

**Volume 4
Number 26
September 2015**

Keeping In Touch

Now that we're thru the heat of the summer, I hope you and your family takes time to visit the zoo. It's a great time to visit as the animals are more active. Our family enjoys visiting zoos in other communities as well. Two things become apparent during our visits to zoos outside our community. 1st is the value of our Emporia Friends of the Zoo membership. Most zoos we visit, we receive a discounted or free admission. 2nd is the quality of our zoo. It's amazing to me what the David Traylor Zoo of Emporia offers with limited budget and no admission fees. Your membership and support really help make this possible.

Be sure to check the web site for upcoming events www.emporiazoo.org.

Joe Michaels, EFOZ President

Upcoming Events!

Boo In The Zoo – October 31	4:00-5:30pm
Kidzooocation – November 21	10:00-11:00am
Happy Holidayze – November 24	5:00pm
EFOZ Annual Meeting – January 13, 2016	5:30pm
EFOZ Roundup – March 4, 2016	6:00pm



is
ACCREDITED
By

ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS

and a



Participant



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Wow....where has the summer gone! It seems that it was just yesterday, that we transferred several tropical species to their summer homes so they could enjoy the beautiful rays of the Kansas sun.

In June, we were very honored to be chosen as a beneficiary for the 2015 PrairieLand Partners, John Deere Gator Rally. If you participated in the Gator Rally, you were able to witness firsthand the dedication of the PrairieLand staff. They go above and beyond to make sure each participant has a wonderful time. The evenings included seeing the untamed beauty of the wild horses, a delicious bbq style meal, waterfalls and cattle grazing the hills that appear to go on for an eternity made the evening a treat for all who participated. One of the best parts, was experiencing this while driving a John Deere Gator rather than trying to enjoy it from a car driving 80mph up the turnpike! It was a true honor to be a part of the 2015 Gator Rally.....Thank You PrairieLand Partners, Staff, Sponsors, Landowners and participants for making this event possible!

The Zoo Staff had a fun week in July as we celebrated National Zookeeper Week. While we celebrated Zookeepers and their special talents, we also wanted to recognize the other talents that work behind the scenes at the Zoo and may not receive "national recognition" but are a strategic and necessary part of our team. The Zoo would not be what it is today without the support and dedication of our Horticulture department, Park department, Office staff, EFOZ Board and our many Docents and volunteers. I am honored to work with this wonderful, dedicated bunch of people that bring their best every single day.

Baby News!

We are excited to announce the birth of a Southern three-banded armadillo. The little armadillo pup was born on July 7 to mom, Dugg and dad, Dozer and is doing well. The armadillos are native to South America throughout Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Bolivia. They are listed as Near Threatened mainly due to habitat destruction. Southern three-banded armadillos are a part of AZA's Species Survival Plan. The armadillos are housed in the Zoo Education Center but will not be on display until after the pup is weaned at approximately 72 days.

Conservation Awareness!

Have you ever thought about, What if animals were extinct and couldn't be seen in the wild or at the Zoo? Institutions accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums were challenged to depict to the public what extinction looks like with the launch of a nationally coordinated effort called SAFE: Saving Animals from Extinction. On Endangered Species Day, the Zoo took part by "blacking out" the Cotton-top tamarin exhibit. Education Coordinator, Colleen Mitchell and Docents strategically placed graphics to educate visitors on why they could not see the animals, the importance of each species, why zoos are integral in their survival and how guests can provide support and take action to save wildlife and their habitats before it's too late.

You can help to save a species by placing your loose change in the "Coins for Conservation" graphic located just west of the Cotton-top tamarin exhibit or you can send your donations directly to us at EFOZ, P.O. Box 345, Emporia Kansas 66801. Please be sure to note "conservation" in the remarks section of your check.

Wishing each of you a wonderful Fall.

Until next time.....

---Lisa Keith

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

(established since last newsletter)

Mary C. Edwards
Glenn Belt
Wayne D. Tollett
Richard Hale James
Emil "Joe" Schneider

Marcos Ramos
Leona Ohm
Robert "Sonny" Hutchcroft
Darlene Hufferd
Larry Mayer

Carolyn Lilley Demler
Patricia D. Gum
Betty Jewel Dunn
Ilda Maurine Kline
William Finney, Sr.

EFOZ Board of Directors

Joe Michaels, *Pres.*
Duane Henrikson, *V. Pres.*
Janel Burenheide, *Sec.*
Bobby Thompson, *Treas.*
Mike Alpers
Erren Harter

Cynthia Kraft
Rick Mitchell
Shane Shivley
Shannon Schumann
Janel Wiederholt
Rex Williams

David Traylor Zoo staff

Lisa Keith, Director
Elizabeth Brannan
Stacy Mitchell
Jan Schoenberger
Miranda Admire
Hailey Foster
Pamela Stithem
Mallen Trull
Colleen Mitchell

Park & Office staff

Damon Adkins
Brian Ray
Jerry Tucker
Jake Ewing
Aaron Haflich
Drew Martin
Joshua Hall
Lori Andrews
Mark Lee
Josh Nelson
Steve Mayer
Lori Edie
Gary Crumb
Mitch Luna
Lori Heavener

MISSION MADAGASCAR

On August 5, the City Commission awarded the bid to construct the Zoo's new lemur exhibit to Emporia Construction and Remodeling, Inc. Major donors for this new exhibit include the City of Emporia, William and Aloha Preston Family Trust, Dale and Carolyn Davis Fund, Emporia Friends of the Zoo and Rotary Club of Emporia. Work has begun on the project which is located just west of the concession stand. Updates will be posted on Facebook and our website.



DOCENT REPORT

As summer surrenders to fall, we eagerly await cooler temperatures and relief from those pesky bugs that bite and annoy us in our own backyards. You might even find yourself wondering about the value of some of those buzzing and biting backyard pests such as mosquitoes and ticks when they threaten the simple pleasures of the outdoors. Insects are the most diverse and abundant of all terrestrial animals and they play a crucial role in our lives. Pollinators, decomposers, or as food for other animals, most ecosystems could not exist without insects. Gardening and birdwatching are popular pastimes for millions of Americans while insects enable and disable our efforts. The Zoo Education programs have embraced insects and the direct impact they have on humans.

We are anticipating an exciting change of seasons with a focus on conservation of insects with our primary focus being the Monarch butterfly. We'll be partnering with other Kansas zoos to strengthen our collective efforts and impact our field conservation activities. Fall is an amazing time to enjoy the outdoors and the Zoo Education programs will highlight the season through the fall migration of monarchs. Butterflies live everywhere except Antarctica with about 28,000 species worldwide. Monarchs are well known for their beauty and their 2,000 plus mile migration from upper parts of the U.S. to Central Mexico. They use the position of the sun and the earth's magnetic field to migrate. Plan to visit the ZEC this fall to learn more.



As summer draws to an end, we must celebrate our events! Stroll and Show brought more than 250 people to the Zoo and since then we've been asked when the next movie will be. Zoo Camp came with 28



Campers in their life-sized prairie dog town

enthusiastic campers along with 22 dedicated volunteers who explored Habitats in a week long Zoo immersed experience; it continues to be one of my favorite Zoo activities. We will highlight campers and their art in the ZEC in the next few months. A new opportunity came our way this summer as we were part of an ESU camp that engaged campers from 4th grade to 7th grade in Place-Based Education (PBE) learning. Campers learned about the Zoo and spent a day onsite creating new animals, stories, and memories. PBE encourages the use of community, public lands, and other special places as resources, turning communities into classrooms.



Zookeeper Jan Schoenberger talks with the PBE campers



Library visits were a regular activity in June and July; it was a natural connection to their theme, "Every Hero has a Story," for us to engage the audience in becoming a wildlife hero. Children and adults got to see our chinchilla "take a bath" and learned about other animals' adaptive hygiene habits. Again, our docents were busy meeting the needs of our public.



Through spring and summer our programs have provided exposure to nature that is essential to long-term benefits in kids and adults. Visiting the Zoo is one way to engage in an unstructured outdoor activity, visiting the ZEC is a hands-on exposure to the natural world that offers a meaningful connection to bolster curiosity for all ages. September marks the end of my first year as Education Coordinator and the beginning of year two, my goals have not changed, but my interests and knowledge have. One of my favorite sources has been *How to Raise a Wild Child* by Scott D. Sampson. He talks about finding a "sit spot" in your yard (or at the Zoo) and visit it frequently to see what creatures are there. He emphasizes the quietness with which we enter our spot and the time we need to spend really

looking and listening to understand things like the language of the birds. I'm planning to take Mr. Sampson's advice at home and at the Zoo. With more than 8,650 species of birds in the world and about 796 in North America, I'll be bird watching and wondering how they can be supported during the winter months, what kind of feeders and seed will be needed and looking forward to spring nesting season where I should be able to provide just the right kind of house or box for the birds in my yard.



Zoo Campers created bird houses by repurposing cardboard boxes and book covers

Come play with us! Safari Adventure will be held in October as well as Boo in the Zoo and Kidzooation is coming in November. Docent training will be part of our winter activities and volunteers are always welcome. The DTZ has something for you. There is always something to do at the Zoo, I'll be looking for you!

---Colleen Mitchell

Thank you to our sponsors and donors

Stroll & Show

U.S. Cellular

Flint Hills Optimist Club

Bluestem Farm & Ranch

City of Emporia

Country Mart

Dave's Pumping Service

Zoo Camp

Country Mart

Walmart



October 31
4:00 - 5:30 P.M.

Children in costume are invited to “Trick-or-Treat” on Zoo grounds.

KIDZOOCATION

November 21, 10-11am

Join us for a story, an encounter with a Zoo animal, a snack and to make a craft.

This event is for **4 to 7 year old children**, with 1 adult per 2 children attending.

Please remember for everyone’s safety and enjoyment, all class participants must meet age requirements.

Fee: \$3 EFOZ member \$5 non-member

Pre-register: 620-341-4365 or www.emporiazoo.org

REGISTRATION FORM for KIDZOOCATION

(please print)

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 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 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** _____

It's not just "ooohing" and "aahing" over the animals. Each year, AZA accredited facilities educate more than 12 million people about the environment, the ecosystem, wildlife and sustainability.

What can YOU do? What is the Zoo doing?

David Traylor Zoo of Emporia
focuses our Conservation Efforts on 7 themes:

- ▶ Use recycled paper and products 
- ▶ Reduce, reuse and recycle plastics, paper, cardboard, aluminum and motor oil 
- ▶ Plant gardens and beds that are pollinator friendly
- ▶ Provide information about products and processes that harm animals and their habitats
- ▶ Participate in Species Survival Plan (SSP) programs to cooperatively manage specific, and typically threatened or endangered, species population
- ▶ Educate and inspire the public with inquiry-based programs and scientific activity
- ▶ Compost green waste