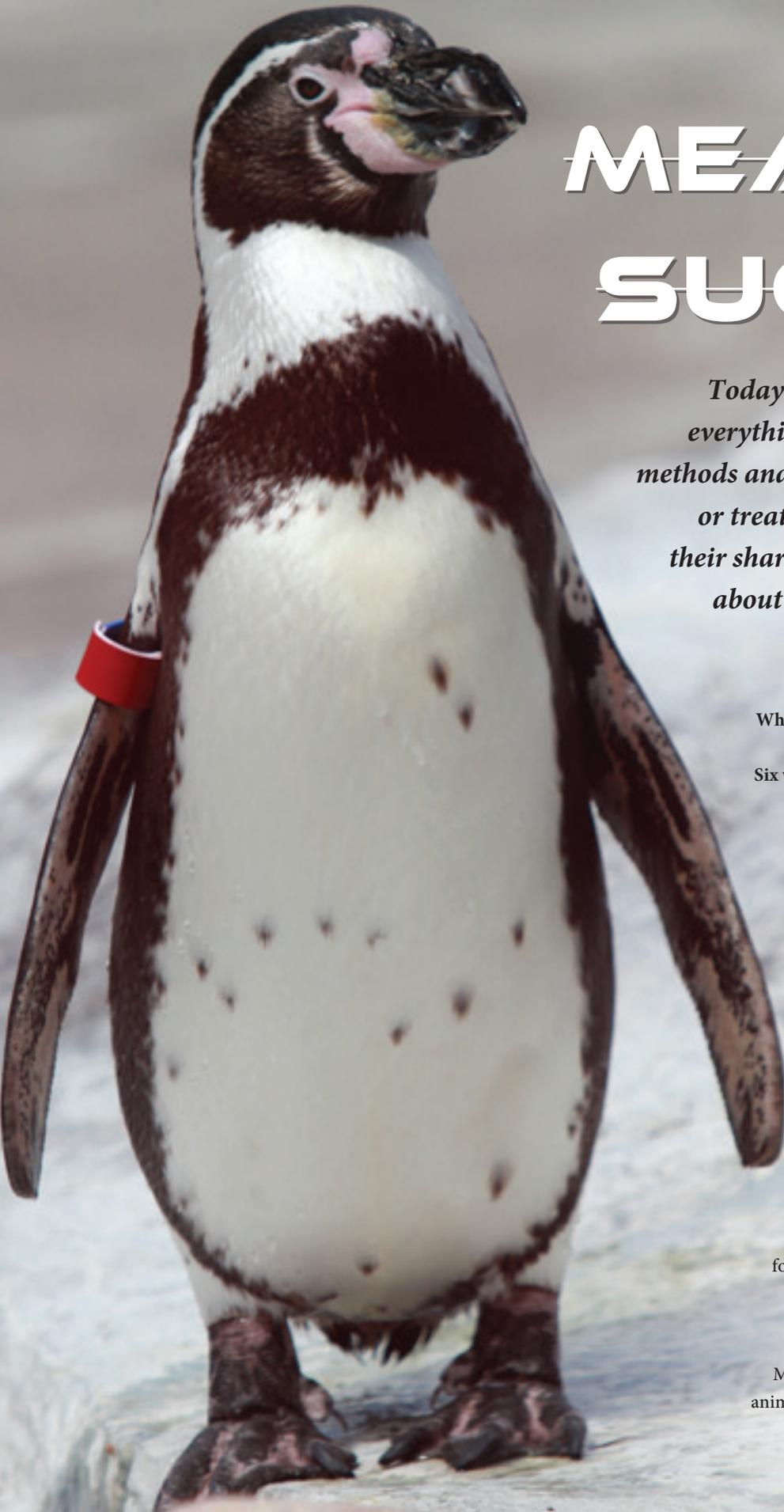
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# MEASURE OF SUCCESS

*Today, AZA zoos and aquariums share everything – animals, resources, training methods and data on breeding, hand-rearing or treating a health problem – as part of their shared missions to educate the public about wildlife and conservation and to save endangered species.*

When Humboldt penguin Emilio hatched on May 5, 2017, he weighed only 68 grams, or 2.3 ounces. Six weeks later he weighed 2 kilograms, or 5 pounds. And at his most recent weight check, he weighed 5.44 kilograms or 12 pounds.

Emilio's favorite fish is herring – in fact, he has eaten roughly 2,656 of them in his four years on earth! His second favorite is smelt, followed by capelin.

#### **How do we know all this?**

Because part of our animal care team's daily routine is to pay close attention to their animals and keep detailed records of their behavior and care.

Emilio is one of 27 Humboldt penguins at the zoo, and our team can look up similar information for each of them – as well as for the many penguin chicks that have hatched here and gone on to other zoos and aquariums in the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).

Multiply that meticulous record-keeping by the 700 animals that live at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo to get a picture of the reams of information kept on each

# ANIMAL UPDATES

**A male baby muntjac** was born at the zoo on March 15 to female muntjac Rosalyn and male Alfred. His name is Mustard thanks to a new “herbs and spices” naming theme.



A number of animals that were awaiting placement by the Species Survival Plans (SSPs) for their species were finally able to go to new homes at other AZA accredited zoos.

**American bison bull Harley, female Hope and calf Madison** went to the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium in Toledo, OH, on January 7, 2021, due to construction of the Animal Health Center adjacent to their exhibit.

**Female red pandas Tabei and Nutmeg** went to the Charles Paddock Zoo in Atascadero, CA, on January 21.

**Male snow leopard Strut** went to the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls, SD, on January 21.

**Male San Clemente Island goat Troy** went to the Saginaw Children’s Zoo in Saginaw, MI, on January 23.

**Male Amur leopard Milo** went to the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, KS, on January 28.

**A baby Humboldt penguin chick** hatched at the zoo on February 4. Its parents, Juan and Rosalita, have a history of accidentally breaking their eggs, so this chick’s egg was incubated and raised by foster parents Luis and Calypso. The chick turned out to be a female and a naming vote resulted in her being named Opal.

**A second Humboldt penguin chick** hatched at the zoo on March 19. Its parents are Viente and Poquita. A naming vote for that chick, a male, resulted in the name Inti.

**Black and white ruffed lemur Fiori** passed away on March 23.

**Two barred Holland chicks** hatched at the zoo on March 31.

**Female meerkat Pidge** passed away on April 3.



## IN MEMORIAM

**Male patas monkey MJ** passed away on February 26. His age was unknown because he was among a group of patas monkeys rescued from Puerto Rico by the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, FL. (See story on page 14).

# CREATURE FEATURE: TURKMENIAN MARKHOR

AT THE  
ROSAMOND  
GIFFORD ZOO:  
1 Male  
5 Females



## FUN FACT:

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is in charge of the studbook for Turkmenian markhor as part of the Species Survival Plan to maintain an assurance population of this species in human care to prevent them from going extinct. Studbooks contain the genetic and breeding history for the entire population in human care at accredited zoos in North America.

Known as the largest and most striking species of mountain goat, Turkmenian markhor are famous for their long spiral horns. They are also called “screw horned” goats or “flare horned” goats because their horns corkscrew upward and can grow up to 5 feet long in males and up to 2 feet in females.

Turkmenian markhor are native to high mountain peaks of Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, including the hillsides of the Himalayan Mountains and the mountains of the Hindu Kush. Their habitats are mainly forest, shrubland and rocky areas of inland cliffs and mountain peaks as high as 13,000 feet above sea level. In the wild, markhor eat grass, shrubs, leaves and twigs from trees growing amid rocky terrain. They spend up to 14 hours a day grazing and live 12 to 14 years in the wild.

The markhor’s coat is reddish grey with a dark stripe running along its back. Males have long, thick beards that cascade down their chests, while females may have short, thin beards. Markhor are skilled climbers and are often seen perched on sheer rock faces where predators fear to tread. They have wide hooves that stabilize them when climbing or walking on steep, uneven ground.

Their species is listed as Near Threatened, meaning it is in danger of becoming a threatened species due to poaching and overhunting. However, their population trend is increasing thanks in part to protections that ban hunting except for regulated trophy hunting for large fees that go back to conservation and local communities.

The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is currently home to six Turkmenian markhor, all female but one. Thor is the lone male, joined by Sasha and the Golden Girls—Blanche, Sophia, Rose and Dorothy. If you don’t see them at first in their habitat on the Wildlife Trail, look up and among the rocks for their spiral horns. In human care, they eat hay, grain, tree leaves and twigs, and can live up to 20 years.

# Sponsor a *Significant Space* at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo Animal Health Center

*The Friends of the Zoo's One Health | One Mission capital campaign for the new Animal Health Center is off to a great start! We are now a quarter of the way to our \$1.1 million goal, and a quarter of our sponsorship and naming opportunities have been claimed by generous supporters whose names will grace significant spaces in this important community asset.*

Dedicated Friends of the Zoo **Zalie and Bob Linn of Manlius**, who lent their names to the new Zalie and Bob Linn Amur Leopard Woodland exhibit that opened last year, have stepped up once again with a naming gift for the Animal Health Center lobby. This space will greet visitors to the building and offer educational opportunities on animal health care with video monitors showing procedures as well as floor to ceiling windows into treatment rooms.

Longtime zoo volunteer and supporter **Maria Kane** of Oswego has sponsored the health center's Quarantine Treatment Room as well as a Field Small Anesthesia Machine **in memory of her mother, Marjorie Kane**.

Zoo supporters **Claudia and Howard Preston** of Baldwinsville have chosen to become naming donors for the Animal Health Center Pharmacy, which will store, compound and fill prescriptions for any animal treated at the zoo.

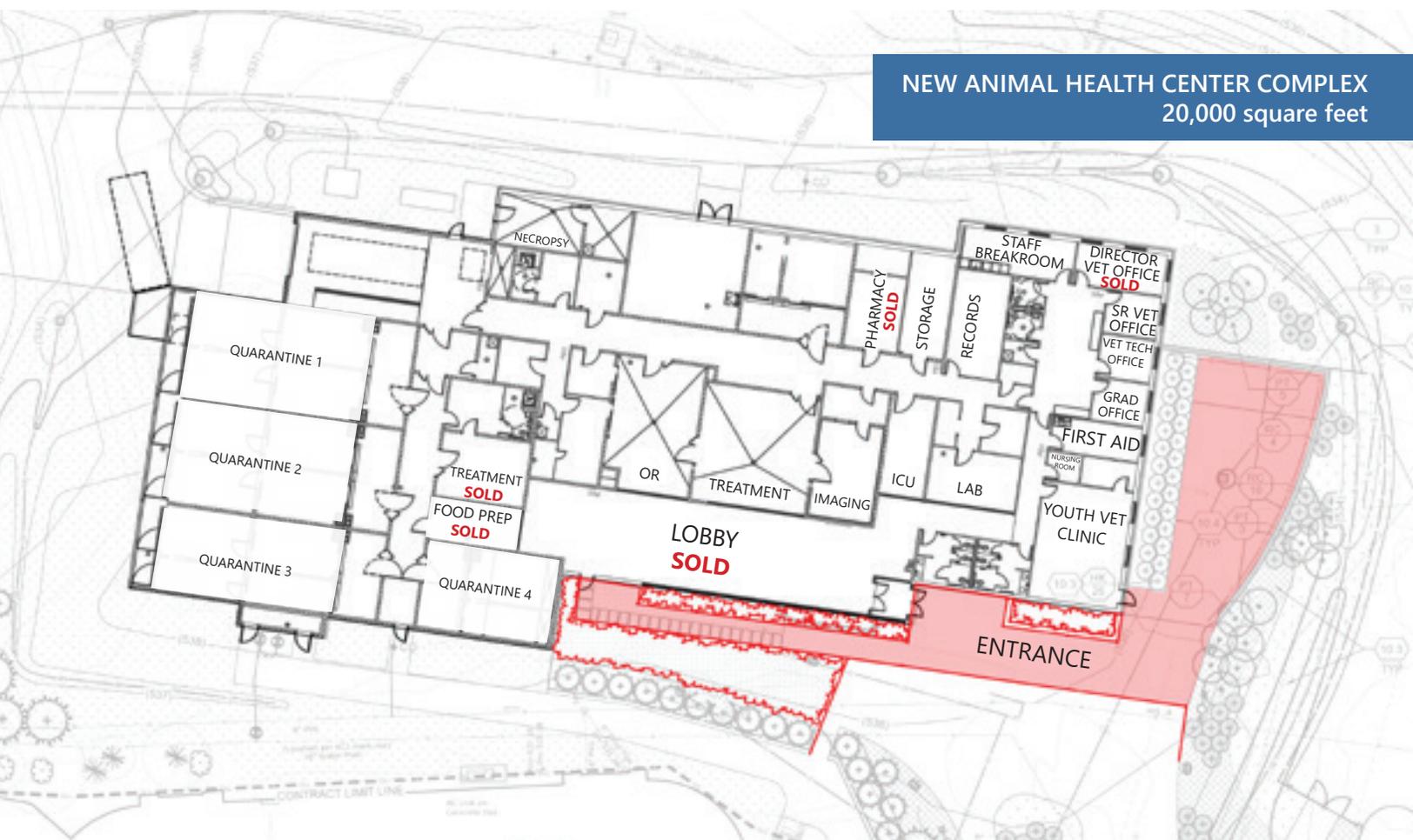
Zoo volunteer **Ellenrose Galgano** of Syracuse has sponsored the Director of Veterinary Staff Office.

**Deborah and Dennis Trepanier** have signed on as naming donors for the Animal Health Center's Food Prep Room, a nutrition kitchen to prepare meals for new animals quarantining at the health center before joining the zoo.

There are still a few significant spaces in the health center available to name, as well as many other ways to leave a lasting legacy on the largest zoological medical center outside of New York City's Bronx Zoo.

Honor or memorialize a loved one, show your company or organization's support or express your own support for animal health care by sponsoring a room or a piece of essential equipment -- from scales and microscopes to incubators or a centrifuge to exam tables or an infusion pump.

**To make a gift of your own or learn how to sponsor space or equipment in the Animal Health Center, please visit [justgiving.com/campaign/rgz-animal-health-center](http://justgiving.com/campaign/rgz-animal-health-center) or contact Heidi Strong at (315) 435-8511 x8526 or [hstrong@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:hstrong@rosamondgiffordzoo.org).**





*Barbara Jean Coffey with her grandchildren (L-R) Mischa Buecheler, Tobias Buecheler, Malaki Buecheler and Westley Buecheler.*

## Honoring a Life in Support of Science

When Barbara Jean Coffey was diagnosed with Alzheimer's 13 years ago, she immediately volunteered for a double-blind study to aid research on the disease. When she passed away at age 71 last fall, she donated her body to science.

"She was the smartest person we've ever known," Sarah Fleming wrote in her mom's obituary. "She believed that, as her favorite author and astronomer Carl Sagan said, 'We make our world significant by the courage of our questions and the depth of our answers.'"

Because there would be no funeral or gravesite, Sarah and her three siblings agreed to memorialize Barb at her favorite place to "ask and learn" – the Rosamond Gifford Zoo.

"She knew all the elephants by name and attended a lot of zoo events," Sarah said. "She was very shy, but she was comfortable talking to the zookeepers and quick to ask questions."

Sarah began working with Friends of the Zoo Development Director Heidi Strong to purchase a memorial bench for her mom. Heidi told her about the new Animal Health Center being built at the zoo, and Sarah immediately wanted her mom's name on that, too.

"My mom loved to support the zoo in general, but to do something for animal care and research would be perfect," Sarah said. "I love the idea of having her name on a room of the health center or a piece of medical equipment."

That's how Sarah came to create the first memorial fundraiser on the Animal Health Center capital campaign's fundraising site. Sarah is hoping to raise \$10,000 to name a room for Barb. The Barb Coffey Memorial fundraiser at [justgiving.com/fundraising/BarbCoffey](https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BarbCoffey) has reached over \$5,000 so far.

"This project speaks to the very best of Mom," Sarah wrote on the fundraising page. "As a part of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, it allows us to support a place that was very special to her. As an Animal Health Center, it allows us to pay tribute to her interest in science. And as a place that will support the furthering of research, it means mom can continue to give back to the scientific communities."

Sarah said she and her siblings, Jessie, Nora and Nathan, will choose what room to sponsor based on how much they can raise. If they raise \$5,000, they'll name the graduate student office "because Mom would support people who are learning." If they raise \$10,000, it will probably be the necropsy room.

Necropsy is a term meaning an autopsy on an animal. "It may sound a little morbid," Sarah said, "but my mom would find that fascinating."

Thanks to Barbara's family for this inspiring effort to support their mom's love for the zoo!

# Summer Zoo Camp Expands!

Our Summer Zoo Camp offerings have grown! We are now offering more weeks of camp for each age group AND a new Summer Zoo Camp Program for ages 14-16, Zoo Crew Counselors in Training (CIT).

The Zoo Crew CIT Program is for teens who have aged out of Junior Zookeeper Camp and are interested in becoming camp counselors. In this two-week program, CITs will spend the first week learning camp counselor skills and gaining extensive experience in the organization of camp programs, teamwork and group management. They'll spend the second week assisting in creating a positive summer camp experience for our summer zoo campers aged 3-11 by encouraging participation, modeling zoo camp expectations and assisting campers with skills during activities or crafts -- while learning important leadership and communication skills!

**This program runs June 28 through July 2 and July 5 through July 9.  
Participants are expected to attend both weeks.**

**\$575 Members | \$615 Non-members  
June 28 – July 2 and July 5 – 9 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Sign up for this or other Summer Zoo Camp sessions at [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org).**

*Summer Zoo Camps will adhere to all Covid-19 directives as outlined by the New York State Office of Child and Family Services. As these guidelines may change prior to the start of camp, a complete list of precautions and actions taken by the Rosamond Gifford Zoo will be distributed closer to the start of camp and updated as needed.*



## Virtual Zoo to You Learn at Home Series: Awesome Oceans

**Wednesday, June 9 | 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Our oceans hold over 96 percent of all the Earth's water, but we have only explored around 5 percent of them! Join us for a World Oceans Day celebration as we explore all the fin-tastic creatures that inhabit ocean waters. Discover how conservation plays an important role in creating a safer planet for all inhabitants. We hope to SEA you there!

With our state-of-the-art technology, join us on a virtual tour around the zoo to visit our animals.

Learn from biofacts such as skulls and feathers from the animals that you are learning about. Watch videos of animals that you may otherwise not see on a visit to the zoo. Plus, you'll get a chance to chat with our trained zoo educators.

Please email [ZooToYou@rosamondgiffordzoo.org](mailto:ZooToYou@rosamondgiffordzoo.org) with any questions or concerns.

**JUST \$10 PER FAMILY!**

## Adventure Academy: Devoted Animal Dads

**Friday, June 11 | 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Ages 3-5, one parent or guardian must attend.**

**Saturday, June 12 | 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

**Ages 3-5, One parent or guardian must attend.**

**Saturday, June 12 | 1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.**

**Ages 6-10, Child may be dropped off or one adult may stay.**

**Members: \$20 per child/adult pair**

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

**\$15 each additional child**

Did you know that infant golden lion tamarins are carried on their father's back nearly 24/7? Or that some male penguins help care for the egg on their feet? Well "chill" with your dad as we discover what makes some of our males here at the zoo stand tall above the rest. Enjoy quality time celebrating some of our most devoted dads while celebrating your own!

**NOTE: This class will be held in the education classroom and masks must be worn at all times. One adult/child pair per table. Limited to 12 pairs.**

# Precocious Penguins!

The zoo has welcomed two new Humboldt penguin chicks! The first, a female named Opal, hatched February 4. The second, a male named Inti, hatched March 19.

Penguin chicks are fed by their parents or foster parents for their first weeks of life, and they grow really fast! For example, Opal weighed only 6 ounces four days after she hatched, and six weeks later she weighed over 7 pounds!

But even if they reach adult size and weight in just a couple months, penguin chicks will stand out from the adult birds until they lose their waterproof feathers and grow new ones – a process called molting. To spot the new chicks, look for penguins whose chests are all white. The youngsters won't gain the black stripe across their chest until their first molt next year.

Find and circle the penguin related words in the word search below.

p	c	o	l	d	f	i	s	h	f
e	x	c	w	c	r	s	w	b	e
n	s	e	a	h	e	q	i	l	a
g	d	a	t	i	e	u	m	a	t
u	i	n	e	c	z	i	m	c	h
i	v	x	r	k	i	d	e	k	e
n	e	s	t	j	n	x	r	w	r
w	h	i	t	e	g	i	c	e	s
w	i	n	g	h	u	n	t	x	k

penguin  
fish  
feathers  
cold  
swimmer  
ocean

black  
sea  
freezing  
water  
dive  
ice

hunt  
wing  
nest  
chick  
white  
squid





MEASURE OF SUCCESS... continued from pg. 3

animal. Extrapolate that to the 240 zoos and aquariums accredited by AZA to appreciate one of the ways AZA institutions are leaders in animal care and welfare.

“The public sees our animal care staff cleaning exhibits or offering enrichments to their animals, but they don’t see them writing notes or sitting down at a computer every day to enter information about an animal’s diet, behavior, activities, training, enrichment, health checks and anything else worth noting,” said Rosamond Gifford Zoo Director Ted Fox.

“But that record-keeping is essential in contributing to our knowledge of each individual animal as well as our knowledge about its species, its counterparts at other AZA institutions and its wild counterparts.”

A huge benefit of AZA accreditation is that it unites the top zoos and aquariums in North America in sharing information and collaborating to provide the best possible care for every animal at every member institution and beyond.

“In the old days, zoos and aquariums would compete with each other for animals and information,” Ted explained. “Any success one zoo had with a certain species would be a closely guarded secret to benefit only that zoo. Today, we operate completely differently.”

“AZA has become an information-sharing organization, as well it should be, because no one of us knows everything and we learn more every day about the animals in our care,” Ted said.

## Tools of the Trade

One tool the zoo uses many times a day is ZIMS – Zoological Information Management Software. Over 1,000 accredited zoos, aquariums and wildlife centers around the world have access to ZIMS’ Species 360, a global database of animal husbandry and veterinary records on more than 22,000 species and 10 million individual animals, according to the ZIMS website.

“The record-keeping we do for animal care these days is invaluable, and it’s beyond what most people realize,” said Rosamond Gifford Zoo General Curator Dan Meates. “I can go on ZIMS and look up a snow leopard and see every single thing that animal has done every day of its life. Whereas our human doctors see us, what, maybe once a year?”

This info sharing often applies when AZA institutions welcome animals from other zoos or aquariums as part of Species Survival Plans (SSPs) for threatened and endangered species. More than 500 SSPs oversee breeding of select species to maintain a healthy and genetically diverse “assurance population” in human care.

So when, for example, a red panda or Amur leopard or penguin at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is recommended to be introduced to a potential mate at another AZA zoo or aquarium, their health records and everything else about them are immediately available to the caregivers at their future home.

Conversely, when our zoo acquired a 9-year-old male Amur tiger, Thimbu, from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in late 2019, our carnivore team knew all about him before he arrived. They knew he had a mellow personality, did great at training sessions and loves the smell of fresh-brewed coffee and Prada perfume. The same process prepared the team for Thimbu’s recommended mate, Zeya, a hand-reared “diva” who came to us from Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo last fall.

## Information sharing also works to spread best practices, successful methods and important research across accredited institutions.

### For example:

- AZA institutions that care for Humboldt penguins contribute to spreadsheets tracking the feeding and growth weighs of penguin hatchlings and juveniles that offer a guide to typical penguin development.
- The 30 AZA zoos that care for Asian elephants track progesterone levels of their female elephants to better understand breeding cycles, which assists the 11 zoos approved to breed this critically endangered species and contributes to scientific studies of Asian elephants.
- Our zoo's success at forming a Humboldt penguin colony in 2005 that produced chicks the very next year made us a model for other zoos and aquariums that care for penguins. Similarly, when our carnivore team successfully introduced two young Amur leopards who had cubs the next year,



the Amur leopard SSP was eager to share our team's methods.

- Our zoo's treatment of a snow leopard cub diagnosed with a debilitating condition called Swimmer Syndrome included consulting with two other AZA zoos that had treated snow leopard cub "swimmers." Our success in implementing a physical therapy plan that cured Marcy will also be shared to continue improving treatments for this condition. (See "Mobilizing Marcy" in the Fall 2020 issue of *MyZoo Magazine*)

"The beauty of information sharing is that it goes both ways," Dan Meates said. "We share everything we learn, and we get information all the time from other AZA zoos that helps us with our animal care."



## The information that AZA zoos record about their animals can produce extremely fun facts. Here are a few about our animals:

In his 18 years, Justus the North Island brown kiwi has lived in two countries, Germany and the United States, and four states, Ohio, Tennessee, Massachusetts and New York.

Our San Clemente Island goats have revealed a love for dried banana chips.

Asian elephant Romani dislikes cheese bagels and enjoys playing harmonica.

SCAN QR CODE  
TO SEE ROMANI PLAY  
THE HARMONICA!



Siamang Abe loves enrichments, but he soon loses patience with all but the easiest food puzzles. However, he is extremely patient when his companion, Fatima, reaches in and takes his food!

# Save the Dates!

Friends of the Zoo is hard at work to bring you exciting, fresh and reimagined events you definitely won't want to miss. Make sure to mark your calendars!



## TEE OFF Fore the Animals Charity Golf Tournament Monday, June 7

Our first-ever, 18-hole Captain and Crew golf tournament at historic Bellevue Country Club is shaping up as the best day ever!

Enjoy a continental breakfast buffet, lunch on the links and post-play awards dinner featuring prime rib and pasta stations at the elegant Bellevue Clubhouse. Experience 18 holes of championship golf and surprise visits with zoo ambassador animals. Awards in men's and women's divisions include First and Second Place, Closest to the Pin, Longest Drive, Best Dressed Individual and Best Dressed Team – so remember to rock an animal theme! We'll cap the day with a live and silent auction of amazing items including a New York Yankees autographed baseball, jewelry and gifts from Tiffany and Burberry, a Star Wars poster signed by the original cast, and of course, golf items and getaways. Visit [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org) for participation information for individuals and foursomes.



## Fall Conservation Ball Friday, September 10

Set aside the gowns and tuxedos! Instead of a fancy soirée, we're throwing a more relaxed and casual Fall Conservation Ball to support animal care at the zoo and

conservation in the wild! Enjoy an outdoor gathering with cocktails and finger foods, a sunset champagne toast and a live auction to benefit the new Animal Health Center at the zoo. We'll also be toasting and roasting Zoo Director Ted Fox as he celebrates 30 years at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo!



## Brew at the Zoo 25th Anniversary Friday, August 6

Brew at the Zoo is BACK, better than ever and turning 25 this year!

We're looking forward to celebrating this much-anticipated summer event with live music, a wide variety of delicious new food options, dozens of refreshing craft beer and beverage stations – all amid friends and festivity. We'll have animals on exhibit, a silent auction (with something for everyone) including animal art and exciting experiences! We'll also unveil a special new local craft beer inspired by one of our charismatic residents.

**Tickets go on sale June 4 – to purchase, visit [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org).**

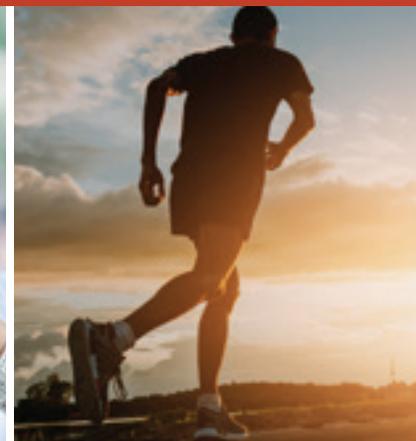


## Zoo Run Run Saturday, October 23

Devote your running or walking miles to support the Rosamond Gifford Zoo for fun and prizes! Form a team or sign up solo for our 5K run and walk through the

zoo and Burnet Park on October 23! If you can't participate, sponsor a runner or team! Participants will receive a Zoo Run Run T-shirt and free admission to the zoo, and we'll award top finishers and fundraiser prizes.

Follow our social media and check [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org) for regular updates.





## Preservation Pointers Point the Way to 'Green' Practices

If you follow the Rosamond Gifford Zoo on Facebook or have explored our new website, you may have seen our growing list of Preservation Pointers! These short articles contain tips from the zoo's Conservation Committee to help you and your family make choices that help protect wildlife and nature.

For 2021, the "point" of our Preservation Pointers is to help you shop "green" for everyday needs like toothpaste and toothbrushes, shampoo and even toilet paper. The posts will take you through a home room by room to show you easy changes you can make for a more sustainable lifestyle.

### **Some of the tips include:**

- Read labels and look for logos on products to ensure that they do not harm wildlife or the environment. For example, the light blue Energy Star logo lets you know which products are most energy efficient.
- Buy a recyclable toothbrush. Used toothbrushes cause a lot of plastic waste that will remain for hundreds of years. Instead of a plastic brush with nylon bristles, a bamboo brush with natural bristles that can be composted to reduce landfill waste.
- Buy shampoo and conditioner bars instead of bottles so you won't have a hunk of plastic left over when you use it up.

All these Preservation Pointers are leading up to Plastic Free July, a global movement that helps millions of people be part of the solution to plastic pollution! We'll be asking you to reduce your plastic use this July and share what habits you and your family have changed for the better!

**To find our Preservation Pointers, please visit [rosamondgiffordzoo.org/conservation/preservation-pointers](https://rosamondgiffordzoo.org/conservation/preservation-pointers).**

## Zoo Navigates Complex Family Dynamics for Orphan Patas Monkey

Raising Iniko, the first baby patas monkey to be hand-reared by humans, has been a challenge for the Rosamond Gifford Zoo since her birth last June. Iniko was delivered by emergency C-section and her mother died shortly after, leaving the zoo's primate team to care for her.

General Curator Dan Meates and his wife, zookeeper Leisje Meates, raised her at their home during the pandemic. Leisje named the baby Iniko, meaning "born during troubled times."

The little monkey thrived and won the hearts of CNY and beyond. At 4 months, the zoo began gradually introducing her to her "real" family, the zoo's patas monkey troop.

Then things took another troubling turn. Iniko's father, MJ, passed away due to a gastrointestinal illness. MJ was the leader and peacekeeper of the troop, which includes his older daughters and their "aunties," Sarah and Addie.

In the wild, patas monkeys form family groups of all females led by a mature male who may be replaced by a stronger male on a regular basis. Females have their own hierarchy, with any conflicts usually settled by the patriarch. The absence of a male leader at the zoo leaves its troop rudderless, making it harder to introduce a new young female, said Zoo Director Ted Fox.

"Hand-rearing the first baby patas monkey has been a total learning experience, and that's continuing as we figure out the best way to integrate Iniko into our troop," Ted said. The zoo's troop has a compelling history. MJ and four females were among 20 patas monkeys rescued from Puerto Rico by the Lowry Park Zoo in Tampa, FL, in 2010.

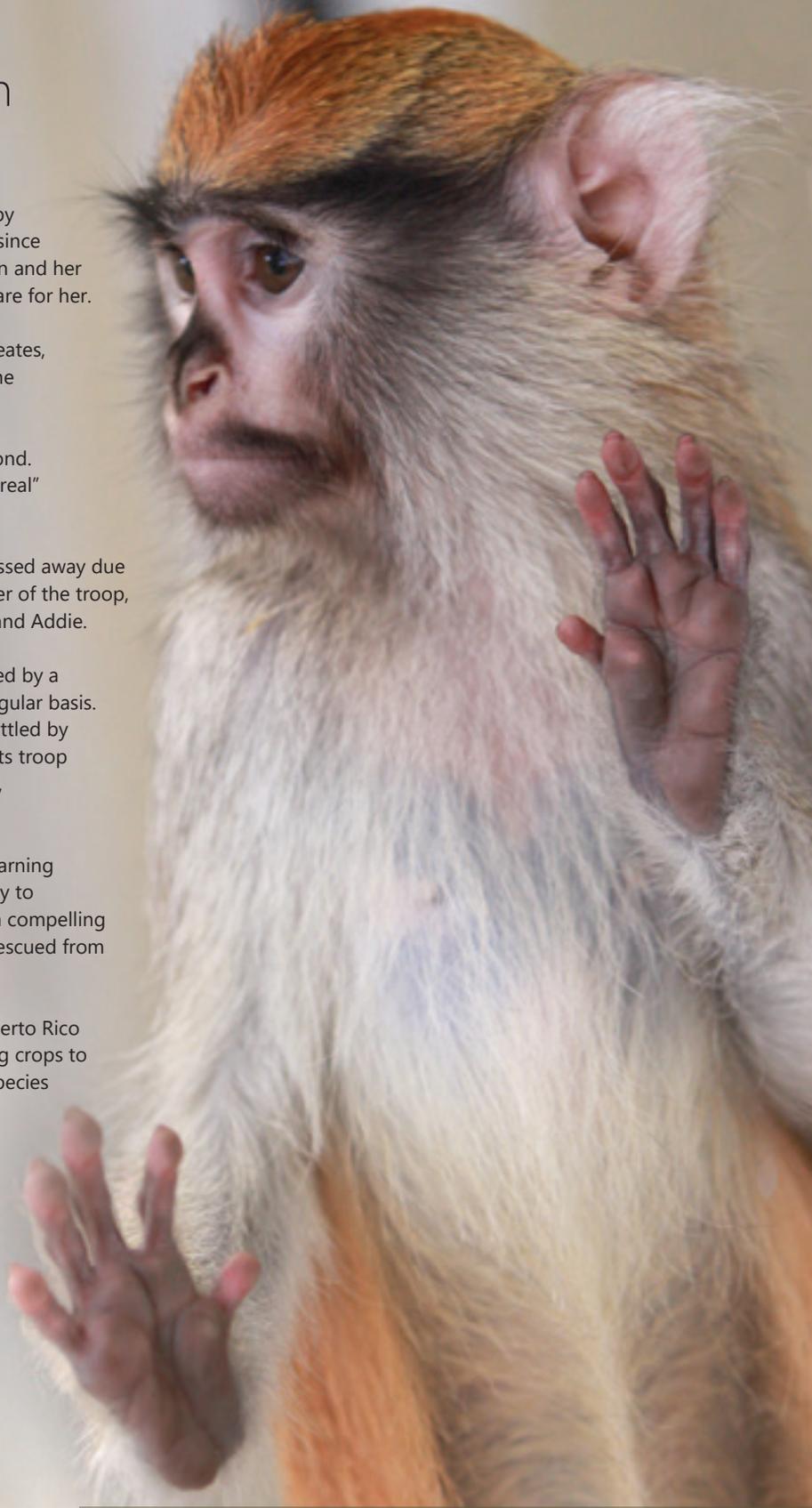
Patas monkeys are native to Africa, but a group brought to Puerto Rico for animal research escaped or was released and began raiding crops to survive. They were targeted for extermination as an invasive species and agricultural pests when Lowry Park Zoo stepped in.

Five of the rescued monkeys came to the Rosamond Gifford Zoo, which opened its patas monkey exhibit in August 2010.

The zoo is among only six accredited zoos in North America to care for patas monkeys, so every new experience with this species is relevant.

The zoo's current plan is to bring in a new male from another zoo to be the leader of the troop. If all goes well, Iniko will be able to join her birth family. If not, she would move to another AZA zoo to start a new troop of young patas monkeys.

"Of course we want her to stay here and we're approaching this carefully and sensitively in hopes it works out," Fox said. "But we are operating on the animals' terms, so they will be the deciding factor. They will help us figure out what's best for Iniko."



### SAVE THE DATE:

Join us on Tuesday, June 8 to celebrate Iniko's birthday and watch her get a special treat!



## Up Close and Personal with the Camel Brothers They'll be eating out of your hands, literally!



Since arriving at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo as youngsters in early 2018, Bactrian camels Patrick and George have nearly tripled in size. When they came to us from the Milwaukee County Zoo, Patrick was a year old and weighed 800 pounds and his half-brother George, 2 ½ months younger, weighed only 650!

Today, the brothers are pushing 2,000 pounds and stand over 8 feet tall at their humps. But thanks to three years of training with our animal care team, they are so well-behaved that you can have them eating out of your hand.

"Our hoofstock team works with Patrick and George every day to make sure they are used to interacting with people and

participating in their own care," said Zoo Director Ted Fox. "They get rewards for doing what we ask, and their favorite rewards are food."

Zookeepers have trained the boys to have their coats brushed, to "cush"- or sit with legs tucked under- for blood draws and health checks and they also are halter trained to go on walks around the zoo. When accepting food from people, they know how to take yams or carrots gently from an open palm, so even children can feed them safely.

**NEW!** Camel feeding opportunities are slated to begin after Memorial Day. Watch for updates on our social media and [rosamondgiffordzoo.org](http://rosamondgiffordzoo.org).

## Diversity of Birds and Animal Adaptations Now Open!

With COVID restrictions easing, the zoo was able to reopen the Diversity of Birds aviary and the Animal Adaptations/Nocturnal Animals exhibits on May 1. Our staff took advantage of these areas being closed to the public to do replanting and landscaping of our rainforest setting in the aviary and spruce up several of the Nocturnal Animals exhibits, including our habitat for Justus the North Island brown kiwi. Remember to take a few minutes to allow your eyes to adjust to the dark once you enter the nocturnal wing!

Now all that remains to reopen is the USS Antiquities cave, which is being renovated to better showcase our aquarium, reptile and amphibian species. Stay tuned for updates!

### PRECOCIOUS PENGUINS ANSWER KEY

p	c	o	l	d	f	i	s	h	f
e	x	c	w	c	r	s	w	b	e
n	s	e	a	h	e	q	i	l	a
g	d	a	t	i	e	u	m	a	t
u	i	n	e	c	z	i	m	c	h
i	v	x	r	k	i	d	e	k	e
n	e	s	t	j	n	x	r	w	r
w	h	i	t	e	g	i	c	e	s
w	i	n	g	h	u	n	t	x	k



# Shop Small and Local at The Curious Cub Gift Shop

Shopping at The Curious Cub Gift Shop at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo is the definition of shopping small and local because the shop is operated by the zoo's non-profit partner, Friends of the Zoo, and proceeds benefit the animals of the zoo.

This summer, the gift shop is expanding its small and local status to include a variety of products from other local businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

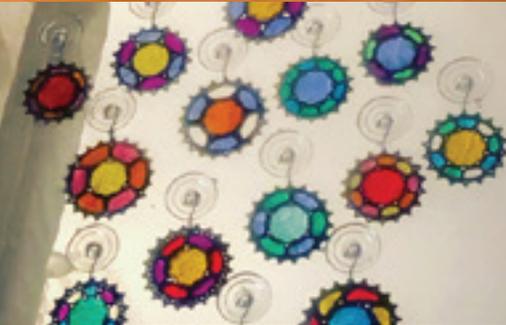
When you walk into The Curious Cub, look straight ahead for the Shop Local display of made in CNY items, some of them enhanced with Rosamond Gifford Zoo branding so you can share them as zoo souvenirs!

### Our Shop Local partners include:

- Tyson Farm and Feed, Marcellus, NY -- Goat milk soaps and lip balms
- Cedarvale Maple Syrup Co., Town of Onondaga, NY -- Maple syrup products
- Kingsley Street Artisan Soaps, Wildflowers Armory -- Lotions and bath bombs
- UpCycling4ACause, Syracuse, NY Etsy shop -- Art made from recycled bicycle parts
- Speech Family Candy Shoppe, Syracuse, NY -- Zoo-themed chocolate and pretzels
- Witty Wicks Candles, Camillus, NY -- Scented soy candles
- Syracha'Cuse, Camillus, NY -- Gourmet hot sauces, olive oils and vinegars

Several of these local businesses donate proceeds from their products to charity. Their merchandise will be on our shelves through the summer as a pandemic partnership to support shopping small, local and green! Note: These products are available in-store only, not in our online gift shop.

**Members, see page 17 for an additional 20% Off in the gift shop!**



## Adopt a Gray Wolf Senior Keeper Special \$55

### Package includes:

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

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





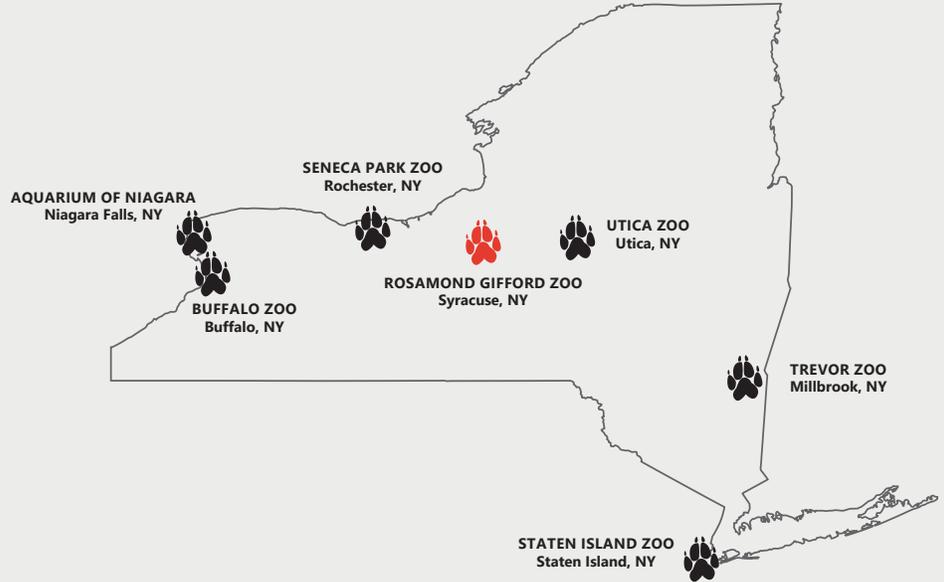
Allison Angona, Membership Manager

# Members in Motion!

## Planning a summer getaway?

You'll find great savings with your Rosamond Gifford Zoo membership! Memberships are valid for discounted admission at more than 150 AZA-accredited facilities across the United States; including our neighbors Rochester, Utica and Buffalo. For the most up-to-date information on reciprocal zoo offerings, please contact that zoo directly. Advance reservations may be required.

So gather up your herd and add a new zoo to your bucket list of activities! Best of all, by choosing to visit accredited institutions, you're supporting the nation's leaders in animal care, conservation, and family fun.



## Member Appreciation Summer Perks!

We know it's been a while since we've been able to gather as one BIG member family—and we miss celebrating with you! So instead of calling it quits on our annual appreciation event, we are going to celebrate all summer long. Members will enjoy extra perks, discounts and fun while visiting the zoo between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2021.

### This Summer You'll Enjoy:

- Expanded discounts on event tickets!
- Raffles, giveaways, contests and more!
- **4 exciting membership coupons! (below)**

### MEMBER COUPON

RECEIVE

**20% OFF**

YOUR PURCHASE AT



EFFECTIVE MAY 31 TO SEPTEMBER 6, 2021.  
PHOTOCOPIES NOT ACCEPTED.  
NOT REPLACEABLE IF LOST OR STOLEN  
**MUST PRESENT VALID  
MEMBERSHIP ID TO REDEEM**

### MEMBER COUPON

RECEIVE

**1 FREE  
MEDIUM-SIZED  
SOFT DRINK**

AT CONCESSIONS  
OR CAFÉ



EFFECTIVE MAY 31 TO SEPTEMBER 6, 2021.  
PHOTOCOPIES NOT ACCEPTED.  
NOT REPLACEABLE IF LOST OR STOLEN  
**MUST PRESENT VALID  
MEMBERSHIP ID TO REDEEM**

### MEMBER COUPON

BRING A

**FRIEND  
FREE!**

SINGLE-USE  
ADMISSION PASS  
FOR 1 ADULT OR CHILD

**ADVANCE RESERVATIONS  
REQUIRED**

EFFECTIVE MAY 31 TO SEPTEMBER 6, 2021.  
PHOTOCOPIES NOT ACCEPTED.  
NOT REPLACEABLE IF LOST OR STOLEN  
**MUST PRESENT VALID  
MEMBERSHIP ID TO REDEEM**

### MEMBER COUPON

ENTER TO WIN!

**FREE RAFFLE**

DROP YOUR  
RAFFLE TICKET AT THE  
MEMBERSHIP DESK  
FOR A CHANCE TO  
**WIN WILD PRIZES!**

WINNER DRAWN MONTHLY.  
ENDS, SEPTEMBER 6, 2021.

*Main prize: an animal experience  
for up to 6 people!*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER ID: \_\_\_\_\_

# Catering with a Cause

Emerging from a COVID-imposed year off, Catering at the Zoo has taken the opportunity to restructure, retool and regroup with new menus, a new executive chef, new packages and a stronger focus on practicing sustainability -- all while supporting animal care and conservation at the zoo.

The new team includes Director of Food and Beverage Chuck Anthony and Executive Chef Dan Hudson, both of whom came to us from the historic Marriott Syracuse Downtown, and Catering Sales Manager Stephanie Brooks, former market manager for Maine-based Compass Rose Events.

"We have used our downtime during the pandemic to reimagine what Catering at the Zoo can be for Syracuse," Chuck said. "We have one of the most unique settings in Syracuse to host an event. Our goal is to elevate the food and beverage program to compete with the largest catering houses in the area and make full use of this beautiful destination in our community."

**For more information about hosting an event at the zoo, visit [cateringatthetoo.org](http://cateringatthetoo.org), email [events@cateringatthetoo.org](mailto:events@cateringatthetoo.org) or call (315) 435-8511 x8561.**





**Chuck Anthony**  
Director of  
Food and Beverage

*"I have been privileged to work at some pretty amazing places. Turning Stone is a landmark. The former Hotel Syracuse is a landmark. And the zoo is a landmark that I look forward to contributing to."*



**Dan Hudson**  
Executive Chef



**Stephanie Brooks**  
Sales Manager

# We're Pleased to Introduce Our New Catering at the Zoo Team

**Charles "Chuck" Anthony** of Liverpool, former food and beverage director for the Marriott Syracuse Downtown, is the new director of food and beverage for the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. Friends of the Zoo hired Anthony to take the reins at Catering at the Zoo and revamp the zoo's café and concessions offerings.

Chuck has extensive experience creating brands and managing restaurants, catering and large-scale events like the gigantic New Year's Eve and St. Patrick's Day parties at the Marriott Syracuse Downtown.

Starting in the hospitality industry as a bartender, then opening his own restaurant in 2008, he went on to work in food and beverage leadership at Turning Stone Resort Casino. In late 2015, Chuck was tapped to help reopen the historic Hotel Syracuse as the Marriott Syracuse Downtown following an \$80 million restoration.

Chuck plans to reimagine food and beverage service at the zoo's café, moving away from less healthy fast food toward fresh, made-to-order salads and sandwiches and a locally roasted gourmet coffee program. "Of course, people come here for the animals and to support our mission, but our goal is to also provide a memorable food and beverage experience," he said.

Chuck said Chef Dan Hudson also will elevate the zoo's food programs to new heights.

"Chef Dan is a well-known local chef with great experience and skills," he said. "He is a highly sought-after talent with a unique skill set that is perfect for our organization. We're building a strong team with a shared vision, and the sky is the limit!"

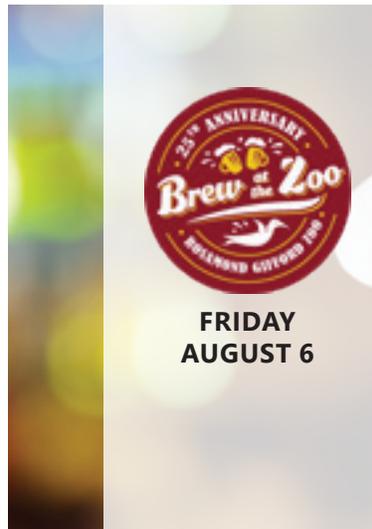
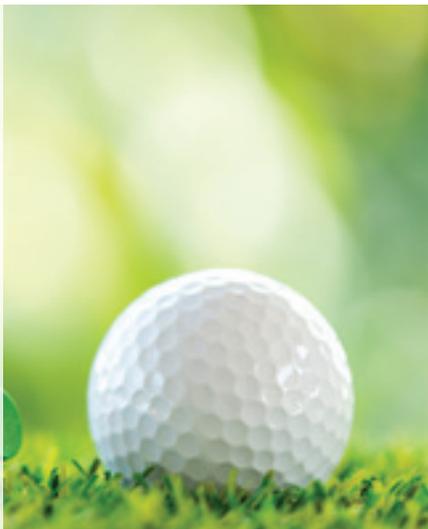
**Daniel Hudson**, the zoo's new executive chef, grew up in California and moved to CNY as a teen. He started his restaurant career as a dishwasher at Johnnie's Pier 31 in Canastota and worked at Phoebe's Restaurant while pursuing his bachelor's degree in Hospitality Administration/Management at nearby Syracuse University.

In his junior year at SU, he got the chance to spend a year and a half working with the late great chef Brian Shore at the acclaimed Arad Evans Inn in Fayetteville. After graduating, he was hired as sous chef at the Sherwood Inn in Skaneateles and spent 10 years at the historic Finger Lakes establishment.

He went on to become executive chef at the Sherwood in 2011 and Director of Food and Beverage in 2016. In 2019 he moved to the Marriott Syracuse Downtown as Restaurant Chef before accepting his new role with Friends of the Zoo. "I'm excited at the possibilities for a whole reinvention of food service at the zoo," he said.

**Stephanie Brooks** has joined Catering at the Zoo as the new sales manager. She will be responsible for leading an awareness campaign spotlighting the zoo as a desirable event venue, booking events and ensuring they are executed as envisioned.

Stephanie earned her bachelor's degree in Hospitality and Tourism Management from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2007. She worked as assistant banquet manager at Doubletree by Hilton before joining Compass Rose in Boothbay Harbor, ME. She started her career in event operations before transitioning to sales in 2013. "Stephanie's background in planning large-scale corporate and social events and day-to-day focus on driving sales will be crucial to growing the zoo's catering operations," Chuck said.



*Save the Dates!* See page 12 for details

