

The WildTimes

Spring is Here!

Spring is in full swing... even if it doesn't always feel like it. Not only does the month of April bring rain, muddy backyards and the start of spring flowers—it also means Earth Day will soon be here! This year we are combining the NEW Zoo's birthday party for the animals with the worldwide celebration of the Earth. Our "Party for Planet" is sure to bring excitement to the whole family!

Happy Birthday to ZOO!

Our giraffe-sized birthday party will celebrate ALL of the animal birthdays at once. With over 200 individual animals to celebrate, it is sure to be a roaring good time! Even though the animals will not be eating cake, you can grab a piece in our Mayan Restaurant as we sing happy birthday to everyone. Instead of cake, the birthday boys and girls will be getting lots of presents! Be sure to stay tuned to find

out which animals you will be able to see "open" their special gifts.

Earth Day Excitement

To be honest, working at the NEW Zoo makes it feel like Earth Day every day. Sometimes we take for granted how our daily lives are built around the natural environment—myself included. Earth Day gives us the opportunity to share the importance and wonder of the natural world with the community... in a fun way of course! For Earth Day this year we decided to align the

NEW Zoo's theme to the world-wide theme: TREES. Our education department is putting together multiple interactive and informative stations that relate to trees and all they do for us.

One day filled with birthday cake AND tree-themed games... what more could you ask for? Mark your calendar for the New Zoo's Party for the Planet event on Saturday April 23rd, 2016.

It's sure to be an amazing B-EARTH-day celebration! Can't wait to see you there.
~Andrea Szczepanski, Zoo Educator



Watch our animals, like Shambe the African Lion, enjoy their birthday presents and treats throughout our Party for the Planet celebration!

If you would like to volunteer for this event, email our Event Coordinator at volunteer@newzoo.org

NEW Zoo & Adventure Park

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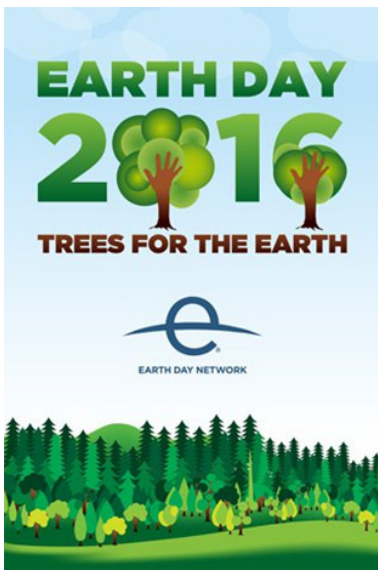
10% off on all GIRAFFE items

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Conservation Connection: Earth Day 2016—Trees for the Earth

Earth Day: an environmentally conscious idea that started 46 years ago and has been growing ever since! On April 22nd this year, people all around the world will be focusing on the important impacts trees have in our lives. In honor of the upcoming 50th anniversary of Earth Day, the *Earth Day Network* put together a few ambitious, but important, goals for the entire world. By the year 2020, they hope to plant 7.8 billion trees—one for each person on Earth!



Here, at the NEW Zoo, trees are used in many ways. They can provide safe places for our animals to hide, give visitors a shady spot to rest, and offer our animals “treats” (in the form of acorns, pinecones, and leaves) during different times of the year. Is there more to trees than providing food and shelter? OF COURSE! Here are three key things they do for us:

Trees help us breathe clean air

Just like all plants, trees absorb many gases in the atmosphere—including

pollutants! Some examples are nitrogen oxides, ammonia, sulfur dioxide and ozone. Trees trap and store these pesky pollutants in their leaves and bark. If those nasty gases were out in the air, people could breathe them in and develop health problems.

Trees help combat climate change

Ninety-seven percent of climate scientists agree that the current climate-warming trends are due to human impacts. Most of the extra carbon dioxide in our atmosphere is caused by the burning of fossil fuels for energy, factory and industrial waste, and vehicle emissions. Fortunately, trees are able to absorb and use lots of carbon dioxide! Unfortunately, trees are being cut down at an alarming rate. You might not notice it here in Wisconsin, or even the United States, and that’s because we have many sustainable logging programs in place. However, that is not the case in other parts of the world. Forests are being cut down to make room for farmland, grazing ground for livestock, and for the expansion of human towns and cities.

Our planet is currently losing over 15 billion trees each year. That’s 56 acres of forest every minute!

If there are NOT a lot of trees in the world, the carbon dioxide stays in the atmosphere, which allows heat to become trapped, and in turn causes the Earth to heat up.

Trees help communities!

Not only are trees useful in natural places like parks, gardens, and hiking/biking trails, but they can provide communities with food, energy, and income. Trees can be used in so many different ways! We can make supplies such as paper and pencils, we can harvest fresh fruits, we can burn wood for heat and energy, and we can climb up some branches to get a bird’s eye view of the world. Can you think of other ways people use trees? What do you use that came from a tree?

This year, think about how YOU can make the world a cleaner, cooler, and happier place by PLANTING A TREE! Visit your local nursery to find native trees available today. Not able to plant a tree? That’s okay! Plants in general help filter the air (just not on as large of a scale as a tree).

UNLESS
someone like you
cares a whole awful
lot, nothing is
going to get better.

It's not. – Dr. Suess



We can all work together to make this planet last for future generations!



If you would like more information on ways you can help the Earth, visit

www.earthday.org

March 2016 Animal Collection Report, *by Carmen Murach*

Four North American river otter pups (pictured far right) were born on 3/11/16. This is the first birth of this species at the Northeastern Wisconsin Zoo. The parents were recommended to breed by the Species Survival Program and are among the most genetically valuable animals in the captive population. The breeding season for otters is different for animals in different regions of the country. There is evidence that otters born in one region are frequently not reproductively compatible with those born in another (interestingly, it seems that birth place has more impact than where the animal currently resides). Although Bonnie and Skokie are from two different regions (Bonnie was rescued as a wild orphan in Louisiana, Skokie was born at the Erie Zoo in Pennsylvania) the SSP hoped the two would be able to produce offspring. Fortunately, the pair managed to work out their regional differences! Bonnie has proven to be an excellent mother and visitors can expect to see playful baby otters this summer. Little otters first open their eyes between 28 and 35 days of age but their eyes aren't able to focus well until they are about 7 weeks old. At that time, they start leaving the nest box and frolicking!

Other new arrivals at the zoo include Addison, a young red panda born last year at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. Addison is the daughter of Leafa, who resided at the NEW Zoo from 2010 to 2013. Leafa produced two youngsters with elderly male Tae-bo while she was here. Because this species is so endangered in

the wild, it is important for the captive population to work hard to maintain a diverse gene pool. Pairing breeding animals with several mates over time helps meet this goal. Addison and our other resident female, Qiji, will likely receive breeding recommendations when they are old enough next year.

Elderly cougar BB was euthanized this month after showing signs of advanced kidney failure. BB arrived here as an adult in 2008 after having been rescued from a bad situation. She and a littermate had been purchased and raised as a house pet in South Carolina. As the cats matured and became impossible to keep indoors, the owner moved them into a small dog run. The situation came to the attention of the authorities and the animals were confiscated and removed from the small muddy enclosure. The Animal Forest at CharlesTowne Landing (a local zoo in SC) had room for one of the cougars and was able to hold both while they sought a permanent zoo home for the

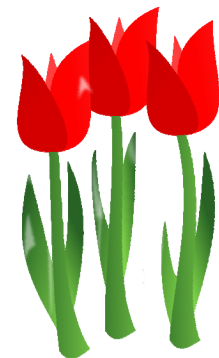


other. BB traveled from South Carolina to Green Bay in the back of the Zoo-mobile van (in a crate, of course!). She was a talkative cat and I formed a special bond with her on that long drive! We all miss her but are glad that after her rough start, she was able to live out her life happily here at the NEW Zoo.

Although spring has officially arrived only recently, giraffes have continued to spend portions of the day outside on a fairly regular basis. As long as the temperatures are at least 45 to 50 degrees and there is no ice in their yard, they are able to take advantage of nice days. The blizzard on 3/24 put a temporary hold on this opportunity, but the migrating birds tell us that spring will return soon!



BB, above, will be greatly missed!



N.E.W. Zoological Society News: *April News*



So many times we take our visit to this great zoo for granted.

To keep a zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums standards, it takes a lot of effort from Director Neil Anderson, his staff, volunteers, and the N.E.W. Zoological Society.

In partnership with the NEW Zoo & Adventure Park, **the Society works as the fundraising arm: building, remodeling, and updating the animal habitats and exhibits. In addition, for many years the Society helped fund the Education Coordinator position, which led to the need for an Education building.**

The focus this year will be on securing equipment for the Animal Hospital, built in 2015 with the help of donors. Also, thanks to our friends KC and Georgia Stock, the Society is currently remodeling the former hospital into a first-class Nutrition Center, where food will be prepared for the animals. We're excited to have the grand opening for the new Nutrition Center in May.

On the second Monday of August, in partnership with the Wisconsin Restaurant Association, the 16th Annual "Feast With the Beasts" event will be held. It is a wonderful evening to enjoy the many beverages, desserts, and tasty dishes served by local restaurants. For the past two years, this has been a "sold out" event. It is recommended to purchase your tickets in advance.

If you want to be involved this year, contact us at newzoosociety@gmail.com or 920-434-6814. We welcome new talent and volunteers!

Come join us!

Judy Krawczyk, President Emeritus

SAVE THE DATE FOR A NEW EVENT!

The NEW Zoo and the Howard-Suamico School District are excited to announce a partnership for a new family event, the **Sweet Safari for Education – A Wild Artistic Adventure**, to be held Thursday, May 12, 2016 from 4:00 p.m to 8:00 p.m. The Sweet Safari will feature over 150 pieces of student artwork and sweet treats from local vendors for kids and adults of all ages. Fun activities, animal encounters, a bounce house, free carousel rides, and an inflatable obstacle course are also planned.

Tickets include admission to the event at the NEW Zoo & Adventure Park and are available for \$8 in advance at all Northeast Wisconsin Festival Foods locations and at Suamico Citgo, or \$10 at the door. Proceeds will support educational programming for both organizations.



From the Director, *by Neil Anderson*

The N.E.W. Zoological Society, Inc. is raising funds for construction of a new Prairie Grassland Exhibit. The exhibit will display both prairie dogs and badger with an interactive “adventure play” opportunity for visitors. The exhibit will depict life in and around the prairie grasslands of the Badlands National Park and will provide an up-close experience with prairie dogs and badgers. This is a new participatory exhibit where children can imitate burrowing prairie dogs wriggling through underground tunnels, tubes, and pop-up viewing bubbles, coming eye to eye with both prairie dogs and badger. Although the prairie dog and badger will be displayed in this new exhibit, a wall simulating the Badlands rock formations will separate the animals; however, the viewing tubes and pop-up viewing bubbles will go through both exhibits.

This new exhibit was designed to incorporate the nature and adventure play concept that will be part of new future exhibits. The design allows children to play and interact with nature, learn to process information, develop knowledge and reasoning and

create stronger bonds that lead to empathy for the natural world. Through early immersion with nature, the exhibit encourages children to develop an understanding of and appreciation of nature. Play is one of the primary mechanisms that positively affects and encourages brain development. The exhibit will also have viewing windows where our zoo guests who choose to view exhibit from outside of the tunnels can have a close eye to eye experience as well.

This is an exciting new exhibit and the total cost estimate is \$100,000. To date, the N.E.W. Zoological Society, Inc. has raised \$75,000 with \$25,000 left to go! The Green Bay Brown County Professional Football Stadium District pledged \$60,000 towards the fundraising efforts upon successful fundraising for the remaining \$40,000. An in-kind donation of architectural fees of \$5,000 and a recent private donation of \$10,000 has been secured, leaving \$25,000 left to complete fundraising efforts and make the new Prairie Grassland Exhibit a reality for 2016 completion. If you are interested, please contact the N.E.W.



Who wouldn't want to be face-to-face with a prairie dog like this one? The new exhibit will allow for just that!

Zoological Society Inc. at 920-434-6814 or the NEW Zoo at 920-434-7841 ext. 2401.

Spring is a great time of year to visit and hope to see you soon!



Have you registered for **SUMMER ZOO CAMP** yet??

Our July Day-Camp programs for students entering 5k through 8th grade next year are filling very quickly! Time is running out to get your children or grandchildren registered.

The low cost per day is only \$21 for Zoo Pass members or \$26 for non-Zoo Pass members.

There's still time to register—but don't delay, complete the pre-registration form online today! You can find all details and dates for the programs on our website.

Visit <http://newzoo.org/education/zoo-camps> !



NEW Zoo & Adventure Park

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Your NEW Zoo is an always new, natural adventure that promotes recreation, education, and conservation through encounters with live animals.



Want to know more about the *WildTimes*? Have a suggestion for an article you would like to see, or would you like to submit an article? Contact the Editor, Angela, at 920-662-2405 or through email, at education@newzoo.org!

We are your only AZA Accredited Zoo in Northeastern Wisconsin.

**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

Upcoming Events & Things to Remember...

♦ Summer Zoo Camp Registration is open

Visit www.newzoo.org and click on the Zoo Camp tab underneath the "Education" heading for details!

♦ Spring Hours Start April 1st

The Zoo will be open daily from 9am to 6pm, and the Adventure Park will be open daily on Saturdays and Sundays. Giraffe Feeding Experience will be open daily from 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm.

♦ The "Party for the Planet" Earth Day Event will take place on April 23rd

Event will run from 9am to 2pm. Enjoy fun activities, watch animals receive their birthday presents, and eat cake!

♦ The Sweet Safari for Education Event will take place on May 12th

Event details will be released on our website soon. Stay tuned!

The NEW Zoo & Adventure Park is hiring! Check out our website at <http://newzoo.org/get-involved/employment-opportunities> for details and to apply!