

An insider's view of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo

SUMMER 2020

My ZOO

Magazine

50 YEAR ANNIVERSARY
FRIENDS OF THE ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO

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NEW ANIMAL
HEALTH CENTER TO
BREAK GROUND
IN 2020

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A Message from the Friends Interim Executive Director

Allow me to introduce myself: my name is Quentin Lockwood III, though nearly everyone calls me Skip. I have been selected by the Board to serve as the Interim Executive Director of the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo during this time of transition and I bring more than 20 years of experience building and growing high-performance, national nonprofit organizations. The Rosamond Gifford Zoo is a jewel of the Syracuse community and I am honored and excited to lead the

Friends organization as we build on the strong foundation of the last 50 years.

I like to say that times of transition are also times of opportunity. Little did any of us know that we were headed for a global pandemic that would close our zoo and every other cultural institution for over two months.

As we embark on reopening with many new health protocols in place, I still see this as a time of opportunity. We and our county partners have spent the zoo closure innovating, reimagining and planning to continue engaging with you, our wonderful supporters, in new ways that go beyond the physical zoo experience. For details on our new safety protocols, see page 14. Even as we joyfully return to our zoo, we also look forward to offering virtual events and distance learning opportunities to bring our conservation mission to an ever wider audience.

This year marks the Friends' 50th anniversary year! We are proud to say that since the founding of our non-profit in May 1970, the Friends has helped the zoo become a world-class conservation center entrusted with caring for some of the most vulnerable species on earth, educating the public about them and working to save them from extinction.

You can learn more about how the Friends supports the zoo in this issue of *MyZoo Magazine*. You may be surprised to discover how many routine parts of your zoo visit, from having lunch at the Jungle Café to buying your child a special t-shirt or animal plush at the gift shop, directly benefit the important work of your zoo. This year, we are hoping to start the next 50 years strong with a \$50K for 50 Years fundraiser. See page 9 for details.

Also in this issue, Zoo Director Ted Fox offers the inside story on the zoo's next big project – a new Animal Health Center that will meet the high standards set by our accrediting body, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). The project will ensure the best healthcare possible for the amazing array of animals in our care.

Since I arrived at the zoo – and especially through the recent crisis – I have been continually impressed by the dedication of our zoo family, including the many members who support the zoo year after year. Thank you for all you do!

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

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ON THE COVER:
Female Sichuan takin Jaio had her second calf on April 6 (see page 4)
Photo by Maria Simmons



Ted Fox, Director



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

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

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NEW ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER

By Ted Fox, Zoo Director

State-of-the-art medical care for zoo animals Teaching facility for future zoo veterinarians

When the Rosamond Gifford Zoo's animal health clinic was built in the 1980s, it was ahead of its time. Besides providing an exam room, X-ray station, operating room and quarantine rooms for zoo animals, our clinic was among the first to have public windows offering zoo visitors a live view of animal health care in action.

That was 40-plus years ago. Since then, the number of animals in our care has grown to include many more threatened and endangered species. We've seen huge advances in medical technology and zoological medicine. Our participation in global wildlife conservation projects and research has intensified, and we now must consider how the

HEALTH CENTER VITAL STATISTICS

**Current zoo clinic
and quarantine:**
2,500 square feet

**Planned animal
health center:**
20,000 square feet

**Cost to
Onondaga County:**
\$7.5 million

**Friends of the Zoo
contribution:**
\$1.1 million for medical and
diagnostic equipment

ANIMAL UPDATES

A baby Sichuan takin was born April 6 to mother Jiao and father Bo. The male calf, named A.C., is the second calf born here as part of the Species Survival Plan for this endangered species of Chinese mountain goat.



A male fennec fox, Taz, arrived from the Capron Park Zoo in Attleboro, MA, on November 7 to join our female, Pink.

A group of Heritage Breed livestock that were all born at the zoo last year moved to the Children's Zoo at Celebration Square in Saginaw, MI. San Clemente Island goats Troy, Verona, Savannah, Elmire, Sidney and Ithaca all relocated, as did Black Welsh Mountain sheep Aurora and Mumford. The goats and lambs were named during the zoo's "I Love New York" naming theme, which continues this year.

Two Chinese muntjac (tiny deer), Abner and Walter, left for the Mesker Park Zoo in Evansville, IN, in December. Our remaining pair, Rosalyn and Alfred, have moved to a shared exhibit with our red pandas on the Wildlife Trail.

Two baby Black Welsh Mountain sheep were born to mother ewe Belle and ram Beast on January 20. The lambs, a boy and a girl, are named Bronx and Brooklyn.

A male baby San Clemente Island goat was born to parents Pop and Lydia on February 13. He was named Clyde as part of the zoo's "I Love New York" naming theme.

Several new fish and invertebrates were acquired for the zoo's aquariums on February 16, including blue and yellow damsel fish, urchin crab, fairy basslet and Antillian tooth snail.

Two African pied crows, Sundance and Cassidy, went on loan to the Indianapolis Zoo on March 6.

Giant Pacific octopus Ollie passed away from natural causes on March 14. Giant Pacific octopuses live 3 to 4 years at most. The zoo is slated to welcome a young GPO from Canada as soon as the situation allows.

Two more baby Black Welsh Mountain sheep were born on April 22, to dam Beauty and sire Beast. The lambs are a male and female named Brutus and Bristol.

A baby American bison was born on May 25, Memorial Day, to mother bison Sue and father Harley. The male calf's name is Liberty. He joins big sister Abigail, born in 2017, and big brother Madison, who was born on exhibit last year.

Humboldt penguin Malia went on loan to the Columbus Zoo on May 26.

Four female Turkmenian markhor were acquired from the Columbus Zoo to join our markhor herd. Their names are Rose, Dorothy, Sophia and Blanche.

Two baby San Clemente Island goats were born on May 27 to Ruby and Pop. The kids are males named Chester and Sterling.

CREATURE FEATURE: CRESTED COUA

AT THE
ROSAMOND
GIFFORD ZOO:
2 Males: Joe and Al



*Madagascan Crested Coua by Nicole Hube, Winner January 2020 Pic of the Month
See other winners on back cover.*

Fun Fact:

The male and female of a coua pair cooperate to care for their chicks. Crested coua chicks have unique red and white "bullseye" markings inside their mouths, presumably to show the parents where to put the food!

Two birds considered among the most beautiful in the world joined our animal family in recent months. Our crested coua, Joe and Al, are brothers who hatched at Disney's Animal Kingdom to the same parents 6 years apart!

This species is endemic to Madagascar, where it is considered common. Coua are members of the cuckoo family of birds (named for their call) that also includes roadrunners, anis and koels.

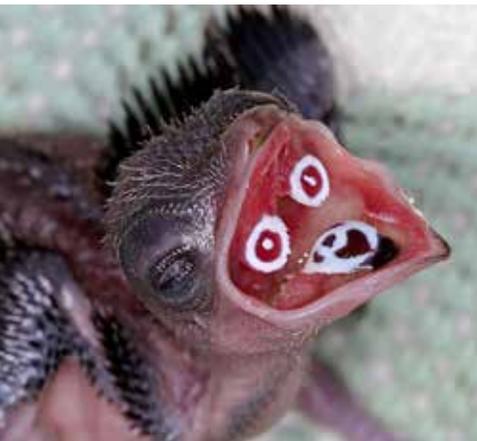
Crested coua have a greenish-gray back and white underbelly but are distinguished by their gray crest and the colorful skin around the eyes. Their orbital skin is bright blue and violet, as if they're wearing 1960s-style eye shadow -- a la British model Twiggy.

This species lives in trees and forages at higher levels of forest, walking along branches and finding food as it goes. They hunt large insects, snails, small lizards and other birds' eggs, as well as berries, seeds and fruits. They can perform the neat trick of reversing their third toe on each foot for an extra tight grip on a branch!

Their call is a descending 'koa-koa-koa' that can often be heard in the zoo's Diversity of Birds aviary early in the morning. They also respond to each other's calls, creating a chorus effect.

The two coua at our zoo both hatched at Disney's Animal Kingdom, Joe on May 27, 2011 and Al on April 26, 2017. The elder brother arrived here in late 2018 and bird keepers dubbed him Joe Coua after the 1972 Snoopy character "Joe Cool." His younger sibling arrived in June 2019, during our "I Love New York" animal naming theme. Keepers named him Alfred for the Upstate New York town in Allegany County.

Photo by Dallas Zoo



health of animals raised in our care may impact how we can reintroduce them into the wild.

We also have forged a 22-year partnership with Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, whose vets, residents, interns and students practice here almost daily as part of Cornell's zoological medicine program.

All this is wonderful for our zoo – but it also means our little clinic has become woefully inadequate to the missions at hand. In our last two accreditation cycles in 2013 and 2018, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) noted that our clinic is far too small for a zoo of our size, cannot provide hospitalization for most of the larger species in our care and lacks proper quarantine space to meet best safety practices.

Our AZA accreditation is extremely important – it puts us on the map of only 240 zoos and aquariums considered the gold standard for animal care, wildlife conservation and education. ***But that's just one reason we are about to build a new animal health center!***

Our zoo is devoted to providing the very best health care available to every animal in our care, from a tiny poison dart frog to a 10,000-pound elephant – and to maintaining our growing reputation as a leader in animal care and welfare in collaboration with one of the world's top veterinary schools. A new state-of-the-art health center will ensure we meet those standards for many years to come.

A \$7.5 million allocation from Onondaga County and assistance from Friends of the Zoo will allow us to build and equip a 21st century animal health center. It will be a free-standing building that fronts on the zoo courtyard between the African red river hogs exhibit and Primate Park, with a rear loading dock enabling us to safely bring animals to the appropriate treatment area for exams, testing, surgery or quarantine.

When completed, the project will greatly enhance and expand our ability to perform medical procedures on zoo animals as large as tigers, camels or a baby elephant, as well as do lab work, exams and specialized tests that otherwise might require transporting an animal to Cornell – always a risky and stressful proposition.

As you can imagine, we are very excited for the possibilities a new health center will bring – including intersectionality with other area institutions pursuing the One Health concept –an approach to health care that examines the connections between people, animals and plants and their shared environment for better health outcomes for all.

I invite you to learn more about One Health at cdc.gov/onehealth. Meanwhile, please stay tuned to the zoo's social media, websites and *MyZoo Magazine* for updates and ways to support the new health center.



"ZOO UNIVERSITY"

Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine has dubbed the Rosamond Gifford Zoo "Zoo University" because dozens of zoological medicine students, interns and residents have practiced at the zoo in its 22-year partnership with Cornell.

The program, begun in 1997, enabled Cornell to offer a residency in exotic animal medicine and has brought the best veterinary minds in our area to benefit the animals of the zoo. Only 20 similar programs exist around the country, according to Cornell veterinarian Dr. Noha Abou-Madi.

Learn more about this groundbreaking collaboration at vet.cornell.edu/scopes/issues/2019-issue-1/zoo-university.



New features that will enhance animal health care at the zoo include:

- Larger facilities for lab work and treatment rooms to accommodate our long-standing collaboration with Cornell Veterinary College and expand the potential for partnerships with pre-vet and zoology programs at other schools.
- A greater ability to educate not only students and staff, but also our visitors, who will have more opportunities to watch medical procedures as they are performed – including viewing windows starting at 2 feet from floor level so even our smallest guests will be able to look into the animal care suites.
- More space and ability to bring larger animals -- such as snow leopards, Amur leopards, Amur tigers, camels, white-lipped deer and even lions when they return to our zoo – to a well-equipped treatment facility where we can safely and efficiently work on these patients rather than performing medical procedures in their exhibit housing.
- A new quarantine facility that meets all the safety standards required by AZA and our industry. Our current quarantine space shares a common area with our treatment room, so it's not a true quarantine. We will have separate, unconnected quarantine rooms – one for large carnivores, one for primates, one for birds and one with a pool for aquatic animals – with no entry from the hospital side. Each will have its own staff prep area and individual climate control. The quarantine facility also will have a separate kitchen so there can be no chance of cross-contamination.
- A new enclosed loading dock will allow for safe transport of animals in and out of the facility. It will have a built-in floor scale so we can get weights on animals as they come in and go out – and it will be designed so an animal arriving at the health center will go one way to access the hospital and the opposite way to enter the quarantine facility.
- With help from Friends of the Zoo, more than \$1 million will provide more and better diagnostic equipment to allow us to do endoscopic procedures, ultrasounds, better radiographs and pathology without having to rent equipment or drive an animal to Cornell for further testing.
- Having the health center as a separate building on the zoo campus also will give us classroom space for continuing education programs, offices for veterinary staff and a public lobby area with restrooms, viewing into treatment and surgical suites and the ICU and quarantine commissary. When there is no treatment going on, we'll have wall screens showing previous procedures so there will always be something for visitors to see and learn.



50 Years of Friends of the Zoo

Behind every great zoo, there's often a Friends of the Zoo!

Many of the 240 zoos and aquariums accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) wouldn't be where they are without the support of non-profit "Friends" organizations devoted to helping them succeed. Here in Syracuse, the Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo has been around since May 1970 – which makes us 50 years old this year!

Just as your zoo has changed a lot in 50 years, so has the Friends. We have gone from a small group of citizens that formed to save a failing zoo to a key partner of the zoo that supports its AZA missions of top-notch animal care, nature education and saving species. Here's a decade-by-decade snapshot of 50 years of Friends:

1970

When the Friends formed, the Burnet Park Zoo was a 56-year-old facility housing a small menagerie and the Friends a handful of volunteers trying to improve it. They held fundraisers, built a membership of 700 and eventually convinced the city to turn the zoo over to Onondaga County. By 1979, the zoo was in such disrepair that the county and the Friends had two choices: shut it down or completely rebuild. They chose the latter.

2000

The Friends took on the role of county partner in operating the zoo under a dual governance model; **Chuck Doyle was named Zoo Director and Janet Agostini was hired as Executive Director of Friends.** **Penguin Coast opened with a colony of 19 birds in 2005** and four chicks hatched the following year! **Primate Park opened in 2010**, providing an outdoor playground for siamangs and other primates.

1980

The county committed \$10 million for a total renovation of the zoo, and the Friends raised another \$2.5 million. The project closed the zoo for over 3 years. Many of the animals went to other homes. Asian elephant Siri, the project's poster child, moved to the Buffalo Zoo with a plan to return when it was completed. **The "New Zoo" opened in 1986** with bigger and more natural habitats and a strong conservation focus. In 1987, the zoo achieved accreditation by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) and has maintained it ever since.

2010

In 2011, Chuck Doyle retired and Ted Fox took over as Director of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. The same year, the zoo opened the Helga Beck Asian Elephant Preserve, including the 12,000-square-foot barn with green roof and a 4.5-acre outdoor habitat. In 2016, the zoo opened the 50,000-gallon elephant pool, a \$1.8 million project fully funded by the Friends. In 2013, **Friends supporters Laura and Rick Iorio donated the Giant Pacific Octopus exhibit.** In the last two years, the Friends and county worked together on such enhancements as the expansion of the Helga Beck Asian Elephant Preserve and exhibits for new, rare animals such as Justus the kiwi and Naga the Komodo dragon.

1990

The Friends forged a working relationship with Onondaga County and a leadership role in capital campaigns to continuously improve the zoo. **The Friends launched campaigns to help fund a tiger exhibit, penguin exhibit, rainforest exhibit, the USS Antiquities exhibit and an education wing.** The USS Antiquities cave opened in 1998 and the Amur tiger exhibit in 1999. That same year, **the Burnet Park Zoo received a \$2 million endowment from the Rosamond Gifford Foundation** and was renamed the Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park.

2020

In January, former Friends President Janet Agostini retired and the Friends board welcomed Quentin "Skip" Lockwood as interim executive director (See Skip's letter on page 2). **The Friends' latest capital project, the Zalie & Bob Linn Amur Leopard Woodland, is slated to open this summer.** Despite recent challenges, support for our mission remains strong and we look forward to the next 50 years of supporting Central New York's premiere wildlife conservation center!

\$50K FOR 50 YEARS!

Friends 50 Challenge: Help us Raise \$50K for 50 Years!

The Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo has decided to honor our 50-year milestone with a fundraising challenge: **Let's raise \$50K for our zoo!**

After three months with no revenue coming through the doors, the zoo is in need, and the Friends exists to help. Our Friends Board of Directors, staff and volunteers have kicked off the challenge with their pledges.

No gift is too small when you're crowdfunding! Together, we can all help to ensure a healthy start for the zoo as it recovers from the recent closure.

**We welcome contributions of any size.
To help us meet our goal, please visit
syracusezooevents.org/friends50**

WHERE YOU MEET FRIENDS OF THE ZOO...

Membership Desk

Home base for over 8,000 member households that support the zoo year after year. Membership also oversees our Adopt-an-Animal program, Young Philanthropists, special members-only events and discounts and other ways we honor our nearest and dearest supporters. YOU are the Friends of the Zoo!

Education Programs

Adventure Academy, Zoo Camps and our Zoo to You mobile education program help fulfill our conservation education mission while supporting the zoo. Last year, 274 on-site programs engaged 4,440 youth and 1,187 adults in conservation and nature education classes at the zoo, while 184 Zoo to You programs brought conservation lessons and outreach animals to 147 locations, engaging 4,688 participants. This year, we are responding to current events by creating virtual and distance learning programs that will allow us to reach even wider audiences in the future.

Volunteer Services

If you volunteer at the zoo – or have interacted with our wonderful volunteers – you have experienced a Friends program that assists with every zoo event or activity. The Friends has more than 350 volunteers whose help saves the zoo thousands of dollars each year.

Events

Catering at the Zoo began 15 years ago to fulfill requests to hold weddings, social events and corporate gatherings at the zoo. It has grown into a popular event venue with a beautiful banquet space, catering kitchen and outdoor patio that hosted 124 events last year. Best of all, every event supports the animals at the zoo and our wildlife conservation mission. Going forward, we're working toward offering unique and exciting virtual zoo events that will expand our capacity beyond our physical event space!

The Jungle Café and Courtyard Café

Buy a snack, support your zoo!

The Curious Cub Gift Shop

Your purchases here directly benefit animal care at the zoo and conservation in the wild! Round up your purchase to the next dollar to fund important global conservation projects.



A New Exhibit for the Rarest of Big Cats: The Zalie & Bob Linn Amur Leopard Woodland

When we joined the Species Survival Plan for the world's most critically endangered big cats, the zoo and the Friends of the Zoo had big goals. The zoo's was to successfully pair two young adult Amur leopards in hopes they would produce offspring to help save the species. The Friends' was to provide an enriching outdoor habitat and indoor nursery for these magnificent animals.

The zoo welcomed a pair of Amur leopards, Rafferty from the San Diego Zoo and Tria from the Greenville (S.C.) Zoo in late 2018 and our animal care team spent over 6 months introducing the them. Their patience paid off with the births of Amur leopard cubs Milo and Mina on June 19, 2019.

The Friends launched a capital campaign to create a new habitat, the Amur Leopard Woodland, from the former African lion exhibit. The project would transform the outdoor space to accommodate the natural behaviors of Amur leopards, including their penchant for climbing tall trees in their native habitat, the temperate forests of Far East Russia.

We raised and allocated nearly \$400,000 – including a generous naming gift from zoo supporters Zalie and Bob Linn of Manlius – and construction began this past winter. We were fortunate that, despite the zoo's closure during the COVID-19 outbreak, work was able to continue thanks to small crews, help from our animal care team and the exhibit's location away from other areas of the zoo.

Our main contractor, McGinnis Nelson, Inc. of Syracuse, installed the columns and anchor bolts to support the mesh roof as well as renovations to the indoor housing and nursery. A small team from Nets Unlimited of Phoenix, AZ, came to the zoo to install the high mesh ceiling that will give our Amur leopards "the best view in Syracuse," said Zoo Director Ted Fox.

Animal care staff have been helping to move logs and climbing structures into place. With help from the zoo's chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), we also plan to install a training wall where the public can observe daily training sessions as well as a new shift door to allow a future big cat species to share the exhibit on a rotating basis.

Our zoo's success at increasing the number of Amur leopards on earth gives us hope for saving them from extinction. Fewer than 80 Amur leopards are known to remain in the wild; about 180 live in accredited zoos participating in the SSP, which now regards our zoo as a model for introducing a breeding pair of Amur leopards in human care.

Amur Leopard Woodland will nurture our participation in the SSP for years to come by providing everything our Amur leopards need to encourage more cubs in the future. Thanks to Bob and Zalie Linn for their generous naming gift, and to all of you for supporting the mission to save this amazing species.



Bob and Zalie Linn



It's Pool Season for the Elephants!



MOST OF US HUMANS LOVE A REFRESHING DIP IN A POOL ON A HOT SUMMER DAY -- AND THAT'S ONE THING WE HAVE IN COMMON WITH ELEPHANTS!

In fact, elephants in the wild will make a watering hole their herd's home base so they always have a source of drinking water and a place to cool off. Even if they must travel to find food, family groups prefer to stay in range of their watering hole.

That's why the Rosamond Gifford Zoo built our elephant pool to resemble and serve as a watering hole for our Asian elephant herd. The 50,000-gallon pool, built in 2015, is our 8-member elephant herd's favorite place to gather from spring to fall. It has a gradually inclined shallow end for the younger elephants and a 6-foot deep end where adult elephants can fully submerge.

The pool also supports our conservation mission because we built it "green." It has a special Life Support System (LSS) that constantly filters the water so it can be cycled back into the pool. When the pool is drained for the winter, the water goes into a separate infiltration basin where it gradually absorbs into the ground, eliminating any impact on local water sources.

Opening a neighborhood pool usually means pulling off the cover, turning on the filter, "shocking" the water with chlorine and vacuuming the bottom. Opening the elephant pool is a little more complicated.

The elephant pool has five times as much water as a backyard pool and barely any chlorine. It's not allowed to have more than trace amounts of chemicals for the safety of our elephants.

Before filling it in spring, zoo staff check and clean the inside of the pool and the county Department of Water Environment Protection comes to inspect the pool, LSS and reservoir. Zoo maintenance staff vacuum out skimmers, change the oil in the LSS pumps and make sure all valves, pipes and plugs are assembled securely.

Then a main valve that was locked for the winter gets reopened and the crew turns on the water in the main elephant building. It runs through an underground pipe for about 200 feet downhill into the pool. The pool takes almost two days to fill.

Once it's full, the staff check for leaks and turn on the pumps for the LSS -- the big, light grey structure with giant tanks behind the pool. With four pumps and three filtration tanks, the LSS filters the water at a rate of 660 gallons per minute. All 50,000 gallons of pool water travels through the system every 75 minutes! A separate potable water line brings drinking water to the elephants at the waterfall and a "drinker" spout.

Just as for humans, the pool opening is an exciting event for the elephant herd. And, similar to us, the youngsters are likely to be the first ones in!

BABY ANIMAL MATCHING GAME!

Test your animal knowledge of the names of babies in the animal world and at the zoo!
Draw a line from Column A to the correct picture of the animal.
Then draw a line from the picture to the name of a newborn in Column B.
We've done the first one for you!

COLUMN A

- 1) American Bison
- 2) Andean Bear
- 3) Black & White Ruffed Lemur
- 4) Chinese Muntjac
- 5) Hoffman's Two-Toed Sloth
- 6) Humbolt Penguin
- 7) Long-Horned Cowfish
- 8) Moon Jellyfish
- 9) Radiated Tortoise



COLUMN B

- A) Baby
- B) Calf
- C) Chick
- D) Cub
- E) Ephyra
- F) Fawn
- G) Fingerling
- H) Hatchling
- I) Pup

Adopt an Animal

just
\$55

Choose Your Own Senior Keeper Special!

Package includes:

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

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



A huge **THANK YOU** to so many of you who "adopted" an animal while we were closed. We finally were able to get into the zoo to fulfill your Adopt packages, most of which we mailed out weeks after your purchase. Your Adopts and membership renewals helped us survive the COVID-19 crisis and we are extremely grateful for your patience!

Of course, we still have a way to go to make up the ground we have lost. A symbolic "Adopt" is a great gift for someone who loves animals and would like to support the zoo!

Thank
you! 

Zoo Events: Virtual Versions in the Works

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we have had to cancel or postpone our summer zoo camps and traditional summer events. We hope to be able to hold some in-person events such as our Family Fun Run and Zoo Boo in the fall. But meanwhile, recent history has shown us that virtual events and distance learning are here to stay, so we are hard at work devising fun, educational events and classes for animal lovers who may not be able to come to the zoo for whatever reason.

Stay tuned to our social media and our events website, syracusezooevents.org, for news and updates on virtual field trips, behind-the-scenes tours, Keeper Chats, classes and more.

Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @syracusezoo!



To our member family,

During these unprecedented times, your support has meant the world to us. To our new members, those who have re-joined and those who have been with us for years— we thank you!

As you may be aware, the mandated closure of our facility significantly impacted our organization financially. Many of our daily expenses remained as we continued to provide daily care and enrichment to the more than 700 animals entrusted to our care.

In light of this hardship, we ask that you please consider donating these 2 months of your membership in support of your zoo-- as many of you have already graciously done. You can choose to donate this time back to the zoo by keeping your original expiration date, or even going the extra mile to renew your membership early.

If your membership was active before our March 16 closure and you are seeking an extension, please e-mail us at members@rosamondgiffordzoo.org with your name and membership ID number. We will then be able to provide you with membership extension information.

Please note, we will be accepting membership extension requests through August 31, 2020. All memberships purchased during our closure will receive benefits for a full year starting at the zoo's reopening.

Once again, we thank you all for your continued support and ongoing patience as we face our "new normal" together. We look forward to seeing you back at the zoo!

**Allison Angona, Membership Manager
Friends of the Rosamond Gifford Zoo**

Visting the Zoo: What You Need to Know

We've missed you and are excited to welcome you back to the zoo! To ensure the safety of our visitors, staff and our amazing animals, the following modifications and policies are in place:

- **We are limiting the number of guests** entering the zoo to 750 per day to ensure proper distancing. Guests are welcomed to enter the zoo at timed intervals every half hour starting at 10 a.m. with the last reservations at 2:30 p.m.
- **All visitors, staff and volunteers must wear face masks on arrival to the zoo and throughout their visit. Masks are required for those over age 2.**
- **Only the outdoor zoo is accessible to visitors.** Guests will need to pass through the lobby directly to the outdoor courtyard and follow signs to tour the Wildlife Trail in one direction only.
- **All indoor zoo exhibits remain closed.** The USS Antiquities cave, Diversity of Birds aviary, Nocturnal Animals and Social Animals exhibits are still off limits to visitors.
- **All paying guests are required to reserve timed tickets** for each member of their party through the county parks website or calling the reservation line provided there before coming to the zoo. No walk-ups will be permitted. Your ID and timed ticket receipt will be checked on entry.
- **MEMBER EXCLUSIVE:** Zoo members can reserve their slots via a dedicated **member reservation line at (315) 435-8511 x8589**. Your membership and ID will be checked on arrival.
- **Zoo hours are from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Early or late arrivals cannot be accommodated. There will be no re-entry. Please make sure you have everything with you before entering the zoo.
- While **manual wheelchairs will still be available** at the membership desk, there will be no stroller or wagon rental at this time.
- **The indoor zoo and the Explorer's Play Space, Explorer's Outpost and carousel will remain closed for now.** Guests will be able to tour the zoo in one direction only; please follow markers and signage, and plan to do a walking tour with members of your group only. Please remember to maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from other parties.
- **Hand sanitizer stations are distributed** along the entire outdoor loop and at each entrance and exit of the building, and zoo staff will perform frequent disinfecting of all public touchpoints.
- **The Jungle Café is closed, however, The Courtyard Café is offering snacks and beverages.** Visitors are permitted to bring their own refreshments (no alcohol), but seating is limited to some tables in the courtyard and benches around the zoo.



TEMPORARILY CLOSED

- The Jungle Café
- The Curious Cub Gift Shop
- Explorers' Outpost
- Explorers' PlaySpace
- Carousel

THE COURTYARD CAFÉ WILL OFFER SNACKS AND BEVERAGES

TEMPORARY EXHIBIT CLOSURE

- USS Antiquities
- Diversity of Birds
- Adaptation of Animals: Nocturnal Animals
- Social Animals Building
- Domestic Animal Barn



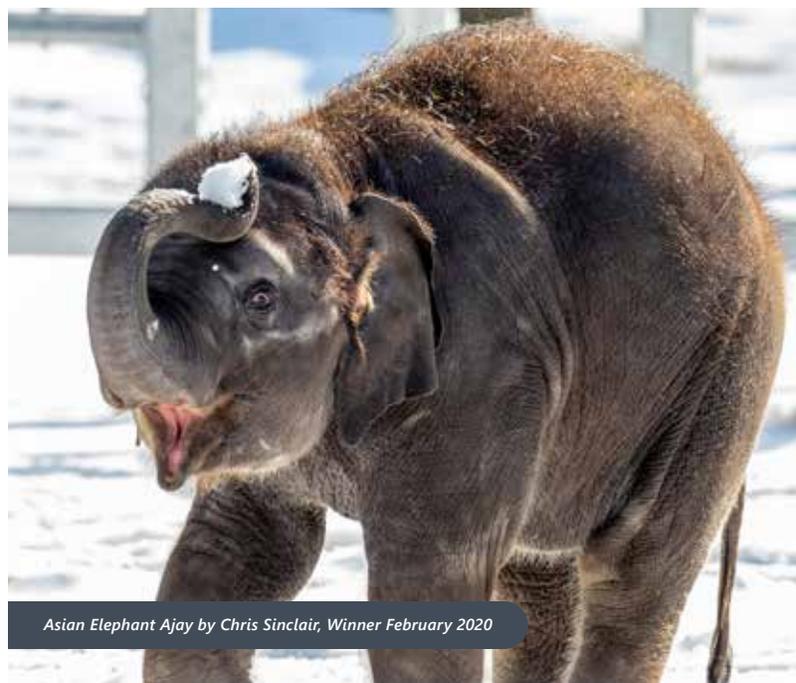
ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO
PIC OF THE MONTH CONTEST

Congratulations to our Pic of the Month Winners!

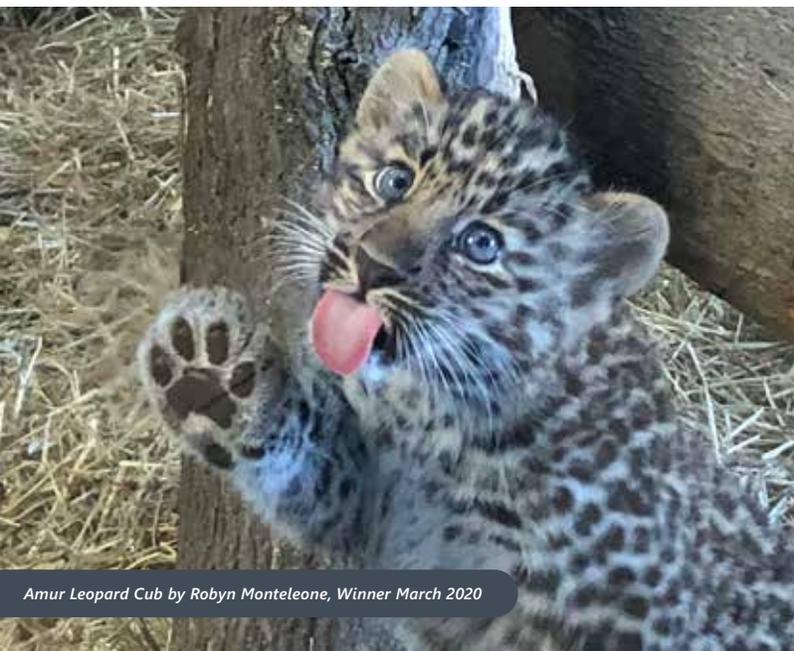
For information on how to enter future Pic of the Month contests, visit syracusezooevents.org.
Enter monthly for a chance to win a 12-inch plush animal and 2 free guest passes!
See January winner on page 5.



Red Panda Nutmeg by Karyn Knaul, Winner December 2019



Asian Elephant Ajay by Chris Sinclair, Winner February 2020



Amur Leopard Cub by Robyn Monteleone, Winner March 2020



Red Panda by Crystal Jacob, Winner April 2020