

Volume 4
Number 32
April 2017

Keeping In Touch

Wow! It is great to be part of an organization that is so appreciated and loved by the people and businesses in our community and the surrounding area. Our annual Roundup Auction raised \$63,000. That is three times the amount raised three years ago and double what was raised in 2015, and if that is not enough, \$13,000 more than what was raised last year. EFOZ's main function is to raise funds to finance our education program which impacts 24,000 school aged kids a year in seven counties and contributes to new exhibits and updates existing exhibits. All of the dollars contributed go directly into fulfilling the mission of the David Traylor Zoo. We're proud to be a free AZA accredited zoo!

The city of Emporia is a reliable and contributing partner, they take care of our day to day operational costs and are active in helping to complete various projects at the Zoo. I would like to give all of our parks and zoo staff, the city of Emporia officials and our committed EFOZ board a round of applause for their dedication and hard work at the David Traylor Zoo of Emporia, our *Oasis in the Flint Hills*. In closing, I want to thank *everyone* that supports EFOZ and our DTZ; the Zoo would not be what it is without your generous support.

Respectfully,

Rick Mitchell, EFOZ President

Upcoming Events

Docent in the Zoo - April, May, June Sundays	1:00-2:30 pm
Party for the Planet – April 23	1:00-3:00 pm
KidZoocation – May 6	10:00-11:00 am
Stroll & Show - June 2	7:00 pm
EFOZ Annual Open House– June 25	1:00 pm



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Director's Data

Welcome to Spring! It has been an amazing first quarter of the year as we welcomed the newest member of our zoo family....a baby Ring-tailed lemur on February 17. Our Horticulture crew has been busy as they started planting pansies and violas in the Zoo and the EFOZ Annual Roundup Auction raised \$63,000! I must say, the first quarter of the year has been very exciting!

Here recently, I have been asked "where do we get the zoo animals from" and it seems among many zoo visitors, their belief is that collecting animals from their natural habitat is common. Actually, most of the animals you see during your visit were born or hatched in a zoo. There are 232 institutions that are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, about 85-90% of their animals come from these institutions. And the probability is very high that these animal's parents, grandparents, and other ancestors even further back began their life in a zoo.

While the collection of animals from the wild is largely a thing of the past, it does happen, but always with a concern for the species and the individual animals. For example, zoos are known for treating and caring for animals that have been orphaned or injured in the wild. Whatever the reason, these animals had little chance of survival in the wild and so they became ambassadors for their species, making connections with thousands of visitors in their lifetimes.

You can find them in exhibits around the David Traylor Zoo. Almost 4 years ago, the mountain lion, a visitor favorite was rescued by Washington Fish & Wildlife as he sat next to his deceased mother that had been illegally shot. We worked with the Cougar SSP (Species Survival Plan) Coordinator and a Bear/Cougar Specialist with Washington Fish & Wildlife, to bring the young cougar to Emporia. Within a few days, he arrived safely by air transport and has made his forever home here at the Zoo.

Another example, the Short-eared owl came to the Zoo in 2006 after being rescued from a barbed wire fence by a local farmer outside town. The owl was in shock, dehydrated and its wing was badly broken and could not be mended requiring amputation. After several weeks of intensive care by zookeepers, the owl began to learn how to balance its weight with only one wing. Due to the inability to fly the young owl could not be released back to the wild. 10 years later, the beautiful owl now represents the species as one of our Education Ambassadors.

This represents an incredible story of wildlife protection and survival. We think it is important for our members and visitors to understand the remarkable accomplishments in animal survival that zoos pursue every day. Our community and guests alike should be proud of the fact that their support creates care, understanding, and propagation of wildlife that would not otherwise exist.

If that's not enough, these same miracle animals are by far the most powerful witnesses for visitors about the beauty and wonder of wildlife and its importance for humans to understand their role in keeping wildlife habitats protected.

The Zoo is such a beautiful place to visit. The sights and sounds take you to a relaxing state of mind as you enjoy a stress free lunch or a quick stroll.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Working together we can continue to have a positive impact on the conservation of wildlife.

Until next time....

---Lisa Keith

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

(established since last newsletter)

2016

2017

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Encountering Education

Spring has been in the air for most of our winter; quite a change from past winters. We were able to take our animal ambassadors out with just a couple of cold days that altered our plans. What will true Spring look like? Rose bushes are budding, my Forsythia bush is in full bloom and mosquitos have been buzzing by my ears already.

The Zoo Education Center(ZEC) has seen frequent visitors, luckily we have a new ESU Intern, Emily Schneider, to welcome visitors and share her enthusiasm while interacting with guests and our animal ambassadors. Spring Forward, March 12th, welcomed guests to the ZEC for an afternoon of amphibian awareness. We continued our Spring Forward message and activities through Spring Break. Docents were onsite to lead interested Herpetologists, affectionately called “Herpers”, in exploring our ZEC amphibians and reptiles, painting rocks to hide in a natural setting for the next naturalist’s delight. Those rocks will be a surprise reminder to passers by and a chance to remind us, to leave some places undisturbed and wild; leaving a rock is a sign that someone was there and that they love nature—look carefully, there are hidden treasures beneath your feet!

April will bring Docents back to the Zoo. Each Sunday from 1-2:30 pm, weather permitting, Docents will be in the Zoo. The Zoo Education Center will also open for Sunday visits. Party for the Planet is our Earth Day and plans are underway for April 23rd from 1-3 pm. Plan to join us for a celebration that will inspire you to get down and dirty for pollinators, especially Monarch butterflies, explore our water, breathe our fresh air, and soak in the sunshine that brings our animals and plants back to the Zoo. Fun family time!

There is always something to do at the Zoo! Spring brings some of the best times to come connect with our animals, learn something new, and plan to get involved in making a difference in the world. Here are some focus days that Docents in the Zoo will be recognizing.

Sundays in April	1-2:30 pm	Docent in the Zoo and in the ZEC
April 23 rd	1-3:00 pm	Party for the Planet
Sundays in May	1-2:30 pm	Docent in the Zoo and in the ZEC
May 21 st	1-2:30 pm	Endangered Species Day & World Turtle Day
Sundays in June	1-2:30 pm	Docent in the Zoo focus on World Oceans

---Colleen Mitchell, Education Coordinator



In honor of Earth Day, we’re planning our annual **Party for the Planet on April 23rd from 1-3 PM**. Plan to join us for a personal reminder of how our daily actions can affect wildlife and habitats all over the globe. We’ll be doing earth-friendly activities that you can do at your home, while you work, and when you travel—get involved and make a difference.



- FEEL respect and responsibility for our world and its natural resources—air, water, land, animals
- LEARN ways to improve our lives and the natural world through our actions
- ACT by reducing our ecological footprint at home, school/work and in the world

EFOZ 2017 CALENDAR

April Sundays	1:00-2:30pm	Docent in the Zoo/ZEC – weather permitting
April 23	1:00-3:00pm	Party for the Planet – Zoo & ZEC
May Sundays	1:00-2:30pm	Docent in the Zoo/ZEC – weather permitting
May 6	10:00 am	KidZoocation (pre-register & fee)
June Sundays	1:00-2:30 pm	Docent in the Zoo/ZEC - weather permitting
June 2	7:00pm	Stroll 'n Show - Zoo & ZEC
June 25	1:00-3:00 pm	Open House - Zoo & ZEC
July 10-14	9:00am-Noon	Zoo Camp (pre-register & fee) – Zoo & ZEC
August 19	10:00am	KidZoocation (pre-register & fee)
October 31	4:00-5:30pm	Boo In The Zoo – Zoo
Nov 18	10:00am	KidZoocation (pre-register & fee)
Nov 21	5:00pm	Happy Holidayze - Zoo

ZEC=Zoo Education Center, 75 Soden Rd

KidZoocation - May 6 10:00am

If I Ran the Zoo.....come see what YOU can do!

REGISTRATION

**Please fill out the registration form and send it with your fee to:
Emporia Zoo Docents / PO Box 345 / Emporia KS 66801-0345
Or you can register online at www.emporiazoo.org or call 341-4365
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 Kidzoocation 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 Kidzoocation Activity and the attendance thereat, 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 Kidzoocation 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 _____



EFOZ Roundup 2017..... What a wonderful evening! We reached another fundraising milestone this year raising \$63,000.00! This is the highest grossing auction we have had! We want to thank everyone who attended and helped make this such a wonderful event for the zoo. We also thank all those that donated items as well as those that donated their time and talents to make it all happen. We definitely have a wonderful little zoo for everyone to enjoy and be very proud of. It is so great to see such wonderful support of the David Traylor Zoo! We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to seeing you at EFOZ Roundup 2018!

- Janel Wiederholt and Margaret Wright, Co-Chairs

Below and on the next page is a list of our donors

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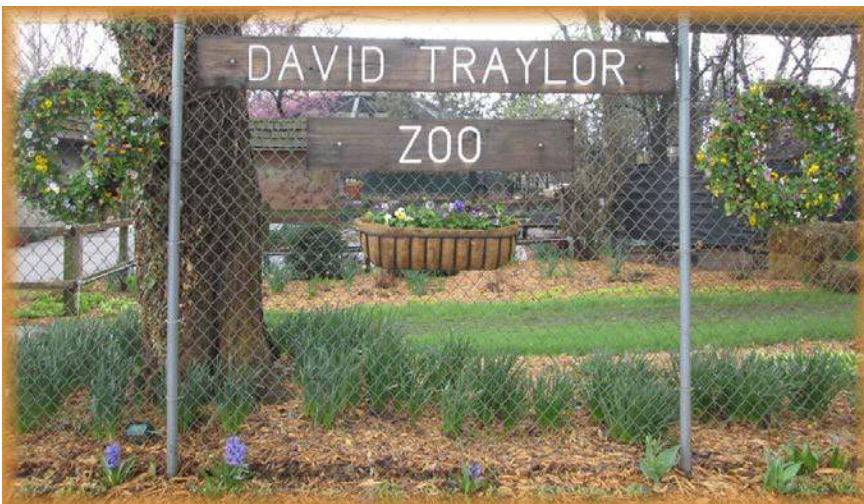
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Casey Wilson
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Xan-A-Do Salon & Spa

Spring is in the Zoo



The Horticulture Crew recently put over 1100 Pansies and Violas on display in the Zoo for some early spring color. We began planting on February 28 which is amazing for Kansas!! We have also mulched many flower beds in the Zoo and topped dressed them with our very own compost to help the soil become more fertile and to help it retain moisture. You might notice as you walk through the Zoo that we have added some more stone borders, these greatly reduce the amount of erosion from heavy rains and consistent watering, and they look great too.



Last year we installed a rain water collection system behind the new Madagascar exhibit that has saved us hundreds of gallons of water, so we decided to add another one near our greenhouse and it has already saved us over a thousand gallons of water this year! Our gourd tunnel will be new and improved this year, since last year the structure could not handle weight of all the unique gourds. These are just a few things that the Horticulture crew is working on this Spring to make our wonderful Zoo more inviting and more environmentally friendly.

---Mark Lee, City Horticulturalist

ZOO CAMP 2017 HABITATS

WHEN:

July 10-14 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

WHERE:

David Traylor Zoo of Emporia

WHO:

**Children who have completed
3rd or 4th grade**



REGISTRATION FORM

please mail form and payment to Emporia Zoo Docents / PO Box 345 / Emporia KS 66801

Participant's Name _____ Nickname _____ Allergies _____
(Please Print) please list

Parent/Guardian's Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Grade completed _____ 3rd/4th Fee \$45 / \$35 for EFOZ members

T-Shirt Size: **Youth** _____ (M/ L) **Adult** _____ (S/M/L) _____ Male / Female email address _____
please circle

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 Zoo Camp, 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 Zoo Camp and the attendance thereat, 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 Zoo Camp 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 _____