

A publication of the Seneca Park Zoo Society

ZOO NOOZ

April 2020

Internationally, and
in our own backyard,
we play a key role in
species survival.



Seneca Park Zoo inspires our community to **connect**, **care** for, and **conserve** wild life and wild places.

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Hours:

April 1- October 31:

- 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- last entry at 4 p.m.

November 1 – March 31:

- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- last entry at 3 p.m.

Members may always enter at 9:30 a.m.

Contact Us:

General information:

- 585.336.7200

Membership:

- 585.336.7212

Development:

- 585.336.7205

Birthday parties and private events:

- 585.295.7399

On My Mind: Rediscovering Our Sense of Wonder

Pamela Reed Sanchez | President and CEO | Seneca Park Zoo Society



Do you remember the first time you watched a butterfly emerge from a chrysalis? Did you watch patiently as it dried its wings before taking flight?

What about the first time you grew a sapling from a seed? Did the soil seem stagnant for days upon days before green began to emerge and then suddenly shot up a couple inches?

What's your recollection of the first time you discovered that our sea lions are just as enamored with YOU as you are with them? (You smiled, right? Maybe even a big broad smile that spread across your face?)

Nature gives us many of our first "AHA!" moments, and those moments of wonder feed our curiosity about the world around us. The more we learn from nature and about nature, the more we are moved to protect and restore our environment.

Fifty years ago, the founders of Earth Day urged us all to take action to better care for our planet. The need for better stewardship has not changed, but we have. We are increasingly disconnected from nature, and access to green spaces and wildlife is uneven and often inequitable.

At Seneca Park Zoo, we are committed to providing our guests and our community with opportunities to connect with nature and rediscover our sense of wonder. From our youngest guests, who attend KinderZoo or Book and Beast, through school-age children, college students, and adults, there are a plethora of possibilities for each of us to rediscover wonder.

In the coming months, people of all ages can join us on a City Nature Challenge Hike, discovering the biodiversity around us that comes to life in the spring and learning what citizen science is all about (and how easy it is!). You might also consider taking part in Community Cleanups and take pride in helping remove trash and pollution from our region's beautiful parks, trails, and waterways.



New for adults this year are evening events designed to stimulate your mind while quenching your 21+ thirst. We begin in May with "The Birds and the Beasts," which will answer many questions about reproduction in species at Seneca Park Zoo you never knew to even ask! And Cinco de Rhino is back, raising funds for rhino conservation while introducing adults to many craft beers and ciders.

And of course, there will be special programming during spring break week, and there will be Conservation Awareness Days devoted to penguins and otters, giving you a multitude of experiences with our animals and the staff that care for them daily.

Nature is wonder-filled, and zoos remind us of this every day. In a world filled with increasingly difficult news about climate change and species extinction, zoos provide a refuge from the news cycle, a place to reconnect with nature and wildlife, and the hope that together we can protect the earth. And all of it begins with the wonder of nature.

On the cover... Canada Lynx Bianca photographed by volunteer Erick Machajewski.

"Bianca is extremely sassy and full of mischief," comments Assistant Curator Kellee Wolowitz. "She enjoys stalking her keepers, guests, birds, and chipmunks. She is often found at the very top of a tree, or balancing on a narrow ledge, trying to get a better look at her surroundings."

A Discussion with David Hamilton, Interim Zoo Director



In January, County Executive Adam Bello appointed David Hamilton, who has served as the Zoo's General Curator for 15 years, to be Interim Zoo Director. David has worked in animal care for over 26 years. For 20 of

those years, he has also served as the North American River Otter Species Survival Plan Program Leader and Studbook Keeper for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). We sat down with him to understand more about his work with the Species Survival Plan (SSP).

Q: What is the Species Survival Plan?

A: It is a coordinated initiative to plan for and manage breeding of animals across all AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums to ensure genetic diversity and species sustainability in human care. Think of it as mega "Match.com" for endangered animals. There are Species Survival Plans for about 500 different species. They drive animal moves and breeding recommendations across AZA-accredited zoos.



Q: That's a lot to manage! How exactly does it work?

A: For North American river otters, we create an annual plan. We know every otter at every zoo and aquarium, as well as its lineage. There are currently about 260 animals at 110 facilities. Once a year, we ask all of the zoos and aquariums to let us know what changes they want to make, which include requests for new animals, requests to breed, or sometimes requests to move animals away to other zoos. I work with a population biologist to try to come up with a plan that will work for all involved. There are typically about 25 moves of North American river otters each year and close to 60 recommendations to breed. After fine-tuning, the plan is finalized, and the zoos start planning for the animal moves.

Q: Why are all these moves necessary?

A: Being part of the Species Survival Plan means that we're all solving for the good of the species. We want to ensure there are enough animals with as much genetic diversity as possible to last for a very long time. For instance, animals die each year; across all zoos we want to ensure there are at least as many births each year as there are deaths. For each species, there is a time when a young animal would naturally

leave its parents and start its own family. And sometimes, animals move because they don't have a mate, or they haven't reproduced with the mate with which they are matched.

Q: How come some animals are approved to breed and others aren't?

A: It's driven by a few factors. First, whether the institution has the space and skills to care for offspring. Additionally, how offspring would fit with the animals in the collection. And finally, whether the genetics of the two animals are suitable for mating.

Q: What animal moves do you anticipate here at Seneca Park Zoo?

A: We have made requests to receive animals in situations where there have been deaths. For instance, we've asked for a female North American river otter to be a mate to Sailor, our male. And we've asked for a mate for red panda Starlight, since Blaze died last year. We can also anticipate that in time, younger animals born here at the Zoo will move to other zoos to start their own families.

Q: So animals like sea lion Bob and snow leopard Silver will eventually leave to start their own families?

A: Yes, that will be the plan. We try to time it appropriately when they would naturally disperse and leave their mothers. Sometimes they mature more quickly in human care and can move sooner.

Q: What about new animals like the giraffes?

A: Giraffes are unique because they can only be transported when they are young or they become too tall to travel. When Animals of the Savanna opened, the SSP took particular care to make sure we had animals that would be appropriate for breeding when they reach the appropriate ages. Our giraffes have very valuable genetics so we shouldn't anticipate moves there. Eventual calves (we are hopeful!) would move to other zoos.



To stay up to date on any animal moves, make sure to follow Seneca Park Zoo on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter.



IN THE FIELD: Saving endangered African penguins in South Africa

The African penguin colony at Stony Point in Betty's Bay. Of the five primary African penguin breeding colonies in the Western Cape, Stony Point is the only colony that has shown measurable signs of increase in the last decade.

In late 2019, Zoo Keeper Kevin Blakely traveled to SANCCOB in South Africa, where he spent two weeks helping to rehabilitate African penguins. Often, conservation partners value staff visits like this as much as financial grants, so a portion of the conservation dollars the Zoo Society raises each year are ear-marked to fund these types of visits.

A zoo keeper at Seneca Park Zoo since 2013, Kevin is the primary African penguin keeper and has long been interested in marine animals.

"My passion for marine animals began when I was in college in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. I went on snorkeling trips to the Florida Keys and visited the aquarium in Ft. Lauderdale regularly. I had my first saltwater aquarium in my college apartment, and I've had at least one in my home ever since!"

A long-time partner of the Zoo, SANCCOB is committed to reversing the decline of seabird populations through the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of ill, injured, abandoned, and oiled seabirds – especially the endangered African penguin.

"Donations and money are great and always needed, but organizations like SANCCOB really do appreciate



SANCCOB is committed to reversing the decline of seabird populations through the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of ill, injured, abandoned, and oiled seabirds – especially the endangered African penguin.

people on the ground. SANCCOB welcomes volunteers of all experience levels and backgrounds because there's always something that needs to be done, from laundry and cleaning to food prep."

Following an extensive application process and nearly 24 hours of travel, Kevin made it to SANCCOB's main facility in Table View, South Africa. Each morning began with an all-staff meeting to review pen assignments, supervisor roles, and any symptoms to look for in the penguins.

On Kevin's first day, he was assigned to food prep, which is the heart of SANCCOB's operations. He spent the entire day learning the food prep area, which includes medications and vitamins, and how to clean syringes and prepare formula for the penguins.



Food prep is at the heart of SANCCOB's operations. Volunteers are required to learn everything from the locations of all medications and vitamins, to how to clean syringes and prepare formula.

"Most volunteers are only around for a couple of weeks, so they need you up to speed and working from day two. The first couple of days can be hectic and overwhelming as you learn their procedures."

Within a couple of days, Kevin was inside a pen feeding penguins. He picked up procedures quickly thanks to his experience with the Zoo's African penguin colony, and it wasn't long before Kevin was named a pen supervisor.

"I love to learn new things and be challenged. One of my proudest moments was coming in one morning to see my name listed as a pen supervisor. To start out and have no idea what's going on, I was proud of how quickly I became comfortable with my assignments."



Kevin was responsible for Pen 5, which was home to many "one-hour swimmers", which refers to the length of time a bird can swim during a session.

"One-hour swimmers"

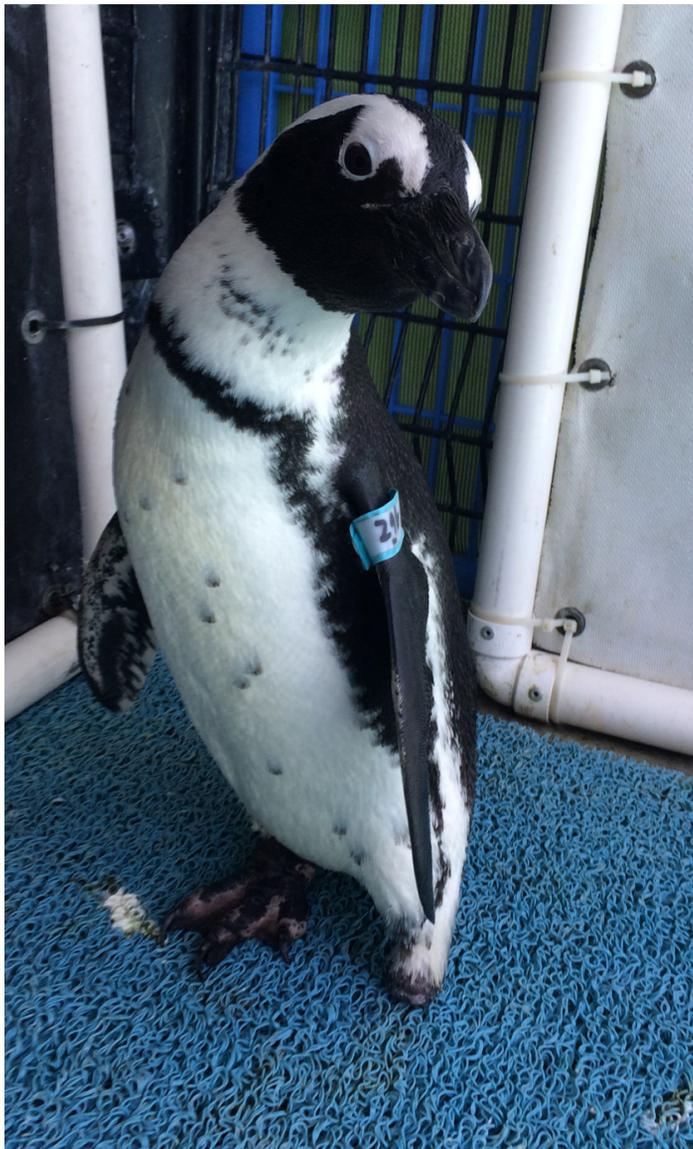
Seabirds admitted to SANCCOB are divided into pens based on health and feather conditions, which impact their swimming abilities. Kevin was responsible for Pen 5, which at one point held 42 penguins. With 12 pens in total, two to three people are needed in each pen, and birds are consolidated based on amount of help available. Pen 5 was home to many "one-hour swimmers", which refers to the length of time a bird can swim during a session. When penguins are close to release, they need to be able to swim at least one-hour straight three times a day.

Kevin aimed to get the penguins into the water first thing in the morning, so they could swim for one of their three hours. During that time, he would clean their pen, mats, walls, and equipment. After the first swim, it was time to prepare for feeding.

Each penguin gets three large fish (240-260 fish are prepped daily!) and formula – a blend of seafood, vitamins, and minerals. Some of the penguins also need electrolytes, additional medications, and to use the nebulizer to aid in their respiratory issues.

The SANCCOB facility has two pools about two-feet deep, with six pens surrounding each pool. After each swim, the penguins' feathers are examined to ensure they've retained their waterproofing. Additionally, they are examined for respiratory issues. The goal is to get them in the ocean as soon as possible.

"One of the most rewarding parts of volunteering at SANCCOB was realizing how much I was needed. Our work was important. It wasn't a vacation. Sometimes I was working 10-hour days, but I didn't want to leave."



The Dilemma: The Clutch and Molt Overlap

About 90% of the birds at SANCCOB are “blues”, between juveniles and chicks. At this age, they’ve molted out of their feathers but can’t feed themselves and are still with their parents.

Normally, African penguins breed between March and September. By October and November, the last chicks would have fledged and adults begin spending several weeks at sea fattening up for molt, which happens in November and December. In recent years, breeding has been delayed, so the birds run into a dilemma late in the year.

When the penguins lay eggs in March or April, there are often heat waves and extreme storms in South Africa, which causes the birds to abandon their eggs or lose their clutches altogether (penguins usually lay two eggs per clutch).

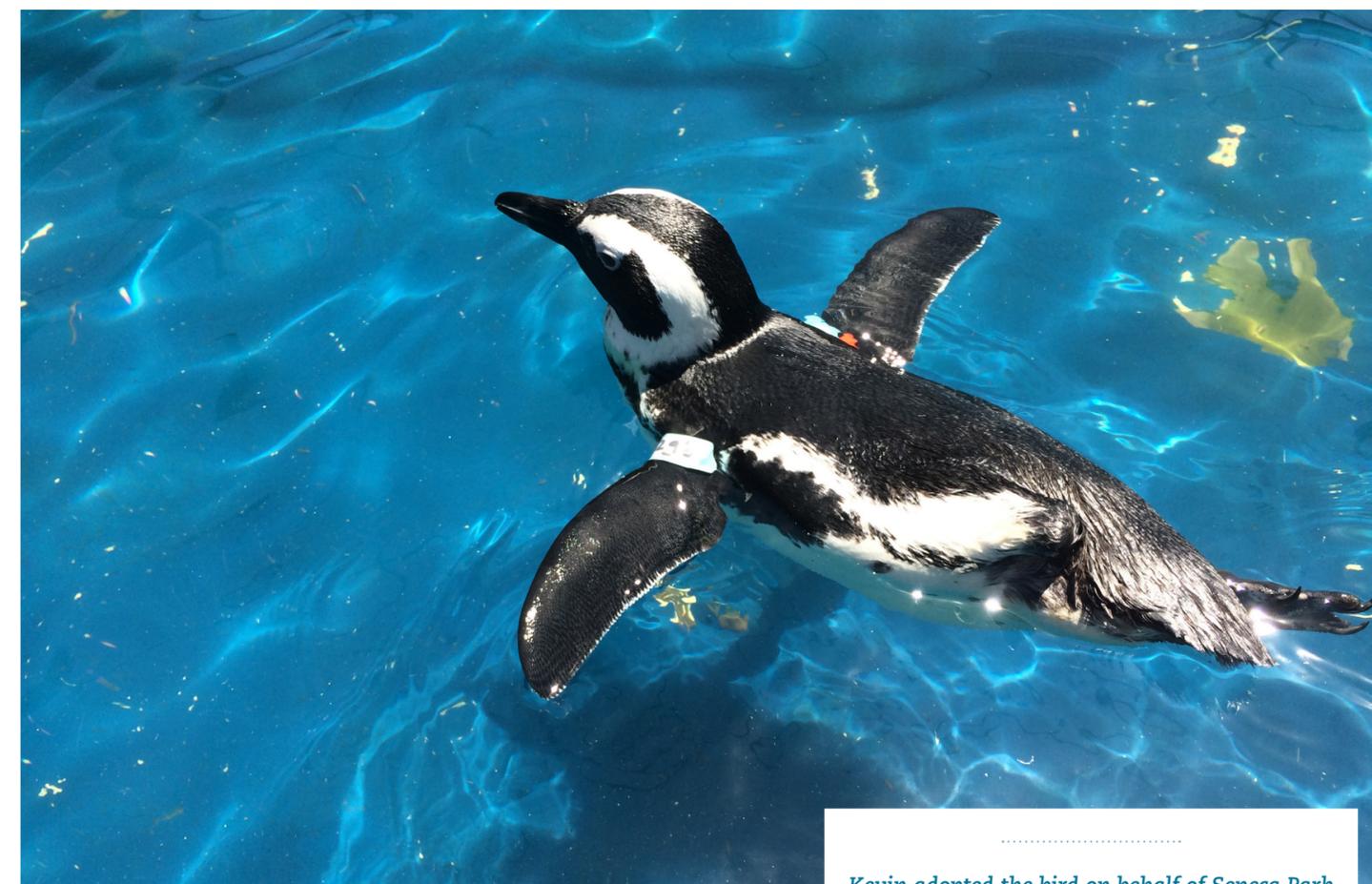
The main reason for this delayed breeding is the decline of sardine and anchovy populations, the African penguins’ main prey, due to overfishing and climate change. Because of this, penguins are struggling to find enough food to be fit enough for breeding season.

Food availability, as well as environmental changes, has shifted breeding to later in the year. Many penguins now successfully lay eggs and start raising chicks in late winter (August/September or later). Therefore, these chicks are still in the need of parental feeding when the parents are due to molt.

African penguins fully shed their feathers once a year to secure waterproofing. Molting requires them to stay on land for several weeks, so they can’t hunt for themselves or their chicks during that time. Unfortunately, many penguins go into molt and are left standing next to their chicks at the nest site, unable to feed them.

That’s where SANCCOB’s Penguin Rangers come in. Abandoned and weak chicks are identified and removed from the colony and taken to SANCCOB for hand-rearing and later, release back into nature. SANCCOB is working closely with the South African government and the managing authorities to try and address these problems and secure safe breeding spaces for the birds.

It is estimated there are only around 13,200 breeding pairs left in all of South Africa.



SPeeZy has adapted to life with one foot. When swimming, he raises his stump and centers his one foot. This is an ability he will need to catch prey.

Kevin adopted the bird on behalf of Seneca Park Zoo and named him SPeeZy. On December 23, 2019, SPeeZy was released at the site of the Stony Point penguin colony, along with 16 other African penguins.

“Adopting” a penguin

While supervising Pen 5, Kevin connected with an adult penguin that had come to the center three months earlier emaciated and suffering from a bad foot injury. Once the penguin was stabilized, it was determined that removing the injured foot was his best chance for survival. After months of rehabilitation, the penguin was finally cleared for release, and Kevin had the opportunity to be a part of it.

To honor this bird’s fighting spirit and to thank SANCCOB for their tireless efforts to save seabirds, Kevin adopted the bird on behalf of Seneca Park Zoo and named him SPeeZy. On December 23, 2019, SPeeZy was released at the site of the Stony Point penguin colony, along with 16 other African penguins.

Seabirds that have been deemed non-releasable permanently live at SANCCOB in their “Home Pen”, while the ICU Pen is for “10-minute swimmers”. Because many pens are at capacity, SANCCOB’s work to rehabilitate and release disabled penguins, like SPeeZy, is critical.

“Traveling to South Africa and working at SANCCOB was a dream come true. When you work with an endangered animal daily, it becomes very personal. During all my keeper chats at the Zoo, I not only try to educate our guests about the threats faced by African penguins, but also how people can help from right here in Rochester. For me to be able to go there and be part of the SANCCOB team, even for a short time, was an incredible honor and something I hope to do again very soon.”

Ways you can help African penguins

• **“Adopt” a penguin at SANCCOB** – Adopt an African penguin or penguin egg that will be rehabilitated and released or adopt a ‘Home Pen’ bird that lives permanently at SANCCOB. Funds help to provide incubation, food, and veterinary treatment.

• **Donate to SANCCOB** – Whether you donate your time or money, you can make a difference in the survival of endangered African penguins and other seabirds in distress. For more information, visit sanccob.co.za.

• **Join us for Penguin Day on April 25** – Visit the Zoo to learn more about African penguins and the threats they face in nature through keeper chats, special experiences, and more.

• **Purchase sustainably sourced seafood** – Purchase seafood caught or farmed in ways that support a healthy ocean. Ask your local grocer if they sell sustainable seafood and visit seafoodwatch.org to learn more about eco-friendly options.

Clockwise from top: SPeeZy, had come to SANCCOB three months earlier emaciated and suffering from a bad foot injury.; Kevin had an opportunity to participate in the release of 17 African penguins; Kevin had the honor of feeding SPeeZy for the final time before his release.



A revolutionary platform to engage donors with conservation impact.



Ranomafana National Forest – A creek in the National Park that has been regenerated. Also the site of One Cubic Foot Survey in 2016.

When you've visited Seneca Park Zoo, you've probably been asked to donate a dollar to conservation, or to round up your change at the ZooShop. Maybe you've made an extra donation to red panda conservation when you renewed your membership. All these small donations add up: as reported in the January ZooNooz, guests and supporters contributed over \$100,000 to conservation. And across all AZA zoos and aquariums, that number is a staggering \$231 million.

While you feel good knowing that you're giving to a good cause, you just trust that the Zoo Society and its partners are using the funds for meaningful impact. Soon you will have a direct way to understand the impact of your donations.

Introducing MyConservation.Life

MyConservation.Life is a web platform that connects Zoo donors and stakeholders to our conservation projects in the field. The platform is being built to support many different types of conservation projects, but the first iteration is focused on reforestation in Madagascar.

Donors will have the ability to log on to a website to view how their donation supported the planting of specific trees, tracking the long-term growth of the tree, and the impact of the forest that is created in the region.

The focus area of this initiative is public and private lands near Ranomafana, Madagascar. Madagascar has been devastated by decades of deforestation, with some projections indicating that 94% of previously forested areas are now barren. This has resulted in lost habitat for lemurs and many other species endemic to Madagascar.

Planting the trees

The work begins long before an individual donation is made, with collection of seeds from host trees in Ranomafana National Park. Our reforestation team finds seeds of important species for reforestation, tests them, and then plants them in soil in a bag at a nursery designated for this project. The nursery has shaded structure and staff to nurture the saplings.



MyConservation.Life is a closed-loop platform where donors can understand the impact of their conservation investment.



From left: Forests burned to use the land for agriculture and other uses; team member Dominique measures the diameter of a host tree before collecting the seeds.

Once the saplings are ready for planting in the ground, they are transported to the closest access point to the reforestation site. Many sites are very far from any roads, so porters are hired to carry boxes of saplings to the site. When the saplings arrive, there have been two to three days of preparation on the site. The layout of the planting site has been created and brush has been cleared. Holes have been dug, and the only thing left to do is plant the saplings. With each acre or hectare planted, special thought is given to planting pioneer trees that grow fast, as well as long-term sustainable species like fruit, nut, and medicinal trees, as well as host trees for vanilla.

When a sapling goes into the ground, dirt is placed over the root ball, and any grass or leaves on the ground are placed around the newly planted sapling to shade the soil from sun. This helps retain moisture, increasing the chances of survival.

At this point, a metal tree tag is tied with wire around the base of the sapling. The tree tag contains a QR code that has been laser etched into the metal.



Every tree is tagged with a unique code so the progress of the tree can be documented.

With a smartphone, the reforestation team opens the reforestation app we have created and enters data into an offline form. With this form, relevant data is collected through the smartphone. When prompted, the reforestation tech takes a picture of the sapling in the ground, which collects GPS coordinates, as well. The QR code is scanned and a long record identifier (so the exact tree can be monitored over time) is entered in the form.

When the reforestation team returns to the field station, all the form data is uploaded to our databases, and the record identifier of the tree is associated with the original donation that made it possible. The donor is then notified with the location, photo, and other information of their tree. Additionally, the tree record ID is registered on the ixo network, a global data network, verifying the tree has been planted.

Monitoring the health of the tree and investment

Now that the tree has been registered, we know the location, species, etc., and we can associate measurements and growth data with that tree, or the forest created. Field workers will go out and scan the QR code while entering in the DBH (diameter at breast height) measurements, leaf count, or growth rate, and those measurements are associated with the exact tree upon which they are taken. That data is then viewable by the donor or the organization supporting that tree through MyConservation.Life.



Trees are planted on a ridge overlooking the town of Ranomafana. These trees are the first to be registered on our conservation impact tool software.



As reported in the January ZooNooz, guests and supporters contributed over \$100,000 to conservation. And across all AZA zoos and aquariums, that number is a staggering \$231 million.

Team lead Mahandry documenting the growth of a tree on one of the older reforestation sites.

A consortium of many

Seneca Park Zoo Society initiated this project in 2017, but it would never have come to life without some very important partners. They include:



Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) –

- Software Engineering - multiple cohorts of software engineering students have worked on an open source software which is necessary to track large amounts of data that associates conservation assets with actions on those assets, which result in impacts.
- Remote Sensing and Imaging Science – This department works on data collection through remote sensing and imaging science techniques. For instance, we have laser light scanned (LIDAR) and recovered large amounts of positional audio data from the jungle to measure location and density of biodiversity.
- Centre Valbio & Stony Brook University – Stony Brook University created and runs the Centre Valbio (CVB) field station in Ranomafana, Madagascar. We utilize their facilities as a headquarters while working in that area of the country.
- WISE Tropics – The nonprofit organization of Dr. Patricia Wright. Dr. Wright is a professor at Stony Brook University and was vital in the creation of Centre Valbio and Ranomafana National Park.
- ixo Foundation – A blockchain company that focuses on the intersection of innovative finance, blockchain, and sustainability. It is an ecosystem that provides a web of trust for the impact investment community.
- Salesforce.com – A cloud-based Software as a Service (SaaS) company that provides a customer relationship management platform. We have partnered with Salesforce to provide our online community and donor relationship management platform.

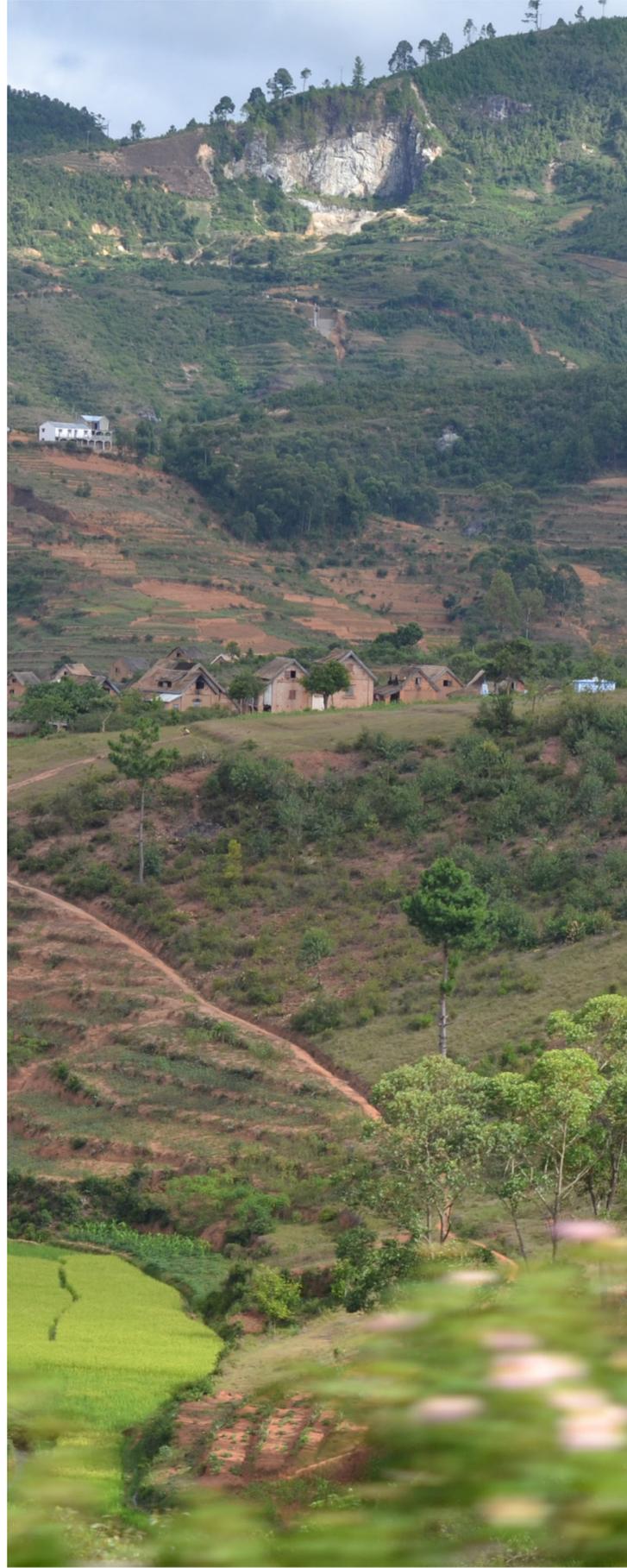


The Zoo has also benefited from the wisdom and guidance of the Entrepreneurial Advisory Council, a group of local business leaders that are providing guidance and business strategies on rolling out this product.

A scalable platform

The MyConservation.Life platform can and will be utilized to measure donation impact of a wide array of conservation issues, all aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined by the United Nations.

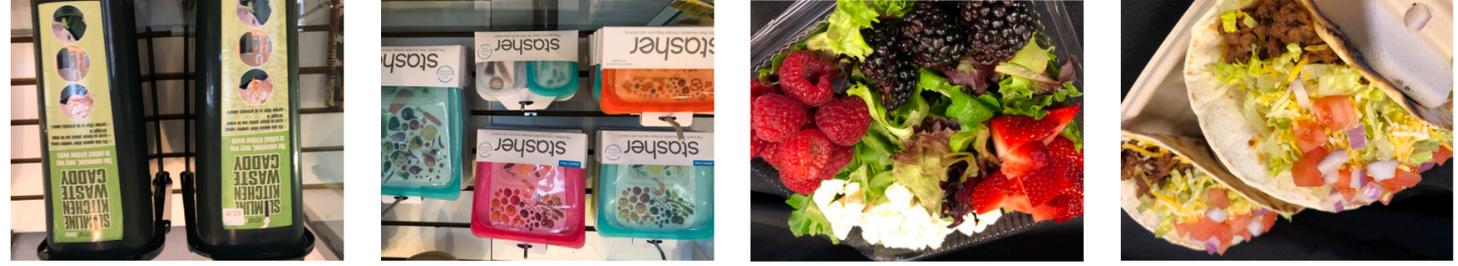
To stay up to date with the reforestation project, visit senecaparkzoo.org/myconservation-life.



Much of the area has been deforested.

Welcoming spring with new food and merchandise!

Spring is finally upon us and at Seneca Park Zoo, we're gearing up for longer, busier days. The ZooShop is stocked with more unique gifts and items to help you live more sustainably, while our food cafés will be serving up delicious new menu items. Popular items to look for in the ZooShop include Stasher storage bags in various sizes, compost bins for your kitchen, reusable pocket straws, reusable cotton swabs, and pencils that can be planted after use and that will grow into herbs, vegetables, or flowers. Additions to the café menus include new gluten-free (GF) and vegetarian (V) options for guests to enjoy. Eagle's Landing Café has added Impossible meat tacos (V) while the Grater Canteen in A Step into Africa will be serving up an apple salad (GF + V) and a bacon bleu burger topped with strips of bacon and bleu cheese crumbles. Both cafés will also offer a fresh berry salad with mixed greens, strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, and feta cheese.



ZOOPICSROC Photo Contest

Show your love of Seneca Park Zoo by entering our ZOOPICSROC photo contest! During your next visit, capture an image of an animal or your loved ones enjoying the Zoo that you think fully expresses the theme 'Feathers and Fur' and submit it for a chance to win.



'Winter Wonderland' Contest winner, Caitlyn Molinar

Details

- Theme: Feathers and Fur
- Timeframe: April 1-30, 2020
- How to enter: Upload your photo using the form at senecaparkzoo.org/photocontest
- Share your photo on social media by tagging @SenecaParkZoo #senecaparkzoo

Prize

Submissions will be posted to an album on the Zoo's Facebook page the week after the contest closes for people to "like" their favorite photo. The photo with the most Facebook "likes" after one week will be the winner! The winning photograph will be announced on our social media channels, and the winner will receive a one-month extension on their membership!

Contest Rules

For complete photo contest rules and details, visit senecaparkzoo.org/photocontest

Calendar of events

Mark your calendars for what's next at your Zoo.



Spring Break ZooCamp

If your child or grandchild will be home for spring break in April, sign them up for Spring Break ZooCamp! Campers will explore trees from roots to shoots and discover there are more animals that depend on trees than they might think. Plus they'll enjoy crafts, games, up-close animal encounters, and of course, exploring the Zoo.

Dates April 6-10 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ; Half day: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Cost Full day: \$220 for members ; \$240 for non-members
Half day: \$140 for members ; \$160 for non-members

Registration senecaparkzoo.org/zooocamp

Register now for Summer ZooCamp!

At Summer ZooCamp, campers are immersed in wildlife and the environment, meeting animals up-close, spending plenty of time outdoors, and meeting other kids with similar interests. There's never been a more exciting time to be at the Zoo!

All camps are one-week long and structured by age group, with unique themes for children ages 3 to 12. This year, we're offering two camps for kids with special needs. Camps sell out quickly, so don't wait to register! Before and After care is also available.

Date June - August

Time Full day: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ; Half day: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Cost Full day: \$230 for Zoo members ; \$250 for non-members
Half day: \$145 for Zoo members ; \$165 for non-members

Registration senecaparkzoo.org/summercamp



Day Off ZooCamp

When school is on break, there's no better time for a fun day of learning at Seneca Park Zoo! For our Day Off ZooCamp in May, campers will spend the day exploring animals and learning about their different family groups. Please check your individual school calendar to confirm the day off.

Date Friday, May 22

Time 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. *There is no half-day option for this camp.*

Cost \$45 for members ; \$55 for non-members

Registration senecaparkzoo.org/dayoff



KinderZoo

Join us at a KinderZoo class this spring to learn about animals in a fun and interactive way! This program is designed for kids ages 18 months to 5 years and includes games, age-appropriate activities, and the opportunity to meet an ambassador animal up-close. Themes include Dazzling Ducks, Bright Birds, and Animal Babies.

Cost \$6 per child for members
\$8 (plus Zoo admission) per child for non-members

Registration senecaparkzoo.org/kinderzoo



Scout Workshops

If your scout troop is looking to fill badge requirements and build teamwork skills, sign up for a workshop at the Zoo! Workshops are offered for a variety of levels and include a Zoo exploration, animal-themed activities, and up-close experiences with ambassador animals.

Cost \$15 per scout

Two troop leaders included for free
Parents stay for an additional \$10 each

More Information

For more information, visit senecaparkzoo.org/scouts



Bunk with Beasts

Multiple Bunk with Beasts dates are scheduled through May. Grab your scout troop and enjoy a fun overnight experience at the Zoo. Scouts will enjoy a pizza dinner, tour the Zoo, work on a project, and meet some ambassador animals up-close. Plus, you'll fall asleep next to the polar bear and sea lions.

Pre-scheduled Dates

April 24: BSA - Lions, Tigers & Wolves
May 1: Girl Scouts - Daisies & Brownies

May 8: BSA - Wolves & Older

May 16: Girl Scouts - Brownies & Older

Time 5:15 p.m. to 9 a.m.

Cost \$30 per scout ; \$25 per chaperone

More Information

For more information, visit senecaparkzoo.org/education/bunk-with-beasts

Calendar of events

Mark your calendars for what's next at your Zoo.



Cinco de Rhino

Join us for Cinco de Rhino Craft Beer & Cider Celebration, our popular 21+ event in support of rhino conservation. Enjoy tastings from more than 15 national craft breweries and ciders, light appetizers, live music, animal experiences including a rhino keeper chat, and a commemorative tasting cup. *Must be 21 or older to attend.*

Dates
Saturday, May 2
5:30 – 9 p.m.

Cost
\$40 in advance ; \$75 VIP ticket ; \$10 designated driver ticket

Tickets
Don't wait to get your tickets, last year's event sold out! Purchase your tickets today at senecaparkzoo.org/cinco

International Otter Day



Join us for International Otter Day to learn all about this amazing species through training and enrichment demonstrations, keeper chats, and more. Visit interactive stations to discover the different other species, their unique adaptations for survival, and what you can do in your daily life to preserve aquatic habitats for local animals.

Date
Saturday, May 23
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Cost
Free with Zoo admission

More Information
senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays



The Birds and the Beasts

Celebrate spring fever at this new 21+ event. Learn all about animal reproduction, from mating dances to partner selection. Ticket includes admission, light appetizers, your first beer or wine, and expert chats and Zoo! *Must be 21 or older to attend.*

Date
Thursday, May 7
5:30 – 8 p.m.

Cost
\$25 for non-members ; \$20 for members

Tickets
senecaparkzoo.org/thebirds

Annual Meeting

As a Seneca Park Zoo member, you are invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Learn about what's in store this year at the Zoo. Enjoy a light breakfast and beverage while you hear from Zoo and Zoo Society leadership in Eagle's Landing Pavilion.

Date
Saturday, May 16
8:30 a.m.

Learn more at senecaparkzoo.org/cleanup



Join us as we clean up parks and public spaces in the community! We'll provide the materials, just dress appropriately for the weather and the task at hand! All events are **9 a.m. – noon.**

April 18th - Maplewood Park

May 16th – Turning Point Park



22
MAY
2020

Date
Friday, May 22
5:30 – 9 p.m. ; Last entry at 7:30 p.m.

Cost
\$8 in advance ; \$10 at the front gate

Our popular happy hour event, Zoobrew, returns Friday, May 22. Enjoy a fun night out at the Zoo while helping to save elephants from extinction. A portion of each ticket sold goes to elephant conservation. Tickets include event admission, live music, and animal experiences. Delicious food, beer, and wine available for purchase. *Must be 21 or older to attend.*

Zoobrew



6
JUNE
2020

Seneca Park Zoo Society's annual gala, Zoobilation, is an event unlike any other - and we invite you to join us in raising a glass to celebrate on Saturday, June 6th! This year's theme of "Inside Out" will celebrate the Zoo's many programs and initiatives that empower supporters to save species. We promise you an evening of unique animal experiences, amazing food and cocktails, silent and live auctions, and the opportunity to show your support for your Zoo. Must be 21 and over to attend.

Date
Saturday, June 6
5:30 p.m. – 10 p.m.

Tickets
senecaparkzoo.org/zoobilation



On **Saturday, June 6, 2020**, Seneca Park Zoo will **close early at 1 p.m.** to allow the Zoo Society to prepare for its annual fundraising gala, Zoobilation. Guests who enter the Zoo before 1 p.m. can stay on grounds until 2 p.m.



Animal Comings & Goings

Welcome Tundra, the snowy owl



Earlier this year we introduced Tundra, a six-year-old male snowy owl. Tundra joined the female snowy owl, Winter, in a newly expanded and improved habitat outside the Rocky Coasts Gallery.

New! We now have snowy owl ZooParent packages! Visit senecaparkzoo.org/zooparent



Meghan Smith
Membership Coordinator

Meghan comes to the Zoo Society with a background in customer service and membership sales in a non-profit setting. She is passionate about customer service and truly believes that a solution can be found for anything. A member of the Zoo since 2008, she has enjoyed being a part of the amazing changes the Zoo has gone through as part of the Master Plan Improvements. What she is most looking forward to this summer is meeting all of our amazing members, sharing her love for the Zoo, and helping members in their journey to connect with, care for, and conserve wildlife and wild places.

Staff Updates



Fifty years ago, Earth Day was born in response to an environment in crisis, and while the environmental issues are different, the need for action is greater than ever.

The Seneca Park Zoo Society is helping kids and youth connect to wildlife and wild places every day, while fostering kids' passion for conservation. We're empowering them to act on behalf of our world. These young advocates want change today. They treat every day as Earth Day.

With your support we can inspire more youth to be conservationists.

From urban core to suburban and rural, pre-schoolers to high school students, the Zoo Society programs engage today's youth in caring about healthy ecosystems, biodiversity, healthy waterways, reduced consumption of resources, and more.

Please consider making a charitable donation to our Every Day is Earth Day appeal. Feel good knowing you are helping to inspire more young conservationists.

Donate at senecaparkzoo.org/everyday



Spring means longer Zoo hours! As of **April 1, the Zoo is open until 5 p.m.** with last entry at 4 p.m. As always, members may enter at 9:30 a.m.



Calendar of events

Mark your calendars for what's next at your Zoo.



APRIL 3-12
2020

Spring Break Programming

Nothing beats cabin fever like getting eye to eye with wildlife! We'll have special programs daily during Spring Break Week including opportunities to learn more about your favorite animals at the Zoo from naturalists and zoo keepers. Plus, the Tram will be running for Spring Break week!

Dates April 3-12
Time 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost Free with Zoo admission

For a detailed schedule, visit senecaparkzoo.org/springbreak



APRIL 25
2020

World Penguin Day

Celebrate and learn all about penguins through feedings, keeper chats, up-close experiences, and more. Discover how facilities like your Zoo are working to restore the African penguin population.

Dates Saturday, April 25
Time 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost Free with Zoo admission

More Information senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays



APRIL 19
2020

Earth Day

Celebrate Earth Day 2020 at your Zoo! Learn about environmental sustainability and the actions you can take to help make a difference for wildlife and wild places. Visit a variety of stations to discover how local organizations are focusing on sustainability and enjoy special animal experiences throughout the day.

Date Sunday, April 19
Time 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost Free with Zoo admission

More Information senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays



APRIL 26
2020

City Nature Challenge Hike

Join the Zoo as we compete nationally to make the most observations in nature over a three-day period! We'll take a hike in Seneca Park, making observations along the way! Meet at the Zoo gates at 10 a.m.

Can't join us? You can make observations on your own from April 24-27.

Dates Sunday, April 26
Time 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

More Information senecaparkzoo.org/challenge



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When you're finished, please share it with a friend.

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Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.

senecaparkzoo.org | 585.336.7200 | The Zoo is open 362 days a year.



Follow us socially. Visit senecaparkzoo.org

Chris Conlon

Seneca Park Zoo is and has always been committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our guests, staff, and animals. As of press time for this ZooNooz, the Zoo is closed until at least March 31, at which point it will be evaluated whether we can open, and which events can move forward. The situation is quite fluid and changes can happen rapidly, based on the guidance of Monroe County Health Department and the CDC. Follow Seneca Park Zoo on social media or visit senecaparkzoo.org for the most up-to-date news about any changes in our schedule or events.

Statement on Covid-19

ZOO NOOZ

A publication of the Seneca Park Zoo Society

April 2020