

WILDTIMES

LOOKING FORWARD



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE
WWW.REDRIVERZOO.ORG



SPRING 2016
"PENCIL FENCE" BY WAQAR MADAHMAD



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DIRECTOR'S NOTE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Every year our mission of connecting people to nature is growing. We will continue to grow and expand in 2016, and we are looking forward to an incredible year. We are always improving and striving to expand our offerings, such as Parents Night Out, Zoo Year's Eve, and our first Zoo Brew event later this summer. Our conservation work will also continue to expand as we increase our efforts to make a difference with the many threatened and endangered cold climate species that call the Red River Zoo home.

This year will be transformational in many ways. In the spring of this year, we will be holding the Grand Opening for our new Children's Zoo Farm. Thank you all for your patience with our construction last year, and we are very excited for you to see this wonderful new addition to your Red River Zoo! Nature's Playland will also be opening this year and will feature educational opportunities and inspirational ways to connect people to nature!

In addition to these exciting new exhibits, the Red River Zoo will be embarking on our first comprehensive Master Plan. The Red River Zoo will be consulting

with experts within our industry to develop a comprehensive layout including architectural and exhibit plans for the entire Zoo campus. Many people ask if we have room to grow and the answer is yes! We have plenty of room.

Many high quality zoos are 5 to 10 acres in size but seem bigger due to effective site layout and land planning. The Red River Zoo is 34 acres, of which 20 are partially developed. Having a comprehensive

site layout will allow us to more effectively plan while showing our community what we can all look forward to with your help and support. In addition to the architectural design, the zoo will be developing a comprehensive business plan to help us set goals and benchmarks for growth. It is truly a bright time for the Red River Zoo. Please join us and bring your shades!

Lisa Tate, Executive Director

GIVING HEARTS DAY • FEB 11!



SAVE THE DATE!

Consider supporting your Red River Zoo on **Giving Hearts Day**. The Zoo is completely non-profit and could not continue to thrive without your support! Go to www.impactgiveback.org on February 11th and select The Red River Zoo. Share the Love. Your generous donation is crucial to our growth and success.

THE NEW CHILDREN'S ZOO FARM

OPENING SPRING 2016



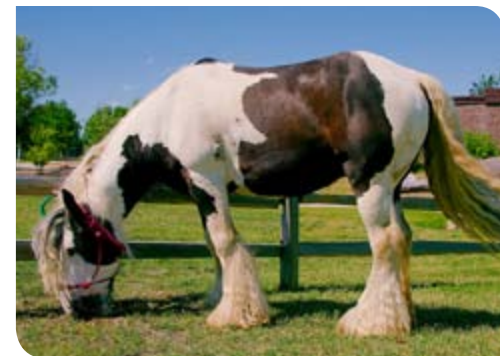
We are excited to open our new Children's Zoo Farm this spring! The original Zoo Farm was one of the first exhibits at the Zoo and has always been a highlight for our guests. However, it was also one of the oldest parts of the Zoo, so after sixteen years it was time for a facelift! Zoo staff envisioned a dynamic new space to inspire fun-based learning and began transforming the exhibit. The new Children's Zoo Farm features a beautiful interpretive center, large barns with indoor and outdoor viewing areas. The redesigned Children's Zoo Farm is not only an exhibit but an experience. Be sure to stay tuned for announcements about the Grand Opening.

Your favorite farm animals are back! During construction we had to move some of the farm animals off exhibit or into temporary exhibits. Although guests were excited to see such a large

expansion of the Zoo, they also missed seeing some of their favorite animals. We are happy to announce that the farm animals have settled into their spacious new homes and new species of animals will be arriving this spring. The Children's Zoo Farm expansion gives us the opportunity to feature more animals and to teach kids about North Dakota agriculture. As you visit this spring you will see rare and heritage livestock breeds including a Gypsy



Vanner draft horse, Dutch Belted cow, Hereford pigs, as well as, sheep and goats! Heritage animals are domestic livestock that were once commonly used in agriculture. They are animals you would have found on your great, great grandparent's farm. As modern farming changed, many of these animals were replaced with machinery or for breeds that are higher producers. As a result, many heritage livestock breeds are endangered. Exhibiting these breeds in the Children's Zoo Farm allows us to teach our visitors about conservation. There is always something new at



the Interpretive Center, Zoo Farm Gardens, and further additions to Nature's Playland! There are many ways to support the Children's Zoo Farm. Consider volunteering, donating and visiting the Zoo! Go to



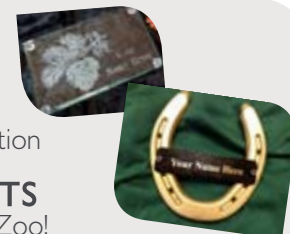
your Zoo! The Children's Zoo Farm will continue to grow this summer with more: interactive exhibits in

"Gifts that Give Back" at WWW.REDRIVERZOO.ORG to learn how you can become a supporter!

WAYS YOU CAN HELP THE NEW CHILDREN'S ZOO FARM!

Pencil Fence Sponsorship • Engraved Donor Plaques
Golden Horseshoes • Volunteer • Make a Cash Donation

VISIT WWW.REDRIVERZOO.ORG/GIFTS
for these and many other ways you can support your Zoo!



LOOK AT WHERE WE HAVE BEEN...

This edition of the newsletter is all about Looking Forward. Our bright future is made possible thanks to many years of support. Here's a look at 2015 highlights with many more to come in 2016 and beyond.

WATCH WHERE WE ARE GOING!





OUR FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT!

People often ask us if we are landlocked or if we have enough room to grow. The answer to both questions is yes! Proper planning and community engagement will allow us to grow and expand over time to fill our 34 acres with amazing sights, sounds, and educational opportunities for our community. The Red River Zoo has accomplished amazing things in our short 16 year history and it is time for us to take a big step forward. We have been working for several months on a process to develop the first comprehensive Master plan for your Red River Zoo.

The Red River Zoo Master Plan will engage leading experts in modern zoo exhibitory and design, as well as, zoo business planning experts to help guide us to a successful future. This look into the next 20 years will encompass the physical boundaries of our Zoo campus. Conceptual plans, infrastructure needs, and estimates

of costs and schedules demonstrate how the Master Plan will be realized. The Master Plan looks at the site in its entirety, laying a framework of how individual exhibits and facilities relate to one another, and that a consistent story is being told by your Zoo as a whole. It will include a phasing schedule of how this will be accomplished on the site. A communication and interpretive plan will be included to ensure consistency between messaging and physical development.

The Master Plan looks at the large-scale, physical make-up of the site and the conceptual organization of the site. This includes establishment of entrance and orientation; movement through the Zoo; a story or theme that flows through the site; an ordering and placement of specific exhibits, facilities, infrastructure; and compliance with mandatory codes. In concert with the site design and layout, a strategic business plan will be developed to ensure growth and financial stability for the Red River Zoo. This process will provide a platform for community citizens to help us develop a successful community resource by providing input and sharing needs and ideas that may be integrated into the plan. A well-done plan will provide a cohesive new vision, gaining public support which will drive successful fundraising programs and our long-term sustainability.

As a non-profit organization which receives no anchor funding from any city, county or other tax-based support, we rely on charitable giving to help us operate and grow. In order to develop successful annual and capital fundraising programs, the Red River Zoo needs to create a unified vision that everyone can get excited about. People need to see specific projects and outcomes. The final plan will include not only exhibit concepts and design, but also interpretive elements and revenue opportunities.

A Master Plan would guide the development and evolution of the Red River Zoo. The Master Plan will support the coordinated growth of the Zoo's separate functions and help to avoid "ad-hoc" development. If future decisions about the design and development of the Red River Zoo are all made with respect to the precedent and direction of the Master Plan, the future Zoo will be a coherent, site-specific, unique institution that fulfills identified goals.

The Master Plan will be in development throughout most of 2016 and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and ideas. This is an exciting step forward. Thank you, our members, for getting us here and for your ongoing support!

Lisa Tate, Executive Director

WHAT'S UP DOC?



Your chance to ask our veterinarian, Dr. Tom Colville.

QUESTION: DO YOU VACCINATE OUR ZOO ANIMALS?

YES! Vaccinations are an important part of routine preventive health care for many domestic animals – pets as well as livestock. Vaccinations stimulate the Zoo animals to build up immunity to diseases before they are exposed to them.

Part of my job is to figure out which vaccines are beneficial and safe for our animals. If you have pet dogs or cats you may already be familiar with the vaccines we give our Grey Wolves, Grey Fox and Pallas' cats. The wolves and fox get the same vaccines as dogs, and the Pallas' cats get the same vaccines as cats. The Red Pandas and Otter are susceptible to both canine (dog) distemper and feline (cat) distemper, so we give them both vaccines. Livestock in

the new Children's Zoo Farm, such as the horse, cattle, pigs, goats, and sheep are susceptible to the same diseases if they lived on a farm. Other "hoofstock" (animals with hooves) at the Zoo such as Camels, Takin, and Deer are also susceptible to some common livestock diseases, so the vaccines we give to our hoofstock are the same kinds used on area farms and ranches.

All the animals we vaccinate at our Zoo receive one vaccine in common – the rabies vaccine. This is to protect them from possible exposure to wild animals carrying rabies that may find their way into the Zoo. There is one group of animals at the Zoo that receives ONLY the rabies vaccine - the porcupines.



DOC?

You may wonder how we vaccinate an animal covered with sharp quills, but they do not have any quills on their underside. Thanks to our zookeepers, the porcupines have been trained to stand up on their hind legs with their front feet on a horizontal bar. This exposes their quill-less underside and we can quickly vaccinate them, and then give them a treat for being a good patient. How do we convince the Red Pandas, Camels, and the rest of the animals to allow us to inject

vaccines? Some animals, are tame enough to allow us to give them their vaccinations. Many of the rest have been trained to allow vaccinations to be given while they are standing against a fence or gate and while enjoying their favorite snack. Training is underway with the Takin, but not complete, so we use a gentle dart fired from an air rifle. Do you have a question for Dr. Tom? Email him at thezoo@redriverzoo.org

VACCINATION QUICK FACTS

In 2015 we gave more than **110 INDIVIDUAL VACCINATIONS** using **10 DIFFERENT VACCINES** to **43 DIFFERENT ANIMALS**.

An average rabies vaccination is **\$5.00 PER SHOT**.

We welcome you to make a donation to help keep our animals healthy.

SAVE THE DATE

THE RED RIVER ZOO'S
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23RD
6:00PM @ THE ZOO

Members are invited to hear what the Zoo has accomplished and learn about our future plans. Please RSVP by calling 701-277-9240 or email thezoo@redriverzoo.org by Friday, March 18th.

A photograph of a calendar for the year 2016. A red arrow points to the date Wednesday, March 23rd. The calendar is open to the month of March, and the date is highlighted.

ANIMAL HEALTH WORD SEARCH

X Z D H A K H X W S O A G E H
 K I B I M B P R X I O M S H E
 C A S T B G Y A E U D E P O A
 Y K G F D Y F Y T R I D I S L
 N D R P A K Z S F Q S I B P T
 L Z O S H S O X T P E C G I H
 W W S C K G C S D T A I G T Y
 P Y A P T I Z C U L S N T A Y
 F M M O V O N N H R E E Q L T
 R I X J V T R F N E G I Q V D
 Q B A C T E R I A M C E X T K
 A A B Y Z E H Q H P X K R U M
 B O Q T J T M C F O O D U Y L
 C Z W K A H M M N B H G D P C
 V E T E R I N A R I A N V T V

Veterinarian
Medicine
Healthy
Food
Teeth

Hospital
Xray
Disease
Bacteria
Skin

Doctor
Checkup
Cast
Age
Surgery

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

Last winter we piloted a new educational program called Parents Night Out. It allowed parents to have an evening to themselves while the kids enjoy a wild time at the Zoo. It has proven to be hugely popular with both parents and children.

Fun activities are designed to teach children about animals and conservation and are incorporated into all the evening's activities. It is a night full of crafts, animal encounters, and adventures! Each Parents Night Out is themed differently, so kids can attend multiple nights and learn new concepts each time. From nocturnal animals to adapting to the cold, kids learn about the natural world through engaging activities. Based on feedback from parents and their children, the night time tours are a favorite highlight. Some of the frequently asked questions are as follows:

Q: What ages can attend?

A: Between ages 3 and 12 (must be potty-trained)

Q: Where do I drop off my child?

A: Come to the main entrance of the Zoo to check-in and complete any paperwork (if necessary). You will then escort the child to the carousel pavilion where you will be greeted by another staff person.

Q: How is my child supervised?

A: We divide children in small groups and each group has a minimum of 2 leaders.

Q: Is there food served?

A: A snack is provided approximately mid-evening.

Q: What should my child wear?

A: They should wear comfortable clothes and shoes for the variety of activities (crafts, carousel ride), and they should wear weather appropriate outer attire as the night tour does go outside into the Zoo.

Q: Can my children be together and/or with a friend?

A: Yes! When you arrive at the carousel the greeter will assign the child to a team. You may ask at that time to have them together.

Q: Where do I pick up my child?

A: Come to the main entrance, the staff at the desk will radio staff in the carousel and your child will be located so they can gather their belongings. You will then go to the carousel to meet your child.

If you are interested in attending, please visit: www.redriverzoo.org/parentsnightout to register. This is consistently a SOLD-OUT event, so pre-registration is required.



EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

ZOOcation! (Grades 1-5)

Monday, February 15th

Monday, March 4th

Monday, March 28th

8:00am-3:00pm each session

School's out? Skip the daycare center or babysitter and send your child to spend the day at the Zoo! Under the supervision of our education department, children will enjoy a mellow day of exploring the Zoo, playing games, and meeting some of our animals up close. Other activities include: crafts, outdoor play, a science experiment, and carousel rides. Pre-registration is required.

RRZ Members: \$45 per session

Non-Members \$50 per session

Parents Night Out!

A Who-dunnit Adventure

Friday, February 12th

6:00pm-9:30pm

Parents Night Out!

A Trapper's Adventure

Friday, February 26th

6:00pm-9:30pm

Parents Night Out!

An Eggcellent Adventure

Friday, March 11th

6:00pm-9:30pm

STARTING APRIL 24TH

**Our Summer hours begin and
The Zoo is open 7 days a week
from 10:00am-7:00pm!**

Pint-Sized Explorers:

What's Crackin' (Ages 4-6)

Tuesday, March 1st

3:15pm-4:45pm

TAP, TAP, TAP. That's the sound of a baby chick hatching! But why doesn't the egg crack when the mother hen sits on it? Just how strong is a chicken egg? Do other animals lay eggs? Come to the Zoo to find out. We'll make some eggs of our own and meet some of the animals at the Zoo that lay eggs.

RRZ Members: \$10

Non-Members: \$15 Space is limited, so preregistration is required.

Party for the Planet

Saturday, April 23rd

10:00am-5:00pm

Party for the Planet. All day celebration of Earth Day! Fun activities and special animal encounters.

Annual Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 23rd - 6:00pm

Get a sneak peek on what's happening in 2016 at our Annual Membership Meeting! Join fellow members for a presentation on our recent progress and future plans.

RSVP: Please RSVP by calling 701-277-9240 or emailing thezoo@redriverzoo.org by Friday, March 20th.

SUPPORT YOUR ZOO

☐ \$50

☐ \$250

☐ \$100

☐ \$500

☐ Other

Payment Options:

CHECK ☐

CREDIT ☐

Credit Card Information:

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Account #: _____

Exp Date: (mm/YY) ____/____ cvv: ____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (with area code) _____

Email: _____

☐ Please contact me regarding an endowment gift which may qualify for a 40% ND Tax Credit!

Please cut on dotted line and Mail / Drop off
in sealed #10 Envelope to:

RED RIVER ZOO
4255 23rd Avenue South
Fargo, ND 58104
701-277-9240

PARTY FOR THE PLANET™

Red River Zoo, Fargo, ND
Saturday April 23rd 10 am to 5 pm



**Join us in the largest combined
Earth Day celebration in North America!**



For more information go to www.redriverzoo.org



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SOCIETY

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