

A publication of the Seneca Park Zoo Society

ZooNooz

Creating a sustainable future for
Panamanian golden frogs

June/July 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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In this issue....

Page 8

The strategic partnership with Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) is reaping great rewards, with many teams in various parts of RIT working on projects with the Zoo and Zoo Society teams.



On My Mind: Fostering Environmental Stewardship

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



Did you know that there is a growing body of research demonstrating that time spent in nature is good for our mental and physical health? I suspect the research conclusions aren’t surprising for Zoo lovers. You’ve probably noticed that you feel better after a visit here. You’ve smiled more; your heartbeat has decreased. You left your daily worries behind a bit while you wandered past majestic bald eagles, bamboo-nibbling red pandas, a playful polar bear, engaging lions, and fascinatingly awkward but elegant giraffes.

I would bet that most Zoo lovers spend a considerable amount of time enjoying nature outside the Zoo as well. Maybe you go fishing, or enjoy a bike ride along the Erie Canal, a run in Highland Park, or venture out in one of our region’s myriad hiking trails. Those of us who appreciate nature – in all its forms – inherently understand the importance of conserving ecosystems for the good of the species that inhabit them, including humans. The biologist E.O. Wilson calls this intrinsic connection to nature biophilia.

But there are many people in our region who are disconnected from nature. For them, a visit to the Seneca Park Zoo might be their first encounter with wildlife. The staff and volunteers here work to ensure a positive, educational, and enjoyable experience, which leads not only to repeat visits, but to an understanding of the importance of saving animals from extinction. We want our guests to leave knowing they can play a role, and that caring for our environment makes a difference.

There are also many people in our region who think that zoos aren’t for them. They may view zoos as purely



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The staff and volunteers here work to ensure a positive, educational, and enjoyable experience, which leads not only to repeat visits, but to an understanding of the importance of saving animals from extinction.

recreational facilities or as experiences just for children. Perhaps they aren’t interested in animals and nature. Our outreach programs, including our ZooMobile, Butterfly Beltway, Urban Ecologists, nature hikes, and park clean ups, are designed to serve these people, too. Collectively, these Conservation Action programs carry the message of environmental stewardship to hundreds of thousands of people in our region annually.

We believe that to best serve our community, we must foster environmental stewardship in both Zoo guests and in those who may never visit. Sparking a curiosity about nature –whether it be the abundant biodiversity sharing our daily lives, or the extraordinary species that inhabit the Seneca Park Zoo – leads to a stronger sense of individual responsibility in keeping our environment clean. And, now we know it’s good for our health, too!

Pamela Reed Sanchez

Great Things Happening at your Zoo

Larry Staub | Zoo Director | Seneca Park Zoo

Beginning My Second Year as Zoo Director... It’s been just over one-year since County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo asked me to lead the Seneca Park Zoo, in addition to the Monroe County Department of Parks. We’re often told that the best way to learn a foreign language is through immersion. I can tell you that works for leading a Zoo, as well. The past year has been very busy, highly energizing, and extremely rewarding. In addition



to the supervision of animal care, facility operation, and exhibit design/construction, I also exercise direct oversight of services provided at the Zoo through our contract with the Seneca Park Zoo Society, including education, guest services, food/gift, membership, community outreach, marketing, communications, and fundraising. Helping to guide Seneca Park Zoo’s conservation efforts, both near and far, is also a major responsibility of mine, of ever-increasing importance.

Thankfully, we have an outstanding team, here at the Zoo, focused on enriching the lives of our animals and ensuring that our guests have the best possible experience. I am so grateful for the hard-work and dedication of our County staff, the support we receive from our Zoo Society, the service provided by our volunteers, and the ongoing commitment we see from our members, donors, and residents. I am also incredibly appreciative of our County Executive and our 29 County Legislators for the priority they have placed on Seneca Park Zoo, in both the County’s operating and capital budgets, as well as their championing of our Zoo as a top family-friendly attraction of our community.

Our New Deputy Director...

In January, County Executive Dinolfo appointed Lisa Polito Nicolay to be our new Deputy Director of Parks & Seneca Park Zoo. Lisa’s experience, knowledge, achievement, ingenuity, and passion make her uniquely qualified for this important position. As Assistant Director of Parks for the past six years, she has demonstrated, time-and-again, her value as both a strategic thinker and a problem solver. Lisa has hit the ground running and is already putting her highly effective organizational and mentoring skills to work, here at Seneca Park Zoo and throughout our twenty-one Monroe County Parks. Her leadership is truly impactful.



Larry Staub, Director of Parks & Seneca Park Zoo, and Lisa Polito Nicolay, Deputy Director of Parks & Seneca Park Zoo

Coming This Summer...

As County Executive Dinolfo recently announced in her 2019 State of the County Address, we are introducing “Friday Family Fun Days & Nights” at Seneca Park Zoo for the very first time this summer! On Friday, June 28th, we’ll welcome summer, and on Friday, August 30th, we’ll host a summer send-off. On these two special dates, the Zoo will open, as usual, at 10:00 a.m. (9:30 a.m. for members)... and we’ll stay open until 9:00 p.m. In addition to our special extended hours, we’ll be offering fun activities, zookeeper chats, animal experiences, and other exciting opportunities throughout the day... and night. These two Fridays are fantastic opportunities for families to enjoy the Zoo and one another!

Fingers Crossed for Public Giraffe Feeding...

We remain very hopeful that we will begin offering daily giraffe feeding opportunities for our guests this summer. Our three giraffes are young and sometimes apprehensive around unfamiliar people. As they continue to acclimate to their home, here at Seneca Park Zoo, we are confident that public feeding sessions will become part of their daily routines. Of course, participation will always be the giraffes’ choice.

Enjoy the summer. I hope to see you at the Zoo!

Larry Staub

The goal of the EVACC Foundation is to create an Amphibian Conservation Center at El Valle de Anton to protect, breed, and reintroduce endangered and ‘extinct in the wild’ populations of amphibians.



Securing a sustainable future for Panamanian golden frogs

Assistant Curator John Adamski, left, and zoo keeper Alyssa Dugan, right with Edgardo Griffith – director of the EVACC foundation, Lucas Vogel (student), and Robert Hill (Zoo Atlanta, team leader)

In March, Seneca Park Zoo Assistant Curator John Adamski and Zoo Keeper Alyssa Dugan spent 12 days in El Valle, Panama, working with the Zoo’s partner in Panamanian golden frog conservation, the EVACC Foundation. Panama’s national animal, the golden frog is a tiny, brightly-colored toad native to the rainforests and cloud forests in the western-central part of the country. Its bright coloration warns predators of its immense toxicity.

Dating back to Mayan civilization, the golden frog has been a symbol of good luck and fortune in Panama. The golden frog is everywhere - on signs, in stores and even on food packaging. However, the Panamanian golden frog is critically endangered according to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Its population has drastically declined over the last several decades, and the species is believed to be extinct in the wild. The last recorded golden frog sighting in nature was in 2009.

Habitat loss and fragmentation remain the most serious threats to amphibians, but pollution, disease, and over-collection for the pet trade are also significant. Some of these threats can be mitigated through legal and physical protection of species, but many, like the chytrid fungus, cannot.

In 2006, the chytrid fungus was rapidly spreading throughout Panama, causing the disease Chytridiomycosis in golden frogs and other amphibians. Combined with other threats, the Panamanian golden frog population was in serious danger. EVACC staff and volunteers from AZA zoos rescued over 50 species of frogs from the streams of El Valle to ensure their long-term survival. Today, EVACC maintains over 1,800 individual animals.



Top: John arranges tanks in the new conservation facility. Bottom left: John sets up electric for the tanks. Bottom middle: Alyssa cuts pipes for the tanks. Bottom right: Alyssa and John take a break to enjoy beautiful Panama.

John and Alyssa stayed in El Valle de Antón, a town in central Panama. They spent their days helping the EVACC Foundation establish a new conservation facility and sharing their expertise to set them up for long-term success. Daily tasks included tank repair and arranging, plumbing, drilling, electrical, drainage, and a lot of cleaning. They cleaned out three large pods and the tanks that will be the frogs’ new homes.

Today, EVACC maintains a thriving population of golden frogs, as well as many other critically endangered frog species. The success of this program and others like it depend on a lot of dedication, support, and collaboration. The development of the EVACC Foundation’s new site is

an ongoing effort that involves many AZA-accredited partners including Zoo Atlanta, Maryland Zoo, Fort Worth Zoo, Detroit Zoo, and more.

With the golden frog deeply rooted in the country’s culture, the local Panamanians shared John and Alyssa’s enthusiasm about the project and were excited to hear about their progress. In the future, EVACC hopes to return the species in their care to their natural ranges once the threats to their survival are mitigated.

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ZooScholars program uses the Zoo as an outdoor classroom

During a two-day period in April, over 1,200 second-graders from 25 schools in the Rochester City School District (RCSD) came to Seneca Park Zoo for a collaborative, STEAM-based experiential learning program. ZooScholars, now in its second year, is a custom, multi-disciplinary program that was co-created by the Zoo Society's Education team and RCSD staff.

ZooScholars addresses the district's learning standards in science, math, and language arts while bringing kids outside of the classroom for real-world applications. New this year, Zoo educators held a professional development workshop to help prepare teachers for the program. Teachers learned about origins of the program, goals, and initiatives, and received an overview of the activities.

The learning didn't stop at the Zoo. When students returned to their classrooms, they participated in additional assignments that had them apply the data and information they gathered at the Zoo. The program culminated with a final writing assignment. The program was funded, in part, by a grant from ESL Charitable Foundation.

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ZooScholars addresses the district's learning standards in science, math, and language arts while bringing kids outside of the classroom for real-world applications

How can you help this species?

- Directly support this project

Donate to Project Golden Frog at proyectoranadorada.org. Funds will go directly to the EVACC Foundation and their efforts to maintain the golden frog population.

- Visit the Panamanian golden frogs at the Zoo

Every time you visit the Zoo, you're helping to save wildlife from extinction. Learn more about the Panamanian golden frog during your next trip to the Zoo so you can educate others about why it's important to help save them.

- Be in tune with your environment

Think about your water quality, the fertilizers you use, and what's going down your drains (i.e. roadside garbage). Attend park and waterway clean-ups and be on the look out for frogs crossing roads.

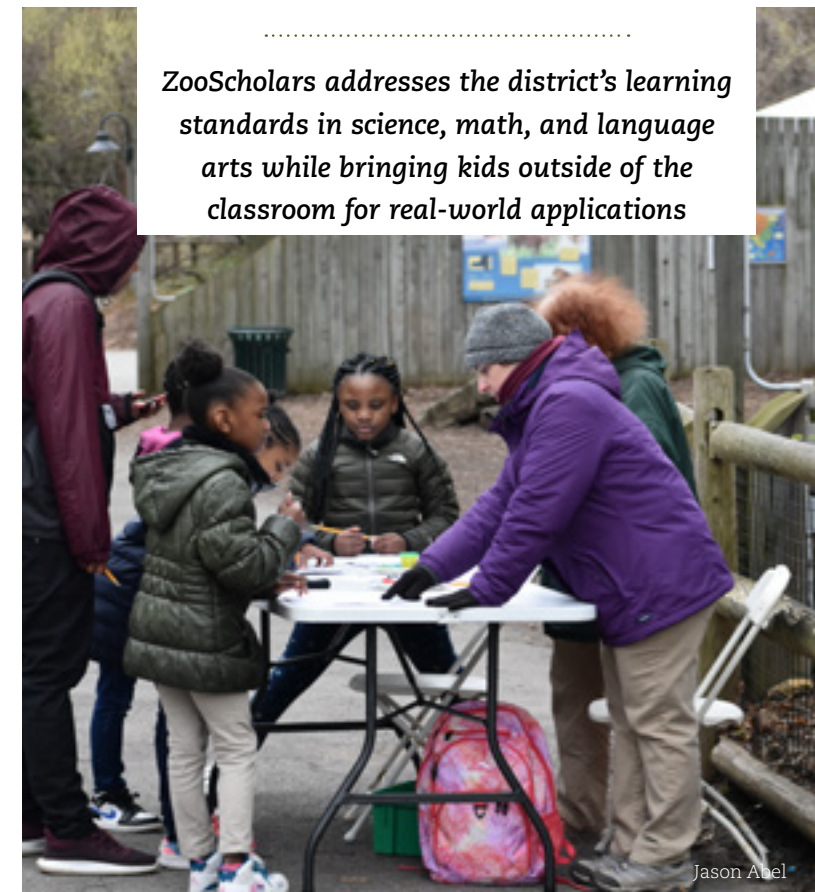


Eric Caballero

"Our primary goal in our second year of ZooScholars was to shape big outcomes, assess the program, and evaluate processes to ensure we're successful," said Kelly Ulrich, the Zoo Society's Director of Education and Visitor Studies. "We wanted it to be both a fun and engaging experience for the students as they utilized the Zoo as an outdoor classroom."

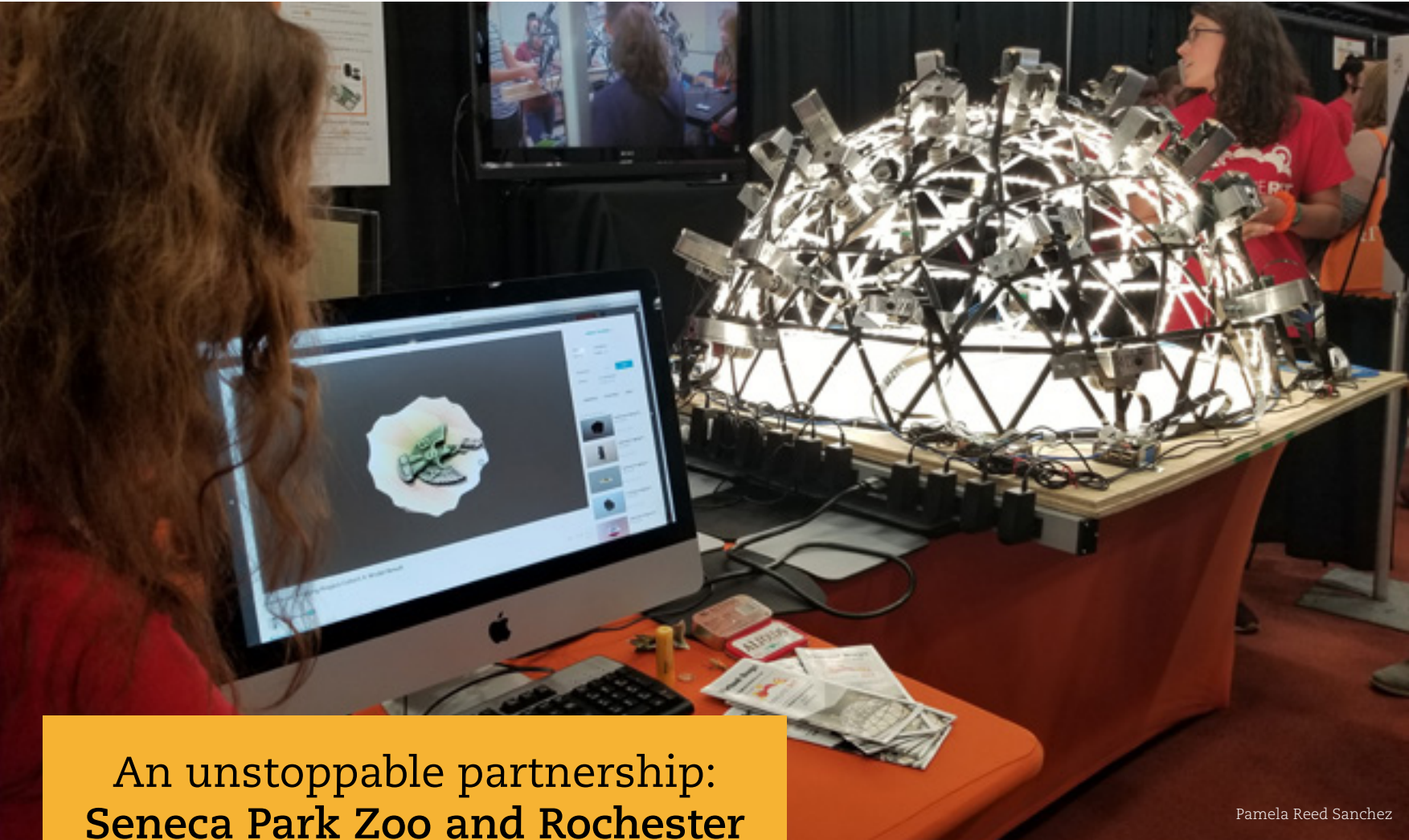
During the two-hour program, second graders followed one of two different "tracks" through the Zoo that guided their learning experience. The students stopped at four different habitats and were encouraged to draw, measure, read, and write about how each animal was adapted for survival.

"The students learned about certain adaptations the animals have and how those help them to survive in nature, like how a bird's beak works."



Jason Abel

"ZooScholars is also meant to support teachers in the Rochester community," said Ulrich. "It provides them with a lesson plan that supports their curriculum while taking them outdoors and into nature. ZooScholars allows teachers to experience three-dimensional learning in action and then use it back in their classrooms."



An unstoppable partnership:
Seneca Park Zoo and Rochester
Institute of Technology

Understanding biodiversity through audio recordings. Quantifying the conservation impact of planting native vs. non-native pollinator plants. Cracking a way to take 3D image of specimens in the field. Training next generation zoo keepers. These are just a few of the examples of how a strategic partnership with Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) has benefited the Zoo and our conservation efforts.

Both Monroe County and Seneca Park Zoo Society staff have worked with RIT on various projects for years. In May 2017, the Society entered a formal, strategic partnership with RIT with the goal of identifying and exploring real-world opportunities for RIT students and faculty to work with the Zoo and Zoo Society to tackle conservation and business opportunities together.

An advisory team of faculty has helped prioritize the myriad opportunities for collaboration to ensure they are mutually beneficial for both organizations. The results so far have surpassed the expectations of everyone involved.

“The partnership with the Zoo Society is clearly a case where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” Commented Dr. James Winebrake, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at RIT. “Together we have identified projects that not only provide our students with a rich set of learning experience but also enhance the expertise and knowledge of the Zoo and improve its operations.”

The areas of collaboration include single semester projects,

multi-year research studies and capstone courses, an internship program, and many situations where RIT staff serve on committees or work on specific projects for the Zoo. Here are just a few examples of the partnership at work.

3D imaging of specimens in situ

In 2018, the Zoo introduced the Center for Biodiversity Exploration, a gaming experience to connect Zoo guests with the impact of their actions on an ecosystem. The game was designed with support from two RIT co-op students. The next phase of the game will include multi-player opportunities, as well as additional ecosystems beyond the current Genesee River game.

One challenge: It takes considerable time to model the needed 3D representations of species for the games. Using traditional modeling, a game programmer can take up to 40 hours to create one specimen. This challenge was presented to a team of freshmen Imaging Science students.

The team created a prototype that enables creation of a 3D image of a physical specimen in just minutes. Using a dome housing 32 cameras and more than 100 feet of lighting, coupled with unique software to process the data of all the simultaneous pictures, the assets to create 3D models are possible at scale. They also made the imaging device portable, so a researcher can take it into the field.

RIT Professor Anthony Vodacek and Tom Snyder, the Zoo Society’s Director of Programming and Conservation Action, tested the device recently in Madagascar, with great success. The team has now created a more robust version which they displayed at Imagine RIT in April.

Pamela Reed Sanchez

Students display the 3D imaging device at Imagine RIT.



“The most interesting projects may be the ones we can’t even conceive of yet. The rapid pace of technological change, from new data management systems to artificial intelligence, will continue to create challenges and opportunities for the partnership to explore.”

-Dr. James Winebrake, Dean of the
College of Liberal Arts at RIT

Wayne Smith

A feeder system for Amur tiger Katya is being created by RIT faculty.

Creating enrichment for tigers

In their natural range, Amur tigers have to hunt for food. At zoos like ours they have zoo keepers who feed them. This creates a paradigm where people = food to the tiger. Working with RIT professor Mark Olles, Dr. Louis and the veterinary team are working to create an automatic feeder that will provide intermittent feedings that can’t be predicted by Katya, our resident tiger. The feeder will have multiple distribution points in the habitat, and animal care team will program it to open at seemingly random occurrences (while all managed to deliver the prescribed dietary balance the tiger needs each day).

“This device will increase exploration by Katya, and give her more behavioral diversity,” commented Dr. Louis, “Having some unpredictability in her routine is a good thing,” he added.

The introduction of the feeder will be coupled with a behavioral observation study, conducted by Zoo staff and docents, to measure the impact on the tiger’s behavior overall.

Understanding the impact of Pollinator Gardens

The Zoo’s Butterfly Beltway program re-establishes pollinator habitat using plants native to western New York. Increasingly, organizations in our region are planting pollinator habitat rather than mowing roadside grassy areas.

In theory it’s a win-win: more pollinator habitat in addition to cost savings and positive environmental impact of less mowing. The Zoo has also been exploring the possibility of planting pollinator habitat in abandoned lots in urban areas as well.

A team of faculty from RIT have taken on a comprehensive view of pollinator habitat in roadside and urban areas as part of a multi-year capstone course, engaging several classes of students over a several-year period. The project is intended to evaluate plant adaptability to roadsides and urban areas, identify new areas for restoration, and develop management recommendations.

Its components include evaluating local vs. non-local strains of milkweed efficacy, evaluating pollinator use of the specific plants in the Butterfly Beltway seed mix vs. more traditionally accessible mixes, and mapping specific sites for future pollinator gardens in vacant lots.

Additionally, a team of economics students will be doing a cost-benefit economic analysis of converting grassy areas to pollinator gardens.

“I love it when multiple disciplines come together,” commented Kaitlin Stack Whitney, Visiting Assistant Professor in the Science, Technology, & Society Department and co-chair of the RIT-SPZS partnership committee. “We’re giving students insight into what it’s like to work professionally, with real world examples,” she added.

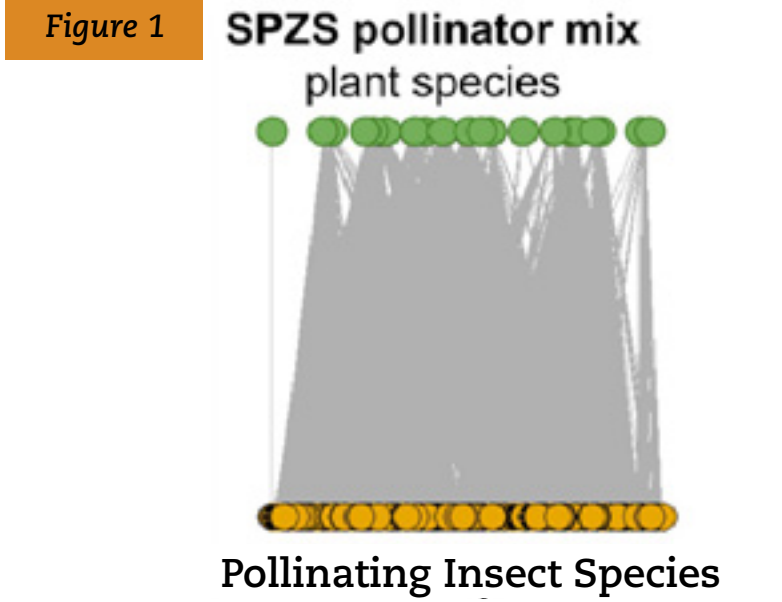


Figure 1: Bipartite graph of the plan-pollinator network for the Seneca Park Zoo Society's seed mix. There are 27 plant species that could potentially support 520 species of pollinating insects in Western, NY.

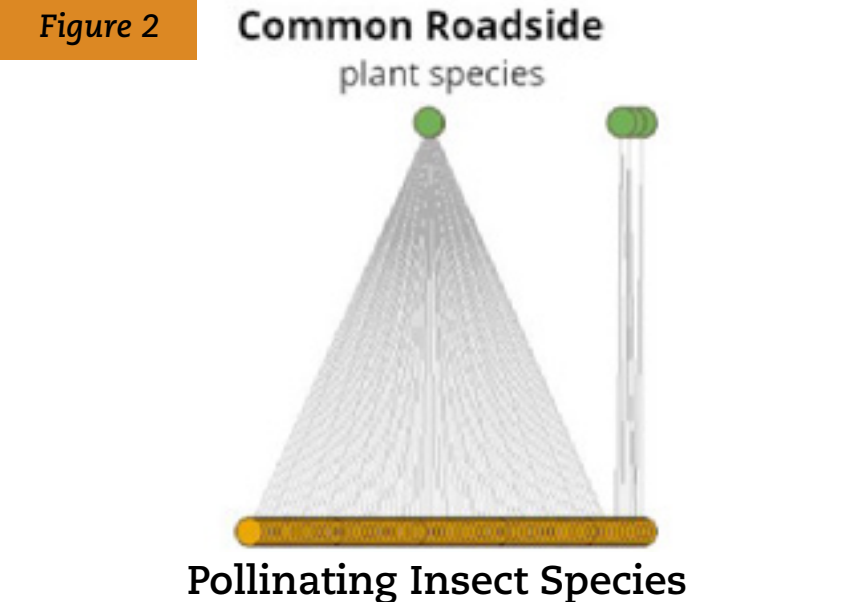


Figure 2: Bipartite graph of the plan-pollinator network for the General Roadside seed mix. There are 4 plant species that could potentially support 77 species of pollinating insects in western, NY.



Interns prep diet for animals, help clean habitats, develop enrichment, and more.

Next generation animal care

For over a decade, Seneca Park Zoo has partnered with RIT Thomas H. Gosnell School of Life Sciences to provide Animal Care internship opportunities to third and fourth year Biology and Environmental Sciences students. The semester-long program includes a weekly lecture and a weekly full-day shift working hands-on with the animal care team at the Zoo. Under the direction of General Curator David Hamilton, the 10-12 students per year experience the life of a zoo keeper, including maintaining habitats, diet prep, creating behavioral enrichment, and more.

The lecture portion of the class covers population genetics, management of animals with Species Survival Plans,



research and conservation work in zoos, and education of guests through programs and interpretive graphics. Several interns through the years have gone on to graduate school, or to become veterinarians or zoo keepers.

The future of the partnership

One thing is clear: the possibilities of this partnership are limitless. Where is the partnership headed?

“The most interesting projects may be the ones we can’t even conceive of yet. The rapid pace of technological change, from new data management systems to artificial intelligence, will continue to create challenges and opportunities for the partnership to explore,” concluded Winebrake.



“Endangered species” is a phrase that feels ominous, but is often too vague to inspire action. It becomes very real when the number of last surviving individuals of a species can be easily imagined. For example, fewer than 80 Sumatran rhinos are left in the world, split into subpopulations with no natural gene exchange. In such a dire situation, assisted reproduction becomes imperative for species survival.

The Lindner Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is a leading expert in assisted reproduction. They delivered the first Sumatran rhino from artificial insemination in 2001 after years of trials and unsuccessful attempts. This was the first birth of a Sumatran rhino calf in human care in 112 years.

Today, in addition to Sumatran rhinos, CREW is focused on a number of signature species including polar bears and small cats like Canada lynx. Seneca Park Zoo is proud to partner with CREW on both these projects.



Experts from CREW work with Zoo staff to perform an artificial insemination procedure on Anoki.

Polar Bears

There are only eleven reproducing pairs of polar bears in zoos today. Couple that with the shrinking population of polar bears in the Arctic and a huge gap in our understanding of polar bear reproduction, and the fate of polar bears is as dire as that of Sumatran rhinos. For this reason, Seneca Park Zoo first partnered with CREW back in 2012 with the first artificial insemination (AI) on a polar bear with Aurora. Although that attempt and the handful of attempts that have followed have not been successful, much has been learned about polar bear reproduction and physiology.

Following Aurora’s death in March 2018, Anoki, one of Aurora’s cubs (through natural conception) returned to Seneca Park Zoo. Earlier this year, the project came full circle when Anoki underwent artificial insemination treatment in partnership with CREW. If Anoki does produce a cub, she will be the first polar bear ever to give birth from artificial insemination.

Polar bear reproduction is a complicated process that includes “delayed implantation,” which means that while polar bears breed in the spring, the embryo doesn’t implant for 4-8 months. If the embryo does successfully implant, cubs are typically born in November or December. Regardless of the outcome for Anoki, Monroe County is proud to work with CREW to support polar bear conservation.

Canada Lynx



CREW team gathering semen sample from Canada lynx during physical exam.

Successfully producing offspring through assisted reproduction takes years of research involving both males and females to understand the unique physiology of each species. The Canada lynx is threatened throughout its natural range and has low reproduction rates in conservation care. Earlier this year, CREW visited Rochester to obtain a semen sample from Gretzky, the Zoo’s male Canada lynx, while he was under anesthesia for a routine medical exam. This was the second time that CREW collected semen from Gretzky as they characterize changes in male reproductive parameters that may be associated with season. These first steps, understanding semen qualities and developing collection and storage protocols, are required before AI or other advanced assisted reproduction techniques can be made in the future.

Partnering with innovative leaders like CREW is just one of many ways your Zoo uses science to support species survival.

Calendar of events

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



Join the Seneca Park Zoo Society docents for this 21-and-older annual fundraising fete that raises funds for education and conservation programs in Madagascar. Shop the International Marketplace, enjoy the music of Miles Watts & The Brothers From Other Mothers, and taste the custom brew created by Stoneyard Brewing. There will also be a variety of wine and chocolate tastings, drawings, and more.

Party Mad at the Zoo

Date:

June 26

Time:

5:30 – 9 p.m.

Tickets:

Purchase tickets at senecaparkzoo.org/partymad

Details

- Theme: 'Soaking up the Sun'
- Timeframe: June 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019
- How to enter: Upload your photo via the form at senecaparkzoo.org/photocontest
- Share your photo on social media by tagging @SenecaParkZoo #senecaparkzoo

Prize

Show your love of Seneca Park Zoo by entering our ZOOPicsROC photo contest! During your next visit, capture an image that you think fully expresses the theme 'Soaking up the Sun,' and submit it for a chance to win.



Wayne Smith

Contest Rules

Submissions will be posted to an album on the Zoo's Facebook page the week after the contest closes for people to "like" their favorite photo. The photo with the most Facebook "likes" after one week will be the winner!

The winning photograph will be announced on our social media channels and in ZooNooz. The winner will receive a one-month extension on their membership!

Our next photo contest theme will be announced in the next issue of ZooNooz.

Since you asked...



Q: With all the focus on eliminating single-use plastics, why does the Zoo still provide straws and lids at its restaurants?

A: Great question! Not all straws and lids are created equally!

The Zoo's straws and lids are actually made of plants, not petroleum-based plastics. While they look and feel like plastic, our straws and lids are made of plants like corn, cassava, sugar cane, and beets. This means they are made with fully renewable materials that meet standards for compostability and certified by the Biodegradable Products Institute (BPI).

If you're trying to go strawless, check out the ZooShop: they sell reusable metal straws for use on the go!

The Zoo's straws and lids are actually made of plants, not petroleum-based plastics!

Member t-shirts now available!



Join the league of Conservation Crusaders by sporting our 2019 member t-shirts! T-shirts are available at the Zoo admissions booth for \$10. Penguin Circle, Otter Circle and Partners in Conservation memberships include two shirts free of charge. We have a wide array of adult and child's sizes available.

Celebrate Grads and Dads with a commemorative brick!

Celebrate milestones, memories, and more with a Seneca Park Zoo commemorative brick. Commemorative bricks are a unique and meaningful gift for your nature-loving family, friends, or even yourself! Visit senecaparkzoo.org/brick to see personalization options and place your order. Order by June 15 for your brick to be installed during summer 2019.



Calendar of events

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

Genesee River Weekend

Learn about the conservation success stories that have happened right in your own backyard, including how the Zoo helped bring back river otters and lake sturgeon to the Genesee River, and what we're doing in the field to protect the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake (EMR), an endangered species in New York state. Animal experiences and interactive stations will teach guests about the importance of protecting our local ecosystems, and what actions they can take to help. This event is free with Zoo admission

Dates
July 6 & 7

Time
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

More information
senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays



6-7

JULY

17-27

JULY



National Zoo Keeper Week

Join us to celebrate our amazing animal care staff. Keeper chats, animal enrichment, and more!

Dates
July 17-27

Time
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

More information
senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays

Naked Mole Rat Night at the Red Wings

Join us on Tuesday, July 23 for Naked Mole Rat t-shirt night at the Rochester Red Wings game. The Red Wings play the Louisville Bats at 7:05 p.m., but you'll want to get there extra early, because the first 1,000 fans will get a special Naked Mole Rat-themed t-shirt.

Date:
Tuesday, July 23

Time
7:05 p.m.

Location:
Frontier Field, Get your tickets at mlb.com/rochester



23

JULY

Jungle Jog 5K Run & Walk



21

JULY



Date
Sunday, July 21

Cost
\$25 (dri-tech shirt upgrades available for an additional \$10)

Tickets
For event details or to register, visit senecaparkzoo.org/junglejog

Time
8:30 a.m. start time

The Zoo Society's popular Jungle Jog 5K Run & Walk is set for Sunday, July 21. This year, our 30th year, we're raising funds for giraffe conservation while creating awareness about the need to protect this species. A great event for competitive and casual runners, walkers, and families alike, participants of all ages enjoy the picturesque course through Seneca Park Zoo and adjacent Seneca Park. New this year, we will be recognizing those who have participated in Jungle Jog for 5 years or more. This group will be designated our "Wildlife Warriors" and receive a custom t-shirt for the race! Thank you to our sponsors M&T Bank, Best Times Financial Planning, Woods Oviatt Gilman, Five Star Bank, WHEC-TV, and MedVed.

International Tiger Day



27

JULY

Celebrate tigers, the biggest cat in the world, with us at Seneca Park Zoo! Enjoy training and feeding demonstrations with the Zoo's female Amur tiger, Katya, and learn about the threats her counterparts face in nature. This event is free with Zoo admission.

Date:
July 27

Time
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

More information
senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays

Calendar of events

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



Poo at the Zoo

What can we learn from things animals leave behind? At Poo at the Zoo, you'll learn all about animal waste and how it can be turned into compost, made into unique gifts, and studied for research. Enjoy poo-themed animal enrichment experiences, activities, and games throughout the Zoo. You won't want to miss this fun, new event. Plus, it's all free with admission!

Date June 8
Time 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

More information senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays

JUNE 8



JUNE 21-23

Marie Costanza



Azarrá Ostón

International Giraffe Weekend

Join us for a weekend of celebrating the world's tallest land mammal. Learn about the Zoo's three Masai giraffes through keeper chats, feeding demonstrations, and more. Discover the important role giraffes play in their ecosystems, their unique adaptations, and what you can do to help protect this species. All activities are free with Zoo admission.

Dates June 21-23
Time 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
More information senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays



JUNE 14

Bowling for Rhinos

Join Seneca Park Zoo keepers for a fun-filled night of bowling to raise money for rhino conservation. Bowling for Rhinos is hosted by the Zoo's Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), and 100% of the proceeds go directly towards rhino protection around the world. Registration includes three games of bowling and a pizza dinner.

Date: June 14
Time: 6:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25 per bowler

Registration: Register for the event or sponsor a bowler at senecaparkzoo.org/bowling. Pre-registration is required.



JUNE 15

Animal Super Powers Day

Animals have amazing super powers that help them find food, escape predators, and survive in their environments. Through keeper chats, animal experiences, and a knowledge hunt, you'll discover all the amazing things animals can do. Be sure to dress up as your favorite superhero! All programming is free with Zoo admission.

Date: Saturday, June 15
Time 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

More information senecaparkzoo.org/conservationdays

FRIDAY
family fun DAYS & NIGHTS
at Seneca Park Zoo

JUNE 28 & AUGUST 30

Extended Hours: The Zoo will be open from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. with last entry at 8 p.m. Members can always enter at 9:30 a.m.

★ **Animal Experiences** ★ **Food Specials** ★ **and more!**

Bring the family for an evening at the Zoo! We'll be staying open until 9 p.m. on June 28 and August 30. Last entry will be at 8 p.m. Kick off your summer with a visit to your Zoo!

Members enter free. Regular admission rates apply for non-members.

Staff updates



James Weinpress, Zoologist

Weinpress appointed to AAZK Board of Directors.

We are proud to announce that Zoologist James Weinpress has been appointed to the Board of Directors for the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), the premier membership association for animal care professionals. Seneca Park Zoo has had a chapter since 1999, but James is the first employee to be named to the board of the national organization. He has served on AAZK's Communications Committee since 2015, and served as its chair since 2017.

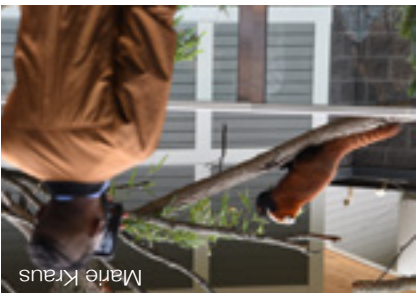
Weinpress has been at Seneca Park Zoo since 2015, after working at Utah's Hogle Zoo, Dolphins Plus, and Aquarium of Niagara. He is a member of the carnivore team, and is known by many guests and members for the lion training program he created.

Congratulations James!

Summer Experiences Start Memorial Day Weekend!

This summer we have more daily animal experiences for you to explore, from Memorial Day through Labor Day!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
9:30 a.m. Member Morning 10:30 a.m. Red Panda Experience 11:30 a.m. Sea Lion Experience 12:30 p.m. Ambassador Animal Encounter 1:30 p.m. Rhino Experience 2:00 p.m. Polar Bear Enrichment 3:30 p.m. Elephant Experience 4:00 p.m. Red Panda Feeding	9:30 a.m. Member Morning 10:30 a.m. Hena Experience 11:30 a.m. Penguin Feeding 12:30 p.m. Reptile & Amphibian Experience 1:30 p.m. Lion Experience 2:00 p.m. Polar Bear Enrichment 3:30 p.m. Rhino Experience 4:00 p.m. Sea Lion Feeding 4:30 p.m. Red Panda Feeding	9:30 a.m. Member Morning 10:30 a.m. Snow Leopard Experience 11:30 a.m. Penguin Feeding 12:30 p.m. Naked Mole Rat Experience 1:30 p.m. Ambassador Animal Encounter 2:00 p.m. Polar Bear Enrichment 3:30 p.m. Rhino Experience 4:00 p.m. Sea Lion Feeding 4:30 p.m. Red Panda Feeding	9:30 a.m. Member Morning 10:15 a.m. Animal Hospital Experience 11:30 a.m. Reptile & Amphibian Experience 12:30 p.m. Ambassador Animal Encounter 1:30 p.m. Lion Experience 2:00 p.m. Polar Bear Enrichment 3:30 p.m. Rhino Experience 4:00 p.m. Sea Lion Feeding 4:30 p.m. Red Panda Feeding

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
9:30 a.m. Member Morning 10:30 a.m. Otter Experience 11:30 a.m. Penguin Feeding 12:30 p.m. Red Panda Experience 1:30 p.m. Ambassador Animal Encounter 2:00 p.m. Polar Bear Enrichment 3:30 p.m. Wolf Experience 4:00 p.m. Red Panda Feeding	9:30 a.m. Member Morning 10:30 a.m. Snow Leopard Experience 11:30 a.m. Penguin Feeding 12:30 p.m. Ambassador Animal Encounter 1:30 p.m. Naked Mole Rat Experience 2:00 p.m. Polar Bear Enrichment 3:30 p.m. Elephant Experience 4:00 p.m. Sea Lion Feeding 4:30 p.m. Red Panda Feeding	9:30 a.m. Member Morning 10:30 a.m. Otter Experience 11:30 a.m. Sea Lion Experience 12:30 p.m. Ambassador Animal Encounter 1:30 p.m. Lion Experience 2:00 p.m. Polar Bear Enrichment 3:30 p.m. Baboon Experience 4:00 p.m. Sea Lion Feeding 4:30 p.m. Red Panda Feeding
 		

Member Morning: Members-only animal encounters at the Zoo's Front Gate.

All feedings, experiences and enrichments are at the specific animal's habitat.

Reptile & Amphibian Experience is at Creatures From the River's Edge.

Ambassador Animal Encounters are at the Tropics Adventure Zone Gazebo.

Schedule is subject to change without notice. For the welfare of the animals, all programs are subject to cancellation in extreme weather conditions.

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Calendar of events

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



ZooBrew



2019
JUNE-SEPT

Help save elephants from extinction by attending ZooBrew this summer. A portion of each ticket to this 21+ event goes to the International Elephant Foundation (IEF) to help protect elephants worldwide. Tickets include event admission, live music, and animal experiences. A variety of beer and wine will be available for purchase. Add an elephant barn tour with a zoo keeper to your night for an additional \$25 donation to IEF. *Must be 21+ to attend.* Thank you to our sponsors Lake Beverage, Zweigle's, and Xceed Financial Credit Union.

Dates June 21 | July 19 | August 9 | September 6
Time 5:30 - 9 p.m. | Gates close at 7:30 p.m.
Tickets Get tickets at senecaparkzoo.org/zoobrew
Cost \$8 in advance | \$10 at the Front Gate.



Park Clean-up at Turning Point Park

Help us make Rochester a cleaner, greener city by joining us at our next park clean-up event. Tools, gloves, and snacks will be provided. Be sure to dress for the weather and bring water to stay hydrated.

Dates Saturday, June 8
Time 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

More Information
View more park clean-up dates at senecaparkzoo.org/cleanup

Zoo Goes Smoke Free



Effective May 24, 2019, Seneca Park Zoo became a completely smoke-free facility. Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo's order to make the Zoo smoke free was unanimously supported by the Monroe County Board of Health.

There will no longer be designated smoking areas within the Zoo, and no guests or staff will be permitted to smoke on Zoo grounds at any time, including for after-hours events. The ban also prohibits use of "electronic cigarette" devices.



CHERYL DINOLFO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

ACCREDITED BY THE
ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

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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



Wayne Smith

June/July 2019

ZOONOOZ

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