

Volume 4
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June 2017

Keeping In Touch

It's always an exciting time at the Zoo, Spring was especially beautiful and Summer is well on its way. If you haven't visited the Zoo lately, it's time to come out! We have a new Ring-tailed lemur baby and the twins celebrated their first birthday. Mark Lee and his crew have been busy filling spaces with blooming flora and Open House is just around the corner.

We are halfway through the year and our new board members, Maryann Peak, Ryan Kohlmeier and John Kretsinger bring new ideas that will build on our outgoing members' contributions. Thank you for your service Janel Burenheide and Bobby Thompson. We look forward to improving the visitor experience while maintaining the high standards that you have come to expect. We are fortunate to have a talented staff, a supportive City government and a motivated Emporia Friends of the Zoo Board. Hope to see you at the Zoo!

Rick Mitchell, EFOZ President

Upcoming Events

Docent in the Zoo - June Sundays	1:00-2:30 pm
Stroll & Show - June 2	7:00 pm
EFOZ Annual Open House- June 25	1:00-3:00 pm
Zoo Camp - July 10-14 (<i>pre-register & fee</i>)	9:00 am - Noon
KidZoocation - August 19 (<i>pre-register & fee</i>)	10:00 - 11:00 am



Is
ACCREDITED
BY

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

and a  Participant





Director's Notes

Hello friends. Welcome to summer! As I walk through the Zoo, I'm amazed at the incredible place that I get to experience each and every day. This Zoo is about far more than a place to see animals, although I do enjoy my visits with all the animals such as the lemurs, mountain lion and the prairie dogs. It's about experiencing the outdoors, smelling the flowers and enjoying the sounds of birds chirping and waterfalls running. It's about the dedication of our staff to care for the animals to the joy the educators put on a child's face as they learn something new. Our volunteers and donors are wonderful advocates for the Zoo as their enthusiasm and support is contagious. The time and resources they dedicate to the Zoo is invaluable.

Of course, the best part of our Zoo community is YOU. Not just in the Zoo, but throughout Lyon County as we are reminded of your commitment to the David Traylor Zoo and our animals. Each of these parts add up to an amazing Zoo!

With the beginning of summer marks the beginning of an exciting time of year. June is Zoo month and we kick off the month with Stroll & Show on June 2 and then our annual Open House on June 25. Come join us for lots of outdoor fun!

Until next time.....

Lisa Keith, Director

Donations have been received in Memory of.....

(established since last newsletter)

2017

Jack P. Graves

Edward "Monk" Barnett

EFOZ Board of Directors

Rick Mitchell, <i>Pres.</i>	Duane Henrikson
Janel Wiederholt, <i>V. Pres</i>	Ryan Kohlmeier
Cynthia Kraft, <i>Sec.</i>	John Kretsinger
Joe Michaels, <i>Treas.</i>	Maryann Peak
Lacie Hamlin	Rex Williams
Erren Harter	Margaret Wright

David Traylor Zoo staff

Lisa Keith, Director
Elizabeth Brannan
Jan Schoenberger, Pam Stithem
Miranda Admire, Hailey Foster
Mallen Trull, Ethan Larson
Colleen Mitchell

Park & Office staff

Damon Adkins	Mark Lee
Brian Ray	Josh Nelson
Jerry Tucker	Steve Mayer
Jake Ewing	Lori Edie
Ray Morris	John Welsh
Alex Brack	
Lori Andrews	Lori Heavener

Stroll & Show / June 2 / 7pm



- ▶ Stroll through the Zoo
- ▶ Join in the activities
- ▶ Movie starts at dusk

*Sponsored by U.S. Cellular, Bluestem Farm & Ranch,
CountryMart, Dave's Pumping Service and
Flint Hills Optimist Club*



Open House / June 25 / 1-3pm (Zoo opens 1pm)

•Making better bags



•Nature play

•Face painting



•Test driving skills



•Summer fun



•Visit off-exhibit areas and ZEC classroom

•Staff & Docents answering questions

•Free popcorn & balloons (while they last)

•EFOZ memberships, hot dogs, beverages & animal-related merchandise available

•Enjoy Fire Department activities

KidZooocation - August 19 10-11am

For children 4-7 years of age

Register online at www.emporiazoo.org, call 341-4365 or fill out the registration form and send it with your fee to: Emporia Zoo Docents / PO Box 345 / Emporia KS 66801-0345. Fee: \$5 per child / discounted for EFOZ members \$3



Participant's Name _____ Age _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone _____ Parent/Guardian's Name _____ Email _____

WAIVER STATEMENT

The undersigned, as parent or legal guardian of the registered participant states that he/she understands that the Emporia Friends of the Zoo, the City of Emporia, and the Emporia Zoo Docents are not and shall not be responsible or liable for any illness, injury to person or damage to property resulting from the Kidzooocation Activity, and the undersigned, on behalf of themselves, their heirs, executors and administrators, and the registered participant and their heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby remise, release and forever discharge the City of Emporia, Emporia Friends of the Zoo and the Emporia Zoo Docents from all claims, demands, actions or causes of action on account of any injury or illness to the participant or damage to property resulting from or during the Kidzooocation Activity and the attendance thereof, and does further waive any claim resulting from any photograph, photographic likeness or video tape taken of the participant while attending and participating in the Kidzooocation Activity and does further authorize the use of such photograph, photographic likeness or video tape by and as deemed appropriate by the Emporia Friends of the Zoo and the Emporia Zoo Docents.

Signature of authorized parent or legal guardian _____ Date _____

Encountering Education

Our community collaboration is always strong, but May tested our strength. We are proud to say that once again our friends stepped up and we offered 363 EMS students a Free-for-All-Fair that covered the All Veterans Memorial down Soden Road to the Howe House and included everything in between. For two short hours on a Monday morning, Emporia Middle Schoolers and some 30 staff members roamed freely trying out what was offered. The Howe property was truly *Makin History* thanks to Lisa Soller and Greg Jordan from the History Center, Roger Heineken, Emporia Arts Center and Emporia Middle School PE teachers and Rick Buck who coached vintage baseball. The backyard of the ZEC was truly *The Great Outdoors* with the help of the professionals, Phil Taunton, Susan Steffan, Barb Rourk and the Emporia Zoo docents. The Zoo was the perfect backdrop for *Conservation Conversations* with Lisa Keith and Emporia Zoo docents. The All Veterans Memorial rounded out our stops and was *Emporia Proud* with the help of Ron Whitney, John Koelsch, John Kretsinger and Casey Woods. Amazing kids, outstanding volunteers, extraordinary locations equaled one perfect morning for everyone involved. Thank you to everyone who participated! An event of this size could not happen without the creative minds and willing spirits of some of our community's best human resources.

We celebrated Endangered Species Day on May 21st, with Angela Anderson sharing her experiences with the Black-footed ferret count. She has years of experience with one of the most endangered animals in North America. We also offered a Keeper Talk on Mother's Day, what better way to learn about Zoo families than first hand experiences and stories from Jan Schoenberger, zookeeper, who cares for our animals daily. You can find a Docent in the Zoo and the ZEC open on Sundays, 1-2:30 through June.

June is World Oceans month at the Zoo! Last year you may remember Kristen Oberle helping us transform a mural into an ocean mosaic of bottle caps. Well, she's back! This year we will finish the south end of the concession stand with the help of the public on Sunday afternoons 1-2:30pm in the concession stand at the Zoo. Come be part of our community effort and join us in taking a stand against trash in the water. It compromises the health of humans, wildlife and the livelihoods that depend on a healthy ocean. A sobering article can be found at [Trashing the Ocean: New Study Provides First Estimate of How Much Plastic Flows into the Ocean](#). The Ocean Conservancy has infographics that will shock you and facts that will change the way you look at trash in our community. Google it, then plan to leave your mark on our project.

Zoo Camp will be the business of July and this year we will spend the week investigating Habitats. Our final project is creating a Prairie Dog Village and sharing with parents what was experienced during the week. It is always a fun time engaging kids coming out of third or fourth grade in a week long camp staffed by talented volunteers in the best outdoor venue in town! *There's always something to do at the Zoo*—plan to visit during one of our events or just stop by when you have some extra time and need to be reminded that Emporia has a free Zoo with flora and fauna to delight and entertain you!

Colleen Mitchell, Education Coordinator