

A publication of the Seneca Park Zoo Society

ZooNooz

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

January 2021



A Spotlight on Rhinos

Kat Kleinschmidt

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

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Hours:

November 1 – March 31:

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

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

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

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On My Mind: Celebrating YOU

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



2020 is now history, and there is hope on the horizon that things may get “back to normal” sometime in 2021. Will we be able to increase our current attendance capacity? Might we be able to have a ZooBrew in late summer? Will more children be able to attend ZooCamps? As I write this, we just don’t know.

But here’s what we do know: Despite being closed for 104 days in 2020, reopening with significantly reduced attendance, and having to eliminate nearly all of the Zoo Society’s fundraising events, Seneca Park Zoo and the Seneca Park Zoo Society continued to serve our community and achieve our joint mission of inspiring people to connect with, care for, and conserve wildlife and wild places.

Conservation did not pause during the pandemic. We found ways to reopen safely (and your responses to our guest surveys gave us incredibly useful information to help us evolve and improve procedures) and we involved many wonderful volunteers to do so. We created a multitude of virtual events that engaged people of all ages, and our social media followers grew significantly. Zoo staff provided amazing care for the animals, and our participation in AZA’s Species Survival Plans and SAFE programs continued.

Financially, it wasn’t, and isn’t, easy. Monroe County Parks, owner/operator of the Zoo, was able to access federal CARES funds to assist with COVID-19 related expenses, and the Zoo Society was able to access a PPP loan which was completely forgiven by November 2020. Some key donors stepped forward to provide significant gifts to operations, and hundreds of first-time donors gave gifts as well, allowing the Zoo Society to continue its education and outreach programs, as well as manage all guest services and marketing and communications. Membership took

a hit as people chose not to leave their homes, but we still ended the year with nearly 12,000 member households – as you know, because you’re reading this right now!

2020 was a year that reminded us all that a zoo isn’t a zoo because there are animals that live here (although that’s essential). A zoo is a zoo because of the people that are inspired by the animals that live here. People like the Zoo’s exceptional animal care team (like

our rhino specialists you’ll read about on page 6). Staff who make our guests feel welcome. Volunteers who give their time and talents. Conservation partners, like the International Rhino Foundation, that keep us all inspired by the work they do in situ. Donors who ensure it all keeps happening. And of course, members, like you, who are THE BEST ambassadors for our Zoo.

Pamela Reed Sanchez



“Conservation did not pause during the pandemic. We found ways to reopen safely...”

Your Feedback has Helped us Improve



To reopen safely last June after three months of closure due to COVID, the Zoo created and implemented a plan that included reduced capacity, timed entry, hand sanitizing stations, increased surface cleaning, and universal masking. These actions were based on recommendations from the County Health Department, so we were confident these measures could protect our guests, staff, and animals. The looming question, however, was if guests would feel safe returning to the Zoo. To find the answer, we created a survey to gather feedback from guests following their visit.

The survey feedback helped us adjust and improve the guest experience. We learned that the one-way path from the Tropics Adventure Zone playground to the red panda habitat was difficult to navigate, so we adjusted the path. This adjustment resulted in two-way traffic along part of the path, but feedback showed that the change increased guest satisfaction without decreasing their feeling of safety. Safety guideline reminders, through announcements and signs, were also added based on survey comments.

The primary question of this survey was if guests felt safe at the Zoo, and results showed that 92% of respondents felt safe or very safe during their visit. While this result can be attributed to the safety measures we took, it is also reflective of your adherence to the guidelines in covering your nose and mouth and maintaining social distance from other guests. We are grateful that the Zoo is a safe place and appreciate everyone who helps us maintain that environment.

Because of the survey, we understood that guests felt safe at the Zoo, but there were more questions we wanted to investigate. Therefore, we transitioned to a new survey and began examining other topics. The Zoo’s mission to inspire our community

to connect with, care for, and conserve wildlife and wild places is integral to everything we do. But, while we view the Zoo as a conservation organization, we weren’t sure if that’s how the community viewed us. Based on survey results, we can now say that 99% of Zoo guests view the Zoo as a conservation organization. The same percentage agree that the Zoo helps save species from extinction, and 96% of respondents agree that we preserve natural habitat.

92%

OF RESPONDENTS FELT SAFE OR VERY SAFE DURING THEIR VISIT.

This data reinforces that the Zoo’s conservation mission is apparent and recognized, but we also learned that a lesser percentage of guests were taking away specific conservation actions or ways to live more sustainably. This result might seem discouraging, but it identifies an area for improvement and allows us to create an action plan to address it.

We also asked our guests how they learn while at the Zoo. The results showed that not only do our guests learn in a variety of ways but, that individuals utilize and value these methods differently. While some guests favor reading signs, others may prefer interacting with staff and volunteers or attending a program. This demonstrates the value in maintaining these options to best serve our community.

Surveys, such as these, are valuable tools that help us gauge guest satisfaction and understand if we’re successful in meeting our mission and goals. The data we collect through these surveys is important to monitor our progress and make informed decisions, so while it is nice when the results confirm our hypothesis, we need honest feedback to ensure our growth and success.

Following your next visit to Seneca Park Zoo, if you receive a survey request in your inbox, please take a moment and offer your feedback, because **we’re listening**.

We Get by With a LOT of Help from our Friends

When we reopened to the public in June, door monitors were needed for the three indoor spaces that were open to prevent overcrowding. With no excess staff to take on the role, we turned to our amazing volunteer corps asking for help with this important, but sometimes mundane task. Many volunteers and docents stepped up willingly! This highlights just a few of these very dedicated people. When you see the door monitors on your visit, thank them!

Longtime supporters become volunteers



Phyllis, Tyler, and Tom Wickerham at the Zoo, pre-pandemic.

Phyllis and Tom Wickerham have been members of the Zoo since 1998, became donors shortly after, and in 2020 became volunteers as well. Their original relationship began for their son, **Tyler**, who has physical disabilities, as it was a fun and safe place for him to get daily exercise. Tyler, Tom, and Phyllis visit the Zoo at least a couple of times every week. As they got to know the Zoo and its conservation and education impact, they became more and more involved. “This is not your mother’s (or your grandmother’s) Zoo,” Phyllis commented. “This is an interactive, education-based experience.” Recognizing the importance of volunteers in delivering that experience, they quickly said yes when asked to volunteer last summer. “It’s really important to give back to organizations that are so near and dear to our hearts,” Tom commented. They have helped with virtual Jungle Jog and as door monitors. “It’s great to talk to Zoo guests, answer questions, and hear how much people enjoy the Zoo,” Tom said. Phyllis added “Volunteering at the Zoo, you feel a connection – not just to other people from the Zoo but to the entire Monroe County community. It’s wonderful.”

A new docent connects with animals and guests



Souradipa Das

Souradipa Das had a great conversation with a docent when she visited the Zoo in December 2019. This put her on the path to becoming a docent herself. Souradipa’s profession is as an engineer, so she sought a way to have more animals and conservation-themed activity in her life. A relative new-comer to Rochester, she wanted to find a way to give back to the community. She started her docent training in January, and when the pandemic led to the cancellation of in-person training, she completed her training online. While docents usually focus on educating the public, this year Souradipa focused on door monitoring. She finds in that role, she still has the opportunity to talk to guests and other docents, and she gets inspiration from others. “It’s not what I envisioned when I signed up, but I am still learning and enjoying it!” Souradipa shared.

Whatever is needed – a seasoned docent’s mantra



Lynn Harris

This year **Lynn Harris** will celebrate her 40th anniversary as a docent. So it’s safe to say she has played just about every role a docent and volunteer could play: from educating guests, to community outreach programs, to helping at events like Zoobilation. This year, she added a new role to her Zoo resume – door monitor! She took the role on with a smile. “The Zoo is an important part of my life,” Lynn commented, “I’ll do whatever is needed to help.” Like many people, she is thankful that the Zoo is open and will help with anything she can do to keep it safe so it can remain open. Plus, it’s her way of showing support; “By being at the Zoo, I’m showing my commitment to the people who come through the gate. Without them, we wouldn’t survive!”

A new volunteer makes an impact



Cody Uman

Cody Uman started volunteering right when the Zoo reopened to the public in June 2020. Having just graduated from high school as the pandemic began, Cody decided to take a gap year before starting college at Yale University in the fall of 2021. When their mother received an email looking for volunteers at the Zoo, Cody decided to give it a go. “I didn’t really go to the Zoo much, but I thought it could be fun, and I had spare time,” Cody shared. Cody has worked well over 100 hours monitoring the traffic going in and out of the buildings like Animals of the Savanna and Rocky Coasts. “I have loved learning more about the Zoo and understanding the broader mission,” Cody commented. “Interacting with people, seeing how popular the Zoo is and how much people love it has been great. Volunteering at the Zoo has been the highlight of my summer,” Cody added. Lucky for us, Cody plans to continue volunteering until heading to Yale next fall.

A jack of all trades takes on a new role



Tim Snyder

Regular Zoo guests will recognize docent and volunteer **Tim Snyder**. In pre-pandemic days, he could often be found with a station in Rocky Coasts Gallery helping guests learn about penguins, sea lions, and polar bears. Tim started out as a volunteer helping to guide traffic in the parking lot in 2013, became a docent in 2014, and has volunteered in many different capacities. Since we reopened, Tim has helped monitor doors at Rocky Coasts. “I’ve had several people tell me they think the Zoo is the safest place in town,” Tim commented, “Guests truly seem to appreciate everything we’re doing to manage the situation.” While it’s a different way of helping, Tim finds it rewarding to help people out. “It helps the Zoo, it helps the guests, and it feels good to be appreciated.”

Building job skills while helping with important roles



Troy Parker with respite worker, Stacey.

Troy Parker started volunteering at the Zoo in Fall 2019. His first role was sorting the recyclables from the large bottle-shaped recycling bins around the Zoo. A student at Holy Childhood, Troy brings a warm smile and enthusiasm for many tasks. When he volunteers, he is accompanied by his Lifetime Assistance community habilitation worker or his respite worker, Stacey. This year, Troy also helped with door monitoring, greeting guests as they entered the buildings. “We inquired about the Zoo because Troy loves animals, but it’s amazing how well he does with the people,” his mom, Beth commented. “He’s learning great job skills, and he’s doing something purposeful,” she added. It’s truly a win for the Zoo as well, as anyone who has been greeted with Troy’s big friendly “Hello!” will attest. “When I’m there with Troy I can truly feel how loved he is at the Zoo.” Stacey added.

Interested in volunteering? We’d love to hear from you! Send an email to volunteers@seneczoo.org.

Rhino Care and the Team Behind It



Jiwe explores his new home.

Tina Fess

A cool breeze lightly sweeps across the open space of the Animals of the Savanna area of the Zoo. The changing colors of the leaves clinging to trees around the park confirms that the summer, that feels like it never really



Mike Wemett, Zoo Keeper

was, is already behind us. Fall and Winter at the Zoo are exciting times, as they can provide for some truly awesome animal activity and engagement, especially among the species that prefer the colder climates. Animals of the Savanna wouldn't exactly fall into that category typically, but intrigue in this area is high this year – and for good reason.

The Zoo said goodbye to longtime resident, beloved rhino, Bill, at the beginning of October. As sad as that was for so many, understanding that it was part of a recommendation from the AZA's Species Survival Plan (SSP) and that Bill was moving to a zoo where he would meet and live with two female rhinos in the hopes of eventually breeding to help continue his species certainly helped us cope. In addition, the Zoo was selected to receive a new, juvenile rhino named Jiwe in a corresponding move.

"He seems to be adjusting shockingly well," said longtime Seneca Park Zoo Keeper Mike Wemett, as he stood watching the newest member of the Zoo's family lightly chuff and calmly meander around his new home. Jiwe had only just arrived from Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas earlier that morning, but he didn't seem bothered

in the slightest from the long trip or a new environment. He was already making himself right at home.

The Zoo has had several different rhinos in our care, and one of the keepers who has worked with all of them over the last 20 years is Zoologist Tina Fess. Fess started working at the Zoo in 1988 doing night security. At the time, it was the only job available, but she knew she wanted to work with the animals, and pretty soon an opportunity presented itself, and she got a job as a keeper.

"You look around the Zoo, and I've worked with every animal other than the penguins and the venomous snakes," Fess explained. "I got to work with a visiting rhino we had here in 1999, and he taught me a lot, how to be around a rhino. And I started to learn what to do and what not to do. I kind of fell in love with rhinos then, and so when they said we were getting rhinos permanently here I said 'I don't care what I have to do but I want to be involved with that,' so I moved from sections I had worked with for 13 years to do just that."



Tina Fess, Zoologist



Donato DiRenzo

Talk to her about rhinos, and it's easy to tell just how much she cares for these amazing animals. She emphasizes that not only are they much different than caring for any other type of hoofstock animal, but they also vary greatly from rhino to rhino. Of course, many things are universal. Trust, reassurance, familiarity – these are all the basics of building a solid relationship with any animal, and rhinos are no different. One of the best things a keeper can do with a new animal is just spend time with them. These requirements are echoed by Assistant Curator for hoofstock, Lindsay Brinda, as well.



Lindsay Brinda, Assistant Curator in charge of hoofstock

“You have to earn their trust,” Brinda said. Brinda has worked at Seneca Park Zoo since 2000 and has seen and experienced a lot in her own right when it comes to working with different animals. She loves working with rhinos, but it was the elephants that first won her heart as a keeper. “I’ve always been a horse lover and always been a horseback rider, so hoofstock is my thing.”

As the Assistant Curator in charge of hoofstock at the Zoo, it's Brinda's job to oversee and manage animals like the rhino, elephants, giraffes, and zebras. Obviously, the job lends itself to working with larger mammals, which can be a challenge, but one that she thoroughly enjoys and is made easier for her thanks in large part to the team around her. In addition to Fess, there are two other full-time keepers that make up the rhino team at the Zoo: Mike Wemett and Kat Kleinschmidt.

Wemett is another one of the most tenured keepers at the Zoo. He started in 1999 in a similar way as Fess in that his first job here wasn't as a keeper. Picking up trash, landscaping, maintenance – he might not remember exactly what his “title” was at the time, but those were the types of jobs he was tasked to perform. He kept his head down, did the work at hand, and when a part-time keeper position opened later that year, he was encouraged to apply.

“I figured just work hard and keep learning, keep improving, people notice that stuff, and that's what

happened,” Wemett said. “I’ve been here ever since.”

Another aspect that all the rhino keepers agree on is that when it comes to working with rhinos it can be a challenging task at times, especially due to their sheer size and strength. Getting any animal to do something it might not want to do can be difficult, but when you have one that weighs 3,000+ pounds it makes it that much harder.

A relationship built on trust is key. Establishing that bond takes time. Rhinos are typically a bit less food motivated than a lot of other mammals. That means even the lure of a tasty treat might not do much to help, which is a classic go-to for building any human-animal



Kat Kleinschmidt, Zoo Keeper

relationship. It's important to try different things to see what they react to best and always keep it positive. Maybe it's a particular food or tactile stimulation like rubs and scratches, and if it's clear that the rhino is simply not in the mood to cooperate take a break and try again later. Hey, we all have those days, right?

In addition to finding a reward that is appealing to them, it's also incredibly important to always be aware of the sheer power you're in the presence of. The last and newest member of the rhino care team is Kat Kleinschmidt, who puts it succinctly:

“You definitely learn patience, problem-solving, and you have to think when you want to do enrichment, what can I give them, because they are so strong and they can be so much more destructive,” she said. “Even though they can be super relaxed one moment, they can turn really quick, and they are extremely fast when they want to be, so you

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“You must be willing to try different things; you always have to be aware, and most importantly you have to be able to build the trust that is crucial to any good keeper-animal relationship.”

-Kat Kleinschmidt

always have to be mindful of that.”

Kleinschmidt might have the least amount of experience working with rhinos on the team, but that just puts into perspective the overall experience of the rest of the team when you consider she first got a chance to work with them, at her very first internship about 10 years ago. She's earned her stripes, or horns, to say the least.

Coincidentally, Kleinschmidt's internship was at Fossil Rim Wildlife Center – the very same place that Jiwe came to us from – and when she was there she got to work with Jiwe's mother, Ursula.

“She turned one-year-old when I was there, and I actually had a big bake sale / first birthday party for her, and we raised a lot of money, which was really cool,” Kleinschmidt said reflecting on it coming around full circle, now working with Jiwe here.

For as unique as rhinos are, training and working with them is similar to working with other animals at the Zoo. You must be willing to try different things; you always have to be aware, and most importantly you have to be able to build the trust that is crucial to any good keeper-animal relationship. Whether the keeper needs to move the rhino from one area to another, coax them onto the scale for weighing, or whatever else needs to be done that day, a rhino is really only going to respond to someone he trusts.

It's also important to never forget the size and scale of the animal you're working with. Wemett had his ‘Wow’ moment early on when he was a young keeper working with a visiting rhino, Goliath, and learning the ropes under Fess. Goliath had only ever been docile and calm but one day Wemett came in to see Goliath running around his habitat and smashing things – not because he was upset or distressed, but because sometimes that's just what rhinos do.

“I'll never forget Tina said to me, ‘Well, you need to see that because this is what this animal can do’, and that always stuck with me,” Wemett said. “It was crazy to see, and there's really nothing you can do.”

Fortunately, Seneca Park Zoo is lucky to have a team of rhino keepers who are consistent, cohesive, and always looking to learn and grow together. They take pride in their diverse experiences and skillsets and look not only to each other, but to national organizations and resources to continue to get better at their jobs because ultimately that's what matters most when it comes caring for animals.

It's still early, but Seneca Park Zoo's new rhino resident seems to be making himself right at home, and his new keeper team couldn't be happier to have him and excited for the challenges and experiences that come with it.



The Zoo is proud to partner with the **International Rhino Foundation (IRF)**, an organization that is dedicated to the survival of the world's rhino species through conservation and research.

While the amount of resources, volunteers and researchers that have been made available to IRF has been significantly affected due to the current global pandemic, the poaching of rhinos themselves has continued.

According to the IRF, 900 rhinos were killed by poachers in Africa in 2019, nearly 1 every 10 hours.

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900 RHINOS

WERE KILLED BY POACHERS
IN AFRICA IN 2019

IRF ensures that the people living closest to rhinos serve as active partners in wildlife protection and helps to support them as well as they often are struggling as a result of poverty and environmental degradation.

One of the primary drivers of rhino poaching is for their horns, even though these are just made of keratin, which is the same material as fingernails and hair. About 10,000 rhinos have been poached in the last decade alone for their horns.

The rhino horn was and still is believed to have medicinal purposes, and even magical powers, in some local traditions. One of IRF's biggest campaigns in recent years has been to dispel these myths and develop strategic messaging to generate negative social stigma associated with its use and to make positive associations with non-users.

At the start of the 20th century, there were approximately 500,000 rhinos in their natural range. Today, that number has shrunk to 28,000.



2021
JAN
18

Day Off ZooCamp

School is out, so spend the day at the Zoo instead! We will spend the day exploring what animals do in the wintertime and learning about which ones prefer the cold. Day Off ZooCamp is for kids 5-9 years old.

Date

January 18, 2021 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Times

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Price per day

Members: \$45 | Non-members: \$55

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/dayoff



2021
JAN - MAR

School Break ZooCamps

We'll offer ZooCamp for Winter and Spring breaks. A full week of exciting learning and socially-distanced activities are in store! School Break ZooCamps are for kids 5-9 years old.

Dates

- February 15 -19 – Winter Break ZooCamp
- March 29 - April 2 – Spring Break ZooCamp

Times

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. or 9 a.m. - noon for half-day camp

Price

\$230 for Members (\$145 for half-day camp)
\$250 for Non-members (\$165 for half-day camp)

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/events/category/break-zoocamp/



2021
JAN
FEB
MAR

Take a break from cooking while supporting your Zoo! Zoo Meals at Home will be offered once a month. Choose between two menu items, and whether you'd like a meal for four or six people. You'll also receive fun conservation-based activities to enjoy, and a portion of every purchase will go to one of our conservation partners. Mark the dates!

Upcoming events

January 16, February 20, and March 20

Time

Pick up at the Zoo between 4 - 5 p.m.

Price

Varies by menu

Learn More

senecaparkzoo.org/events/category/zoo-meals-at-home/



2021
JAN
FEB
MAR

Nature Hikes

Join a Seneca Park Zoo naturalist for a socially-distanced hike!

Upcoming Dates

- January 30 – Thousand Acre Swamp
- February 20 – Turning Point Park (North End)
- March 27 – Highland Park

Time

10 a.m.

Price

Free

Registration is required

senecaparkzoo.org/events/category/nature-hikes/



Emily Trowbridge



Emily Trowbridge

Register now for Summer ZooCamp!

It may feel a long way away, but it's never too early to sign up for Summer ZooCamp. To ensure social distancing, camp capacities are reduced, so space is limited.

All camps are one week long and are structured by age group. We have camps for children 3-12. **Learn more at senecaparkzoo.org/education/zoo-camp/**

NEW: Afternoon ZooCamp

2021
JAN
FEB
MAR

Tired of too much distance learning at home and looking for something new and unique for your child to do? How about an afternoon of learning at Seneca Park Zoo? Introducing Afternoon ZooCamp! We'll have fun learning with socially-distanced activities and crafts in the classroom, as well as exploring animals out in the Zoo.

Dates

- January 13
- February 3
- March 10

Times

1 - 4 p.m.

Price

\$25 for members | \$30 for non-members

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/events/category/afternoon-zoocamp/



Wayne Smith

Frog Watch USA virtual training

Are you interested in aquatic education and discovering biodiversity in the area? Join us at our next FrogWatch USA™ virtual training session and become a trained volunteer for free! Our FrogWatch USA™ chapter coordinator will teach you about local frogs and toads and when each can be heard calling. You'll learn how to identify species by call, locate and register a wetland site, and collect observations to be submitted to the nationwide online database. Adults and teenagers welcome!

Date

March 4

Time

6 p.m.

Price

Free

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/event/frogwatch-virtual-training/

Pages with Purpose: Virtual Book Group



Join us for a facilitated discussion about some great books tied to the Zoo mission. Discussions include the author!

Upcoming Sessions

- Thursday, January 28 | 7 p.m. *The Home Place: Memoirs of one Colored Man's Love Affair with Nature*, by J. Drew Lanham
- Thursday, April 8 | 7 p.m. *For the Love of Lemurs: My Life in the Wilds of Madagascar*, by Patricia Chapple Wright

Time

7 – 8:30 p.m.

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/bookgroup

Price

Free of charge.

The books are available for purchase at senecaparkzoo.org/exclusivelyspz - Thank you for supporting your Zoo!



Giving Day - World Wildlife Day

On March 3, Seneca Park Zoo Society will host our first-ever giving day to celebrate World Wildlife Day! The day will raise money for the year's many exciting, local conservation programs and projects.

We'll cap the day off with the return of ZOOMathon! Last year's ZOOMathon was a great success, and we've brought the evening of fun and games back! Help us finish the day strong as we raise money to support the Zoo programs and wildlife you love.

Follow us on social media to learn more about how to participate!

Birds and the Bees Virtual Valentine's Event

Kick off Valentine's weekend with our first-ever virtual happy hour highlighting animal reproduction in a fun and unique way! Learn about the importance of zoo animal populations and the variety of ways that species reproduce, all while enjoying virtual games, activities, and animal encounters! Fun for singles, couples, and groups alike!

Date

February 12

Time

7 p.m.

Price

\$15 per person

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/event/the-birds-and-the-bees/



Virtual Valentine's Day Happy Hour

Seneca Park Zoo Society

Book and Beast at Home

Book and Beast has gone virtual! You and your toddler can watch a reading of an animal or conservation-themed book on ZOOM. Order ahead to have a copy of the book at home to follow along!

Upcoming Sessions

January 27 | February 24 | March 24

Time

11 a.m.

Price

The books are available for purchase at senecaparkzoo.org/exclusivelyspz.

Thank you for supporting your Zoo!

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/book-and-beast



Register for Wild About Trivia, a virtual happy hour trivia event. Team up with some friends and test your knowledge of all things Zoo and wildlife, past and present. Pour a beverage of your choice and tune in to the link that will be provided. Have fun and win prizes, all while supporting your Zoo!

Upcoming events

- January 14
- February 11
- March 11

Time

7 p.m.

Price

\$10 per person for teams of 2 - 5

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/events/category/wild-about-trivia/

Scout Programs



Our Scout programs continue to evolve! All programs have been adapted to meet COVID-19 guidelines. This winter we're offering:

► Trek in the Twilight

Trek in the Twilight is like our popular Bunk with Beasts program but without the overnight! Participants arrive at the Zoo by 5:45 p.m. and will enjoy dinner, a guided Zoo tour, and an animal presentation. The program wraps up by 9:30 p.m., and scouts go home to sleep in their own beds at the end of the evening.

Many dates are being offered in January through May.

To plan an event for your troop, visit

senecaparkzoo.org/education/trek-twilight/

► Scout Workshops

We offer both in-person and virtual workshops for all levels of scout troops. Programs are designed to meet badge requirements and build skills. You can plan your own workshop for your troop, or we have a limited number of pre-scheduled workshops as well.

Learn more at senecaparkzoo.org/education/scout-workshops/

Animal Comings & Goings

Welcome Jiwe



Tina Fess

In the fall, the Zoo welcomed a new southern white rhino named Jiwe (Gee-way). Jiwe joined us from Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas. At just four years old, Jiwe is considered a juvenile. He arrived just after Bill moved to Riverbanks Zoo & Garden in Columbia, S.C. Both moves were based on a recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan.

New Buffalo Weavers



Wayne Smith

You'll see new buffalo weavers in the Animals of the Savanna building. The Zoo is now home to both a male and female.

Welcome Bianca and Beatrice



The Zoo added two new goats in the fall. Beatrice and Bianca are Nigerian dwarf goats, and they've joined Azula and Harley in the goat habitat. Beatrice and Bianca came to us from us from Lollypop Farm, the Humane Society of Rochester, where they were voluntarily surrendered by an owner who could no longer care for them.

Goodbye Silver



Kenny Krieger

In December, snow leopard Silver moved to Rolling Hills Zoo in Kansas. This move, in conjunction with the AZA Species Survival Plan, enables him to start his own independent life and will allow Kaba and Timila to be reintroduced for mating season.

Calendar of events

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

2021

JAN - MAY



Austin Quinlan

KinderZoo

Bring your preschooler to a KinderZoo class over the winter to play, discover, and learn in a fun and interactive way. Explore different animals and habitats through age-appropriate, socially distanced activities. Each class includes a meeting with an ambassador animal up close!

Dates

January through May

Times

10:15 a.m. 18 months - 2 years | 11:30 a.m. 3 - 5 years

Price

Members: \$8 | Non-members: \$10 plus Zoo admission.

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/education/kinderzoo

Note: Be sure to make your timed admission reservation in advance as well.

2021

JAN



Cocoa or Coffee is on us in January!

Visit the Zoo in January and enjoy a free hot beverage, on us! Redeem coupon from Admissions at Eagle's Landing Café for your free coffee or hot cocoa. Limit one per guest per visit. You'll be amazed at how many animals are active once the weather gets cooler!

Homeschool Class

2021

JAN - FEB

Homeschool ZooClass is a series of four classes designed for homeschool families and is based on our most popular thematic programs. Projects worked on throughout the four sessions encourage both individual and group learning, while providing students the opportunity to take an extended and interdisciplinary look at the wonders of the Zoo!

Upcoming Sessions:

- Wild about Water: For 6-8 year olds. January 21 & 28, February 4 & 11
- Biodiversity or Bust: For 9-12 year olds. January 21 & 28, February 4 & 11
- Up in the Trees: For 6-8 year olds. April 8, 15, 22, 29
- Science Gone Wild: For 9-12 year olds. April 8, 15, 22, 29

Times

12 - 4 p.m.

Price

Members: \$90 | Non-members: \$110

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/education/homeschool-programs

2021

JAN - MAY



Jess Hays

Wildlife Action Crew

Wildlife Action Crew is for teenagers interested in animals and conservation. Teens conduct a conservation case study, analyzing a conservation issue and affected animals. They work in groups to create a campaign to promote their message. The six-week programs are held at the Zoo.

Upcoming Sessions

- Winter Session: Snow Leopards & Human Conflict: January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3 & 10
- Spring Session: Invasive Species: March 3, 10, 17, 24, April 7 & 14

Times

6 - 8 p.m.

Price

Members: \$55 | Non-members: \$60

Register

senecaparkzoo.org/education/wildlife-action-crew



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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

Stay warm this January
with free hot cocoa
or coffee!

ZOO NOOZ

A publication of the Seneca Park Zoo Society

January 2021

Kat Kleinschmidt