

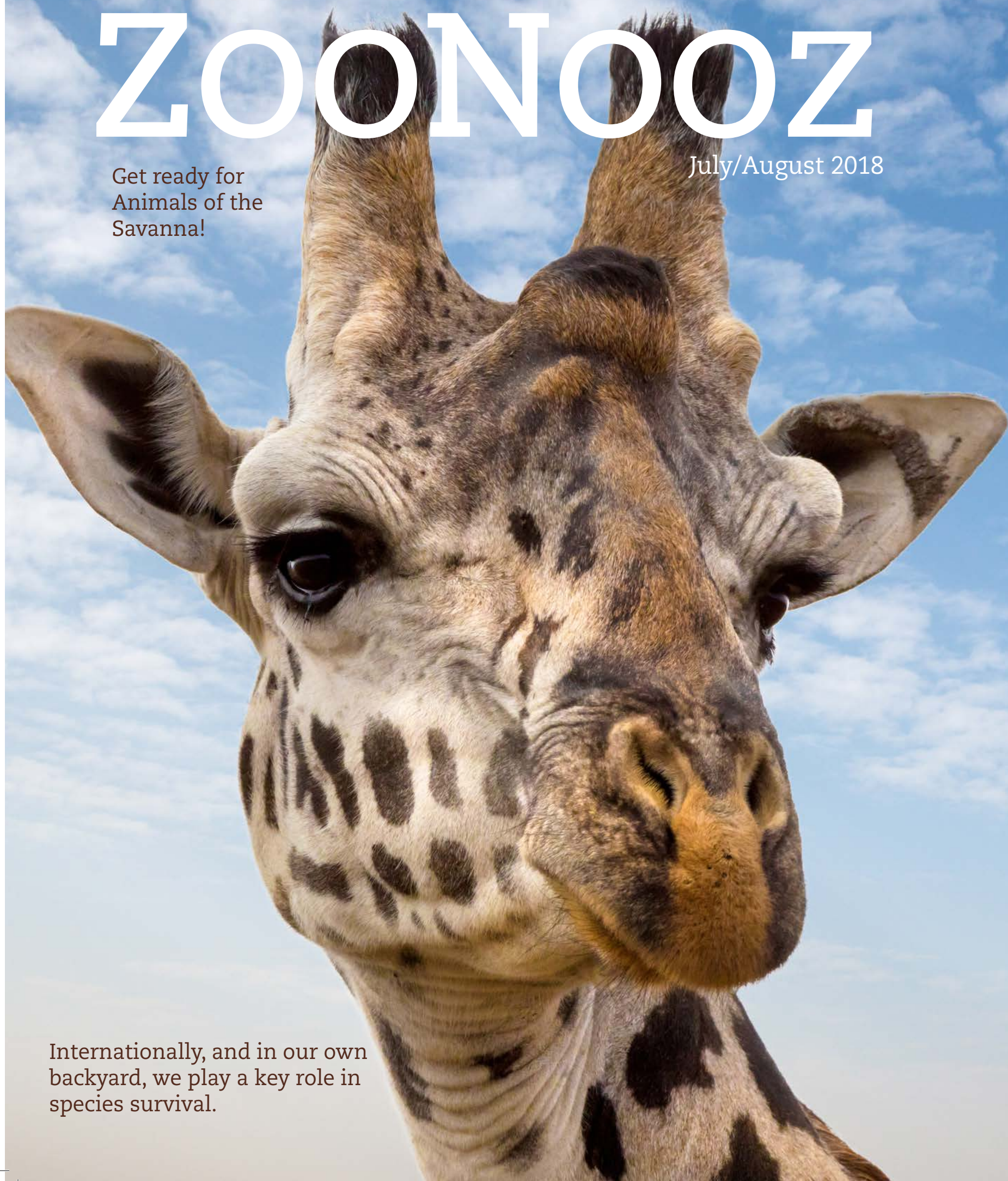
A publication of the Seneca Park Zoo Society

ZooNooz

Get ready for
Animals of the
Savanna!

July/August 2018

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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On the cover

After years of planning, the 4.5 acre Animals of the Savanna expansion will be opening in late August. Get to know some of the Zoo's newest species in this issue.



On My Mind: Raising our Environmental Literacy

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



I've just finished reading two outstanding non-fiction books: Craig Packer's *Lions in the Balance*, and *Darwin Comes to Town: How the Urban Jungle Drives Evolution*, by Menno Schilthuizen. While on the surface the topics of these books – lion conservation in Tanzania, and natural selection in city-dwelling animals – might seem wildly disparate, they are each at their heart about the impact of humans and animals sharing habitats. How do humans – whether they be Masai villagers or managers of trophy hunting companies – live with wildebeests and lions in ways that are economically advantageous to all, while conserving the population of African lions? And how do animals that have urban habitats change their behaviors (and, their DNA) to live side by side with humans in urban settings?

As a Zoo committed to regional and international conservation, you'll find both topics explored in our programming and on grounds year-round. These themes are reflected in the replication of a Masai hut in *A Step into Africa*, in the bear trap and camping equipment installations by our polar bear habitat, in the signage in our new snow leopard and red panda habitats, and all along the Genesee Trail. You'll also experience it in the Center for Biodiversity Exploration, our new immersive gaming space that connects the actions we take with an otter's ability to find food in the Genesee River, based on water quality.

In the coming weeks, we'll be opening the extraordinary Animals of the Savanna habitats, where you'll discover more about the biodiversity of East Africa, and the many species that share space with one another and with humans. And we will be treated to a visit with the engaging and brilliant lion researcher Craig Packer, head of the Lion Research Center at the University of Minnesota. Craig has

been conducting research in Tanzania for decades. He was featured in the 2017 documentary "Trophy" and is also author of multiple books, including the above-mentioned *Lions in the Balance*. (See the event section, page 10 for ways you can meet Craig when he is here in August).

This month, we launched a pilot workforce development program designed to connect teens living in the urban core with nature. Through this paid employment, they will be trained in urban ecology before conducting research and delivering programs in their own neighborhoods. These teens represent hope for our future; whether or not they ultimately choose careers related to the environment, they will become environmental stewards, and environmental advocates. You can read more about this program on page 8.

There are many ways each and every one of us can raise our environmental literacy. There are countless books and movies that can help you become more informed on the important dynamics of your favorite species. With every

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"In the coming weeks, we'll be opening the extraordinary Animals of the Savanna habitats, where you'll discover more about the biodiversity of East Africa, and the many species that share space with one another and with humans"

visit to your Zoo this summer you have many opportunities as well, through our summer programming offered hourly, seven days a week, or through stations manned by docents or ZooTeens.

Thank you for your support, and your curiosity about living more sustainably.

Pamela Reed Sanchez

A LETTER FROM

Larry Staub | Zoo Director | Seneca Park Zoo



Some big-league changes are on the horizon here at Seneca Park Zoo! Later this summer, we will all be able to take a step further into Africa, without ever leaving Monroe County. Just beyond our magnificent elephant habitat, we'll find ourselves on the African Savanna and among some of the most impressive animals you will ever encounter. Giraffes, rhinos, zebras, and ostriches will roam expansive outdoor habitats... and some will even be sharing the same spaces!

The architectural centerpiece of this newest section of our Zoo will be the Animals of the Savanna building, which will feature large indoor areas for the animals to enjoy when the weather outside isn't exactly enjoyable. Our guests will be able to experience this space, as well, with public viewing galleries for the indoor yards. The public area of the building will also include an aquarium and several multi-species habitats of birds, reptiles, and small mammals. Looming large and spreading out above visitors will be a tree teeming with life, incorporating a number of interesting micro-habitats for insects, arachnids, amphibians, and reptiles. Last, but certainly not least, will be a peek below the surface of the African Savanna, into the curious world of the naked mole rat. In addition to a social structure similar to those of ants and bees, naked mole rats are remarkable for their longevity, as well as their resistance to cancer and oxygen deprivation. When it comes to "fan favorites," all of the other animals in the new building, including the iconic large land mammals, are in for some stiff competition from these captivating, diminutive rodents.

Our journey on the African Savanna is designed to enhance the human experience, too. Guests are sure to enjoy the convenience of the Savanna Outpost shop and two sets of new restrooms. Once our giraffes become acclimated to their new habitat, we will be offering opportunities to feed these incredible animals from a specially-designed deck. Believe me, you haven't lived until you hold a leaf of lettuce... and a long black tongue



Larry hand feeds a giraffe at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

reaches out to take it from your hand! You'll be left with slobber on your fingers and an awesome life-long memory!

Finally, for our long linear Zoo, which is about to become even longer and more linear as we expand from 15 acres to 20 acres, we are adding a tram service. Stations will be located just inside the main entrance plaza of the Zoo and at the new African Savanna area, with trams transporting guests from one end of the Zoo to the other. The trams will be traveling on the lower road of Seneca Park, so they won't be in conflict with guests along the Zoo's pathways. Tram fares will be one-way and affordable... \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for youth and seniors. Our tram service will make our Zoo even more accessible to families and all visitors, regardless of age or physical ability. Guests will soon have this new, convenient, and often requested transportation option available on a seasonal basis, during upcoming visits to the Zoo!

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. On behalf of County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo, our 29 Monroe County Legislators, and our dedicated Zoo staff, we look forward to welcoming you to the African Savanna, our newest inspirational and transformational improvement at the Seneca Park Zoo!

Larry Staub



Our brand new Zoo Trams are ready to roll.



Katrina Shepard

Getting to know Masai Giraffes

Giraffes are one of the most widely recognized, majestic creatures in the world, but many don't realize the important role they play in their ecosystem. Their height allows them to detect predators from a distance and act as an early warning to nearby animals.

The Conservation Story

Historically, giraffes have been under-represented in terms of research and conservation, but over the last five years, considerable progress has been made in compiling and producing a species-wide assessment of population size. Giraffes, as a species, have been listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List.

Human population growth poses the greatest threat to giraffes in Africa today. Habitat loss and changes through expanding agriculture and mining, illegal hunting, increasing human-wildlife conflict, and civil unrest, are all factors threatening giraffe population. As giraffe habitat continues to shrink, fewer trees will remain from which they can eat, making survival increasingly difficult.

This year, Seneca Park Zoo Society has partnered with The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) to help save giraffes from extinction. GCF is the only non-governmental organization (NGO) in the world that concentrates solely on the conservation and management of giraffes in their natural range throughout Africa. GCF works closely with African and international partners to achieve long-term sustainability and conservation success for giraffes.

Latest estimates by The Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) and IUCN indicate that in the past three decades, the giraffe population has plummeted across Africa by approximately 40%
to less than 100,000 individuals

Masai Giraffe at the Zoo

Recent research has shown that there are actually four distinct species of giraffes in Africa – Masai giraffe, reticulated giraffe, southern giraffe, and northern giraffe. All species and subspecies live in geographically distinct areas across the continent.

Seneca Park Zoo will be welcoming three Masai giraffes, one male and two females, as a part of the Animals of the Savanna expansion. The Masai giraffe is usually noticeably darker than the other subspecies. Its spots are large, dark brown, and distinctively leaf-shaped with jagged edges, and separated by irregular, creamy brown lines.

Masai giraffes are found across central and southern Kenya and throughout Tanzania. Historically, they are the most populous giraffe species, with about 32,500 Masai giraffes in natural range. However, increased reports of poaching in the area suggests their population is decreasing.



Katrina Shepard

What you can do to help

There are many simple actions you can take to help secure a more sustainable future for giraffe species throughout Africa. First, you can help spread the word about giraffes being at risk of extinction. Become an advocate for wildlife preservation and support initiatives that help find and fund solutions for giraffe conservation. You can also participate in citizen science initiatives like Wildwatch Kenya from wherever you are. Finally, commit to decreasing your own environmental footprint by reducing waste, using less energy, and living more sustainably. Giraffes and other wild animals need us to learn to live in harmony with nature.



Katrina Shepard

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ (IUCN): What do the categories mean?

The IUCN is widely recognized as the most comprehensive, objective global approach for evaluating the conservation status of plant and animal species. Often there is confusion about what each of the levels mean, so this provides further clarity.

Least Concern	When the species is widespread and abundant
Near Threatened	The species is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.
Vulnerable	The species is considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild
Endangered	The species is considered to be facing a very high risk of extinction in the wild
Critically Endangered	The species is considered to be facing an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild
Endangered in the Wild	When the species is known only to survive in cultivation, in captivity or as a naturalized population (or populations) well outside the past range.
Extinct	When there is no reasonable doubt that the last individual has died. A species is presumed Extinct when exhaustive surveys in known and/or expected habitat, at appropriate times (diurnal, seasonal, annual), throughout its historic range have failed to record an individual.
Data Deficient	When there is inadequate information to make a direct, or indirect, assessment of its risk of extinction based on its distribution and/or population status
Not Evaluated	When the species has not yet been assessed against the criteria.

Naked Mole Rats: What's their story?

Two colonies of naked mole rats have joined the Seneca Park Zoo family as part of the Animals of the Savanna expansion. And while they may not be as iconic as giraffes, naked mole rats have a lot to offer, including the potential to save human lives. Not all wildlife is pretty, but everything serves a purpose.

Also known as sand puppies, naked mole rats are neither moles nor rats – but like moles and rats, they are rodents. Their closest living relatives are porcupines, chinchillas, and guinea pigs. Naked mole rats also aren't naked. Their bodies are covered in approximately 100 fine hairs that act like whiskers. The hairs between their toes allow their feet to function as brooms with which they sweep soil.

By aerating the soil through their digging, and adding mineral-rich urine and feces, naked mole rats promote plant diversity and growth. Naked mole rats also have incredible adaptations that allow them to survive without much oxygen, resist aging, and resist cancer. Scientists are studying these adaptations to learn how they work, and to see if we can apply them to saving human lives.

Virtually blind with no external ears, naked mole rats depend on their strong sense of smell. They are also very sensitive to vibrations in the ground and the movement of air currents. This unique-looking species lives in underground burrows and tunnels, specifically in grasslands throughout Somalia, central Ethiopia, and northern and eastern

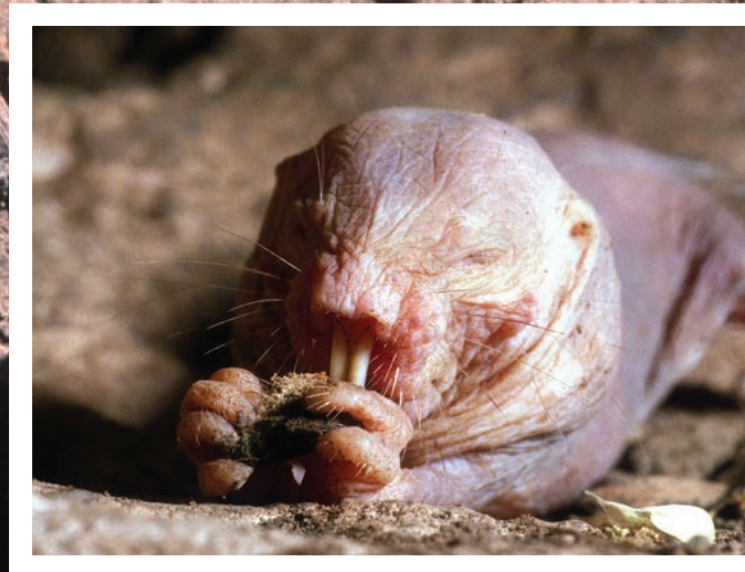
Kenya. Since they don't travel above ground, burrowing is the only way these animals will find food. The underground parts of plants that they feed on also serves as their source of water – they do not drink.

Naked mole rats are one of two mammals that are eusocial, meaning they live in colonies much like bees and ants, with one queen. The queen isn't born the queen, but must earn the position, and becomes the only breeding female in the colony. Colonies are complex social structures, with worker roles including gathering food, maintaining and guarding the nest, and caring for the young. About 70 individuals make up a colony, but colonies of up to 295 have been observed. The animals in these groups are very closely related. Workers are generally raising their siblings, since a single queen may reign for many years.

What you can do to help

Listed under Least Concern by the IUCN Red List, naked mole rats are widely distributed, and their populations don't currently face any major threats. But if agriculture continues to expand they could be viewed as pests, as they will readily consume roots and bulbs.

We can help maintain stable populations of naked mole rats by appreciating their potential to save human lives. The more we understand that we can learn information vital to our lives through other animals, the more we will come to value each and every species.



Naked mole rats can survive 18 minutes without oxygen

Researchers have discovered that their bodies adapt to use fructose to fuel vital organs, like the heart and brain, when oxygen isn't available.

Source: National Geographic



From left: Tom Snyder, Director of Programming and Conservation Action, Ann Marie Casillas, student at School of the Arts, Dave Will, Lead Naturalist for Citizen Science, Ruben Likoke, student at Leadership Academy for Young Men, Kevin Dailey, student at Rochester Prep High School, Pamela Reed Sanchez, President/CEO of Seneca Park Zoo Society, Naaman Jones student at Joseph Wilson High School, Erin Regan, Naturalist.

Teens hired as Zoo's first Urban Ecologists

In her four years leading the Seneca Park Zoo Society, Pamela Reed Sanchez has seen first-hand that the fields of ecology and conservation have an alarming lack of diversity. This, in part, is what sparked the Zoo Society's creation of an Urban Ecologist Workforce Development Program for urban core youth.

In July, four teens were hired for a six-week pilot of a program designed to introduce them to careers in environmental science and ecology, while also empowering them to be ambassadors and role models for the environment and sustainability in their own neighborhoods.

In the program, the youth are gaining the skills needed to become urban naturalists, from training in urban ecology and citizen science to understanding environmental justice and sustainability. They will also be working on the Zoo Society's urban trail camera program, and gaining access and building relationships with academicians and professionals in the field who can help them gain important experience and perspectives as they consider pursuing a career in environmental science and ecology.

"Ultimately we'll create a cadre of urban core youth who are engaged, knowledgeable and environmentally literate"

"Ultimately we'll create a cadre of urban core youth who are engaged, knowledgeable and environmentally literate"

-Pamela Reed Sanchez
Seneca Park Zoo Society President
and CEO

environmentally literate," said Seneca Park Zoo Society President and CEO Pamela Reed Sanchez, "Whether or not they pursue career opportunities in the areas of conservation or ecology, they'll likely be the next generation of civic and business leaders, armed with knowledge about environmental sustainability. At its base, this program is about helping to ensure clean air and clean water for everyone, and preventing another Flint, Michigan from happening."

The Urban Ecologists will be creating and delivering programs in their own neighborhoods, and in locations around Rochester including the City's Rec Centers, 540 West Main, and the Taproot Collective's First Market Farm.

This summer's pilot program is made possible thanks to funding and partnership from the City of Rochester Summer of Opportunity program, coupled with a grant from the Joseph and Marie Wilson Foundation. A thirteen-person advisory committee including a diverse array of representatives with experience in conservation, education and urban youth workforce development is helping to guide the program. Funding is presently being sought to run this program year-round with a total of 16 youth, each of whom make a two-year commitment to the program.



Transforming Field Trips at the Zoo

New ZooScholars program fosters the next generation of conservationists

This spring, Seneca Park Zoo Society partnered with Rochester City School District (RCSD) for a first-of-its-kind curriculum. Over a two-day period, nearly 1,300 RCSD second graders visited the Zoo to participate in the new 'ZooScholars' program, an integrated, inquiry-based program designed to drive science, math, and English Language Arts standards. The Zoo Society's Education team developed the custom program in conjunction with RCSD staff to include interdisciplinary lessons based on state and Next Gen science standards.

During the two-hour on-site visit, students completed a field guide-based study of four different animals. As they made their way through to the Zoo, students were expected to draw, measure, read, and write about their experiences. The lesson didn't end at the Zoo. Once students returned to their classrooms, they had additional activities and assignments related to their Zoo experiences to complete.

After seeing about half of the City's second graders in the first year of ZooScholars, Director of Education and Visitor Studies, Kelly Ulrich, and her staff, are focusing on fine-tuning the activities and expanding the program to bring even more second graders to the Zoo.

"We're going back to the table to see how we can make this program even bigger and better for next year," Ulrich stated. "Internally, we're looking at ways to be able to offer this program for other districts, schools, and grade levels."

Adapting ZooScholars to meet the learning

standards of other grade levels is just one of the many directions this program can take. The Education team has a goal of turning the ZooScholars model into a resource for teachers to use themselves while visiting the Zoo with their classrooms.

Ulrich continued, "now, the question we have is: can we take the model we created for second graders and turn it into a program that allows teachers to self-guide their students through activities and lessons at the Zoo? We want them to come here to collect data, and then take it back to their classrooms and utilize it."



With this program, more schools will be given the opportunity to get their students outdoors and use real-life examples at the Zoo to integrate all their disciplines together.

Students come to the Zoo and collect data as a scientist might, and then they can mathematically graph that data and use it to write a story, or draw to apply art skills.

ZooScholars is just one example of using the Zoo as a learning center and an extension of the classroom. The program was made possible, in part, by a grant from the ESL Charitable Foundation.

"There are many different ways you can utilize the Zoo for learning, and I think we're just scratching the surface with this program," Ulrich stated.

Calendar of events

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

Conservation Days



10

AUG



12

AUG



World Elephant Day

See how an elephant gets a bath! Learn about what they eat and how the keepers care for these majestic creatures during a keeper chat.

Date

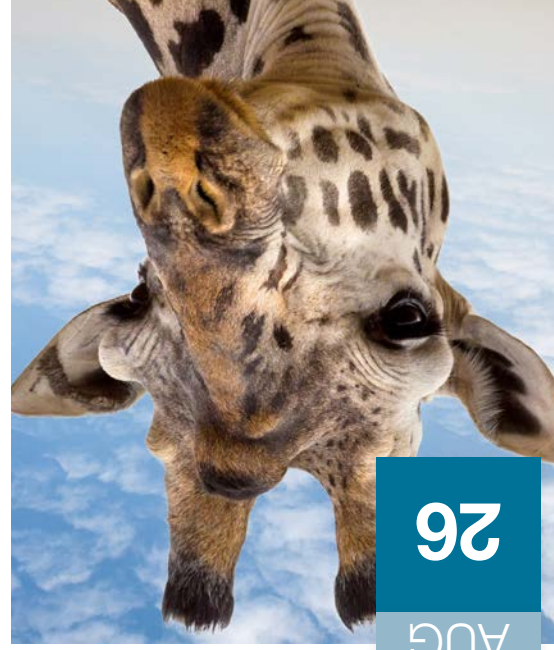
August 12

Time

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

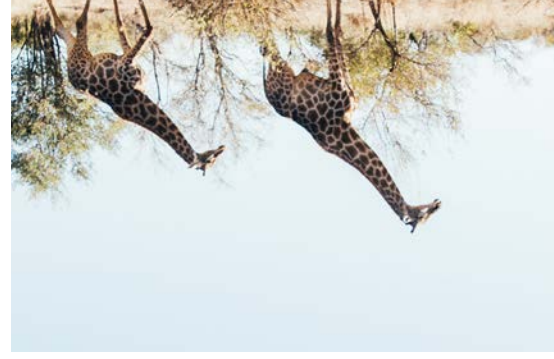
Cost

Free with Zoo admission



26

AUG



Celebrate Giraffes Day

Come and celebrate the return of giraffes to Seneca Park Zoo.

Date

August 26

Time

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost

Free with Zoo admission

World Lion Day

Learn about these big cats

during your visit on World Lion Day. Meet Craig Packer, head

of the Lion Research Center at University of Minnesota, and

author of critically acclaimed, *Lions in the Balance*.

Date

August 10

Time

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost

Free with Zoo admission

Introducing the Center for Biodiversity Exploration!



On your next Zoo visit, check out the new Center for Biodiversity Exploration in the area previously occupied by the Z.O.T Zone. This interactive gaming experience is designed to engage guests of all ages in the role we all play in ensuring continued biodiversity in our region. With 24 stations, players choose different paths to understand and protect biodiversity in regional waterways. This original game and experience was created in conjunction with co-op students from Rochester Institute of Technology. Funding was provided, in part, by the AVANGRID Foundation and the Pollution Prevention Institute (P2I).



"Interactive gaming in a whole new way to engage guests to take action for animal survival!"

- Tom Snyder, Director of Programming and Conservation Action

15TH

PARTY

MAD

AT THE ZOO

24

AUG



Enjoy a festive evening with the Seneca Park Zoo Society's docents for this annual 21+ fundraiser. Browse the unique goods at the International Marketplace, spin the wine wheel, and take part in a wine and chocolate tasting. Funds raised from this event go to help conservation and education programs in Madagascar. Food and beverages will be available for purchase while listening to live music and experiencing the Zoo at night.

Date

August 24

Time

5:30 – 9 p.m.

Cost

\$10 in advance | \$15 at the Front Gate

Proper I.D is necessary for this 21+ event.

Tickets

senecaparkzoo.org/party/mad

Party Mad at the Zoo

Calendar of events

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

National Zoo Keeper week

Come celebrate the keepers that take care of the animals in our care. See the summer program guide for special keeper chats.

Dates July 15-21
Time 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. daily
Cost Free with Zoo admission



JULY
15 - 21

Jungle Jog 5K Run & Walk

Join us for the Seneca Park Zoo Society's popular Jungle Jog 5K Run & Walk. Participants of all ages will experience a beautiful course through Seneca Park Zoo and adjacent Seneca Park. New this year, we'll be raising funds and awareness for giraffe conservation to celebrate the arrival of the species later this summer. Jungle Jog is sponsored by M&T Bank, Woods Oviatt Gilman, Best Times Financial, and MedVed.

Pre-register online by July 1, or in person at MedVed on July 13th or 14th. There will be no registration on the day of the event.

Date July 15
Time 7 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
To register senecaparkzoo.org/junglejog
Cost \$25



JULY
15

ZooBrew

Drink beer and save elephants at ZooBrew! Animal experiences, live music, wine and beer and tasty food offerings for purchase provide a great Friday evening. Add an elephant barn tour for \$25 and get an extra special opportunity to learn more about our African elephants, while knowing your ticket purchase for this goes directly to our conservation partner, the International Elephant Foundation. Sponsored by Lake Beverage and Zweigles.

Date July 20, August 10, September 7
Time 5:30 - 9 p.m.
Cost \$8 in advance | \$10 at the Front Gate
Proper ID is necessary for this 21+ event.
Get tickets now senecaparkzoo.org/zooBrew



2018
JULY
AUG
SEPT

Invasive Species Pull

Join us at Braddock Bay for a water chestnut pull. Water chestnuts can cover large expanses of water, altering water quality and clarity, eliminating the growth of native aquatic plants, and making boating, fishing, and swimming hazardous. Help us prevent the spread of this aquatic invasive species! Participants must bring their own canoe or kayak.

Dates July 28
Time 9 a.m.
Cost Free
Location Braddock Bay



JULY
28

Celebrate Penguins Day

Seneca Park Zoo is one of the top zoos nationally in the successful breeding of African penguins. Visit the Zoo on Celebrate Penguin Day to learn about these fascinating animals.

Date July 22
Time 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost Free with Zoo admission



JULY
22

Naked Mole Rat night at the Red Wings

Join us for Naked Mole Rat cap night at the Rochester Red Wings game! The Red Wings play the Louisville Bats at 7:05pm, but you'll want to get there extra early, because the first 1,000 fans will get a special Naked Mole Rat-themed baseball hat. There will also be an auction of the players game-worn, autographed naked mole rat caps, with proceeds benefiting Seneca Park Zoo Society.

Where Frontier Field
Date July 16
Time 7:05 p.m.
Tickets Order online RedWingsBaseball.com or call 423-WING



JULY
16

Park Cleanup

Join us as part of Seneca Park Zoo's partnership with the City of Rochester's Department of Recreation and Youth Services for a park clean-up day at Seneca Park! Meet at the Wegman's lodge in Seneca Park (adjacent to the Zoo). Tools, gloves and snacks will be provided. Dress for the weather and bring water! Visit senecaparkzoo.org/cleanup to learn more.

Dates August 11
Time 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Cost Free
Location Wegman's lodge in Seneca Park



AUG
11

Staff updates

Earlier this year, the Zoo welcomed Richard Mikiciuk as Assistant Zoo Director – spending 18 years with Monroe County Planning & Development, most recently as a Project Manager, Richard has found his wheelhouse in this new leadership role at the Zoo.

“There’s so much going on at the Zoo, and you get to use a lot of brainpower and coordination. In facilities it’s all about teamwork and working together – that’s my favorite part.”

Seneca Park Zoo is up for accreditation this year by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), a process that Richard is most excited to be a part of.

“To see the Zoo go through accreditation this time, and to see it happen again five years from now, I hope to see quite of bit of growth - for accreditation purposes and as a team. As we continue to expand and have more opportunities to re-evaluate facilities, I’m committed to maintaining the existing building and habitats. It’s extremely important. We’re in the service industry, so it’s my goal to make the Zoo nice for our guests. For them to enjoy.”

Growing up, Richard and his family would often picnic at the Zoo after church on Sundays. First-generation Polish, Richard is a father of three - a son, daughter, and step-daughter - and currently resides in Webster with his wife, where he enjoys spending his downtime gardening or landscaping.



Richard Mikiciuk
Assistant Zoo Director

While enjoying an animal experience or keeper chat at Seneca Park Zoo this summer, you’ll likely find yourself interacting with a Zoo Naturalist.

“Zoo Naturalists are trained to help our guests interact with, and appreciate the Zoo as a nature space. We focus not only on the animals in their habitats but also on all of the nature found at the Zoo,” said Tom Snyder, Director of Programming and Conservation Action.

Zoo Naturalists strive to connect guests to the natural world around them, inspiring them to take action to help save wildlife, locally and abroad.

Tom adds, “Our hope is that after speaking with a Zoo Naturalist, you will walk away with a better understanding of the importance of healthy populations of Zoo animals in their natural range, as well as understanding the importance of a balanced ecosystem here at home in Western NY.”



Meet the Zoo Naturalists
(from top left) Katelyn Chatterton, Tom Hilling, Olivia Orton, Erin Regan, Tiffany Tierson, Annie Wheeler (Lead Zoo Naturalist for Programs), and Dave Will (Lead Zoo Naturalist for Citizen Science)



New: Behind the Scenes with Lions Tours!

Seneca Park Zoo is delighted to introduce Behind the Scenes with Lions tours. This exclusive experience lets you get up close with the Zoo’s African lions while you learn about these animals and their care. You’ll be within inches of these amazing creatures. Guests will tour the diet kitchen and learn about the food the lions eat each day, participate in behavioral training with the lions and their zoo keeper, and observe the indoor and outdoor areas that the lions live in when they are not in their public habitat. These exclusive tours will be offered on a limited basis: every other Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m., with only six spots available each tour. Fees are \$125 per person (\$100 for Zoo members) and the majority of the costs go to lion conservation. Children under six are not allowed, and there must be at least one adult for every two children included in the tour.

Learn more and book your tour at senecaparkzoo.org/lions.



Kevin Nowack

Kevin Nowack, Vice President at DGA Builders, LLC. Kevin brings a background in environmental engineering as well as construction and project management expertise to the Zoo Society board.



Shelly Doran

Shelly Doran, Senior Vice President and Director of Investor & External Relations for Five Star Bank and Financial Institutions, Inc. A relative newcomer to Rochester, Shelly and her husband Kirk both serve on committees for Seneca Park Zoo Society.



Trisha Butera

Trisha Butera, Controller at the Max and Marlan Farash Charitable Foundation. Trisha’s passion for the Zoo began as one of the Zoo’s auditors which led her to her current position on the board.



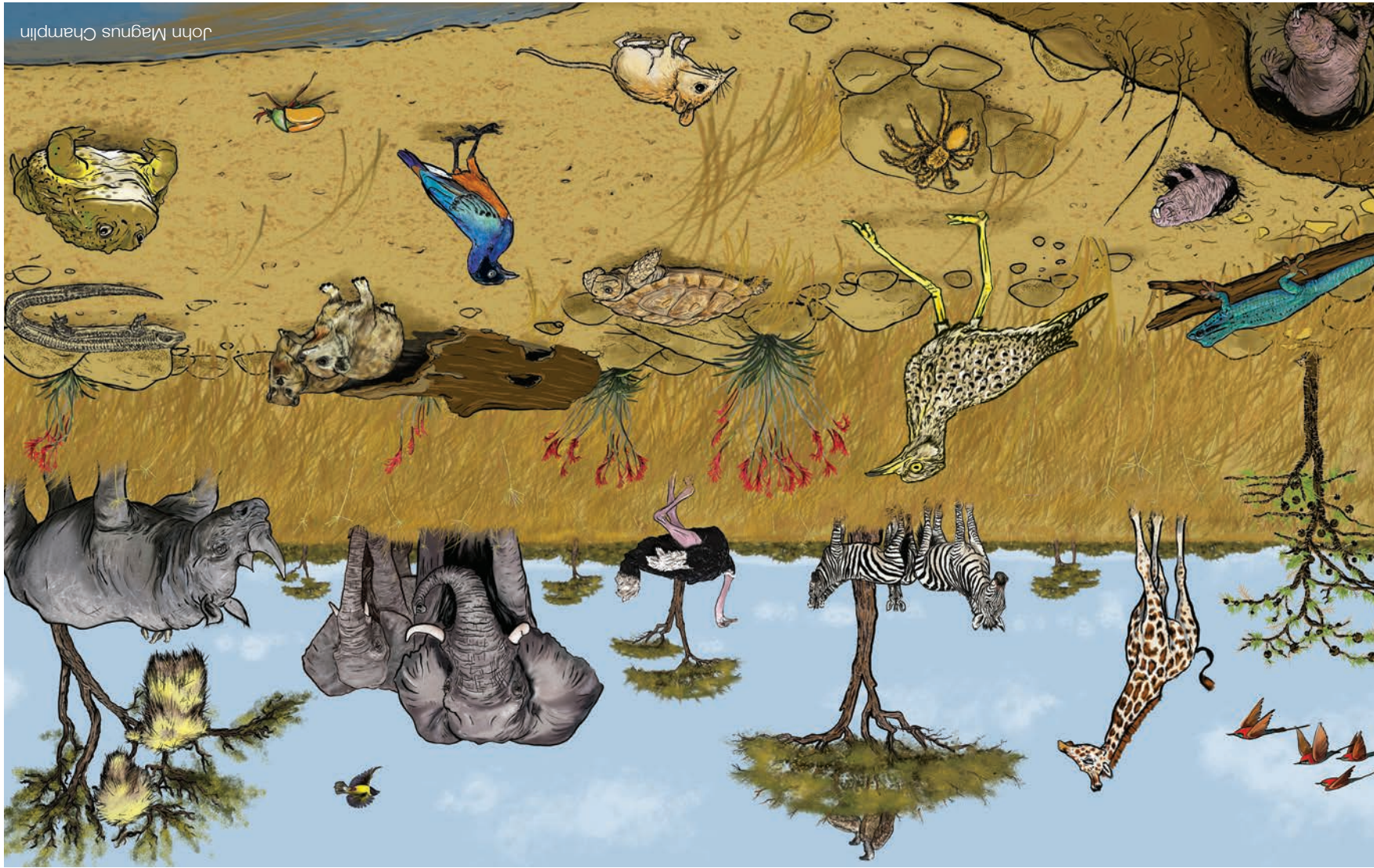
Eric Allen

Eric Allen, Vice President and Relationship Manager for the Commercial Banking at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. Eric has served as Vice Chairperson of the Development Committee for the Seneca Park Zoo Society.

Seneca Park Zoo Society adds new trustees

On May 19, Seneca Park Zoo Society’s Annual Meeting was held. Trustees Stephen Brown and Gary Squires were unanimously elected to an additional term. Members also elected four new trustees:

Animal comings & goings



Preparations under way for Animals of the Savanna

Our four-and-a-half acre expansion of *A Step into Africa* will focus on animals of the African Savanna. Over 20 species will be incorporated, and as of press time, preparations were in full swing to transport all the animals to Seneca Park Zoo. Over the course of the next several months, members and guests will be introduced to Masai giraffes, plains zebras, ostriches, naked mole rats, Lake Malawi cichlids, and an array of reptiles, insects and birds.



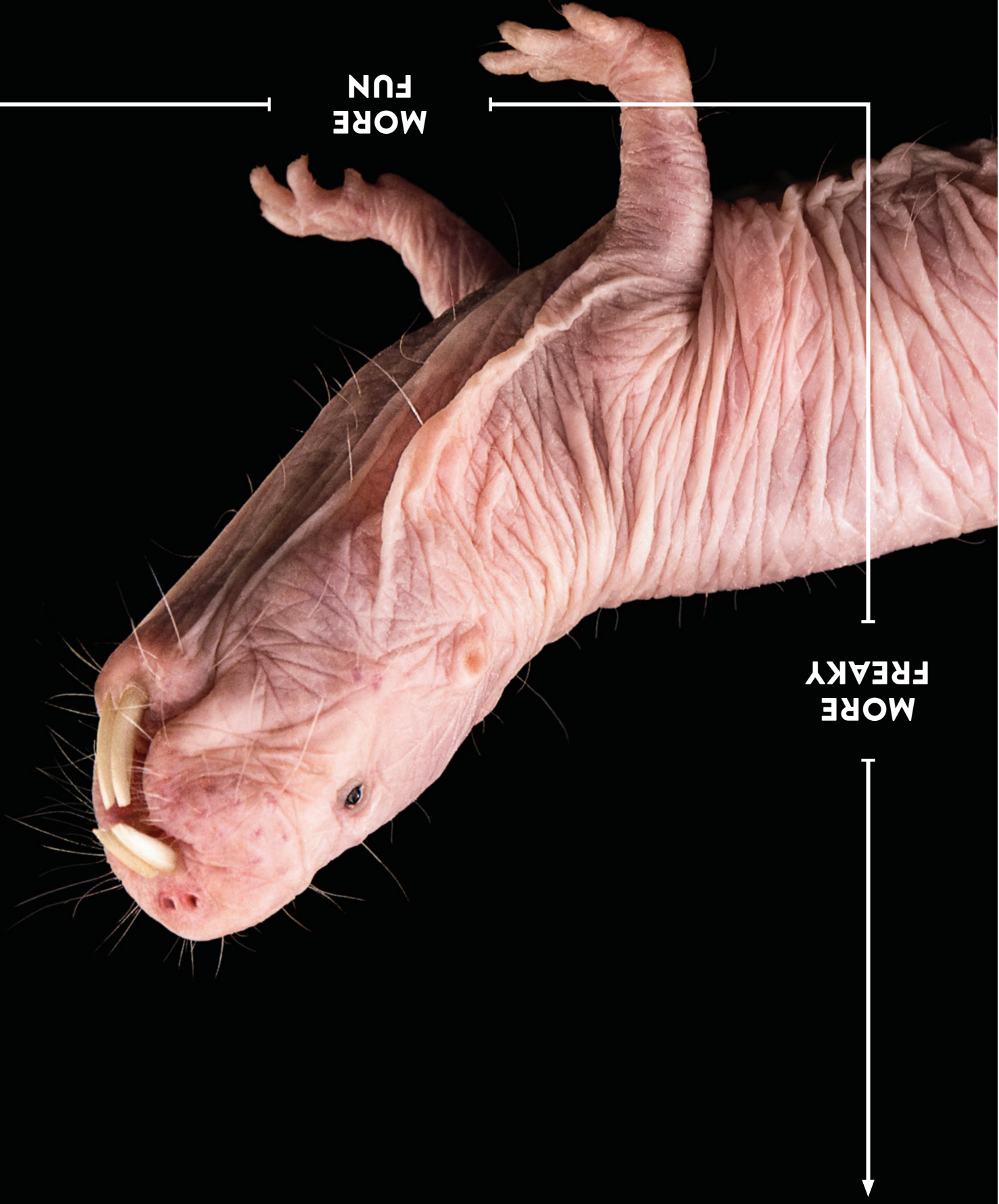
Main Building moves

Members and guests will see the Main Zoo Building has had many animal moves in preparation for the demolition of the building in September. The king vultures, ring-tailed lemurs and spider monkey have all moved to exterior habitats, and the main atrium of the main building is now closed.



Alligators are here

We welcomed three American Alligators, back in time for the summer season. The Alligators join us from St. Augustine Alligator Farm and Zoological Park in Florida and will be here until Labor Day weekend.



Find it at Seneca Park Zoo
ANIMALS OF THE SAVANNA
OPENING IN AUGUST



CHERYL DINOLFO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Animals of the Savanna

– An Insider's Guide

The whole community is excited about the Savanna expansion of Seneca Park Zoo, which we hope to open by late August. We want to make sure you, our members, have everything you need to beat the crowds, take advantage of new experiences, and more!

Feed Giraffes!

Giraffe feedings will be offered in the future at the discretion of animal care staff. There will be a set number of tickets per day. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased at the front gate, ZooShop or at the Savanna Outpost. Tickets will be for a specific time, so you'll want to be at the giraffe feeding platform in time for your feeding! Zoo staff will provide the appropriate food; no other food is permitted.

Take a tram ride!

You can catch the tram in either of two locations: in the front of the Zoo by the ZooShop, or in the expansion area by the Savanna Outpost shop. Tickets for a one-way ride are \$2 for adults and \$1 for youth and seniors, and can be purchased at the front gate, the ZooShop or at the Savanna Outpost. Tram drivers won't take cash. The tram does not go through the Zoo, it goes through beautiful Seneca Park. The tram will run daily through Labor Day, and on weekends in September and October.

Welcome to Animals of the Savanna

Overall there are over twenty species in the Animals of the Savanna area, with large, outdoor, naturalistic habitats for giraffes, zebra, rhinos and ostriches. The Animals of the Savanna building is not to be missed, with over a dozen different species of birds, insects, reptiles, mammals and fish, in addition to the day rooms for giraffes and rhinos! You'll also find restrooms at the Animals of the Savanna building.

The Savanna Outpost is a new retail shop right by the tram stop. There you'll be able to purchase a variety of merchandise, souvenirs, "grab-and-go" food options, and beverages. Be sure to check out our new merchandise celebrating the opening of Animals of the Savanna! Another set of restrooms is available at the Savanna Outpost, accessible from behind the building facing the tram.

Check out the Savanna Outpost

Feed Giraffes!



Thank you for your support.

Without you, this wouldn't be possible. Enjoy Animals of the Savanna!

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**MORE
WONDER**

**MORE
WILDLIFE**





CHERYL DINOLFO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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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.



Follow us socially. Visit senecaparkzoo.org

Wayne Smith

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