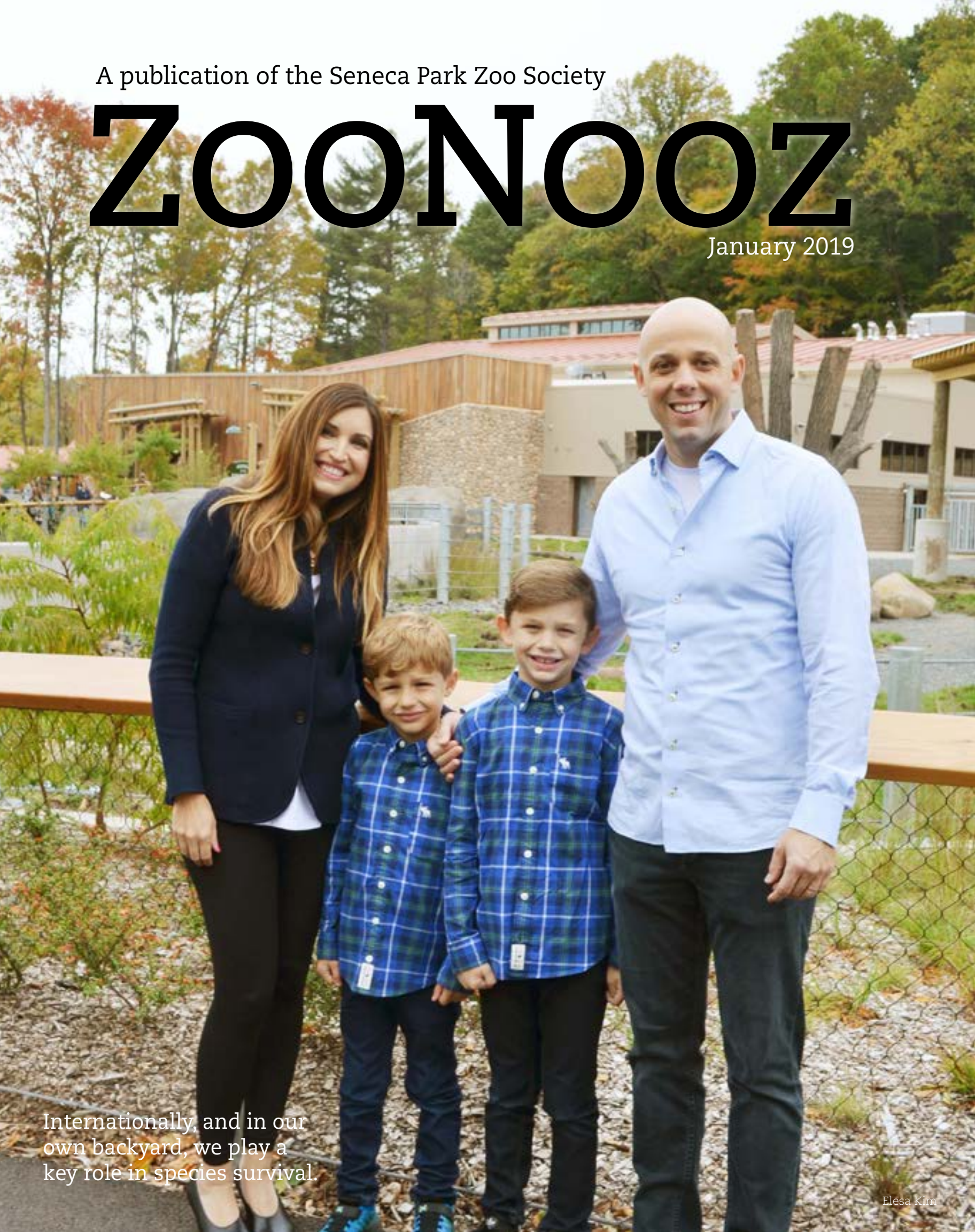


A publication of the Seneca Park Zoo Society

ZOO NOOZ

January 2019



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...Meet the Smiths



Jeff and Linda Smith were participants in Zoobilation 2018, and they won the front cover photo as part of the live auction at the event. Here they are pictured with their sons Jack and Chase (and Anoki in the background!) Their generous donation helps support the Zoo's education and conservation programs. "Seneca Park Zoo plays an important role in education and conservation, which is something Linda and I feel strongly about supporting," commented Jeff, "The Zoo is also crucial in protecting endangered species. Our family really enjoys the time we spend at the Zoo, and it's an organization we believe in and are proud to support."

On My Mind: The Power of Partnering for Conservation

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



I have been privileged to spend time with some true conservation heroes in the last couple months, including Craig Packer of the Lion Research Center at the University of Minnesota and Alejandro Morales, Veterinarian at ARCAS – Peten, a wildlife rehabilitation center in Flores, Guatemala. These are people who have dedicated their life to conservation research and ensuring a future for endangered species. It is frankly humbling to be in their presence.

But what is even more humbling is what they ask of the Seneca Park Zoo: our partnership. Not in the form of financial assistance (though that is helpful too), but in the form of technical assistance, collaborative curriculum building, and the opportunity to bring their work to our audiences. There is a realization of the power of zoos to reach millions of guests each year, but there is also a recognition that Seneca Park Zoo truly is a leader in education and conservation action.

There is synergy that happens when like-minded organizations work together to achieve common goals. Leveraging the skills, knowledge, and assets of multiple partners also can be a far more effective use of resources. And as I started to write this column, I realized this issue of ZooNooz highlights a number of collaborative projects and key partners that are making a difference for wildlife conservation.

For example, on pp. 4-7, you'll see that our North American river otters are the subject of two very different research partnerships with faculty at RIT. In addition to this important work related to the animals in our care, our strategic partnership with RIT covers multiple disciplines from

environmental science to imaging science, data science, and tourism and hospitality. Later this month, another RIT faculty member travels to Madagascar with the Zoo Society's Tom Snyder, Director of Programming and Conservation Action, to use imaging science technologies to prove conservation impact of reforestation.

"this issue of ZooNooz highlights a number of collaborative projects and key partners that are making a difference for wildlife conservation."

In late January, the Zoo will host representatives from our conservation partner Polar Bears International. They will be in town to help celebrate our second annual Defend the Ice Month with the Rochester Americans, a collaborative partnership that brings awareness of polar bear conservation to hockey fans in our region, who last year helped raise thousands of dollars for Polar Bears International (PBI). PBI would love to see other hockey teams partner with zoos throughout the country to raise awareness of the necessity of sea ice. For more information, see pp. 4 of the event side of this issue.

A regional example of a collaborative effort to achieve a conservation solution was the nonprofit award winner at the Zoo Society's inaugural Environmental Innovation Awards, reviewed on pp. 8-9. The Honeoye Inlet Restoration is a perfect example of nonprofits, government organizations, and individuals working together to find a sustainable solution.

These are just a few of the many collaborations your Zoo is involved in as we work to inspire our community to connect with, care for, and conserve wildlife and wild places. It's always better with partners.

Here's to a new year of great partnership and great conservation progress.

Achieving The Gold Standard Among Zoos

Larry Staub | Zoo Director | Seneca Park Zoo



I am very proud to inform you that Seneca Park Zoo has, once again, been granted accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Zoos and aquariums are required to successfully complete a rigorous accreditation process every five years in order to become or remain accredited by AZA. Seneca Park Zoo has been continuously accredited since 1979, making us one of the longest-accredited facilities in the United States.

AZA accreditation is the "gold standard" among zoos. It involves a thorough process including a detailed application and a meticulous on-site inspection by a team of trained zoo professionals. Every aspect of a zoo's operation is assessed, to ensure that it meets ever-rising national standards. Fewer than 10% of organizations licensed by the USDA to exhibit wildlife achieve this recognition. Finally, the zoo's top officials are interviewed at a formal hearing of AZA's independent Accreditation Commission, after which AZA accreditation is either granted, tabled, or denied. Currently, there are only 233 AZA accredited facilities. Frankly, AZA accreditation is what separates a first-class zoo from a roadside attraction.



County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo congratulates Larry Staub, Director of Parks and Seneca Park Zoo, on Seneca Park Zoo's AZA accreditation.

Accreditation, this time around, took a lot of hard work and determination. At our 2013 accreditation hearing, Seneca Park Zoo was granted accreditation but was also given a rather stark warning... decommission and demolish the antiquated Main Zoo Building or lose accreditation in 2018. To be fair, the Accreditation Commission had expressed concern over the Main Zoo Building during previous accreditations but this "shock and awe" strategy really drove the message home.

We immediately rolled-up our sleeves and got to work, engaging our community in a process that produced a visionary new Master Plan for Seneca Park Zoo. This plan answered the question, "What will Seneca Park Zoo be like without the Main Zoo Building?" It called for new habitats for species that would be displaced, like the rhino and snow leopards, and introduction of new species, as well, like giraffes and red pandas. It guided our relocation of remaining species to areas within our Zoo and to other zoos around the country. It also planned for the eventual return of beloved species with long histories at Seneca Park Zoo, like orangutans.



Larry, Cheryl, Pamela Reed Sanchez (President and CEO of Seneca Park Zoo Society), and Richard Mikiciuk (Assistant Zoo Director – Facilities) participated in the Main Zoo Building Demolition Ceremony... and they have the bricks to prove it.

Thanks to the leadership of County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo and the support of our County Legislators, Monroe County appropriated \$37.75 million in Capital Improvement funds to build the habitats, facilities, and infrastructure envisioned in our Master Plan. Together with a commitment by the Zoo Society to raise an additional \$23 million to supplement the County's stake in this effort, we were able to move forward with design and implementation. The results are nothing short of transformational! The new Cold Asia and Animals of the Savanna habitats were constructed and are now open. The Main Zoo Building was decommissioned and demolished, clearing the way for our planned Tropics Complex, featuring gorillas, orangutans, and lemurs. Best of all, Seneca Park Zoo continues to be accredited by AZA!

Seneca Park Zoo is an AZA accreditation success story. Each morning, as we open our gates for the day, we are fully committed to operating with the high standards expected of an AZA accredited facility. Hats off to our community-minded County Executive and Legislators, hardworking and dedicated Zoo staff, incredible volunteers, and supportive Zoo Society partners for pulling together to help us achieve this highest honor. Thank you!

Understanding North American River Otters: The latest research at your Zoo



Elesa Kim

One way that Seneca Park Zoo helps save wildlife is through conservation science. Your Zoo partners with academic institutions and with other zoos and aquariums to conduct and support research that helps understand the species in our care.

Zoo Animal Care staff work with professors from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) on two very different studies with our resident North American river otters as well as river otters throughout AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums. These fascinating mammals have existed for well over a million years, yet there is not much contemporary research on the species.

Seeing the World through the Eyes of Otters: Cognitive Research

Zoo keeper Catina Wright has been intrigued with the cognitive abilities of otters ever since she saw a target training session when she was visiting another zoo in 2010. An important part of a zoo keeper's role is that of trainer – helping animals learn behaviors that enable them to participate in their own care, and Catina wanted to explore novel ways to use training to provide mental stimulation to the otters in her care.

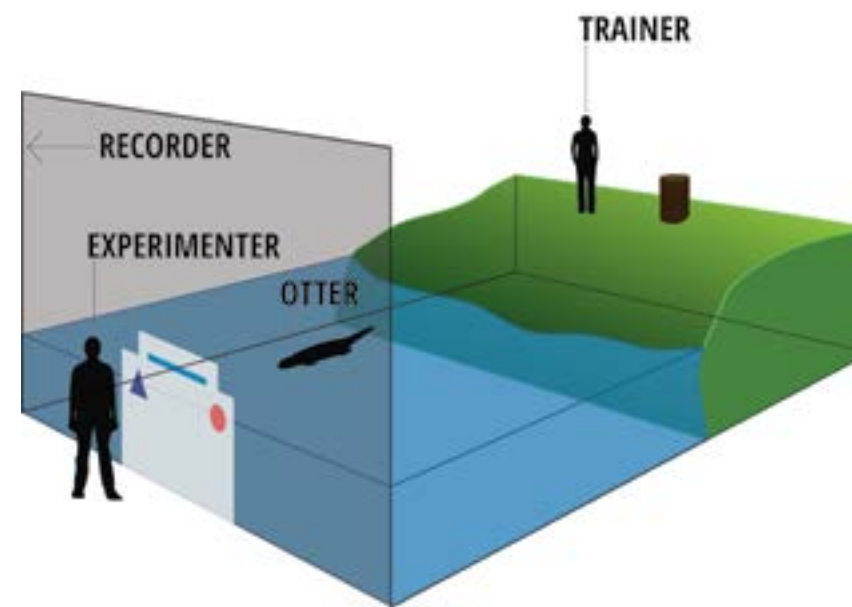
Dr. Caroline DeLong, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Director for Psychology at RIT is a cognitive psychologist with expertise in comparative cognition and perception. Dr. DeLong worked with Catina to launch a study to “see the world through otters’ eyes”, which began with understanding whether two of the Zoo’s North American river otters, Heather and Sailor, could recognize and differentiate shapes and colors.

To begin the project, Catina first had to train the otters to identify a target across the pool. Then, the otters had to be trained to select between two different targets for a food reward. Each was trained to identify and swim to targets of a particular shape (circle or triangle) and color (blue or red). Catina used positive reinforcement training to achieve this task in which the animal receives a food reward for performing the desired behavior. Heather was rewarded for identifying red circles, while Sailor was trained to identify blue triangles.



Dr. Caroline DeLong with one of the river otters.

Once the training phase was complete, the experimental phase began. One at a time, the otters were exposed to stimuli that eliminated one or both of the identifying variables (either shape or color) to see if they could still understand which target to seek.



The diagram depicts how the research was conducted with Heather. On the right Zoo keeper Catina Wright works with Heather while an RIT student researcher presents stimuli to the otter.

Both animals were able to positively identify targets when both shape and color were used. When one variable was removed, Heather was still able to identify the target, but Sailor was not. A number of hypotheses regarding the animals’ different behavior were explored, such as training history before the study began. This seven-year study was published in academic journal *Learning and Behavior* in September 2018.

Otters are believed to have dichromatic color vision, which would mean they have limited ability to differentiate colors. This is the first study to provide evidence that North American river otters can differentiate based on color. Knowing more about visual perception in otters may help zoos design better enrichment devices that capture the otters’ attention.

“For North American river otters in their natural range, the research can help us learn how otters may use visual object recognition to detect predators, prey, and other otters,” commented Dr. DeLong. “The more we know, the more we can help conserve this wonderful species.”

The next phase of research is already underway, with a study on understanding how otters categorize what they see, and a second study to begin to understand whether otters use global or local processing strategies. In other words, do otters see the forest or the trees?

“It has been great partnering with Dr. DeLong on this research,” commented Catina. “In addition to the really meaningful findings, the otters love the training, and it’s really stimulating for them to participate in the project.”

Understanding how Otters Evolved through Climate Change: Genetic Research

Seneca Park Zoo’s General Curator, David Hamilton, serves as the North American River Otter Species Survival Plan (SSP) Coordinator and studbook keeper for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). In this role, he works with the 110 accredited zoos that are home to the species, coordinating animal moves and breeding recommendations to ensure the genetic diversity and health of the animals in managed care.

Beyond managing animal populations, SSPs have a larger role in species conservation, and scientific research is an important component of that. To that end, David partnered with evolutionary biologist Dr. Larry Buckley, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Biology at RIT. The duo set out to learn about the genetics of the otters in conservation care, with a focus on otter origin and their geographic movements over their long evolutionary history.



North American River Otters have existed for over 1.9 million years, which means they survived climate change associated with the ice age. Understanding where they originated geographically and how their populations dispersed over time can change how we think about climate change and survival through it.

The research began with attempting to understand and map the genetics of the 260 North American river otters living at AZA accredited facilities. Once an institution has agreed to participate in the study, they acquire an additional blood sample the next time they are performing a routine physical examination of an otter in their care. This sample is then sent to RIT, where student researchers, under the direction of Larry and David, extract and amplify the DNA and send it to another lab for sequencing. The team has already collected 45 samples in just the first year!



Seneca Park Zoo General Curator David Hamilton shows the samples provided by other AZA Zoos.



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“For North American river otters in their natural range, the research can help us learn how otters may use visual object recognition to detect predators, prey, and other otters. The more we know, the more we can help conserve this wonderful species.”

-Dr. Caroline DeLong



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“These animals have lived through a part of history that humans didn’t. As we look at how otters successfully lived through climate change, what can we learn about humans’ ability to do so?”

-Dr. Larry Buckley

The DNA sequencing for each specimen is reviewed against all the other specimens, and the haplotypes, or DNA variations, are mapped to determine how related each otter is to the other otters in the study. As an example, it was assumed that the most geographically separated otters (those from Alaska and Florida) would have the most dramatic difference in DNA sequence. But this has not proven true based on initial analysis, and instead otters with origins in Florida and Georgia have the DNA sequences that are most different. This could imply that populations in those areas were separated a million years ago or more during the ice age, leading to this degree of evolution within a species.

“The cooperation among other AZA-accredited zoos has been great,” commented David. “I’m optimistic we’ll continue to get more participation as we start to share our preliminary insights.”

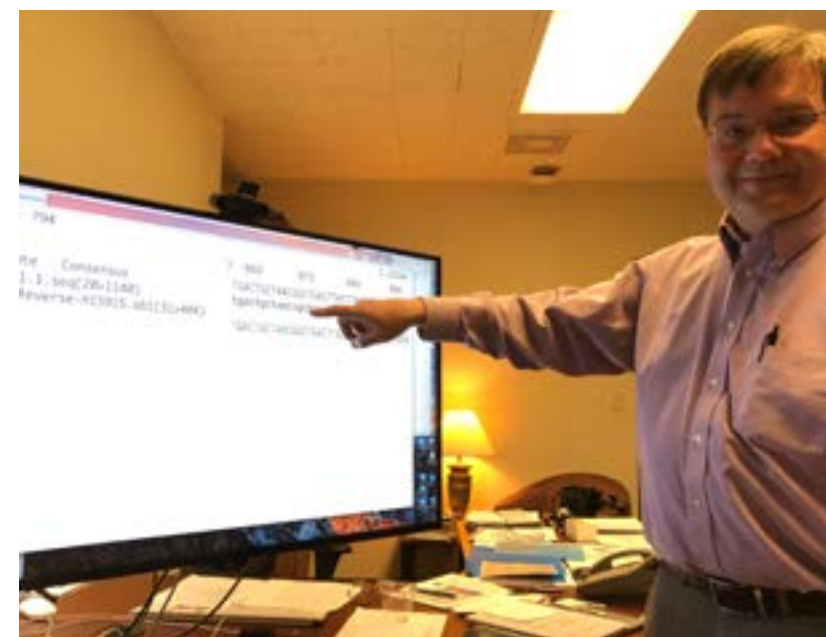
The research is exciting not only because it builds on the limited knowledge about otter genetics while giving RIT students meaningful research projects but also because it could yield broader insights with real world implications.

“These animals lived through a part of history that humans didn’t,” commented Dr. Buckley. “As we look at how otters successfully lived through climate change, what can we learn about humans’ ability to do so?”

Going forward, the team plans to acquire samples from more otters and to go beyond the initial mitochondrial DNA analysis to perform a more comprehensive map for each animal.

Partnering for conservation

These projects are just a couple of examples of powerful partnerships that benefit the animals in our care and in nature, as well as our community. These studies create positive research experiences for the zoo keepers and the RIT students involved, all while creating meaningful science to help in the conservation of North American river otters



Dr. Larry Buckley demonstrates the variations in the DNA sequences.



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 “By shining a spotlight on our region’s top environmental innovators, we are helping to attract investment and expertise from around the country to Rochester and the Finger Lakes.”

-Suzanne Hunt, HuntGreen LLC



Zoo Society hosts Environmental Innovation Awards

On October 25, 2018, Seneca Park Zoo Society held the first-ever Environmental Innovation Awards and Symposium at the Joseph A. Floreano Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

The awards ceremony, hosted by WXXI’s Evan Dawson and attended by approximately 200 people, was developed to recognize innovators creating solutions to environmental issues facing our region. It was followed by a symposium, “Business Innovation Inspired by Nature,” led by Bill Browning, co-founder of Terrapin Bright Green.

The event was steered by a committee of environmental experts from the region, including committee chair Suzanne Hunt, founder of HuntGreen LLC, who also moderated the symposium with Browning. The event was sponsored by CPL, with additional support from CMI AV, RIT and Diamond Packaging.

Our region is filled with like-minded people who are passionate about the environment and who are working towards a more sustainable future, from lowering their carbon footprint to protecting our local biodiversity. With so much great work being done here, the Zoo Society felt a need for an event that recognized those efforts.



Rather than a traditional trophy, winners took home mini green “wall”.

Photos from top left: The Honeoye Inlet Restoration Partnership was the non-profit winner. Bill Browning delivered the keynote speech. Photo credit, Matt Kelly. The Harley School’s Biomimicry Team won the youth award for their huMANGROVE project.



Nearly 200 people attended the breakfast event. Photo Credit: M Johnson

The Winners

Dozens of nominations were submitted, and awards were given out in five categories.

- **Youth Award:** The Harley School’s biomimicry team was recognized for their huMANGROVE project. The students sought to create a solution that could mitigate the effects increases in storm intensity and frequency have on coastline erosion. huMANGROVE was inspired by the roots of mangrove trees, using biomimicry to mitigate coastline erosion.
- **Nonprofit Award:** The Honeoye Inlet Restoration Partnership was recognized for their efforts to create a water quality solution for Honeoye Lake in a sustainable way, without creating a reservoir that would subsume natural habitat. This partnership involved seven diverse organizations, including the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force, Ontario County Soil & Water Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Finger Lakes Community College, and Honeoye Valley Association.
- **Large Business Award:** There was a tie in the Large Business Award category, and both Diamond Packaging and HARBEC, Inc. were awarded. Both were recognized for their longstanding commitment to green practices, their very measurable results, and the adoption of environmental awareness in every aspect of their businesses.
- **Small Business Award:** The winner was I-Square, which is a pedestrian-friendly, community-oriented, mixed-use town center in Irondequoit. They were recognized for their creativity in finding sustainable solutions and their efforts to educate the public about sustainability.
- **Individual Award:** Kimie Romeo was recognized with the Individual Award based on her efforts with the Coastal Cleanup Project, which for over 26 years has engaged thousands of volunteers to pick up millions of pounds of garbage on regional shorelines.

Your Zoo and Environmental Innovation

The connection between a zoo and environmental innovation probably isn’t immediately obvious. But zoos are conservation organizations as much as they are family attractions, committed to ensuring the survival of endangered species, both internationally and in our own backyard.

“I think everyone has been looking for an event like this to recharge their batteries and to combat the discouraging news we have all been hearing.”

-Mark Thorn, New York State Electric Auto Association

AZA accredited zoos provide more than \$200 million each year to conservation efforts around the world. And each year, we commit to educating the millions of guests that walk through our gates about the importance of saving species from extinction. And by far, the biggest threat to the survival of most species is humans. More and more, we humans share range with animals of all kinds, and the actions we can take to live more sustainably impact these animals, as well as ourselves.

By modeling sustainability and inviting our community to be environmental stewards, we are working to teach multiple generations of zoo-goers that their actions make a difference for the animals they love, including human beings.

The Judges

Judging was conducted by a panel of 13 nationally-known leaders in environmental issues.

- | | |
|---|--|
| • Kate Burson , Former Chief of Staff to the Chairman of Energy and Finance of NYS | • Mike Reynolds , Ultra Capital |
| • Ann Davlin , Blue Sphere Foundation | • Larry Schweiger , Retired, Former President of the National Wildlife Foundation |
| • Richard Graves , CleanChoice Energy | • Jigar Shah , Generate Capital |
| • Nicole Lederer , Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) | • Scott Sklar , The Stella Group Ltd. |
| • David Muyers , Mobility Futurist | • Stacy Swann , Climate Finance Advisors |
| • Jonathan Powers , CleanCapital | • Ken Westrick , Climatics Inc. |
| • Ann Reynolds , Alliance for Clean Energy New York | |

Check out more from the awards

Photos and videos of the award winners: senecaparkzoo.org/innovation

Save the date for the 2019 Environmental Innovation Awards & Symposium: October 30, 2019

Event program: senecaparkzoo.org/EIAS18

Calendar of events

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

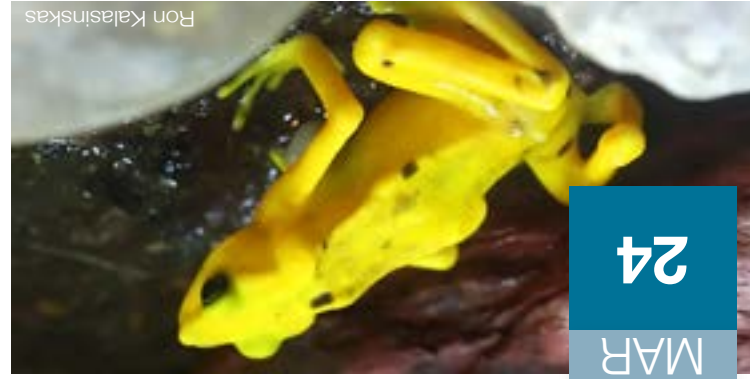
World Frog Day

Celebrate frogs at the Zoo! Discover the various species of these amazing amphibians and learn fun facts during your visit.

Cost Free with Zoo admission

Date March 24 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More info senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays



Ron Kalasinskas

Sign up now for Summer ZooCamp!



Marie Kraus



Marie Kraus

Get involved with your Zoo



Marie Kraus

Zoo Teens

The ZooTeen program gives young adults the opportunity to volunteer with like-minded peers and serve as ambassadors of the Zoo while exploring their interests in animals, ecology, and conservation. ZooTeens help to educate guests about the animals in our care and the importance of saving animals from extinction through fun, interactive stations set up throughout the Zoo. Training sessions with the Zoo's education staff and interactions with guests help ZooTeens to build confidence, enhance their communication skills, and expand their knowledge.

Who: Any teen who is entering grades 8-12 or will graduate high school this year.

When: Minimum of 2 days per week, July 5 - August 19, 2019. 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More information: ZooTeen applications for summer 2019 will be available this spring.

Questions? Contact 585.336.7213 or zooiteen@senecazoo.org



Walter Brooks

Docents

Do you have a passion for animals and want to support Seneca Park Zoo's mission to connect people to wildlife and wild places? Become a Zoo docent!

Docents help to engage Zoo guests to further their understanding of animals and conservation. With the help of biologists and other materials, Zoo docents have meaningful conversations with guests, inspiring people of all ages to connect with nature, care about animals, and help conserve the habitats that support them.

Interested in learning more? The next docent informational meeting is on Saturday, February 2 at 10 a.m.

Email volunteers@senecazoo.org with any questions.

Please note: you must be 21 years old to docent at the Zoo.

Volunteer

The Zoo is always looking for volunteers to help with events and other activities at the Zoo. If you'd like to learn more about being a general volunteer, contact volunteers@senecazoo.org.



Celebrate a special event with a guided Zoo tour

Book a guided tour of the Zoo for an experience you won't forget! Your guide will lead you on a 90-minute journey through the Zoo where you'll get a deeper insight on the animals in our care and different areas of the Zoo, including the new Animals of the Savanna expansion and Cold Asia habitats. Your tour guide will gladly answer questions and share information on the Zoo's mission to save animals from extinction.

Guided tours are a great way to celebrate an anniversary and make for a unique gift for the animal lover in your life.

Guided tours can be booked any time of the year. Call 585.295.7399 to make your reservation at least 3 weeks in advance.

Cost

Guided walking tour: \$150 for up to 15 participants or \$285 for 16-30 participants

Guided cart tour: \$100 for up to 5 participants per cart (two carts maximum per group)

Please note: Zoo admission is not included in the tour price. Groups of 10 or more paying guests qualify for the discounted group rate.

Register today

available as well.

All camps are one week long. Camps are structured by age group, with special topics for kids 3-12. New this year: a specific camp for special-needs kids. Camps run June-August and sell out quickly, so sign up early at senecaparkzoo.org/summercamp. Members receive a discount on camp fees! Before and after camp care is available as well.

ZooCamp 2019 promises to be more exciting than ever! ZooCamp is a fun and educational experience for any young animal lovers in your life. Campers learn about animals and the environment. They help a zoo keeper and have plenty of fun playing and learning outside at the Zoo.

Calendar of events

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



JAN
25

Defend the Ice Night

Seneca Park Zoo is partnering once again with the Rochester Americans to help create awareness for polar bears and the importance of protecting the ice they need to survive. Zoo members receive special pricing on tickets for home games through January. The ZooMobile will be at most home games. Join us on January 25 for Defend the Ice night, where the team will wear special polar-bear themed jerseys, which will be sold by auction as a fundraiser for Polar Bears International and Seneca Park Zoo Society.

More info
senecaparkzoo.org/ice



2019
FEB 16
APRIL 6



FEB
1 & 2

ZooBrrw

Beat the winter blues this February by attending our winter version of ZooBrrw. Tickets for this event, held on both Friday and Saturday nights, include Zoo admission, live music, delicious comfort foods, a s'mores station and animal experiences at the heated Eagles Landing Pavilion. Each guest will receive one ticket for use at any 2019 Summer ZooBrrw. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. A portion of each ticket supports the International Elephant Foundation. Must be 21 or over, with valid ID to attend.

Dates February 1 & 2
5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Last entry at 7 p.m.

Cost Members \$35 | Non-members \$40

Tickets Must be purchased in advance at senecaparkzoo.org/zooBrrw

Family Sleepover at the Zoo

Have you ever wondered what your Zoo is like at night? Join us at a Family Sleepover to find out! Families will go on a nighttime guided tour, learning about everything the animals in our care need to survive. You'll sleep inside Rocky Coasts Gallery next to the California sea lions and Anoki, the polar bear. A pizza dinner, snack, and continental breakfast are provided.

Date February 16 & April 6
Time 6:15 p.m. – 9 a.m.

Ages For children ages 5-10 and their adult

Cost \$60 for members | \$70 for non-members (per adult & child pair) One additional person: \$30 (\$35 for non-members)

Registration senecaparkzoo.org/sleepover

Polar Bear Awareness Weekend



Elesa Kim



Wayne Smith

FEB
23-24

Learn about polar bear Anoki and her counterparts in the Arctic. Enjoy enrichment experiences, keeper chats and Docents will be on-hand with touch tables, biofacts and more. Amerks players will be here for an autograph session on February 24 at 11 a.m.

Dates February 23 & February 24
Time 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost Free with Zoo admission

Registration For more information, go to senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays

Winter Break ZooCamp

School is on break, and it's a perfect time for a fun day of learning at the Zoo! Campers will explore the many different habitats that animals call home through crafts, interactive games, up-close animal encounters, and of course, visiting the animals throughout the Zoo.

Dates February 18-22

Time 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day

Cost Half-Day: Members \$135.00 | Non-member \$155.00 Full-day: Members \$210.00 | Non-member \$230.00

Registration senecaparkzoo.org/zooCamp

FEB
18-22



Elesa Kim

Animal comings & goings

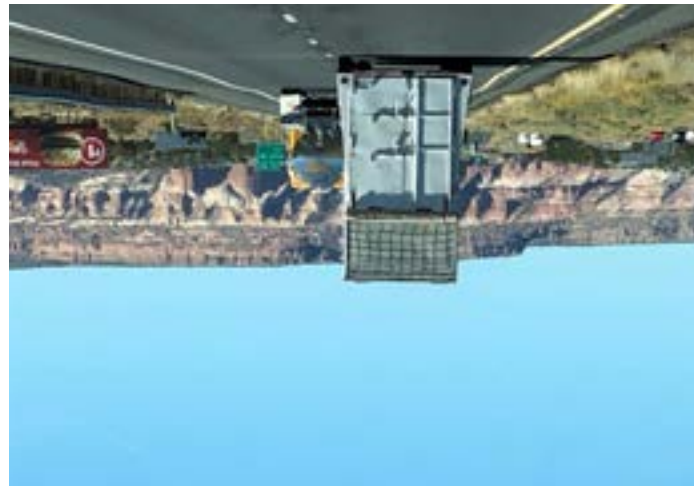
Parker's Excellent Adventure!

In late October a team of four from Seneca Park Zoo traveled to Santa Barbara Zoo to help bring Parker, a two-year old male Masai giraffe to his new home. A crew of three from International Animal Exchange, hired by Monroe County to transport the giraffe, met up with our folks on the west coast. They use a specialized trailer for giraffes, with a low floor and a tall roof, hauled by a pick-up truck.

Once Parker walked onto the trailer, after declining to do so for nearly two days, the two-vehicle convoy was on its way, with the truck/trailer leading the way and our Zoo team following close behind in a rented SUV. They drove straight through, traveling from California through Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania to New York. Every few hours they would pull off the interstate, at gas stations and truck stops along the way, to check on Parker, replenish his food and water, and ensure that he remained calm (which he did throughout the trip). These stops also provided the humans on the journey an opportunity to fuel-up the vehicles, get food, visit the restroom and change drivers.

After 58 hours on the road over the course of four days, Parker arrived at Seneca Park Zoo! There he was greeted by Animal Care staff and, of course, our two one-year old female giraffes Kipenzi and Iggy. Parker has quickly acclimated to his new habitat, companions, and caretakers.

(Read more about Parker's journey from California to Rochester and see more photos from the trip in an expanded BLOG post in the News section at SenecaParkZoo.org)



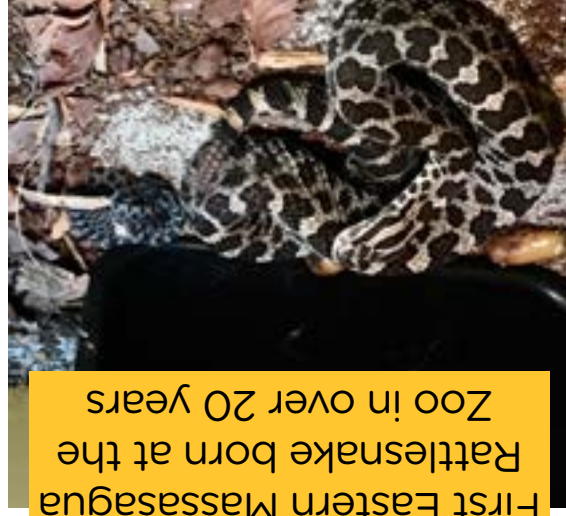
A female plains zebra, Lydia, joined the zebra herd at Seneca Park Zoo in November. Lydia joins us from The Columbus Zoo. She quickly acclimated with zebres Dottie and Liberty.



Echo the ostrich departed in November for the Columbus Zoo. After the death of ostrich Blue, Zoo officials determined that we would discontinue the ostrich program. Ostriches were originally envisioned to co-habitat with Bill the born at Seneca Park Zoo since 1997 and was the first born at any AZA-accredited zoo this year. The mother, Braveheart, is approximately four years old. The baby snake was named Solo, since it was born without any siblings.



First Eastern Massasagua Rattlesnake born at the Zoo in over 20 years



Calendar of events

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

2018
JAN - FEB

KinderZoo

Bring your preschooler to a KinderZoo class this winter to play, discover, and learn in a fun and interactive way. Explore different animals and habitats through games, biofacts, and age-appropriate activities. Each class gets to meet a program animal up-close and learn all about them.

Time 10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Ages 18 months - 3 years old

Cost \$5 for Zoo members | \$7 for non-members

Registration

To view the class schedule and register, visit senecaparkzoo.org/kinderzoo

2019
JAN - MARCH

Book & Beast

Every Wednesday, bring your little ones to the Zoo to enjoy an animal-themed story and have an up-close experience with a program animal.

Dates Every Wednesday through March
Times 11 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Cost Free with Zoo admission

Sponsored by Monroe Veterinary Associates

More info

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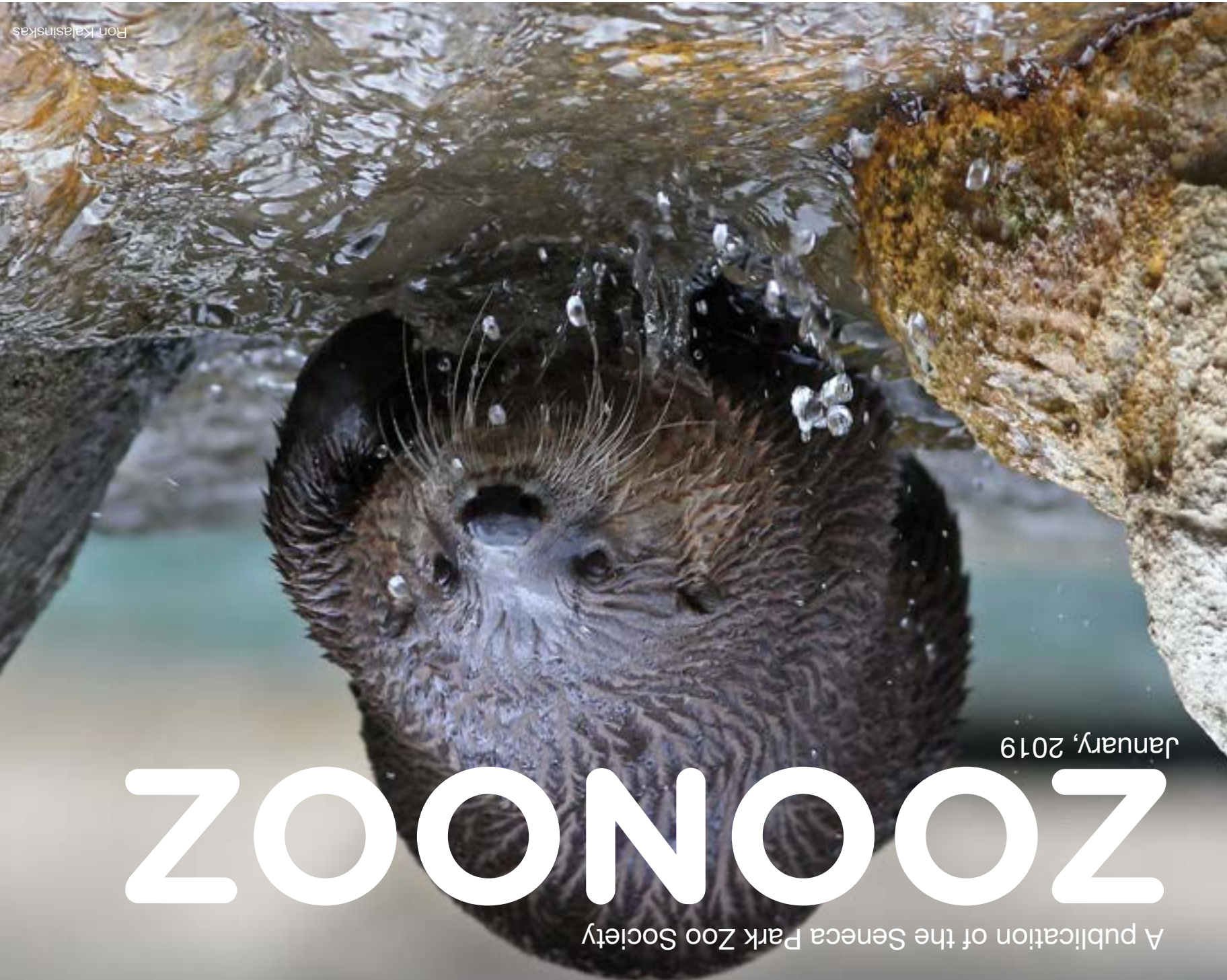
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Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners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

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Ron Kalasinskas

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