Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo is dedicated to acquainting a diverse public to the delicate balance that exists between living things and their environment.

2015 Annual Report
As we approach 2017 it will be nearly twenty years since the Zoo has been owned and operated by the Connecticut Zoological Society. This change has been a great benefit to the Zoo and its occupants since funding could be increased for the overall health and welfare to the animals in our charge. The City of Bridgeport has also been a continued supporter, and the Zoo has grown through this partnership. This collaboration has allowed us the opportunity to build new homes and add new endangered species to our conservation programs. The new Pampas Plains exhibit funded through the Connecticut Zoological Society is a prime example of the types of habitats we can construct for our charges and for our guests. The Giant Anteater has returned to the Zoo after 35 years and, in combination with the endangered Maned Wolf and Chacoan Peccary, we are able to have an educational habitat that works for both our guests and animals’ welfare. This was truly borne out when we had a Giant Anteater birth for the first time.

We now work with some of the most endangered animals on the planet. The Amur leopard is down to 60 individuals in the wild, our Mexican Wolves are extinct in the wild, our Red Wolf male has just had his genetic material banked for future generations and we now have a Red Panda that soon will be paired with a mate to hopefully add to its small population. Our Conservation Discovery Corps, with over 60 high school students, have been learning in a living classroom about conservation and environmental issues, giving talks to Zoo guests, going out in the field to help fight invasive species, plant new habitats for New Hampshire’s endangered Karner Blue Butterfly and even counting fish in the river’s fish ladder. We were so very proud to have this program earn the AZA National Award for Education Excellence. The Zoo has been hosting students from Fairfield University who are able to gain insights on the behaviors of some of our charges.

This is just some of the vitally important work your Zoo does for conservation and our environment. I am very proud of our Zoo and I hope that you are too!

Sincerely,

Gregg Dancho

I have been honored to serve on the Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo Board of Directors for 14 years, and I am proud to say that 2015 was one of the most exciting of my tenure.

It’s rewarding when all of us who vol- unteer on the board are able to see one of our goals achieved, and the opening of the Pampas Plains exhibit sure was a highlight for us. We had joined staff in planning this new showcase of South American animals for many years, so it was thrilling to help welcome the Giant anteaters to their new home and to bring this species back to the Zoo after 40 years. Based on reaction from Zoo visitors, this new exhibit is a hit!

Board members are stewards and advocates for non-profit organizations, and our folks work hard to not only get the word out about this wonderful educational and recreational resource for families but also raise money for enhancements such as the Pampas Plains exhibit. I want to thank all of our board members for the many ways they served in 2015 and for their ongoing commitment to Connecticut’s only zoo.

I hope all of our Zoo members will renew their own support in 2016 and ensure that we can continue to make investments in the exhibits, animal care, educational programs and conservation work that make Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo such an outstanding place.

Bob Mitchell
Attorney at Law
Mitchell & Sheahan, P.C.
In our biggest animal exhibit news of the year, two Giant anteaters moved into their new home in the much anticipated opening of our Pampas Plains South American exhibit. We have not exhibited anteaters for 40 years! Featuring animals from the Pampas region of Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil, the new exhibit is phase one of our South American Adventure exhibit.

Petya, a playful 8-year-old Amur tiger from the Indianapolis Zoo, joined Naka, our 9-year-old female Amur tiger, in February. Amur tigers are one of our signature species.

We work with the international Species Survival Plan for many endangered and threatened species. So, in a transatlantic move, we received a pair of Amur leopards from the Copenhagen Zoo. They went on exhibit early in 2015 and immediately became a favorite of our visitors.

With the rather colorful nickname of “Snot-Otters,” our endangered Eastern Hellbender salamanders – which grow up to 30 inches and can weigh 6.5 pounds – made their debut in our Professor Beardsley’s Research Station, thanks to exhibit underwriting by Aquarion Water Company.

In the spring, Hampton J. Pig became a father for the sixth year in a row. He and Olivia, who are guinea hogs, welcomed a litter of six.

Starting in the fall, we were delighted to offer a temporary home to “Rochan,” a 16-month-old male Red panda from the Franklin Park Zoo in Boston, while his exhibit space is being renovated. He will stay with us through early 2016.

Other additions included two Pygmy marmosets, two yellow-spotted turtles, a purple gallinule, three black-bellied whistling ducks & three giant river turtles.
EDUCATION

One of the highlights of a Zoo visit is interaction with a staff member or volunteer, who often have animal ambassadors with them! From formal presentations and talks to animal feedings, our Education staff and volunteers reached more than 50,000 adults and 50,000 children through an estimated 608 separate programs in 2015.

In addition, our Zoomobile traveled to schools and community events in over 70 towns statewide, even driving up to the Big E this fall. Call 203-394-6563 to learn about arranging a Zoomobile visit for your class, senior center or festival.

Many thanks to Connecticut Zoological Society board member Bruce T. Silverstone and Aquarion Water Company for donating an Astro passenger van. This vehicle will be used to transport teens participating in our award-winning Conservation Discovery Corps (CDC) program to conservation projects.

Thanks also to Fairfield County’s Community Foundation for providing a $20,000 grant in support of our educational programs, including Explorers, Conservation Discovery Corps, and Trout in the Classroom. These programs bring science and conservation to life, combining classroom curriculum with experiential learning.

We also received $10,000 from the People’s United Community Foundation toward our Conservation Discovery Corps. This year-long program is for high school students who work with field biologists, study the role of zoos in conservation, and help educate our visitors.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We raised over $80,000 at our annual Wild Wine Safari in June, which was attended by more than 1,200 guests. A special thanks to all of our generous food, wine and beer vendors for donating their time and delicacies for our guests to enjoy.

This year’s golf tournament was another success, with 20 foursomes and a net profit close to $40,000. Our co-chairs, Dr. Stuart Zarich and Dennis Condon, are tee-rific.

Every day during the summer was “Hump Day” thanks to three camels that joined us as a special treat. Zoo visitors could take rides on and photos with our special guests.

The popular Rainforest Reptile Shows also returned for the summer and presented exotic crawlers, unusual slitherers and fascinating creepers through direct contact with live animals, artifacts and fascinating stories.

Family favorite Chris Rowlands also joined us again for several performances to present his interactive shows that include music, dance, puppets and colorful props.

Connecticut Free Shakespeare returned to the Zoo this summer for free performances in August. Welcome back!

Congratulations to Classical Studies Magnet Academy on their winning Scarecrow in our annual competition.

Over 500 Zoo friends and beer enthusiasts came out to support “Brew at the Zoo,” helping us raise more than $20,000 from this fun fall event.

Our Howl-O-Ween family-oriented event features activities and attractions geared toward children from 8-15, including the Haunted Hayride and the Ghastly Greenhouse. Come next year, if you dare. Boo!
Frontier Communications made a two-year commitment to sponsor our Bison exhibit. A photo op with Frank, the company’s bison mascot, is available through a pop-through wood cutout near the exhibit.

Deloitte Impact Day made a difference when 80 employees from Deloitte Consulting descended on the Zoo in June. Team members helped with 11 projects, from working in the new Pampas Plains exhibit to painting paw print and animal tracks to planting trees. Thanks to Deloitte employees Chris McHugh (board member) and Dee Veccia (volunteer) for helping coordinate this wonderful show of volunteerism and support.

We produced new billboards and other marketing materials thanks to a $15,000 grant from the DECD/Connecticut Office of Tourism. Grant support from DECD helps the Zoo highlight all it has to offer to Connecticut residents and beyond.

The Connecticut Zoological Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, gratefully acknowledges the support we received from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Every effort was made to include all supporters who gave gifts of $100 or more. We sincerely apologize if we have inadvertently omitted your name or organization.

To see your name listed here next year, please contact the Director of Development and Marketing Jessica Summers at jsommers@beardsleyzoo.org or 203-394-6573 to discuss your support.

$10,000 – $50,000
Geoffrey and Melissa Bradshaw-Mack
Connecticut Commission on Culture & Tourism
The Daphne Seybolt Culpeper Memorial Foundation, Inc.
Frontier Communications

Institute of Museum and Library Services
Newman’s Own Foundation
People’s United Bank
People’s United Community Foundation
Elizabeth Pfriem
United Illuminating Company

$5,000 – $9,999
AARP
Craig Elkind and Christine Lai
The Doyle Agency, Inc.
Dworken, Hillman, LaMorte & Sterczala, P.C.
The Ernest & Joan Trefz Foundation
Fairfield University
Leanne Freas Trout Foundation, Inc.
Mabel Burchard Fischer Grant Foundation

Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo Volunteer Council
The Craig B. Tate Foundation
Curtiss Ryan Honda
Diagnostic Equipment
Gale and Les Funtleyder
The Ganim Group Inc.
GE Foundation
H&C Scrap Metal LLC
Independent Outdoor III, LLC
Industrial Health & Safety Consultants, Inc.
International Marketing Systems
Iridian Asset Management LLC
The Jones Foundation
Kingsbrook Development Corp.
Kohl’s
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Elizabeth and Donald Lilly
Martino Construction Co., LLC
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MaryAnn and Robert Matthews
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Sikorsky Financial Credit Union
Silver Sands Veterinary Center & Centers for Oral Care
Stratford/Trumbull Civitan Club
Trumbull Smiles
The Vazomica Foundation, Inc.
Julia Wasserman
$500 – $999
Anonymous
Barrett Outdoor Communications, Inc.
William and Julia Bassett Bridgeport Fittings George and Katie Coleman Bonnie Hartigan Current Gregg and Laura Dancho Denese Deeds and David Gioiello
Donald Devine Fairfield Country Day School Matthew and Christine Howard James Kasper MBI, Inc.
Kenneth and Marilyn Smith David and Laurie Title Craig Varrelman Daria Veeccia
Waterbury Women’s Club, Inc.
William B. Meyer Inc.

$100 – $499
Connecticut’s Beardsley Zoo is the state’s only accredited zoological facility and one of its top tourist attractions, welcoming 280,000 guests in 2015.

Every dollar spent at the Zoo helps care for our animals and enhance the experience of our guests.

Volunteers

Our Zoo Friends, Gardeners and Docents as well as interns and service groups contribute substantially to the beauty of our grounds and the programming we can offer visitors. We couldn’t do it without them!

Many thanks to the more than 146 volunteers of all ages who contributed more than 5263 volunteer hours during the past year, helping augment our staff in dozens of ways.

We are grateful to the Newman’s Own Foundation for donating $5,000 to support our Explorer Post of teens 14 to 18 who are interested in learning more about zoos and zoo careers.

Our monthly Evening Lecture Series held spring through fall continues to present compelling topics, from The Armadillos of Argentina to Turtle Telemetry to Bats of Brazil. This series is run by our Volunteer Council.

Every dollar spent at the Zoo goes directly back into making the Zoo a better place. The quality of care we provide our animals remains our priority as does the quality of our guests’ experience. Thank you for your support!
MEMBERSHIP

Membership dollars support our mission of providing education, conservation, research and recreation activities and programs.

Total membership revenue was $302,183. This valuable support was contributed by 2,686 members, who enjoyed unlimited free admission, free or discounted admission to more than 150 reciprocal zoos and aquariums, discounts in our gift shop and on programs, invitations to members-only events, a VIP line at our entrance, and the knowledge that they made a substantial contribution to Zoo operations.

Please join us by purchasing or renewing a membership at beardsleyzoo.org or at our front gate.

2015 BY THE NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visitors to the Zoo</td>
<td>280,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Donors</td>
<td>486</td>
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<tr>
<td>Individual Animals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoomobile Visits to Towns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Animal Species at the Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Birthday Parties Celebrated at the Zoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Endangered Species</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seasonal Staff</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full-Time Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zoo Rentals</td>
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<td>Likes on Facebook as of 12/31/15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adult and Children Reached Directly Through Education Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>On-Grounds Education Programs Presented</td>
<td>561</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Zoo may be rented for weddings, anniversaries, parties, and other special events. Each year, we are happy to welcome back the Make-A-Wish Foundation and Bridgeport Hospital’s cancer survivor group. Call 203-332-4243 to learn about having your event at the Zoo.
CONNECTICUT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY BOARD

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Attorney at Law  
Mitchell & Sheahan, P.C.

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- David G. Title  
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- AmyMarie Vizzo-Panicia  
  Bridgeport Councilwoman, 134th District
- Julia Wasserman  
  Cherished, longtime board member and friend passed away in 2015 and will be missed
- Greg Watkins-Colwell  
  Yale Peabody Museum

STAFF

**During 2015 we had 40 full-time staff, 7 part-time staff and 24 seasonal staff, who helped ensure that our guests had a memorable and enjoyable visit.**

**Zoo Director**
Gregg Dancho

**Deputy Director**
Don Goff

**Associate Curators**
Robert Tomas  
Jeanne Yuckienuz

**Zookeepers**
- Christopher Barker
- Lindsay Carubia
- Tracy Kosa
- Stephanie Meyer
- Ryan Paolletti
- Bethany Thatcher
- JT Warner
- Martyna Zmijewska

**Veterinarian**
Doc Hochman

**Vet Tech**
Jenny Gordon

**Director of Education**
Jim Knox

**Education**
- Christine Clark
- Michelle Gaudreau
- Denise Luckienchuk
- Chrissy Shore
- Jacqueline Westlein

**Accounting Supervisor**
Kim Bronski

**Director of Development**
Jessica Summers

**Associate Director of Development**
Emily Bobowick

**Membership Coordinator**
Amanda Bolanos

**Volunteer Coordinator**
Tracy Benham

**Group Sales**
Carrie Saunders

**Visitor Services Supervisor**
Denice Green

**Front Gate Supervisor**
Jill Koos
STAFF (continued)

Rentals/Events Coordinator
Lindsay Isner

Greenhouseman
Jonathan Dancho
Gary Jessop

Cafe Manager
Peter Gordon

Concessions Manager
Brian O'Toole

Administration
Margaret Sherman

Registrar
Linda Tomas

Gift Shop
Tracey Broadnax
Jessica Peterson

Carousel
Aida Rodriguez

Maintenance
Bret Cannone
Chanteau DeJesus
Victoria Feyk
Walter Flathers
David Mahoney
William O'Keefe
Lamar Wakefield
George Watts

Birthday Party Hosts
Barbara Butler
Brooke Hayden
Yaritza Lopez-Rivera
Shantel Morris
Amanda Murphy
Jatavia Parker
Karleesa Wallace

Seasonal Employees
Thomas Altieri
Angelina Aulisio
Sarah Baldwin
Chelsea Barstow
Karissa Bradley
Brian Criscione
Erica Criscione
Raynardo Fernandez
Geri Geoghegan
Eryn Goff
Steven Gordon
Stephanie Hernandez
Bryan Lidman
Angel Marrero
Norma McPadden
Robert Meekins
Gian Morelli
William O'Keefe
Colleen Riley
Isaias Serrano
Gail Smerglionolo
Justin Vaughan
Brittney Ward
Caroline Zapfel
Juan Zumaeta

Consultants
Robin F. DeMattia
Consulting, Inc.

Caryn Kaufman
Communications, LLC

Shannon Calvert
hireimagination.com

On the Mark Marketing

ANNUAL REPORT

Editor
Robin F. DeMattia

Design & Photography
Shannon Calvert
hireimagination.com

You can feel “Wild African Winds” in the new wind machine located in our Carousel building. The one-minute experience reaches Category 1 hurricane force wind speeds of 78 mph.

Stunning photographs of our animals and events are showcased prominently throughout our newly redesigned website (beardsleyzoo.org), designed by Shannon Calvert of HireImagination.