

A publication of the Seneca Park Zoo Society

ZOO NOOZ

JULY 2023

MADAGASCAR

A mission and community
we passionately support

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

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Nov. 1 – March 31:
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
last entry at 3 p.m.

April 1 – Oct. 31:
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
last entry at 4 p.m.

MEMBERS MAY ALWAYS ENTER AT 9:30 A.M.

LETTER FROM

Pamela Reed Sanchez
President and CEO
Seneca Park Zoo Society

On My Mind:
Finding Our Voice
for Nature

Our mission is at the forefront of everything we do: Seneca Park Zoo inspires our community to connect with, care for, and conserve wildlife and wild places. We work to provide all guests with tools and ideas they can implement to live more sustainably, be environmental stewards, and act on behalf of wildlife.

We sometimes ask our guests and members whether they feel connected to our mission, or a part of our mission. More than 95% of visitors report knowing the Zoo is a conservation organization, and 3 out of 4 survey respondents tell us they learned something on their zoo visit they can do to help save animals from extinction.

And still, it's a big ask: Act on behalf of wildlife. What does this mean, when we are all just one person in the face of very big global problems that seem insurmountable. We teach about responsible consumerism, using less water, picking up litter, and turning down on thermostats in the winter... and what we don't often talk about with our members is finding and using your voice to share your love of nature and animals.

Our Zoo Teens are outstanding examples of people finding their voice to spread their interest in wildlife and conservation with Zoo guests. Last year, Zoo Teens had more than 50,000 interactions with visitors and members in just the months of July and August.

Our Urban Ecologists find their voice, too, learning about environmental stewardship, native pollinator habitat restoration, and invasive species in our region. They become role models for younger children, and ambassadors for nature among their neighbors, classmates, and family members.

And now, there's a different kind of opportunity for YOU to find and share your voice, by participating in our inaugural nature poetry contest: *Poetry Takes Wing*. Co-sponsored by



Writers & Books, *Poetry Takes Wing* invites people of all ages to be inspired by a bird (or birds, or feathers, or flight) to write a poem in any format, including song lyrics, and submit it via our website by August 15, 2023. You'll find the full submission guidelines, categories, jurors, and potential awards at senecaparkzoo.org/poetrytakeswing.

When I was in graduate school decades ago studying environmental policy, I was introduced to Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring." First published in 1962, Carson warned of a time in the not-too-distant future when the skies are devoid of birdsong. Those words – though not poetry – changed the trajectory of my career and my life.

I could not fathom a silent sky, or a world in which human beings would allow it to happen. Carson used her voice, and the powerful evocation of a spring without the sweet singsong of the robin, the honking of migrating geese, and the chirpings of sparrows and wandering warblers.



I'm asking you to give it a try. Watch a bird in flight, or a penguin clamoring for food. Watch the inquisitive head movements of a female cardinal, or the sandhill crane's dance. Connect with a bird, delight in the bird, be horrified by the bird: it's all good. It's all welcome poetry fodder. And I think you'll find, as I have in my own writing about birds, a newfound ability to appreciate nature and to speak in a new voice about the beauty and necessity of the living world.

See you at the Zoo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Reed Sanchez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MADAGASCAR

One seedling at a time

Written by Erin H. Green, M.S.
Seneca Park Zoo Society Member, Research Analyst and Writer

Edited by James Myers, PhD,
Seneca Park Zoo Society Board Member, and
Associate Provost of International Education at
Rochester Institute of Technology

After three days of travel, upon arriving in Madagascar, there is only one leg of the trip left before reaching Centre ValBio, Seneca Park Zoo's partner of three decades. Centre ValBio is situated in Ranomafana National Park, a biodiversity hotspot, and home to countless creatures, including some of Madagascar's most famous residents, lemurs.

"I like to move it, move it," friends and family sing to us before we leave—a reference to the singing lemur in the animated Madagascar movie. We are asked to take pictures, and to bring some home in our suitcases.

We are on our way to the land of lemurs. Lemurs are found only here in Madagascar, this very large island hundreds of miles off the coast of Africa, and one of the most unique and biodiverse ecosystems in the world. When conservationists talk about species that are particularly popular, and are considered cute or cuddly, or otherwise draw our collective attention, they call these species "charismatic." By this definition, lemurs are some of the most charismatic creatures on the planet. They are also some of the most critically endangered, with over 95% of lemur species threatened with extinction in the next 20 years.

We are hoping to see some lemurs, of course, but we are really here to meet the people who are working to protect them and the land they call home.

But before we arrive there is the 12-hour drive, on roads with potholes the size of vehicles. It used to be nine hours, our Malagasy driver and guide David explains to us, but it is much longer now because the roads are so bad; they haven't been repaired in years. Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world. Minimum wage is \$55 per month, David tells us, yet many people don't even make that.

As we drive away from the city and into the rural areas, the poverty becomes clear. Children and adults wait at the roadsides for the opportunity to sell something to passing cars. Clothes are torn, feet are bare.

Continued on next page



It's our mission to care and to help.
senecaparkzoo.org/conservemadagascar/

Madagascar

Much of the landscape is bare, too. Trees have been cut or burned down, and hillsides have been torn into or terraced, leaving the soil to seep or wash away, where it runs into rivers, and eventually out to sea. The water in rivers and rice paddies looks like chocolate milk.

Madagascar has lost nearly half of its forests over the past 60 years, much of it through clear cutting, and slash and burn methods to use ash for fertilizers. The soil is red here, and erosion is so bad that satellite photos show Madagascar “bleeding” into the ocean.

As the trip goes on, the day turns cloudy, then rainy and dark, and poverty reveals itself at the roadsides, it is hard not to feel a sense of hopelessness, even despair.

We arrive in the dark. As we get closer to our destination, the roads start to improve, but it takes us awhile to notice; it’s funny how often we notice when things get bad, but fail to recognize right away when they improve gradually.

We wake up in a world entirely different than the one we’d driven through, with the rainforest all around us. From here, it is only a short walk to the Centre ValBio field station.

Centre ValBio (CVB) was founded by Dr. Patricia Wright, a world-renowned researcher and conservationist—and recipient of the Zoo’s Conservation Warrior award in 2022. Dr. Wright came to Madagascar to research lemurs in the 1980’s, and with the help of local guides discovered the golden bamboo lemur in 1986.

Centre ValBio

Dr. Wright soon set out to protect lemurs, recognizing that to do so you must protect their habitat: the rapidly declining forest. She worked with the Madagascar government to protect 100,000 acres of rainforest and lemur habitat, which in 1991 was established as Ranomafana National Park (RNP). CVB, located within RNP, is widely recognized as a standard-bearer for tropical research stations, leading research and conservation efforts, and also initiatives in community health, education, and sustainable livelihoods.

Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) partners with the Seneca Park Zoo Society (SPZS) to support CVB’s work in biodiversity research, habitat restoration, reforestation, and restoration ecology. A goal of this visit is to learn more about the work happening at CVB, and to identify opportunities for RIT to support the work through faculty and student research projects. But mostly, we will find, we are here to learn.

We arrive at CVB and meet with Biodiversity Specialist Mahandry Hugues Andrianarisoa. Mahandry, who is Malagasy—like most of the staff here. Mahandry made his way to working with CVB through SPZS, first in 2016 when SPZS sponsored Mahandry while he was pursuing his master’s degree, and he became part of the One Cubic Foot project to document, through art and science, the region’s biodiversity. In his 2017 visit to the United States, sponsored by SPZS, he learned DNA barcode analysis at the Smithsonian Institute and also met with Dr. Wright in her office at SUNY Stony Brook. Dr. Wright invited him to become part of the reforestation work at CVB. Within two months on the job Mahandry had planted 3,000 trees. Shortly before our arrival in Madagascar, he had planted 10,000 trees in Kiranomena, the community where he grew up.



Forests & Agriculture

Mahandry greets us wearing a Seneca Park Zoo jacket, a wool cap, and a smile that warms and lights the room. He reviews the work CVB's doing to understand and document biodiversity in the area—inventories on lemurs, but also reptiles, birds, insects, small mammals, plants. The inventories are updated annually to see changes over time.

A unique aspect of their work, he explains, is that they are seeking to understand how biodiversity thrives in an agroforestry system. Agroforestry integrates forests and agriculture—meaning the cultivation and harvest of crops are incorporated with, rather than in competition with, the forest and species that live there.

We are given a tour of CVB's facilities and labs, where we learn about some of their research efforts, and meet Emile Rajeriarison. Emile leads insect collection activities—part of CVB's mission to understand ecosystem dynamics and genomics in the rainforest. He smiles as he shows us specimens, and explains how they are learning how each insect functions in the ecosystem, with most serving as pollinators. With his deep knowledge of the forest, Emile was asked to serve as Dr. Wright's guide during her first field expeditions in the area, and they ultimately discovered the golden bamboo lemur together in 1986; they have worked together ever since.

Emile recalls when Dr. Wright first began to pursue protecting the forest; Emile agreed it was needed, as it pained him to see the forest destroyed. But he wondered how locals could make a living; people here, in extreme poverty, use the forest for everything from fuel to fertilizer to food.

Seneca Park Zoo

So, to protect and care for the lemurs, you have to protect and care for the forest. And to protect and care for the forest, you have to care for the people, and allow them to care for themselves and each other. This is what is called a One Health approach—recognizing that nature and people are interconnected, and the health of one depends on the health of the other.

Dr. Wright has a vision of reforesting the entire area between RNP and the sea—with an ultimate goal of protecting 600,000 acres. But much of the land is privately owned, by many individuals with relatively small plots of land. This is not a case of greedy companies trying to make a killing by killing off the trees; rather it is people trying to make a living, to have enough to eat and feed their families. This is where agroforestry and restoration ecology—or agroecology—come in.

The next day we meet with Nicolas Rasolonjatovo, CVB's Head of Reforestation, who takes us to a small agroforestry site, about three years in the process.

He explains how high-value crops such as vanilla and white pepper are integrated into the forest. As part of the program, when farmers pick up seedlings for revenue-generating crops, they are given seedlings of endemic trees for free. The trees provide necessary shade for the crops, while also improving the health of the soil, and cleaning the water.

Several income (and food) generating activities can be combined in one plot of land—in the small area where we stand, we see pineapples, beekeeping, and vanilla amidst the young trees. As part of the agroforestry programs, people learn how to add value to and harvest crops to ensure sustainable incomes.

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“As part of the program, when farmers pick up seedlings for revenue-generating crops, they are given seedlings of endemic trees for free. The trees provide necessary shade for the crops, while also improving the health of the soil, and cleaning the water.”





***It's funny how we
have money to spend
to go to Mars, but not
to heal the planet.
We are all connected.
We need to find better
ways to use what we
have on the ground.***

- Mahandry Hughes Andrianarisoa

Later, Nicolas takes us to a larger and more established site, owned by a woman named Félicité. Félicité's father owned the land before her, and had cleared it to feed his family; a short-term solution for many farmers in the area. Félicité has embraced agroforestry as a more sustainable solution for both livelihoods and the health of the land. She has been trained on fermenting vanilla—fermented vanilla gets two to three times the price on the market. She has a nursery with seedlings; she grows vanilla and teaches others how to grow, harvest and pollinate it. Her land has been transformed, and she is a leader in her community.

And this is just the tip of the iceberg. Nicolas tells us of additional partners they're working with to reforest and regenerate the area: 500,000 seedlings through TerraMatch; 300,000 through Ecosia.org, a free, non-profit search engine that plants trees. He points to a nearby mountain and explains their strategy of planting endemic trees at the top of mountains, which establishes soil and nutrients, nourishing farmers' soil below.

Before we part ways, Nicolas shares that this is his dream, to help people and teach them how to have healthy soil. It's funny, he says, how we have money to spend to go to Mars, but not to heal the planet we live on. "We are all connected," he says. "We need to find better ways to use what we have on the ground."

On the last day of our visit, we wake up early to have breakfast before starting on the long road back home. As we drink coffee in the dining area, we look up to see Mahandry walking in. It is Saturday, his day off, and not yet 7 am. He joins us at our table, sleepy-eyed but smiling, bearing gifts of cinnamon and white pepper. I wanted to say goodbye, he says.

As he sits with us, drinking warm milk instead of coffee, we have a chance to ask him more about his work, and what brought him to CVB.

While he was working on the One Cubic Foot project, in Washington, D.C., he says, "I saw all of the trees, and I wanted to have as many trees where I live."

Mahandry shared his dream to reforest his country with Tom Snyder, SPZS Director of Programming and Conservation Action. Tom worked with Mahandry to learn about his vision, and helped connect him with CVB's reforestation work.

This is a nice story, but something is confusing. Looking around at the rainforest, one can't help but wonder why Mahandry would see D.C. and want to have more trees at his home.

"But you have so many trees here," we say. Mahandry laughs. "Oh," he says, "this isn't my home. Here, let me show you."

He opens a map on his phone, zooming in on Kiranomena, the area where he'd recently planted 10,000 seedlings. The whole area is mint green, the color digital maps use to show parks and forests.

"But that green shouldn't be there," he says. "There aren't any trees."

It's funny, if you think about it, how much we trust these maps to tell us about the state of the world, as though they are reality.

But then again, sometimes maps show us where we are, and sometimes they show us where we're going.



In Memoriam:
MAHANDRY
HUGHES ANDRIANARISOA

Seneca Park Zoo lost a member of our family in March of this year, with the tragic loss of Mahandry Hughes Andrianarisoa, a dedicated conservationist with a remarkable vision for the future of Madagascar: one where the forests thrive and the island's incredible biodiversity has been preserved. With the support of Seneca Park Zoo and funds raised by the Zoo Society, he led a project that has raised thousands of trees from seed in a new nursery, transplanted them into the earth, and established methods for tracking their survival.

Our Rochester community's conservation impact in Madagascar has been linked with Mahandry's vision since he first connected with the Zoo Society in 2016 through the One Cubic Foot project, which documented Madagascar's astonishing biodiversity through images captured by photographer David Liitschwager and DNA bar code analysis conducted at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. His connections to Seneca Park Zoo deepened over the years, visiting in 2017 and as recently as November of 2022. He served as a reforestation agent for Dr. Patricia Wright at Centre Val Bio and then worked for Catholic Family Services, while also creating his own nonprofit dedicated to reforestation. Mahandry was viewed by many as the future of forests in Madagascar.

While Mahandry's ambitious vision of a reforested Madagascar is still alive among his colleagues and friends at the Zoo, his death cut short his critical work. We are committed to finding and supporting more people in Madagascar like Mahandry to become reforestation agents. In celebration of his contributions to conservation, we are establishing a memorial fund in Mahandry's name. This fund will support a fellowship at Centre Val Bio, a world-class research station in Ranomafana, Madagascar, for work on reforestation projects. We welcome your support for this important effort.



Mahandry Hughes Andrianarisoa
FELLOWSHIP FUND
senecaparkzoo.org/mahandryfund

SUMMER AT THE ZOO

Summer at Seneca Park Zoo is in full swing: every day, the grounds are filled with people interacting with animals and learning how they can protect wildlife and nature. Our ZooCamps, ZooTeens, and Urban Ecology Workforce Development program are packed with kids and teens learning to care for and conserve our environment. **We need your support to help prepare the next generation of environmental stewards.**

The generosity of our members and donors fuels everything the Zoo Society does to share and protect the majesty of the natural world. **Your gift of any amount catalyzes our conservation mission and inspires our community.** We can't do it without you: will you join us today?

Make your gift by scanning the QR code below to give at senecaparkzoo.org or use your Venmo account to donate:

SCAN TO DONATE



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT ALL POSSIBLE.

Together, we can save animals at the brink of extinction, keep our city's waterways clean, and protect the future of our environment. We can inspire young people to lead the way to a sustainable future. **Your support makes it all possible. Please consider giving.**

To learn more about all the ways you can support conservation with the Zoo Society, visit spz.org/donate.



3,560
Your generous contributions made education and conservation programming possible for **3,560 pounds of trash** during community cleanups

2,457
Your generous contributions made education and conservation programming possible for **2,457 students** in formal school programs



SELF-DIRECTED MEMBERSHIP

Our most rapidly growing membership segment is members who purchase their membership through Self-Direction through the NY Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD).

Self-Direction, which is available to anyone who receives OPWDD Home and Community Based Services, is an option for people with developmental disabilities who want to have greater choice and flexibility in choosing the supports and services they want to help build the life they want.

People can enroll in memberships, classes, camps, or specialized therapy like art or music. They can also use their Self-Direction budget to hire their own staff at a competitive pay rate. They can use Self-Direction for mileage reimbursement related to transportation to activities, as well as for phone or internet costs. Anything that helps them achieve their goals and exercise independence in the community.

We are fortunate that Zoo memberships qualify for Self-Direction spending and have a number of wonderful agency partners including Heritage Christian Services, Empowering People's Independence (EPI), Arc of Monroe, People Inc., Catholic Charities, Lifetime Assistance, and Starbridge who have enrolled over 1,000 individuals in Zoo memberships in the past year. (5/3/23: We currently have 1,068 active Self-Directed Memberships) That is more than double the number in 2019 and the program is growing.

The Zoo membership team works directly with the agencies to issue the memberships – ensuring minimal paperwork and no out-of-pocket cost for the members and their families. The key player is the member's Self-Direction Fiscal Intermediary or Support Broker, who works for the member to implement their plans.

Self-Direction specifically covers the member, but they usually require assistance to visit the Zoo. Seneca Park Zoo offers complimentary admission to one support person accompanying any guest who requires support or assistance to enjoy a Zoo visit.



Laura Gaenzler



Donato DiRenzo

The Zoo is a place where visitors of all ages and stages in life are welcome and there are opportunities for education, physical activity and exercising independence. This might include opportunities for socializing, money management, communication, really any skill set people are looking to build.

- Julie Owen,
Director of Customized Services at Heritage Christian Services

2023
Member Shirt!



DON'T FORGET TO PURCHASE YOUR EXCLUSIVE MEMBER T-SHIRT!

Shirts can be purchased for \$12 each at the Membership Entrance during your next visit. **Collect them all!**



▶ S.A.F.E. AWARENESS WEEKEND

JULY 20 - 23

Saving Animal From Extinction focuses the collective expertise within AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums and leverages their massive audiences to save species. Learn more about the SAFE program and the SAFE species in our care including African penguin, lion, and giraffe.

Date: July 20 - 23

Price: Free with entry

Learn More: senecaparkzoo.org/safe-weekend

S.A.F.E. AWARENESS



Seneca Park Zoo

▶ GENESEE TRAIL AWARENESS WEEKEND

AUGUST 3 - 6

Join us as we celebrate some of the awesome animals you can find right in our own backyard as part of our Genesee Trail Awareness Weekend! From sturgeon to river otters, snakes, and more there will be something for everyone to get excited about. We will have animal enrichments experiences live on-site all weekend long!

Date: August 3 - 6

Price: Free with entry

Learn More: senecaparkzoo.org/gtw

GENESEE TRAIL AWARENESS WEEKEND



Seneca Park Zoo

▶ AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES AWARENESS WEEKEND

AUGUST 17 - 20

Do you have a passion for some of the scaly and slippery species? This is the weekend for you! Amphibians & Reptiles Weekend is dedicated to the lizards, snakes, frogs, and other animals of those species in our care here at the Zoo.

Date: August 17 - 20

Price: Free with entry

Learn More: senecaparkzoo.org/arw

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES AWARENESS WEEKEND



Seneca Park Zoo

EDUCATION

▶ KINDERZOO

SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER

KinderZoo is a program for preschoolers and their grown-ups to play, discover, and learn in a fun, interactive way.

Ages: 18 months – 2 years & 3 - 5 years

Dates: September – December

Register: senecaparkzoo.org/kinderzoo



PROGRAMMING

▶ SUMMER PROGRAMMING

ALL SUMMER LONG

One of our favorite activities is back again – scheduled summer programming for animal enrichment, feedings, conservation, and keeper chats! Every day of the week you will find exciting and interesting experiences with a variety of the animals in our care.

Check out the summer schedule here:
senecaparkzoo.org/summer-programming



▶ CELEBRATION OF BIRDS AWARENESS WEEKEND

JULY 6 - 9

We will be raising awareness for birds like the sandhill crane, snowy owl, Buffalo weaver, and more here at the Zoo.

Date: July 6 - 9

Price: Free with entry

Learn More: senecaparkzoo.org/celebrate-birds

CELEBRATION OF BIRDS



 Seneca Park Zoo

▶ APPLES, ALES & TAILS

SEPTEMBER 29

Apples, Ales & Tails, After a highly successful first two years, our beer and cider tasting safari will be back in the fall! This event features beer and cider tasting stations, delicious food, and entertainment throughout Seneca Park Zoo!

Date: September 29, 2023

Learn More: senecaparkzoo.org/aat (Coming Soon!)



TJ Harrison

▶ COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

JULY 15/AUGUST 12, 19/SEPTEMBER 2, 16/
OCTOBER 7/NOVEMBER 4, 18/DECEMBER 2, 23

Join like-minded neighbors to help clean-up our local green spaces. You'll be amazed at the impact a focused group can make in just three hours. Help us make Rochester a cleaner, greener city! Please dress for the weather and bring water to stay hydrated. Tools, bags, and gloves will be provided and all ages are welcome to attend.

Dates: July 15; August 12, 19; September 2, 16; October 7; November 4, 18; December 2, 23

Register: senecaparkzoo.org/cleanup



Wayne Smith

▶ AFRICAN PENGUIN CAP NIGHT AT ROCHESTER RED WINGS

JULY 18TH AT 6:45 P.M.

Join us on Tuesday, July 18th for African Penguin Cap Night at the Rochester Red Wings game. The Red Wings play the Durham Bulls at 6:45 p.m., but you'll want to get there extra early because the first 1,000 fans will get a special African penguin-themed hat!

Date: July 18th at 6:45 p.m.

Tickets: senecaparkzoo.org/redwings



▶ JUNGLE JOG 5K RUN AND WALK

SUNDAY JULY 16

Join us for our annual Jungle Jog 5k, the 2nd of a three-race series celebrating the transformation of the Seneca Park Zoo. This year's medal will interlock with 2022 bringing together another piece of the puzzle. Don't miss the chance to continue your collection!

Jungle Jog 5k Run and Walk: \$45 - Receive the official race shirt, medal and bib

Jungle Jog 5k Run and Walk: \$35 - Receive the official race shirt and bib

Jungle Jog VIRTUAL 5k Run and Walk: \$45 - Receive the official race shirt, medal and bib

Date: Sunday, July 16

Learn More or Register: senecaparkzoo.org/junglejog

Don't forget about the Kids Fun-Run for kids 10 years and younger! No cost to participate, and each runner will receive a Fun-Run medal. The Fun-Run will take place after the 5k.



▶ POETRY TAKES WING

SUBMISSIONS CLOSE AUGUST 15

Taking inspiration from World Migratory Bird Day, Poetry Takes Wing is a community-based exploration of the connections we have with nature. We seek submissions of poems by writers of all ages and backgrounds, referencing a bird or birds in some way and grounded in an ethos of conservation. Submissions in both English and Spanish are encouraged. There is no fee to enter. See full guidelines on the website.

Date: Submissions close August 15

Learn More: senecaparkzoo.org/poetrytakeswing

NATURE POETRY CONTEST

poetry takes wing



▶ MEMBER APPRECIATION WEEK 2023

AUGUST 5-11

This week we're celebrating our amazing community of Zoo members! Every day will feature an extra special member perk or activity to enhance your visit.

Date: August 5-11

Learn More: information at senecaparkzoo.org/memberweek



Amanda Lindley
Penguin



EVENTS

▶ ZOOBREW

JULY - SEPTEMBER

ZooBrew, everyone's favorite 21+ happy hour event will be back on five Friday evenings throughout the summer! It's the only event in town where you can help save elephants from extinction just by attending! A portion of each ticket sold will go towards elephant conservation. Guests enjoy live music from multiple bands throughout the Zoo, animal experiences, and more.

Dates:

- July 14th
- August 11th
- September 8th

Learn More or Purchase Tickets:

senecaparkzoo.org/zoobrew



CALENDAR

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

► CREATURES FROM THE RIVER'S EDGE

COME SEE IT NOW!

Seneca Park Zoo is always seeking ways to improve and adapt to the world around us. Whether it's animal care and husbandry techniques, or enhancing the guest experience and Zoo layout, we are constantly working to make the Zoo a better place for both guests and the animals in our care. If you've been onsite recently you may have eaten in the beautiful Trailside Café, or you may have seen the renderings for the new Tropics Complex on our website.

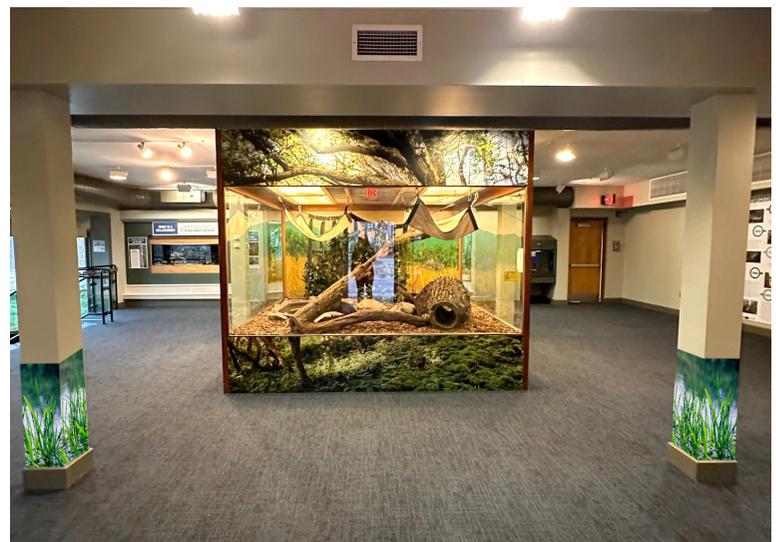
We also have recently redone the building previously known as the ECO Center, or as many colloquially refer to it, the "otter/snake building." This moniker makes sense due to the indoor viewing area for otters, as well as various snake and lizard species. The ECO Center is now known as "Creatures from the River's Edge," offering guests a clearer idea of what to expect in this section as well as a nod to the nearby Genesee River where some of the species can be found locally.

In addition to the name change, we made significant improvements to the building's interior aesthetics.

We've installed new signage and cosmetic upgrades, enhancing both the visual appeal and the learning opportunities for visitors of all ages. Discover what a hellbender is and why it serves as an essential indicator species for local waterway health. Learn about ongoing conservation efforts in Madagascar and find out how you can personally contribute to becoming a conservationist.

The enhancements to the Creatures from the River's Edge area extend beyond cosmetic changes. We're excited to announce that frogs have returned to the building! Many guests may remember that frog habitats were previously located here but had been relocated for the past few years. Now, Panamanian golden frogs, poison dart frogs, and Borneo eared frogs have found their new homes in tanks within this building once again.

At the Zoo, there's always something fun and exciting to see. We are optimistic and confident that these recent updates to one of our buildings will be a welcome and exciting addition to your next Zoo experience. Stay tuned for what's coming next!



A publication of the Seneca Park Zoo Society

ZOO NOOZ

JULY 2023



David Jorgen
Elephant



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

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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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