

**Volume 4
Number 27
November 2015**

Keeping In Touch

As we near the end of the year I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Zoo staff, Docents, community volunteers and EFOZ board of directors for everything they do for the David Traylor Zoo. We had record numbers attend many of this year's events and they wouldn't have been such a success without their hard work. The Zoo will continue to move forward due to their dedication.

It has been my pleasure to serve as your board president and I look forward to Duane Henrikson's leadership in 2016.

Joe Michaels, EFOZ President

Upcoming Events!

Kidzoocation – November 21	10:00-11:00am
Happy Holiday – November 24	5:00pm
EFOZ Annual Meeting – January, 2016	5:30pm
EFOZ Roundup – March 4, 2016	6:00pm



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OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

and a



Species Survival Plan

Participant



DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Zoo Friends-

I hope each of you are enjoying the wonderful Fall days that mother nature has blessed us with this year. We, at the Zoo have been using the fall weather to prepare the animal exhibits for the winter months ahead. The construction of "Mission Madagascar" is underway with the hope that everyone enjoys watching the area take shape and the magic unfold as we await the grand opening of the new area. This project is moving forward due to the whole community working together and dedicating itself to improving the Zoo.

Boo in the Zoo was well received as we welcomed 1887 ghosts, goblins, princesses, frogs and bears (along with their parents/grandparents) in an hour and a half. I have to say, it was very entertaining and quite spooky at times! Boo in the Zoo would not be possible without the help of many volunteers, EFOZ Board members and Staff.

The Zoo hosted the KAZOO (Kansas Accredited Zoos) meeting this fall with 51 Zoo professionals joining us from around the state. The group discusses emergency management and collaborates on conservation efforts and most of all, shares ideas to make all of us more successful in reaching our visitors. It is also a time that we can show off our Zoo and receive feedback from our peers in a constructive and positive manner.

This Fall, the Zoo added five nene geese, a juvenile red fox, two ring-tail lemurs and three spider tortoises to our Zoo family. We will introduce them to their new exhibits in the coming months.

The Horticulture crew are rapidly putting the lights up and checking them twice as we prepare for Happy Holiday! This year's holiday lighting event will be on November 24 at 5:00PM. We invite the public to join us as we light up the Zoo with thousands and THOUSANDS of bulbs getting everyone into the holiday spirit! This year, Sandy Lyon & Melvin Beaushaw purchased the opportunity to flip the switch to light the Zoo at our annual EFOZ Roundup Auction. Sandy and Melvin will be joined by their 6 year old grandson, Lucas Lyon. Come join us on the count down to blast off as we illuminate the Zoo!

The David Traylor Zoo is proud to support the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' SAFE initiative (Saving Animals from Extinction), a bold new effort focused on #SavingSpecies.

SAFE is a new commitment by the Association's 229 accredited Zoos and Aquariums to harness our collective resources, focus on specific endangered species, and save them from extinction by restoring healthy populations in the wild. The AZA has over 600 Species Survival Plans in place, along with thousands of veterinarians, scientists, and animal care professionals with the expertise to help endangered animals. The future of wildlife is in our hands, and public support for conservation efforts is vital to our success. Together, we can ensure a bright future for wildlife around the globe. If you would like to learn more about this new initiative and get involved, visit AZA's website (www.aza.org) to learn more about SAFE.

Until Next Time.....

---Lisa Keith

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

(established since last newsletter)

Marlys Patton
Loradelle "Dixie" Thomas
Ronald L. Werner
Beverly Kochheim
Elva Lee Wayman
Mary Lucille Humphreys
Delbert Garriott

Jack L. Taylor
Marjorie Barrett
Lloyd Keith Douglas
Margaret Ellen Martin
Charles Hadley Cowan
Violet May Day Cowan
Carolyn "Jeanie" Copeland

Ruth N. Turnbull
Margaret J. Squires
LeRoy "Cap" Thomas
Orval Nelson
William Kenneth Calhoun II
Howard Marvin Schlesener
Patricia "Patti" Pedersen

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Come bask in the Glory...Join EFOZ today!



Membership dues support programs and projects of the David Traylor Zoo of Emporia, which include Educational Outreach, animal purchases, holiday lights, and various improvements. Members receive a periodic newsletter, reciprocal benefits to many other zoos and aquariums and a 25% discount off our merchandise.

Join by completing and returning the self mailer, calling the office at 341-4365 or using PayPal on our website www.emporiazoo.org

If you have already joined or renewed, please forward to a friend so they may join.

DOCENT REPORT

Autumn is in the air; the days are cooler, night comes sooner, and the plants have left the Zoo, but the opportunity to experience the natural world continues to call, *there's always something to do at the Zoo!* We have had an amazing amount of people and volunteers enjoying and supporting the Zoo education programs this fall. Safari Edventure was held the first Thursday and Friday of October with record numbers of area students in attendance. We were fortunate to have roughly 21 public school classes and some home schoolers too, that participated in a day of outdoor education focused on animals, science, and culture. All the stations were provided by community volunteers and Emporia Friends of the Zoo Docents—we could not have asked for better weather or more engaging presenters to compliment the enthusiastic teachers and students that came through the Zoo during those two days.



Making seed bombs



Fishings Futures

BOO in the ZOO was another perfect day! Again, volunteers and docents, as well as Emporia Friends of the Zoo board members provided the games and the public came out in costume, 1887 people were counted at the gate, nearly 700 of them children! There was dancing on Zoo Road and a parade of ghosts, goblins, and bees all waiting to play the games or get a treat. We gave away so much mouth-watering candy that the Flint Hills Technical College tooth fairies could hardly keep up! The Zookeepers prepared special treats for the animals that added to the excitement as a host of colorful and creative creatures crept through the Zoo. This annual phenomenon is truly a sight to see! No one knows who or what might make an appearance, zoo pathways are transformed into crooked corridors with mischievous cackling and devilish laughter. Thank you to the Emporia Police and Fire Departments who were present, Emporia High School AVID and FCCLA students who led games and danced and danced and danced, Lions Club, Flint Hills Tech College dental students and Walmart for contributing to the fun. We love providing this evening of masquerading, but it is only possible with community support in the form of human help and donations. Thank you!



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A large part of our education programs include conservation. Among accredited zoos and aquariums, approximately \$160 million is contributed to field conservation efforts each year. Some 25,000 scientists, animal care experts and field conservationists care for more than 750,000 animals that represent approximately 7,000 species. The Association of Zoos & Aquariums reports that more than 180 million people come through our gates each year. We take the natural environment to heart! Here are a few of our newest contributions:

- Our horticulturist team is reintroducing milkweed to our gardens.
- We are partnering with other Kansas Zoos to bring awareness to the plight of the Monarch butterfly and the perils of their fall migration.
- During Safari Edventure, students participated in a Simulated Migration that reaches across borders to educate students about the needs of monarchs connecting schools and students with other schools and students who share this precious resource.
- Our spring programs will include information and activities that support our prairie home while helping to restore threatened, endangered and at-risk wildlife in Kansas and beyond.



Tagging a Monarch for release from the Zoo

So grab those seed catalogues or surf the web, and consider creating a spring oasis for wildlife in your yard. Monarch habitat plays a vital role in a successful flight north. Monarchs are choosy, they lay their eggs only on milkweed plants (that is the only food the caterpillars will eat). Spring will be here before we know it and creating a butterfly garden waystation in your yard is a great way to help. Visit www.north.org and/or www.monarchwatch.org for more information. We will be working to cultivate young naturalists at the Zoo too!

If you haven't heard of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch—millions of pieces of plastic and debris swirling around like a pot of simmering soup between Hawaii and California—visit the Zoo. We're continuing our conservation efforts by bringing awareness and a personal challenge to use less plastic. We must all take responsibility for the garbage in our oceans. There isn't just one patch, there are actually five massive marine garbage patches. They contain broken-down grocery bags, dissolving water bottles and microbeads found in face washes and other cosmetics. Scientists are on it, but we must be part of the cleanup and stop the flow of plastics to our oceans. Kansas rivers and streams lead to the Gulf of Mexico and eventually finds its way into our oceans.

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

During Safari Edventure, we collected plastic bags and made *plarn* (plastic yarn). Now we're looking for knitters who can knit our plarn into something more beautiful than a one-time-use plastic bag. Can you knit? Crochet? We need you at the Zoo!

Winter, spring, summer, or fall there is always something to do at the Zoo! Come play with us. Upcoming events and dates to remember:

Kidzooocation - **November 21st from 10:00-11:00 am**, Nature in November

Kidzooocation – **February 20, 2016 from 10:00-11:00am**

Classroom hours - **Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:00-4:00pm**

Colleen Mitchell, Education Coordinator

REGISTRATION FORM for KIDZOOICATION

(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 _____

If you need accommodations due to a disability to participate in this event, meeting, or activity, or alternate format of written materials contact Patty Gilligan, ADA Coordinator at least 48 hours before the event at 620-343-4291 or e-mail

pgilligan@emporiakansas.gov



www.emporiazoo.org
emporiazoo@emporia-kansas.gov

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