

WILDTIMES



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE
WWW.REDRIVERZOO.ORG



WINTER 2016
"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"



Red River Zoological Society
Board of Directors

President

Brad Dahl
Ferguson Waterworks

Vice President

Timothy Dirks
Fargo Public Library

Treasurer

Brenda Podetz
Albaugh Enterprises

Secretary

Chris Alberty
Agassiz Seed & Supply

Directors

Chris Alberty
Agassiz Seed & Supply

Krista Andrews
Anderson, Bottrell, Sanden & Thompson

Carolyn Boutain
Fargo Park District

Brad Dahl
Ferguson Waterworks

Laura Carley
Industrial Builders

Steven Dewald
Lightowler Johnson Associates

Timothy Dirks
Fargo Public Library

Duane Durr
Don's Car Washes

Jeff Fellman
Intelligent InSites

Chelsea Hanson
Media Productions

Karen Kelner
Kelner Communications

Marshall McCullough
Ohnstad Twitchell Law Firm

Betty Opheim
NDSU Computer Sciences

Mason Persons
Swanston Equipment

Brenda Podetz
Albaugh Enterprises, LLC

Joanna Słimski
Mortenson Construction

Barry Schuchard
Kadmas Lee & Jackson

Leah Warner
Vogel Law Firm

DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Dear friends,

I became the Red River Zoo's fourth Executive Director this summer. It is a pleasure and responsibility that I am honored to accept. Each day your Red River Zoo provides excellent animal care, unique educational opportunities and engaging guest experiences. I feel blessed to work in my hometown at a world class Zoo that is truly a part of our community.

My lifelong passion for wildlife and wild places grew from an experience I had at a Zoo when I was just two years old. My first memory ever is gazing into an underwater exhibit at the National Zoo. I can remember looking through the glass into blue water not really knowing why my mom had prompted me to stand there. Suddenly, a giant white paw popped up, seemingly out of nowhere, and pushed on the glass.

It was the polar bear swimming in the pool and using the window to complete a flip turn. I was both terrified and in complete awe. Although I was just a toddler I remember every detail of that moment; the scratchy texture of my dad's tweed bell bottoms as I gripped them for comfort, the sound of my parents giggling at my response, my four year old sister smiling as she continued to watch the bear swim. That moment sparked a love and respect for animals that lasted a lifetime. It was the spark that lead me to my future career working in the Zoo and Aquarium field. Each day I see children and families having unique experiences and creating treasured memories at the Red River Zoo. I see young couples getting married,

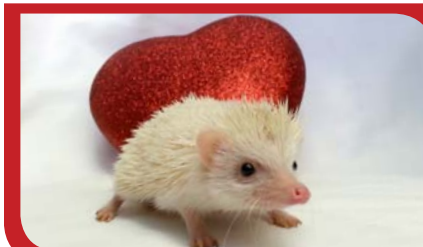
hear toddlers giggle as our cow licks their hand, listen to families howl along with our wolves and see Junior Keepers faces beam with pride as they give their first public presentation. As a 100% non-profit organization we could not do it without amazing community support. You, our members, help make it all happen so -- thank you!



I look forward to meeting you all and working together to create experiences that connect people with nature. Please consider the Red River Zoo in your charitable

giving and for your holiday gift giving. Together we can continue to grow. Thank you for supporting your Zoo!

Happy Holidays,
Sally Jacobson, Executive Director



GIVING HEARTS DAY

Save the Date! February 11, 2017 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 your love. Your generous donation is crucial to our growth and success.

CREATURE FEATURE

NORTH AMERICAN RIVER OTTER

What do I look like?

I am a mammal from the weasel family. My body is covered in brown fur, and I have a large black nose with whiskers. My body is very slender and streamlined, so I move a little like a snake in the water! My feet are webbed to help me steer and paddle while I swim. I have a long tail that helps me swim too. I may look cute, but I have over 30 teeth and non-retractable claws that I use to catch my prey.



Photo by Josh Moore

What do I eat?

I am a piscivore, which means I love to eat fish most of the time. Sometimes I'll eat crabs, snails, bugs, small rodents, frogs, bird eggs, and other animals but mostly I eat fish. Whatever I eat can pass through my entire digestive system in about an hour, and that is why I have so much energy.

Where do I live?

I get my name because I spend most of my day in or near water, usually a river. When swimming I can stay underwater for up to eight minutes, and I can dive down to 60 feet! It helps that I can close my ears and my nose when I swim. Besides rivers I can also

be found near lakes, ponds, wetlands, or swamps in all of Canada and most of the United States. In the wild I live in the same habitat as the turtles, American ducks, and American geese you will also find at the Zoo.

How am I adapted for winter?

I already have to stay warm in the cold water of the river during the summer, so I do not have to do anything special to stay warm during the winter. My fur coat has two layers. The dense, oily one close to my body keeps me warm. The longer, shiny one you see keeps me dry. My skin also produces an oily substance that prevents my fur from absorbing water. I do not hibernate and I enjoy playing in the snow!



Photo by Chris Harland

The Red River Zoo is home to two otters, Annabelle and Butler. Soon it will be time for the Zoo to drain the otter pool, but that doesn't bother the otters at all. They have loads of fun sliding down their slopes and playing with the novel items hidden in their exhibit by the zookeeper.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Otters are highly intelligent and social animals. They engage in playful activities that give them the skills, strength, and speed to catch fish.
- River otters prefer to eat non-game fish species, so in a healthy ecosystem they don't compete with human fishermen.
- The North American river otter has many natural predators but typically can avoid them by escaping quickly to a burrow or to water. Natural predators that are fast enough to prey upon otter include lynx, mountain lion, wolverine, wolves, birds of prey, and alligators.
- River otters don't need swimming goggles to see underwater. They have a set clear eyelids to protect their eyes.

North American River Otters disappeared from much of their historic range in the United States due to the fur trade being unregulated until the late 20th century. They struggle to rebound because of water pollution and loss of habitat, but there have been several successful reintroductions in the US. Do your own research to see if you can figure out where!

FOR THE *Home* Holidays

Home is an important part of the holiday season. Home has different meanings for everyone. It could mean a house, a community, a city or simply just spending time with the people you love. The Red River Zoo is home to some of the world most rare and endangered cold climate species. Your Zoo team works to ensure our animals have a healthy, happy and safe home year round. As you visit this Zoo this winter be sure to stop by our Pallas Cat exhibit to see the newest resident of the Red River Zoo, Sural. Sural was born at the Saitama Children's Zoo in Saitama Japan, just north of Tokyo. We imported Sural with the special intention of helping to keep his species alive and healthy.

Pallas Cats are native to the mountains of central Asia, living in extremely high altitudes (up to 16,570 feet) Their largest threat in the wild is poisoning. Efforts to control the pika, a small mammal related to rabbits, populations through poisoning in Mongolia and China have had the unintended effect of decimating the Pallas Cat population. Pallas Cats prey on pika and saving Pallas Cats through

captive breeding is difficult. They only breed once a year and their kittens are difficult to keep alive. They have the lowest survival rate of any small cat, largely due to their underdeveloped immune systems. In their natural high-altitude habitat they are not normally exposed to viruses causing infection. Your Red River Zoo is known around the world for our successful breeding of Pallas Cats. Through working with Species Survival Plans (SSP's)



we collaborate with zoo's around the world to maintain a healthy and diverse genetic pool for animals that are at risk of extinction.

Pallas Cats are not the only species to have a home at the Red River Zoo. Other species include the Red Panda, White-naped Crane, Sichuan Takin, and the Brown Eared Pheasant along with many more species.

Although all of these different species have come from many different parts of the globe, they have found their home in Fargo, North Dakota, like so many of our members have. When you visit your Zoo this winter you are not only helping to support these species, but you are helping to build on the community that is the Red River Zoo.



REASONS TO SMILE!



Children rolling down the hill will soon be children sledding down the hill.



Sharing a smile in the Children's Zoo Farm!



Pandas wrestling in the snow.



KENSIE WALLNER
PHOTOGRAPHY

A beautiful bride on her wedding day!

Look around there are so many reasons to smile when you are at the zoo! When you visit the Red River Zoo, not only are you having a fun adventure, but you are supporting local, national and international conservation efforts. Send in YOUR reasons to smile to thezoo@redriverzoo.org!



Adults enjoying our first ever Zoo Brew!



Creating colorful art in the zoo.



Children's expressions when they see our otters swimming!



Creating lifelong memories at the Zoo!

GETTING INVOLVED: **VOLUNTEERS AT THE ZOO**



The Zoo a great place to escape your regular day and enjoy wildlife. It is also a wonderful place to get involved with your community! Volunteers are a big part of our Zoo family, they allow us to amplify our message and expand our services. This fall we honored our volunteers with their own “home” at the Zoo. We transformed the Zoo Farm Gift Shop in to a special space dedicated to volunteerism. The new Volunteer Center will give volunteers a space to work on projects, such as creating enrichment or exercising one of our education animals. It’s a great place to learn about all the opportunities there are to share your talents at the zoo.

In the Fall of 2014, the Volunteers of the Red River Zoo started working at the concession stand in Scheels Arena during events to raise money for the Zoo. The volunteers are starting their 3rd year at Scheels Arena and are proud and excited to be able to do this for the Zoo and the Community.



laptops for the Education Department at the Zoo, wagons for Zoo guests use and the new pond in the Crane Exhibit with more exciting additions to come!

Watch for the Red River volunteers at Community Events throughout the area all year long! If you would like to become part of this team email Debbie Dudley, Director of Volunteers, at volunteer@redriverzoo.org.

The Volunteers of the Red River Zoo have been getting involved more and more in the Fargo-Moorhead community in addition to the Education Outreach Programs. During the fall and winter you can often find our volunteers staffing concessions stands at area sporting events to raise money for the Zoo. To date, they have raised over \$32,000! These funds have been used to purchase



Red River
ZOO

Volunteer Center

Want to get involved at the Zoo? Visit www.redriverzoo.org/volunteer

ZOO EVENTS

JAWS, PAWS, AND LUNCH WITH SANTA CLAUS

Dates: December 3rd and December 10th

Time: 11am-1:30pm

Enjoy a delicious lunch in the Red River Zoo carousel pavilion with a special appearance by Santa Claus! Kids will have the opportunity to ride the carousel and watch our animals open their own special gifts. **Advance tickets are required and seating is limited.**

Red River Zoo members: Adult/\$13, Children/\$8

Non-members: Adults/\$15, Children/\$10

Register at www.redriverzoo.org

ZOOYEAR'S EVE

Date: December 31st

Time: 1:00-5:00 pm

Ring in the New Year at the Zoo! This family friendly celebration includes animal encounters, Zoo year's resolutions, and a countdown to the New Year every hour. Free admission for everyone!

• EDUCATION PROGRAMS

REGISTER FOR CLASSES ONLINE AT WWW.REDRIVERZOO.ORG

• PARENTS NIGHT OUT

6:00 pm to 9:30 pm

Parents go enjoy a night out while your kids have a wild time at the Zoo!

Children (Ages 3 to 12) will go on an adventure, learning about the animals of the Zoo through games, activities, and a short night hike. (Children must be potty trained.)

Adventures take energy, so a light snack will be provided.

Past bedtime? No worries. Pickup is **anytime** before 9:30 p.m.

RRZ Members: \$20 first child, \$10 each additional child

Non-Members \$30 first child \$15 each additional child

• A BLUSTERY QUEST – DECEMBER 16, 2016

Winter is close and the weather is becoming blustrier. When it gets cold out, we will bundle up and spend more time inside, but what about animals at the zoo? From growing thicker fur to even changing colors our animals are also preparing for the cold weather. Come spend an evening exploring these different changes. Children will go on a quest to see which animals change the most during the blustery winter here at the zoo.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS CONTINUED...

• A NEW YEAR'S BARNYARD QUEST – JANUARY 13, 2017

Come celebrate the new year with our farm friends. Sheep with four horns, chickens with crazy feathers and cows of all sizes. It's a celebration every day at the New Children's Zoo Farm. Children will go on a quest to see rare barnyard animals that are getting harder to find.

• A TEAM-UP QUEST – JANUARY 27, 2017

A pack of wolves, a town of prairie dogs, a scurry of squirrels! Working together as a team makes everything easier. Come learn about ways animals work together and communicate to complete difficult tasks. Children will go on a quest to see which animals work together to hunt, make homes, and take care of their families.

• A FEATHERY QUEST – FEBRUARY 10, 2017

Birds are not always angry! From parrots to chickens to hawks birds are caring parents for their chicks. Just like us bird parents teach their chicks many things like flying and finding food. Children will go on a quest to see which animals will "flock together" as a family unit at the zoo.

• AN AMUSING QUEST – FEBRUARY 24, 2017

Everybody likes to have fun, even the animals living at the Red River Zoo. Come and explore the ways we give animals various types of enrichment including toys, smells, food and much more. Children will go on a quest to discover and create fun items that will amuse the animals for hours.

• WHAT'S THE BUZZ QUEST – MARCH 10, 2017

Springtime is right around the corner and the Red River Zoo is buzzing with excitement. Soon all of our pollinator friends will be hard at work, from bees to butterflies and even bats, pollinators help us in many different ways. Children will go on a quest to discover how these pollinators help humans and ways to attract them to our gardens and parks.

• PINT SIZED EXPLORERS

Tuesday, December 13th

10:00am-11:30am

Pint-Sized Explorers: Bundle Up (Ages 4-6)

At the Red River Zoo, we have many animals that love the cold weather! Explorers will see up close how the animals change during the winter and behave differently. Using games and crafts, they will learn why the animals enjoy the winter in Fargo.

Program Fee: \$10/members, \$15/non-members

• ZOOCATION: MIGRATION TREK

January 16, 2017 8:00am-3:00pm

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.

Who: Children (Grade 1 through 5)

What: A relaxing, yet structured day at the Zoo. Activities include: an animal encounter, Zoo tour, crafts, games, outdoor play, science experiment, and carousel rides.

Cost: \$50.00 per child for non-members / \$45.00 per child for Zoo members

Register at www.redriverzoo.org

Hibernation Word Search Puzzle



Can you find the names of 16 animals that hibernate hidden in this puzzle?
The 16 animals names are listed at the bottom of the page.



BAT	BLACK BEAR	CHIPMUNK	FROG
GROUNDHOG	HAMSTER	HEDGEHOG	MOUSE
OPOSSUM	RACCOON	SKUNK	SNAKE
SQUIRREL	TOAD	TURTLE	WOODCHUCK

GIFTS THAT GIVE BACK

If you are looking for a gift that keeps giving this holiday season, give the gift of a Zoo membership! When you buy a membership at the Red River Zoo you are helping to support our animals so they can lead healthy and happy lives.

Members are the lifeblood of this Zoo and we could not do what we do without you. As a thank-you for all of your support we would like to offer \$5 off a renewal or a gift membership this holiday season.

This offer is good through December 31st.

To purchase a membership come and visit our Red River Zoo Gift Shop open daily from 10 am –5 pm, visit <http://redriverzoo.org/become-a-member> or call 701-277-9240!

Find more gifts including a pencil fence sponsorship, Otter or Wolf Rock, Horseshoe or an Engraved Plaque online at www.redriverzoo.org/gifts.

SAVE THE DATE



DECEMBER 31ST

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00PM

Join us for this family friendly New Year's celebration.

Zoo Year's Eve includes fun activities, animal encounters and a "count down to the new year" every hour! This fun event will be from

1pm to 5pm and is **FREE** to the public.

RED RIVER
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

4255 23rd Avenue South
Fargo, ND 58104

Nonprofit
US Postage
PAID
Fargo, ND
Permit No. 1811