

**Volume 4  
Number 30  
September 2016**

# Keeping In Touch

Needless to say this summer has been a busy time of the year for our dedicated zoo staff. Since our last newsletter the Stroll 'n Show and the Zoo Open House were held in June with record numbers attending both events. It is always a pleasure to see Emporians taking advantage of a truly amazing zoological and horticultural exhibit.

Then to cap the summer was the grand opening of **Mission Madagascar**, the new home of our lemurs and the addition of the Madagascar "hissing" cockroaches, Lesser Madagascar hedgehog tenrecs and the Common spider tortoises, all of which come from Madagascar. Over 600 zoo patrons attended the opening on July 23<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate the culmination of several years of fundraising and planning for this new exhibit, which I believe was well worth the wait! Again many thanks to our major donors: Dale and Carolyn Davis Fund, Preston Family Trust, Rotary Club of Emporia, Trusler Foundation, Emporia Friends of the Zoo, the City of Emporia, and the many other donors who made this exhibit possible.

Fall and cooler weather is a great time to make the zoo a family destination for a leisurely stroll through the zoo, a family picnic, or a family reunion. Other events planned for this fall are: KidZoocation (November 19<sup>th</sup>), Safari Edventure (school event in October), Boo in the Zoo (Halloween) and Happy Holidayze (November 22<sup>nd</sup>). Thanks for your continued support of the best small zoo in the nation.

---Duane Henrikson, DVM, EFOZ President

## Upcoming Events

Boo In The Zoo – October 31	4:00-5:30pm
*KidZoocation – November 19	10:00-11:00am
Happy Holidayze – November 22	5:00pm

*The Zoo will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day*

\*Fee required



is  
ACCREDITED  
By

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## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Hello Zoo Friends,

I cannot believe that summer has zipped by with a blink of an eye. Although summer has been fast, I hope it has been enjoyable for all of you. It has been especially fun for us as we recently opened our newest exhibit....Mission Madagascar! Because of many wonderful donors, on July 23 we, along with almost 600 of our friends, joined us for the vine cutting and to be one of the first to see the new area dedicated to the little island of Madagascar. It was a wonderful sight to see the memories being made as families came together for this joyous occasion.

We love what we do at the Zoo, and we think the Zoo is an amazing place with a fabulous mission. Our goal is to create memories and provide an experience that is so meaningful that people change the way they think about animals, nature and even, each other.

It is amazing how summer evenings sitting on the front porch swing brings back childhood memories. When I was a kid, we spent hours climbing trees, building forts and teepees, playing hide and go seek in the barn and of course we would finish off the day.... chasing lightning bugs.

Statistics available today indicate that most children spend less than one hour per day outside and seven to eight hours in front of a television or computer. Those statistics are bad news for those of us who love nature and being outside. How can kids love nature if they don't know nature? We want kids to love animals, love nature and love their families....and grow up cherishing and protecting those things.

So get outside! Take a walk in the woods, lay in the grass and use your imagination as you watch the clouds change shape, or visit the Zoo and read the educational graphics to your kids. Most of all....let your kids get dirty! Make this the best summer ever for you and your family.

Until next time.....

---Lisa Keith

### *Donations have been received in Memory of....* (established since last newsletter)

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Steve Mauzey  
Raymond Eugene "Ray" Luna  
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Ruth Ann Dodge  
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Reese Tamalin Naylor

Arthur J. Tabares  
Louis "John" Siebuhr  
David Sielert  
Darlene Schaefer  
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Mission Madagascar officially opened July 23. It is the home to Black-and-white ruffed lemurs, Red-collared brown lemurs, Ring-tailed lemurs, Madagascar hissing cockroaches, Common spider tortoises and Lesser Madagascar hedgehog tenrecs. All of these species (except cockroaches) are endangered due to loss of habitat.



## **DOCENT NEWS**

Summer is but a memory as we look forward to Fall and the exciting happenings at the Zoo. Those memories are fuel for upcoming events and some of my fondest reminders of the busiest time of year at the Zoo. I hope you had a chance to visit during our summer months, the Zoo was alive with people, events and animals of all types. Lions, lemurs and landscaping, oh my!

May was filled with buses full of students from area schools. The classroom was visited by nearly 300 inquisitive Zoo goers who strolled through the Zoo on self-tours too. June quickly followed and brought Open House and Docent in the Zoo Sundays to an end. If you visited the Zoo on a Sunday afternoon in June, then you likely helped with our mural to mosaic that was a collective community effort in honor of World Oceans Day.



Understanding our role in maintaining our oceans was the message and the mosaic will be a lasting reminder of the beauty and abundant life affected by our trash. The sad news is that more trash is finding its way to the oceans and much of that trash is plastic—plastic bags, balloons, bottle caps, drinking straws, water bottles. How can we limit or possibly eliminate our use of plastic? Can we reuse or recycle to prevent more of the most dangerous and least biodegradable stuff from finding its way into our food chain? Did you know that most of the plastic created is still here? Visit the Zoo to see our mosaic and consider making changes that answer these questions and affect wildlife.

Kristin Oberle helped our visitors bring the mosaic to life. She spent Sunday afternoons in June working in the Zoo with our guests and docents. She spent countless classroom hours in July transforming the mural into a bottle cap mosaic. The caps were collected by *YOU* over the last year, many would have been thrown away because they are less than two inches and would slip through the recycling system. We've got to think about where those caps might end up, in our water ways and eventually the ocean? If we simply throw them *away*...where is away? We have leftover caps that will be used in projects over the next few months and our conservation message will strongly urge everyone to consider using less or eliminating plastics, reducing, reusing and recycling as responsible behaviors that benefit all life.

Zoo Camp was the busiest week of our summer, but also the most rewarding. Twenty-four campers enjoyed a week of activities focused around endangered species and delivered by knowledgeable docents and enthusiastic volunteers and staff. Our culminating performance is always well attended by family and friends and campers leave with a bittersweet reluctance and eagerness for next year's camp. Campers left their mark on the classroom too; stop by to see their poetry and art that is on display in the ZEC.



July was also the time for many library visits. We took owls, dragons, and our armadillo to six library summer programs in Emporia and the surrounding area. For the first time, we had a summer intern in the education department. Doris Laws, a senior at ESU studying Zoology, spent about 20 hours a week at the Zoo. She was a knowledgeable addition and hard working hand during this busy summer. Through her time and work, Emporia Friends of the Zoo gained a docent. Doris will continue to give of her time and talents throughout the next year.



August brought return visits to our local day care centers and adult care facilities as well as training for new docents. The display case at Emporia Public Library was filled with Zoo artifacts and highlights such as Mission Madagascar and Zoo Camp. An informational interest meeting was held on Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 5-6 pm in the ZEC for people 16 years and older who are interested in becoming a docent.

We are proud of our partnership with Master Gardeners and look forward to future collaborations that will support pollinators especially monarchs. Fall marks the monarchs return to their winter home in Mexico and we will be celebrating that migration through KidZoocation and tagging of monarchs in and around the Zoo. Safari Adventure is just around the corner, it will bring local students and volunteers from around the area back to the Zoo where all will enjoy culture, science, animals, and fun in our outdoor venue. Zoo docents will engage students in a Simulated Monarch Migration and conservation activities that reinforce our mission.



*Pollinator garden at the David Traylor Zoo*

Monarch update - Summer 2015 produced a strong monarch migration to their overwintering spots in Mexico. The space needed to contain the monarchs was approximately 10 acres. At the end of last winter, a late freeze caught many monarchs still in Mexico. According to Operation Monarch Watch out of KU, 50% of those monarchs were killed. The 2016 population was greatly reduced and it is estimated that only 5 acres will be used to contain this year's migrating monarchs. As late as 1996, 44 acres were needed to contain the monarchs in their overwintering home. Kansas accredited zoos continue to work to reverse this situation and help the monarch population grow.

There is always something to do at the Zoo!

---Colleen Mitchell, Education Coordinator



IN THE ZOO!

OCTOBER 31

4 - 5:30 PM



# REGISTRATION for KIDZOOCAATION – November 19 10-11am

Fee: \$5 / discounted for EFOZ members \$3

(mail with fee to Emporia Zoo Docents / PO Box 345 / Emporia, KS 66801)

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 \_\_\_\_\_

KidZooocation is for children 4-7 years old.

One adult for every two children please. For the safety & enjoyment of all participants, please do not bring younger siblings that are not registered.

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*There has been a 50% decrease in orangutan populations since 1992 due to the deforestation of the rainforest homes to make way for palm oil plantation. Palm oil is an ingredient found in many products we use every day, from chocolate bars, cereals and even soups. Use this fact sheet to help YOU make sustainable choices when buying tasty treats for the trick-or-treaters this Halloween season. These companies are committed to using certified sustainable palm oil and make a difference for wildlife including the orangutan, tiger and hornbill.*

Visit our website for more information about sustainable palm oil

## SHOP SMART THIS HALLOWEEN WITH THESE SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL CANDY OPTIONS:

Nestle	Baby Ruth, Butterfinger, Crunch Bar
Wanka (Nestle)	Sweetarts, Bottle Caps, Laffy Taffy, Nerds
Con Agra	Fiddle Faddle, Crunch & Munch, Poppy Cock
Kellogg's	Rice Krispie Treats, Fruity Snacks, Pop Tarts, Austin Crackers
Kellogg's	All Keeber Brand Crackers
Hershey's	Twizzlers, Jolly Ranchers, Whoppers, Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Almond Joy
Hershey's	Mr. Goodbar, Heath Bars, Milk Duds
Mars	Snickers, Twix, M&Ms, 3 Musketeers, Milky Way, Skittles, Dove Chocolates
Justin's	Peanut Butter Cups, NutButter (All flavours)
Lindt and Spungli	Lindor Truffles (All flavours)
Ghirardelli	All flavours
Walmart	Great Value Brand products (Candy, Cookies, Crackers)
Kraft Foods	Kraft Caramels, Cadbury Creme Eggs, Tableron
Nabisco	Nutter Butter, Chips Ahoy, Oreo