Another year gone by! I always enjoy going back through past newsletters and re-reading the January “From the Editor” post from last year, just to see where we were and how far we’ve come. This year is no different: last year at this time, we were just completing our transition into the new Program Animal Room in the ECC. I’m happy to report that we are now making full use of that room, and our Program Animals are living there quite comfortably. We also just received a donation that will allow us to purchase an air purifier for the room – something about which we are very excited! Having the animals living in the ECC has allowed us to develop a very extensive exercise “regime” for these critters, and our interns have been great about keeping up with the schedule and making sure that all of our animals are handled and given plenty of room to stretch their legs on a regular basis.

2013 also saw the launching of a “Zoo Educator” position. Dustin Herrmann began work with us in May, and has been with the zoo ever since. His work in the Education Department allowed us to essentially DOUBLE the number of programs we were able to offer this year. In 2012, for example, we recorded approximately 4,000 visitors who participated in paid programs with us, either on-site or through our Zoomobiles. In 2013, however, we saw approximately 8,000 people during our paid programs! About 5,000 of those were seen on Zoomobiles: Dustin’s availability allowed us to book more of those off-site programs than we ever have before. We’re looking forward to continuing these trends of growth into 2014.

While Dustin’s position was originally intended to be a Seasonal position, terminating by the end of 2013, due to some extenuating circumstances, we have decided to keep him on for 2014. The “extenuating circumstances” are my own; I will need to be away from the zoo for an extended amount of time (a minimum of six weeks) starting sometime in mid- to late-January. While I am away, of course volunteers will still need to be coordinated, interns will need to be trained, and education programs will still need to be taught (etc. etc. etc.); therefore, Dustin will be here to keep the Education and Volunteer departments up and running. That also means Dustin will likely be the person editing the February and March editions of the WildTimes this year, so look for his voice, instead of my own, in the coming months.

There are lots of other very exciting things on tap in 2014 – things that we will focus on more in-depth as more details unfold – such as the opening of the Adventure Park (with ropes challenge courses, climbing wall, and zip line) in the spring, and the launching of a new-and-improved (and greatly updated!) website for the NEW Zoo. You have a lot to look forward to this year, so sit back and enjoy the ride. I’ll look forward to these exciting things myself, once I’m back in the office. You can be sure I’ll be keeping updated and following along on the zoo’s social media pages, like Facebook and Twitter, even while I’m away. Make sure you follow them yourself for the latest and greatest at facebook.com/NEWZooGB and twitter.com/NEWZooGB!

As always, thanks for your support of the NEW Zoo – and have a WILD day!~Angela Kawski-Kroening~

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**The January 2014 Paws & Claws Gift Shop Special is:**

10% off all Moose and Deer items
Endangered California condors living along Central California’s coast have a food-chain problem: Some are feeding on marine mammal carcasses contaminated with DDT, an organochlorine insecticide that’s been banned for agricultural use in the United States since 1972 but is known to persist for decades in the environment. The chemical is causing eggshell thinning and egg failure for the big birds that are the focus of a multimillion-dollar species recovery effort. The DDT contamination was documented in a new study by the Ventana Wildlife Society. The study was partly funded by the Oregon Zoo Foundation.

The zoo joined the effort to restore the species a decade ago. It breeds California condors at a Clackamas County compound off-limits to the public. The zoo is in the midst of constructing a condor exhibit in Portland, due to open early [2014].

The Ventana research was led by Joe Burnett, who used to run the zoo’s condor breeding operation. He and colleagues tracked down condor nests in Central California’s coastal redwoods near Big Sur. They examined egg conditions and measured shell thickness.

At least half the failed eggs were attributed to DDT, according to Burnett. Researchers linked those failures to a 40-year-old underwater Superfund site in Southern California, where most California sea lions spent part of their lives breeding and feeding. DDT from the old site accumulates in their blubber, and when scavengers such as condors feed on their remains, the chemicals move through the food chain.

Birds that have ingested DDT sometimes crush their own eggs while trying to incubate them. The chemical compound also can allow bacteria to penetrate eggshells.

The Oregon Zoo supports two other studies involving toxins in marine mammals; they’ll begin next year. Using a grant from the Oregon Zoo Foundation’s Future for Wildlife program, the conservation group Coastal Raptors plans to sample blood from vultures, ravens and eagles feeding on marine mammal carcasses along the Oregon and Washington coasts. Pacific University and Portland State University researchers will examine stranded sea lions and harbor seals for toxins.

"Marine mammals can act as vectors for a variety of contaminants," said David Shepherdson, the zoo’s deputy conservation manager. "The results of these studies will provide important data for ocean health and the Oregon Zoo condor program."

Forrest Gump, the 17 year old Zebu was humanely euthanized on 11/27/13. His name was a reference to a congenital hip problem that necessitated the use of a brace when he was a calf. This existing problem, and the fact that domestic cattle are not bred with longevity in mind, resulted in arthritis problems. Although pain medication had been keeping him active for several years, he was beginning to show a lack of mobility. Cold weather exacerbated his condition. Zookeepers had been conducting frequent Quality of Life assessments as his condition worsened. Forrest was beginning a steep decline and the Staff and Veterinarian decided that it was time for euthanasia.

One of the bison is also showing signs of slowing down. Both bison cows are in their twenties and have been under treatment for arthritis as well. Little Cow has lost weight recently and is beginning to have a harder time getting to her feet. Zookeepers and Veterinarian are continuing to monitor her Quality of Life. At this point, she is still traveling throughout the exhibit, engaging in social activities with her exhibit mates, and interacting with enrichment items provided by Zookeepers.

Keti, the female Red Pandas who arrived...
Animal Collection Report, continued....

here from the Houston Zoo last month has been moved to the exhibit. Although she is not yet co-habitating with Tae-bo (the exhibit is divided into two sections), the animals are showing interest in one another. Full introduction will take place in the near future. Breeding season for pandas begins in late winter.

Atilla the African Bullfrog, who has, heretofore, been silent, has recently been heard calling. The low, groaning sound is a means of claiming territory and calling females. Although this is not a good time of year for frogs to be thinking about breeding in Wisconsin, it is, in fact, the middle of the rainy breeding season in South Africa. How does he know?

Mayo, the female Red Wolf somehow managed to break her pelvis recently. We are not sure how the injury occurred but suspect she may have fallen off the roof of one of the nest boxes in the exhibit. No veterinary intervention is required (besides pain medication and antibiotics) and the break is expected to heal on its own. Mayo is being confined to the Animal Hospital for a while to limit her physical activity.

Great Gift Ideas for Valentine’s Day!

VALENTINE’S “SHARE THE CARE” ANIMAL ADOPTION SPECIAL

Now through February 14th...
Adopt at the COUSIN level and receive FREE UPGRADE to the BFF level
Adopt at the BFF level and receive FREE UPGRADE to Sibling level

To qualify, adoption must be for one of the species pictured

Love is in the air! To purchase a Share the Care Animal Adoption Special Package, visit our website and print off the application paper to complete and mail in with your payment. Or you can complete your adoption over the phone with a credit card by calling 920-434-7841. You do not need to mention the Special Package in order to qualify for the level upgrade. Just adopt as you normally would at either the COUSIN or BFF level, and we will automatically apply the upgrade to purchases made by February 14th, 2014. You must adopt one of the following Species Survival Plan recommended breeding species to qualify for this Special: Hyacinth Macaw; African Penguin; Snow Monkey; Snow Leopard; OR African Lion.

The BFF upgrade includes a Key Chain; the Sibling level upgrade includes a Plush Animal for the Adopter.

ZOO PASS MEMBERSHIPS also make great gifts!
Visit www.newzoo.org or call 920-662-2402 for information about purchasing a Zoo Pass as a gift. It’s a gift that keeps on giving ALL YEAR LONG!
It’s back! Our popular Summer Zoo Camp Program is a wonderfully WILD time for elementary school aged students!

The 2014 Summer Zoo Camp program will begin at 8:45am and end at 2:00pm daily. Children must be registered to attend a day that corresponds to their age group. A morning snack is provided by the zoo, but parents should provide a non-microwaveable, non-refrigerated lunch for each child. Each day’s program will include educational presentations, live animal encounters, special tours or exhibit chats, and other fun activities like games and crafts. Children should dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.

The cost per day is $20 for Zoo Pass members or $25 for non-Zoo Pass members. Program options are listed below. Each child can register for a maximum of two different sessions. Ages listed below correspond to the 2014-2015 school year. The program schedule is listed on the following page.

For students entering 5 year-old kindergarten

Paws & Claws: It’s time to investigate how animals eat, move, and look! We’ll focus on the adaptations that animals use for survival in the wild. After all, things like paws and claws are important for defense, finding food, eating, swimming, and more.

Animal Tails: Short tails, fluffy tails, long tails, spiny tails! Explore the world of animal tails and learn why animals have them and just what, exactly, they use them for.

For students entering 1st or 2nd grade

Eat or Be Eaten: What’s for lunch?? Children will discover the ways that animals are linked together in an intricate web of life. We’ll explore food webs and chains, learn about predator-prey relationships and about the important role every species plays in its ecosystem.

Call of the Wild: Squeak, roar, howl and hoot in this exciting camp where we learn about how animals communicate! We’ll explore the sounds animal use and also the soundless ways that animals share messages with one another.

For students entering 3rd or 4th grade

Life in the Leaves: Discover the world of animals that climb and fly! We’ll learn about life in the treetops and the animals that like to perch, swing, hangout, and leap through the canopy.

Under the Surface: Come explore life underground and underwater! We’ll study the champion diggers and burrowers of the world and get a first-hand look at what life is like for the creatures that spend much of their lives beneath our very feet.

For students entering 5th, 6th, or 7th grade

Trek through the Tropics: Explore the rainforest from top to bottom! Discover the wonderful relationships between plants and animals that make rainforests such biological treasures. We’ll learn about how rainforests impact our everyday lives – and how our everyday lives can have important impacts on rainforests.

Animal Architects: Animals can be amazing builders! Together we will learn what animals build and why - and even try to re-create some animal structures of our own. We’ll also explore how zoos create the perfect homes and exhibits for our own animals.

Pre-registration is required and a limited number of spaces are available for each day’s session. To register, or for more information, contact the NEW Zoo Education Department by calling 920-662-2402 or by emailing info@newzoo.com. Registration begins on January 13th. A minimum number of students must be registered in order to hold each session. Sessions that do not meet the minimum number will be canceled five days in advance. Please see the calendar of sessions on the next page for program dates.
### July 2014 Summer Zoo Camp Calendar

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<th>SUNDAY</th>
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<td><strong>1st/2nd Grade Eat or Be Eaten</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st/2nd Grade Call of the Wild</strong></td>
<td><strong>3rd/4th Grade Life in the Leaves</strong></td>
<td><strong>5th-7th Grade Trek through the Tropics</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1st/2nd Grade Eat or Be Eaten</strong></td>
<td><strong>1st/2nd Grade Call of the Wild</strong></td>
<td><strong>3rd/4th Grade Under the Surface</strong></td>
<td><strong>5th-7th Grade Animal Architects</strong></td>
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### N.E.W. Zoological Society News

**Happy New Year from the N.E.W. Zoological Society!**

We had a successful fund-raising year and we are very thankful for our many supporters and the generous gifts we received and continue to receive. The Society is approximately $10,000.00 shy, after the remaining pledges are fulfilled, of completing the Education & Conservation Center project. We will keep asking for donations until the project is finished.

The asking will not stop there. Our next fund-raising endeavor is the much needed, already designed, Animal Hospital. A Ground Breaking Ceremony for the hospital was held in December. We have pledges pending, with construction beginning next spring or summer, and more financial support promised for the building. We will keep asking for donations until the project is finished.

To sum it all up, in order for our NEW Zoo to remain current and new, the Society will keep asking for donations until the projects are finished!

**Society Events 2014**

**APRIL 3RD, 2014:** 2nd Annual “Skunks are Beautiful” Cribbage Tournament

(Please e-mail newzoosociety@gmail.com regarding sponsoring the event or for more information)

**AUGUST 4th, 2014:** 15th Annual “Feast with the Beasts” Event

(Please e-mail carlazoo@netnet.net regarding sponsoring the event or for more information)

**Monthly Specials**

Please watch for monthly Brick & Bench Specials that will be listed in the WildTimes, on our website, and at the zoo. Bricks & Benches can be ordered at any time and are installed year round.

**Society Programs**

**Brick Program:** Laser engraved bricks installed in stainless steel frames off the ground, $125.00 to $250.00

**Bench Program:** Raised-arm river rock bench includes 20 letters engraved, $1800.00; 100% Recycled plastic bench includes 40 letters engraved, $1000.00

**Pet Memorial Garden:** A beautiful location, inside of the Children’s Zoo, for pet owners to have pet cremains permanently buried. Natural river stone markers are available for purchase

**Wall of Honor:** Laser engraved, gold dye inlaid, on polished marble plaques located outside of the visitor center, $500.00 and up

**Endowment Fund:** Money invested to ensure that the growth and quality of our Zoo will continue to expand in to the future per the Society mission

**Animal Exhibit & Building Fund:** Money is put into a current fund-raising building project and the donor is recognized on a wall inside or outside of the exhibit

**Conservation Fund:** To promote Conservation efforts in our area and around the world

Please contact the Society at 434-6814 or e-mail carlazoo@netnet.net for more information regarding donations, sponsorships, or any of our programs.

We wish you & your families a Safe, Healthy, and Happy New Year!
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.

Upcoming Events & Things to Remember

January 1st
- New Year’s Day. We are open from 9am to 4pm.

January 13th
- Summer Zoo Camp Registration begins

Please note the following UPDATES to Admission prices, effective January 1st, 2014:
- Adults $7; Children $5; Seniors $5; Children 2 & Under: Free
- Zoo Pass members receive free admission all year long

Remember Admission is HALF OFF during the months of January and February
We are open DAILY from 9am to 4pm