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Photo by Garth Seehawer

NEW ZOO & ADVENTURE PARK

The WildTimes

From the Educator: A New Season of Interns

As the summer comes to an end, so too do many things around the zoo. During the summer months, we conduct a variety of animal encounters, amphitheater presentations and exhibit chats, all with the help of our group of interns. Our internship program has grown in popularity the last few years, and this summer we saw our largest group yet. Coming from all over the state of Wisconsin and the U.P., our interns are college students or recent graduates interested in natural sciences. From pre-vet students to hopeful marine biologists, their interests vary, but their passion for the natural world is what brings them to us.

This summer, we had a group of 13 education interns and one marketing intern who helped us with a great many things. Without them, we would not be able to conduct regular, informal education programs in the zoo, such as the exhibit chats and presentations. Interns also assist with classroom programs, Zoomobiles, and guided tours. In addition to their work for the education department, they also gain valuable animal husbandry experience working alongside some of our zookeepers. Whether they are helping to



rake the giraffe yard, assisting in feeding the penguins, or scrubbing the aviary ponds, they are learning firsthand the hard work it takes to be a zookeeper at an AZA zoo.

Our marketing internship provides students with a focus in advertising or business management the opportunity to help sharpen their marketing skills. They help to create new educational signage throughout the zoo and also help to monitor and update social media sites such as Facebook or Twitter. In addition, they create flyers and promotional materials for use in the education department, to help raise awareness of existing or new programs at the zoo.

But, as we say goodbye to one group of interns, we also welcome a new group who

will be with us for the fall semester. Though the duties for a fall or spring intern differ from that of a summer intern, these students still gain valuable experience in education, public speaking and animal husbandry. Our fall interns will also be able to help us during our very busy Zoo Boo season. Helping to decorate, staffing the treat stations and organizing volunteers are just some of the things our interns assist us with during the event.

So if you or anyone you know has a passion for the natural world and would love to gain great experience at an AZA zoo, log onto our website to find out if the internship program is right for you!

*Submitted by Zoo Educator
Dustin Herrmann*

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The September 2014 Paws & Claws Gift Shop Special is:

10% off all OTTER items



Animal Collection Report, by Carmen Murach

Renovations in the Children's Zoo are nearing completion. New fencing has been installed for the larger yards in this section of the zoo. The project will also include fencing for some smaller areas.

The recent addition of a bull pen to the large mixed species exhibit in the Prairie Grasslands area of the zoo will improve safety for the Zookeepers who care for the resident animals. Although it is possible to shift the pronghorn off exhibit for cleaning, no such feature was previously available for the elk. Male elk can become very dangerous during rut and there have been times when it was not safe for keepers to work in the exhibit. Once the bull elk has been trained to shift off exhibit, Keepers will be able to do their job regardless of the male elk's demeanor.

Several animals have been added to the educational program collection. They include two chin-chillas, an African pygmy hedge-

hog, two leopard geckos and a Kenyan sand boa. Other additions include two female ring-necked pheasants.

The five Trumpeter Swan cygnets hatched on 6/11/14 were donated to the Iowa DNR's Trumpeter Swan Restoration Project. The NEW Zoo has been working with this program since 1994. Young swans raised at the zoo are released into the wild to help the recovery of the species. Previously released NEW Zoo swans have been documented raising young of their own in the wild.

The annual USDA inspection was conducted on 7/29/14. No problems were noted. APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) performs surprise inspections to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the zoo animals. In addition to closely inspecting animal living spaces and food storage/preparation facilities, the inspecting veterinarian

also combs through records to ensure permits are current and behavioral enrichment, nutritional and veterinary programs are well documented. The inspector usually spends the majority of a day investigating all aspects of animal care and safety.

New LTE Zookeeper Megan Walsh was hired in late July. Her previous experience includes work at the Racine Zoo and the Charles Towne Landing Animal Forest in South Carolina.

Zookeeper Jessica Hutjens attended a Red Panda Husbandry workshop in Edmonton, Alberta in August. She had the opportunity to visit Kalden, the young panda born and raised at the NEW Zoo who now resides at the Edmonton Valley Zoo. Jessica learned the latest red panda nutritional and husbandry information and was able to meet many of the species advisors in person.



Left: "Indy," the male leopard gecko, surveys his quarantine quarters moments after his arrival.

Lizards must be quarantined for 30 days before they can be moved to their permanent homes within the zoo.

Right: Kalden is getting along wonderfully at his home in Edmonton, Canada.



Conservation Connection: Trumpeter Swans

An unmistakable sound many visitors hear while visiting the zoo is the loud, resonant call of our trumpeter swans. These swans are the largest wild waterfowl in North America, with a wingspan of up to eight feet and a weight of 25 to 35 pounds when fully grown. Like many species of birds, trumpeter swans form pair bonds with their mates and often stay together for life. On average, a female will lay a clutch of three to eight eggs each year. After hatching, young trumpeters stay with their parents until the next spring, when the pair begins nesting again. Survival rates of young trumpeter swans are often high thanks to this “extra” parental attention.

Trumpeter Swans once nested throughout most of North America but disappeared rapidly in the 1800’s due to human development and hunting practices. The swans were highly sought after not only for their skins, but for their large feathers, which were said to make the best quills for writing. By the 1930s, fewer than 100 Trumpeter Swans remained south of Canada. When the Federal Endangered Species Act came into being, the Trumpeter Swan was considered for the list. At about the same time, a nesting population of about 2,000 Trumpeters was discovered in Alaska and the species was then taken off the consideration list. The trumpeter swan was listed as an endangered species in Wisconsin from 1987 until 2009.

Populations of trumpeter swans have recovered in part thanks to captive breeding programs that have provided birds for reintroductions into the wild. Relationships exist between the US Fish & Wildlife Service, several state Departments of Natural Resources (DNR’s), and AZA accredited zoos that participate in the Trumpeter Swan Species Survival Plan (SSP.) The NEW Zoo & Adventure Park began a partnership with the Iowa DNR in



1994, and the Iowa DNR in turn works with the Trumpeter Swan Restoration Committee, which is a student organization at Iowa State University.

Our resident adult swans, Abner and Cecilia, have helped to boost wild populations by providing cygnets for release into the wilds of Iowa since the beginning of our partnership in the early 1990’s. This year was no exception: we contributed another five individual swans. The NEW Zoo & Adventure Park’s cygnets always spend the summer with their parents, but once their flight feathers grow in, a zookeeper transports them to Iowa. Once there, the cygnets spend about two years with a large group of other swans of the same age. All the birds are kept in a protected area where supplemental food is provided. This gives them a chance to learn survival skills and develop pair bonds with unrelated birds in a safe place – which greatly reduces risk of predation.

After two years, the birds are released in pairs at a variety of lakes and ponds throughout Iowa. Wild swans use these same areas during migration. So, as the wild birds come through, they inevitably show the young released birds the way – teaching them to migrate along the same routes they use every year to go from their summer breeding to winter feeding areas. This is very similar to how young birds in the wild would accompany their parents on their first migration, and then away to join juvenile groups.

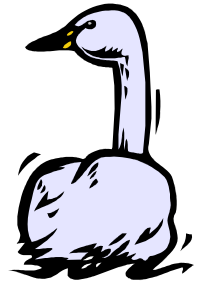
Although Trumpeter swan numbers have rebounded from the lows they faced in the early part of the 20th century, they are still a protected species in the United States and still continue to be threatened by habitat loss and degradation. Another significant threat is displacement by exotic mute swans, a species native to Europe. Introduced in the 1800’s to adorn parks, mute swans have become invasive, competing with native swans for nesting territory. The mute swans are

Conservation Connection, continued

extremely aggressive and will chase native swans out of the areas, thus taking over nesting places, leaving the trumpeter swans without sufficient nesting grounds to raise their young. Lead poisoning is also a major issue for them, although the use of lead shot for hunting waterfowl was recently banned. Previously-expelled shot still rests at the bottom of lakes and ponds where the swans can ingest it with the small stones they ingest as grit to help their digestion.

When you visit the NEW Zoo & Adventure Park, you are helping to contribute to the wild swan populations, as all the money made at the zoo from admissions and other purchases goes right back into helping us provide for our animals and support our conservation programs. Next time you're here, say hello to Abner and Cecelia – and thank them for playing such an important role in the conservation of their own beautiful and majestic species. We'll look forward to seeing you here!

Article submitted by Zoo Educator Dustin Herrmann. Sources include the Trumpeter Swan Society and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources website.



From the Director: End of the Summer, by Neil Anderson



As September rolls in and the summer winds down as fall approaches, it has been a truly remarkable year so far at the NEW Zoo. Attendance numbers have increased by 28% in July alone and the August numbers are

also fantastic. The weather has been perfect weather for a Zoo visit this summer. Not too hot or not too cool, and below 85 degrees for most of the summer has been great for zoo visitors. All around the country, community zoos and aquariums have been a perfect "Staycation" for families that want to spend affordable quality family time together. It is so nice to see the families enjoying the zoo and spending time together. With the addition of the new Adventure Park, our visitors can now spend an entire day of activities close to home. The new Adventure Park has also brought out the young children and teenagers that traditionally "timeout" from the Zoo until they bring back their own families. It sure is nice to see all ages back at the Zoo and Adventure Park, making memories and enjoying their own adventures. That is a sight that I love to see as much as seeing the animals at the zoo.

It is times like this that communities that have invested in their zoos, aquariums and parks pay off. Places that we can connect

as family members as well as connecting with the natural world.

Why do visits to the zoo matter? Well, some interesting facts & findings from a recent nationwide study at accredited zoos like the NEW Zoo indicate the following:

Visits to accredited zoos and aquariums prompt individuals to reconsider their role in environmental problems and conservation action, and see themselves as part of the solution.

Visitors believe zoos and aquariums play an important role in conservation education and animal care.

Visitors believe they experience a stronger connection to nature as a result of their visit.

Zoos and aquariums support the values and attitudes of the visitor.

The NEW Zoo is a perfect place for families to connect with nature. If you haven't made a connection with your zoo this year, here are a few things that you may miss:

The six red wolf pups are out exploring their exhibit

The new Adventure Park and the 1000-foot Zip lines off the historic tower

Watching "Aldo" the young bear playing with logs and sticks and his pool

An opportunity to hand feed a giraffe

The new white-tailed deer buck in full velvet

The elk bull shedding his velvet and almost bugling time

The newly renovated Children's Zoo

The great food in the Mayan "Taste of the Tropics"

The new blue duiker exhibit

The new reptile exhibits in the new Education and Conservation Center

Not too mention all our Special events coming up

Hope you have a wonderful fall and remember every day is a good Zoo day!

Thank you to all that made our 2014 Feast with the Beasts event, presented by Capital Credit Union, a huge success!

This year the 14th annual event brought in over \$45,000.00 to support the missions of the N.E.W. Zoological Society and the Wisconsin Restaurant Association. The weather was perfect and we SOLD OUT of tickets before the event! Thank you to our amazing sponsors, food & beverage participants, music makers, volunteers, zoo staff, and all those that bought a ticket for the event! We hope to see you next year! Hint, Hint...Get your tickets early!!



Back to School Society Brick & Bench Specials

Purchase a River Rock Bench or one of our new Rock Garden Benches and we will throw in a 4x8 laser engraved brick FREE! The brick will be placed in a large stainless steel frame in front of the Penguin Exhibit. The brick includes up to 3 lines of type and makes a great gift for any occasion including, honoring that special student for the great job he or she does in school! This is a \$125.00 value. Purchase two 4x8 or 8x8 laser engraved bricks and receive a third of equal or lesser value FREE! This is a great way to honor all of those special students in your life. Include names, school dates, achievements, or any words that best describe your first year learner or your graduate. Value- \$125.00 to \$250.00.

Bench and Brick order forms can be found at newzoo.org or by calling 434-6814. Please write "School Special" on the order form to receive the deal.

Thank you for your Support!

NEW CORNERSTONE ANIMAL HOSPITAL UPDATE

Our fundraising efforts continue with the new Cornerstone Animal Hospital. Our financial goal for the project is \$1,300,000.00. This will include constructing the building, furnishing new medical equipment, renovating and enlarging the existing hospital animal dietary prep kitchen, and updating the existing animal holding areas for winter holding use. The construction of the building is on schedule with a November, 2014 completion date. We still need your help to complete this project. Naming Rights are still available for the hospital rooms. Spread the word, send in a donation for the hospital, and together we can complete this project! Call 434-6814 for more information.





NEW ZOO & ADVENTURE PARK

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***There's always something new at
YOUR NEW Zoo.***

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

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*Contact the Editor, Angela,
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education@newzoo.org!*

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We are your only AZA Accredited Zoo in Northeastern Wisconsin.



Upcoming Events & Things to Remember

September 1st

- **FALL HOURS BEGIN.** The NEW Zoo will be open daily from 9am to 6pm. The Adventure Park features will be open daily from 10am to 6pm.
- **LABOR DAY.** 9am to 6pm. The NEW Zoo & Adventure Park will be open for regular business hours.

October 8th

- **PUBLIC PUMPKIN CARVING.** 4pm to 8pm. Bring Your Own Pumpkins for Pizza—help us carve pumpkins for Zoo Boo and receive a pizza dinner in return. Please email volunteer@newzoo.org to pre-register.

October 10th, 11th, 17th, 18th, 24th, and 25th

- **NORTH SHORE BANK ZOO BOO.** 3pm to 8pm nightly. Trick-or-treating for kids 12 and under; games, activities, haunted hayrides and more!