Since Rolling Hills Zoo opened to the public in 1999, we have always had tigers. Our experience started with two white tigers, Rana and Raja, but because white tigers are not a genetic diverse subspecies, these two were a non-breeding pair. As Rana aged, the decision was made to transition our tiger program to Amur tigers. That journey officially started after the passing of Raja, our last white tiger, in 2015, when we began working with the Association of Zoos & Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan (SSP).

To prepare for the transition, the tiger yard was renovated with plans for a breeding pair through the generous support of our Top the Tiger Challenge donors during the 2014 ZooLaLa. Then in the fall of 2015, the SSP needed to transfer a male tiger, Foli, from the Columbus Zoo, and while not a breeding pair, we agreed to house him until his move to Brookfield Zoo in 2016.

It was in 2016, when Brenda Gunder, RHZ’s General Curator, attended the FELID Taxon Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting being held in Denver, CO, that things really started to work in our favor. The Felid TAG is a committee of advisors with expertise relating to wild cats. These advisors hold regular meetings attended by AZA member institutions and the private sector who have an interest in felids. During those meetings zoos come together to discuss what is best for the animals in their care and determine any transfers that may need to take place for husbandry or breeding purposes. During this process, we were able to secure a breeding recommendation for both a male and a female Amur tiger.

Andrea, our new female Amur tiger, arrived from Indianapolis Zoo in November of 2016. Andrea had a successful pregnancy in 2014 and raised one cub as a result of it. Since she was getting older and had behavioral issues (chewing on flexible mesh), the SSP was in need of a new home for her that didn’t have flex mesh. RHZ met the requirements and Andrea was on her way!

Upon arrival at RHZ, Andrea was scheduled for a dental exam due to her chewing habits, and series of dental procedures were completed over the next four months.

Then in March of 2017, a male Amur tiger, Dhenuka, arrived at Rolling Hills Zoo from the Great Plains Zoo in South Dakota. During those spring and summer months that followed, the keepers got to know both new tigers’ behavior and the tigers got to know their new care staff and home. It was also during that time that Animal Care Staff started tracking Andrea’s hormone cycle and made plans for breeding introductions. Then in November 2017, the tigers were introduced for breeding, a process that lasted four days.

With successful breeding achieved, Animal Care Staff eagerly began preparations for gestation and created a birth plan utilizing the AZA Tiger Care Manual as well as birth plans from other facilities. A birth plan is a simple document that lays out the expected time frame of gestation, 90-104 days, and what staff might expect to see or need to do differently during that time frame (i.e. add a den box, add visual barriers between the male and female, keep dam (female) off exhibit for one month from due date, and increase food offered as the dam requires more nutrition to support the pregnancy.)

On March 15, 2018, Andrea experienced a difficult delivery and unfortunately delivered only one live cub and two stillbirths. Sadly Andrea was unable to care for the single cub and Animal Care Staff had to intervene. Even with the additional care by the Animal Care Staff, the cub became weak and passed three days later.

Brenda once again returned to the experts, and after conferencing with the Felid TAG SSP Chair and vet advisors as well as other experts,
20th Anniversary

It was October 26, 1999 when Rolling Hills Zoo opened its gates to the Zoo’s first guests. On that date 255 people came out for the Zoo’s opening day. Since then over 1.5 million people have visited the zoo, and during that time the zoo has expanded with the addition of a world-class Wildlife Museum, new exhibits and new species.

In celebration of our 20th Anniversary on Saturday, October 26, 2019, for one day only, admission prices will be rolled back to those of 1999! The first 200 guests will also receive a special gift!

BUT WAIT, the party doesn’t stop there! We’ll also be serving up FREE hot dog lunches and cupcakes from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Overlook Restaurant patio. There will be Grand Prize Drawings including a 20th Anniversary Package, a Zoo Membership, and an Animal Painting Experience, as well as hourly prize drawings! The party will kick off at 9 a.m. with music on the Overlook Restaurant patio, face painting & bounce houses. Animal Meet & Greets will take place at 9:30 & 11 a.m. and 12:30 & 2 p.m., plus hourly Keeper Encounters from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Then travel back in time to relive RHZ’s history with our 20th Anniversary Gallery Show. This unique exhibit answers some of our most often asked questions about the Zoo and Museum. Experience the passion and perseverance that transformed a Kansas prairie into a one-of-kind zoo and wildlife museum told by those who lived it in the accompanying documentary.

We are celebrating 20 great years of family fun at Rolling Hills Zoo, and we’re just getting started!

Tiger Facts

Currently there are 51 AZA institutions in two countries that have Amur tigers. Within that population there are 48 males and 73 females. Fewer than 4,000 Amur tigers remain worldwide in the wild or captivity. Four of nine tiger subspecies have disappeared from the wild just in the past 100 years, and of the Amur, Sumatran, and Malayan tigers, there are approximately fewer than 500 left. In the wild, tigers are threatened by habitat loss, poaching, tiger-human conflict, loss of prey, and other factors.
At the heart of igniting a passion to save wildlife, is wildlife conservation. So in effort to live out our mission, Rolling Hills Zoo is always looking for new ways to reduce the use of single use plastics at the zoo, and in turn to encourage our guests to live by example at home.

First Bank Kansas came on board this summer with their sponsorship of Rolling Hills Zoo’s three new water bottle refill stations. They also gave away 1,000 reusable water bottles during our Wet ‘n Wild event at the Zoo in July. During your next visit to the Zoo, you will find the new water bottle refill stations in the lobby of the Wildlife Museum, the Great Ape Building and the Anteater/Aardvark Building. Thank you First Bank Kansas for their part in reducing the use of single-use plastics at the Zoo!

With a goal of eliminating single-use plastic bags, Rolling Hills Zoo is no longer carrying single-use plastic bags in either of our gift shops. To carry home new Zoo treasures, guests can now purchase a reusable Rolling Hills Zoo bag at HALF PRICE - $2.49 (normally $4.99) with a purchase of $25 or more, or FREE with a purchase of $50 or more.

Rolling Hills Zoo has received a $250,000 gift from the William H. Graves Family Foundation as an investment in the Zoo’s future. This gift was also given to match a generous donor’s matching gift for all donations up to $750,000 in 2019, in essence making this a $500,000 gift to the zoo’s future.

The gift by the William H. Graves Family Foundation will be used for future capital projects to improve the zoo and keep it vibrant while also stimulating zoo attendance.

"Rolling Hills Zoo is a very special place for both Salina and the surrounding area," shared Bill Graves and Martha Graves Reese of the William H. Graves Family Foundation. "We realize how fortunate Salina is to have something so special in our community and through this gift we wanted to do our part to make sure that it continues to thrive and will be here for future generations to enjoy."

Rolling Hills Zoo’s Executive Director Bob Jenkins stated. "We truly appreciate the generous gift given by the William H. Graves Family Foundation and their foresight to insure the zoo’s future. To maintain the high standards on which the zoo was originally built 20 years ago, we must continually upgrade and make necessary improvements. and this gift will help make that possible."

A portion of this generous gift will be used to expand the lion pride’s exhibit, creating a uniquely immersed experience for the zoo’s guests while also expanding the exhibit with the intention to breed lions in the future. This gift will also be used to make improvements to the Zoo on a continuing basis. This includes renovation to the mandrill exhibit for new Colobus monkeys and improvements to Capuchin Island for two new species of lemurs.

"Through this gift, it is our hope to recognize the contributions the zoo has made to our community. Charlie Walker, the zoo’s founder, was a visionary with a passion for wildlife. Through his generous spirit he had the foresight to create a place where people could experience the wonders of the natural world while creating special family memories," commented Graves. "Through our gift, we want to encourage others to consider making a financial gift to Rolling Hills Zoo, thereby securing the zoo’s future for the next 20 years," shared Reese.
This year’s ZooLaLa Challenge raised $116,000 for a new small primate exhibit that will end the battle of the thermostat between the small primates, the rhinos and giraffes.

The construction for this new enclosed space for the Zoo’s small primates, where they can have it as tropically warm as they like, includes glass viewing for our guests and access to an outdoor space on those warmer days we occasionally experience during the winter months in Kansas. With a tight timeframe, this new exhibit space will need to be completed by the time the primates need to come off the islands, which is usually by the end of October.

Overall this year’s ZooLaLa raised $150,000 which will help support the Zoo’s mission of touching hearts and igniting a passion to save wildlife. We are truly grateful to all who helped make ZooLaLa such a wonderful success!

As part of their Zoo Teen experience, participating youth volunteer numerous hours during the summer season at Rolling Hills Zoo. As a reward for their efforts, Zoo Teens earning 85 hours or more are able to participate in the annual Zoo Teen Trip. Leaving on July 30th and returning on August 1st, this year the zoo teens headed south to Oklahoma with 19 of the 29 zoo teens earning enough hours to qualify for the trip.

Escorted by RHZ Education staff, Paul Fouts and Jessica Olp, the first night’s stay was at the Arbuckle Lodge where they enjoyed water activities and games, and worked as a team to prepare their dinner, breakfast, and even late evening s’mores. The next day they explored the Arbuckle Wilderness Park where they fed zebras, donkeys, llamas, giraffe, buffalo and camels.

From there they traveled to Oklahoma City and the Oklahoma City Zoo for an adventurous overnight experience. The teens exchanged experiences with Oklahoma City Zoo’s zoo teens, engaged in an educational animal investigation activity, took an evening tour through the zoo, stayed overnight in the park, and then took a hike through the zoo the next morning followed by their own zoo exploration.

On their return trip they made time to stop for a 77-second zipline ride over Turner Falls in Davis, Oklahoma.

During this year’s Zoo Teen trip the teens developed lasting friendships and great memories that they can build on for next year’s Zoo Teen adventures at Rolling Hills Zoo.

Rolling Hills Zoo and our Zoo Teens want to extend a special THANK YOU to Conklin Cars of Salina for donating the use of their van for the Zoo Teen trip. We truly appreciate their support of our Zoo Teens this year!
JoJo, our “baby” giraffe born to Zuri & BT on November 27, 2016, moved to the Hemker Park & Zoo in Freeport, Minnesota, where he joined a bachelor herd. Giraffes are typically moved about age 2 due to their size and maturity, and we have heard that JoJo is doing quite well in his new home.

Bruce Lee, African painted dog and brother to Chuck Norris and Jesse, was born January 13, 2011, and came to the Zoo on June 13, 2013. Upon his passing, Bruce Lee was 8 years old and the alpha male of the pack.

Born via C-section on April 22, 2003, at Rolling Hills Zoo, Kumari, snow leopard, and her sibling Makalu, were hand raised by the staff at the Zoo. After having lived at several other zoos, Kumari returned to RHZ to live out her life. Kumari was 15 years old.

Mia, pronghorn, was born May 29, 2002, and came to Rolling Hills Zoo on June 18, 2002. She lived out her life at Rolling Hills Zoo and was 17 years old at the time of her passing.

Wagasa, a 46 year old white rhinoceros, joined the Rolling Hills Zoo family on October 10, 1996, and was one of the zoo’s original rhinos, arriving three years before the zoo opened.

Jupiter and Philomena, are our two new female screech owls who will be used by our education team for our Zoo To You programs as well as Animal Meet & Greets at the zoo. They were born April 12, 2019, at the Scovill Zoo in Illinois.

Rose and Dahlia, female pronghorn fawns were born at the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, KS on May 11, 2019, and are property of the Wyoming Department of Wildlife & Parks. Unfortunately we lost Rose early in her young life, but Dahlia is healthy and continuing to prosper as part of our North America herd. (pictured left)

Vitani, an eight year old female maned wolf, has arrived from Dickerson Park Zoo and is currently in quarantine at Rolling Hills Zoo. Once she is able to leave quarantine she will be joining Zachary, RHZ’s seven year old maned wolf, in the Zoo’s Maned Wolf Exhibit.

Andrea and Dhenuka are proud parents of three healthy tiger cubs born August 14, 2019. Two females and one male, these cuties are weighing in over 8 lbs. for the females and over 10 lbs. for the male. As of this writing, we are still on “tiger time” and Andrea will let us know when the cubs are ready to go out and explore their yard.

“...
Educational Sponsorships Helps Connect Kids to Nature

Many kids today don’t have the opportunity for organic nature play, let alone the opportunity to see species from around the world up close, making that personal connection with them. Through Rolling Hills Zoo’s educational programs like Summer Camps and Zoo to You, we hope to inspire our youth to be engaged and empowered, creating an opportunity for change and a better tomorrow.

Thank You to Mike Money and the staff at Money Automotive Center for their donation of $7,200 for Rolling Hills Zoo’s educational programs funded through the Subaru Share the Love Event. With their support, children learned about the wonders of nature during our educational youth programs. Shown here are Mike Money presenting the check to Rolling Hills Zoo’s Executive Director, Bob Jenkins.

Rolling Hills Zoo wants to thank American State Bank for their sponsorship of this year’s Summer Camps at the Zoo! Over 500 kids learned about animals from around the world. Through games, experiments, live animal encounters, crafts, stories, keeper encounters and animal feedings, kids learned about each biome and the animals that call it home.

NEW ZOO EXHIBIT SPONSORS

Rolling Hills Zoo relies on the generosity of our donors and sponsors each year. Because the zoo is not funded by tax dollars, it is vitally important to have the support of our community. The following individuals and businesses have stepped up by sponsoring one of the Zoo’s animal habitats or Wildlife Museum dioramas. Not only are these individuals and businesses supporting the mission of Rolling Hills Zoo, they are also helping to ignite a passion to save wildlife. As a unified force, we are helping to save wildlife who are threatened with extinction.

A HUGE Thank You to these individuals and businesses who have stepped up to support our animal ambassadors and the mission of Rolling Hills Zoo!

WHO’S NEW AT THE ZOO

OLP IS NEW EDUCATION CURATOR

Starting at Rolling Hills Zoo as an Education Lead in 2017, Jessica Olp was promoted to Education Curator in August 2019. Growing up in northeast Ohio her family loved animals, so in 1990, after realizing a need for a rescue, her family created Reptilesmiles. Through Reptilesmiles they not only rescued reptiles, but were able to educate people about their importance.

Since then she has worked in spay/neuter clinics, veterinarian clinics, and as an early education teacher. In 2006 she and her husband moved to Abilene, KS where she worked as an animal control officer as well as an early education teacher. Through it all her passion for teaching people about the importance of ALL animals has continued to flourish.

“I tell people all the time that this is the best of both of my worlds! I love to teach, and I love to work with animals,” shared Jessica.

NEAREST STAFF MEMBER

Joining the Overlook Restaurant crew is our new Assistant Restaurant Manager, Jordan Long.

Part-Time and Seasonal Summer Staff Members:

- Justine Gonzales, Conference Center
- Margaret Hays, Gift Shop
- Quinn Katherineberg, Program Lead
- Leonard Lambert, Tram Driver
- Brenda Mai, Conference Center
- Mikel Perkins, Gift Shop
- Jocelyn Rodriguez, Gift Shop
- Victoria Srna, Seasonal Landscape
- Dylan White, Restaurant
Saturday, October 12, 2019
HALF-PRICE Admission* FREE Pumpkin Per Child*!
1st 500 Kids Wearing a Costume will Receive a FREE gift!*  
*Ages 12 & under w/paid adult. While supplies last.

Fall Games • Face Painting ($)  
Fire Fighters & Fire Truck  
Keeper Encounters • Animal Meet 'n Greets  
Taylor’s Twirlers • Food Trucks ($)  

Also Sponsored By:

**HALF-PRICE Admission** *FREE Pumpkin Per Child*!
1st 500 Kids Wearing a Costume will Receive a FREE gift!

*Ages 12 & under w/paid adult. While supplies last.

Taylor’s Twirlers • Food Trucks ($)  

**TASTE OF ADVENTURE**  
FEATURING BROOKE ROSE  
MON. NOV 4th at 6:00 PM  

Join us for an evening of cocktails and dinner as Brooke Rose, Hoofstock Keeper at Rolling Hills Zoo, shares her experience in Africa working alongside the Giraffe Conservation Foundation during the annual survey of Africa’s giraffe populations.

ON THE MENU:  
Autumn Salad with Craisins, Apples, Almonds & Poppy Vinaigrette  
Moroccan Brisket Tagine & Rice Pilaf  
Roasted Fall Vegetables & Dinner Rolls  
Carrot Cake

$30/MEMBERS • $35/NON MEMBERS  
Make your reservations online at rollinghillszoo.org, or call (785) 827-9488 ext. 114. Reservations required. Reservation deadline is 5 p.m. on Monday, October 28th.

For more information on ANY of these, or other upcoming events: Call (785) 827-9488, ext. 114 or visit our website: www.rollinghillszoo.org
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCT 1  Toddler Tuesday
OCT 4  Ed-venture Day
OCT 12 Pumpkin PaZoola
OCT 26  RHZ's 20th Anniversary Celebration
NOV 3  Winter Hours Begin, 9-4
NOV 4  Taste of Adventure: Giraffe Conservation
NOV 5  Toddler Tuesday
NOV 9  Art Gone Wild Gallery Show Opens
NOV 28  Thanksgiving Day
DEC 3  Toddler Tuesday
DEC 8  Cookies with Santa
DEC 24  Christmas Eve • RHZ is Closed
DEC 25  Christmas Day • RHZ is Closed
DEC 31  New Year's Eve
JAN 1  New Year's Day • RHZ is Closed

Rolling Hills Zoo was honored to be awarded the Best of the Best by the Salina Journal in the following three categories:

2019 Best Local Tourist Attraction
2019 Best Family Entertainment
2019 Best Wedding Venue

Your support over the past 20 years is what made Rolling Hills Zoo what it is today.
These awards are in recognition of how you have helped us become the Best of the Best!
For that we are truly thankful!
Rolling Hills Zoo and staff are greatly saddened by the loss of Sahar, our 9-year-old male African Lion who died on September 27, 2019, (his death happened shortly after this newsletter went to press).


Sahar was a magnificent animal, and much loved by our staff and zoo visitors. He will be greatly missed by all.