

Animal Tales

The inside scoop from your favorite Zoo!

SUMMER 2020

Welcome Back



One of my favorite zoo stories (and I have a lot of them) involves a zoo director from the really “old school” philosophy. During a visit, we were in his office looking out on the zoo grounds. It was a beautiful day, there were many visitors at the zoo, and everyone seemed to be having a wonderful time. But, the old Zoo director growled, “This would be such a great place to work if it wasn’t for all these d****d people!” And, what’s more, he meant it! Needless to say, I was shocked.

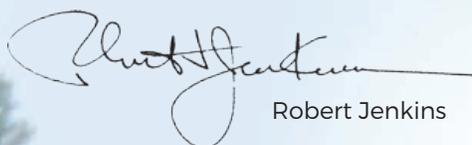
The last few months dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic here at the zoo brought the memory of that visit so long ago back to my mind. Clearly, that old zoo director didn’t understand what his job was really all about and why “all those people” were so important to the zoo and to his job. He failed to realize that without visitors, a zoo is incomplete and not a real zoo.

Rolling Hills Zoo exists because of all of you: each and every one of you. Yes, we are here to take excellent care of the animals and the facility, but without everyone who comes to the zoo or participates in one of our many education programs, there really is no good reason for us being here. There is no zoo without you.

Believe it or not, during the two months we were closed, the animals truly missed you. It was only a matter of days before they would all come running when one of the staff walked by (and you didn’t have to be wearing a blue Zoo shirt to see that happen). Having visitors is as important to the animals as having animals for the visitor to experience. Together they make something magical, something unique that only happens at a place like Rolling Hills Zoo.

So, in a very real sense you are an important part of our Zoo. Each visitor helps to complete the Zoo, indeed, they help make the zoo whole. All of you were sorely missed by the staff and the animals for those agonizing two months. Without you, we simply couldn’t be what we are and each of us felt incomplete.

But now you are back and the zoo feels whole again, undivided and complete. I thank everyone for their support during this trying time, for your donations, your caring and your involvement, but most of all, I thank you for being there through the closure, and now in coming back to the Zoo.


Robert Jenkins



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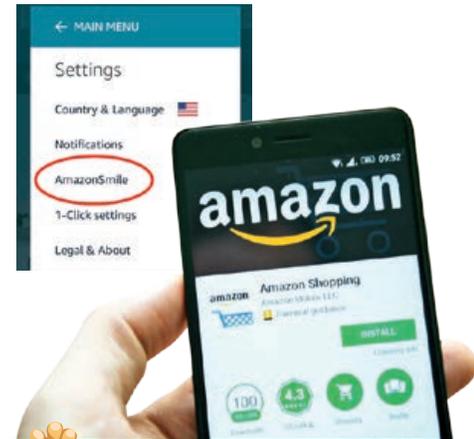
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AmazonSmile is Now Available in the Amazon Shopping App

AmazonSmile customers can now support Rolling Hills Zoo (listed as Rolling Hills Zoo Foundation) in the Amazon shopping app on iOS and Android mobile phones! Simply follow these instructions to turn on AmazonSmile and start generating donations for your favorite Zoo.

1. Open the Amazon Shopping app on your device
2. Go into the Main Menu of the Amazon Shopping app and tap into "Settings"
3. Tap "AmazonSmile," and follow the on-screen instructions to complete the process

You will be supporting the animals you love at Rolling Hills Zoo by providing for their care with each purchase you make through AmazonSmile. For that we are truly thankful!



Thank You for Bridging the Gap

Thank YOU for bridging the gap when COVID-19 closed the zoo's gates for two months. The donations you gave to support your Zoo kept us going when no other income was coming in. Your donation was used to care for the animals and the place they call home. Your gift fed them, administered their veterinary care, maintained their habitats, paid the utilities, and made all the difference during a very difficult time, and for that we are extremely grateful!

While our gates have reopened, our attendance numbers unfortunately are still down due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. If you would like to continue to help, please consider a first or second donation to the Zoo's operating funds. Your gift will support the animals you love by providing for their continued care.

Donations can be mailed to:
Rolling Hills Zoo
625 N. Hedville Road
Salina KS 67401

Or made online at:
rollinghillszoo.org/donation
Thank you for your continued support of YOUR Zoo!



Rolling Hills Zoo experienced another great summer camp season as 615 children flocked to the zoo the weeks of June 15 through July 10th. Each week's camp experience was built around a fun theme like - Paws, Claws and Jaws where children learned about the types of "tools" different animals are equipped with. Weekly camp activities included crafts, games, storytelling, animals showings, bio-facts, zoo walks, museum activities, conservation messages, experiments, personal zoo camp journaling and of course, snacks.



Teaching this year's Summer Camps were Jessica Olp, Education Curator; Theresa Cannefax, Education/Volunteer Coordinator; Lynne Rank, Program Assistant; and Program Leads - Lori Scuitte, Kal Salzman and Melissa Sharples-Stevenson.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF OUR CAMPERS AGAIN NEXT YEAR!

A special THANK YOU goes out to this year's summer camp sponsors:



BRINGING THE ZOO TO YOU

Mission Accomplished. Now it's time for a Takeover!

During the COVID-19 closure of Rolling Hills Zoo, our keepers and education staff stepped up to fill the void for our zoo family and friends with a new series of Facebook videos called Bringing the Zoo to You. Our Facebook followers experienced some great "behind the scenes" segments, which were also shared with family, friends, students, and followers both near and far.

Now that the Zoo has reopened, we're transitioning our Bringing the Zoo to You to a weekly Takeover Tuesday series where the keepers will takeover our Facebook page to show you what they do with the animals at the Zoo. This new series will initially be filmed and posted to Facebook but will eventually be on Facebook Live each Tuesday which was made possible through a grant from the Greater Salina Community Foundation.

Our first segment airs on Tuesday, July 21st, where you'll get a look at our quarantine area for new animals, like Tas, a Laughing Kookaburra, who will become an Education Animal. **Join us each Tuesday as our Keepers Takeover!**

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. Edward Jones and First Bank Kansas have stepped up to sponsor two of the Zoo's animal habitats. These businesses are supporting Rolling Hills Zoo's mission by touching hearts and igniting 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!



Originally scheduled to open May 16th, not even COVID-19 could extinct the *Return of the Dinosaurs* at Rolling Hills Zoo. Though the opening was delayed, the "Roar" must go on, and the exhibit opened with a bang on July 4th!

Another change to the exhibit's plans was its location. Initially to be shown in the Earl Bane Gallery, due to COVID restrictions the exhibit was moved outside adjacent to Kid's Country, allowing for plenty of social distancing and a whole new atmospheric experience.

Included in the price of admission, *Return of the Dinosaurs* introduces guests to the infamous roar of the fearsome Tyrannosaurus Rex and the deep vocal calls of a hollow-crested, duck-billed Parasaurolophus. The Stegosaurus, also known as the "plated lizard," was one of the early armored dinosaurs with a brain the size of a walnut. See the Ankylosaurus family, the largest species of armored dinosaurs, and the Triceratops and two of its young, forage for vegetation along their path. The last dinosaur can be found gliding

Return of the Dinosaurs will be open through October 12, 2020.

overhead in the lobby of the Wildlife Museum.

There you'll find the coastal Pteranodon keeping an eye on the scene below as guests travel through the Museum. The dinosaurs in this exhibit are animatronic replicas that move and vocalize to the delight of dinosaur fans.

Ever since the first dinosaur was discovered, these magnificent creatures have captured the imaginations of young and old alike. After flourishing for 160 million years, by far the longest period of dominance by any group of animals, dinosaurs vanished with baffling suddenness. Though dozens of explanations have been proposed, no single theory answers the question, "what happened to the dinosaurs?"



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS & DONORS

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WHO'S NEW AT THE ZOO

Rolling Hills Zoo would like to welcome these new employees to our team:



Lynne Rank
Education Program Assistant

A Rolling Hills Zoo Keeper for the last 20 years, Lynne Rank recently made the move to the Zoo's Education Department as a Program Assistant. There she assists with Education programs, including Summer Camps and Zoo To You, and works the Zoo's Education animals.

Lynne's love of animals began at the age 10 while working at a veterinary clinic cleaning kennels. After high school, she continued working at vet clinics as a vet assistant, and volunteered at the Zoo for 1.5 years before coming on full-time.

In May 2000, Lynne joined RHZ's Keeper team as Reptile & Main Barn Keeper and eventually Anteater. Years later she transferred into two roles; Vet Assistant and Relief Keeper. As a Vet Assistant she worked with then RHZ veterinarian, Dr. Adrian Mutlow. When he moved she continued with our current Veterinarian, Dr. Danelle Okeson.

Later Lynne accepted the role of Great Ape Keeper where she would care for the chimps, orangutans, mandrills (and now colobus monkeys), maned wolves and the pasture (which included the water buffalo and oryx).

After 20 years, Lynne was ready for a change. Her love for and knowledge of animals makes her the perfect fit in igniting a passion for wildlife with the young and young at heart.

When asked about her favorite zoo memory or animal, Lynn replied, "there is no way to pick your favorite memory or your favorite animal, just like you can't pick your favorite child." One of her fond memories includes hand raising Anakin, the first baby aardvark born at RHZ. Anakin now resides at the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, Nebraska, and has had offspring of her own.

Megan Johnson
Small Primate Keeper



A Salina native, Megan is a K-State graduate with a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. Prior to Rolling Hills Zoo, Megan worked one year with the Greater Wynnewood Animal Park in Oklahoma.

Melissa Sharples-Stevenson
Education Program Lead



A native of Topeka, KS, Melissa attends Washburn University, in pursuit of a bachelor degree in social work. Her experience with young children at Heartland Early Education's Head Start proved beneficial for Summer Camps.

Animal Updates: What's New at the Zoo?

A New Animal Ambassador

Sinatra, a male lesser Madagascar tenrec, has joined RHZ's Education Animal Ambassadors. A kitten-sized, stout-bodied, nocturnal mammal native to Madagascar, the tenrec's back is covered in sharp spines, which serve as a defense mechanism when he rolls into a ball. Born at David Traylor Zoo in Emporia, KS, this cutie turned one year old in May.

A New Capybara

A female capybara, Azalea, has joined our male capybara, Mike, this spring. Born at Sedgwick County Zoo in Wichita, KS, Azalea turns one year old at the end of September. The largest rodent in the world, capybaras are semi-aquatic mammals found throughout northern

and central South America. To tell them apart, Azalea is lighter in color and smaller than Mike.

Maned Wolf Pup Is Named

Our maned wolf pup born on December 30, 2019 at Rolling Hills Zoo, was officially named by popular vote - Heloisa, or Ella for short. Now 6 months old, Heloisa is about $\frac{3}{4}$ the size of Vitani, her mother. Her coloring is fairly close to an adults, but still has a bit of grey. While she spends most of her day napping like her parents, in the evenings she loves to play with Zach, her father, chasing after him in their yard.

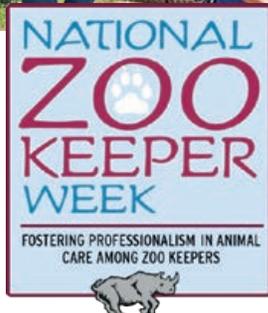
A Tearful Goodbye to Gobi

In May, Gobi, RHZ's male snow leopard, passed away without warning during the night. Born May 25, 2009, at the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Washington, Gobi moved to Rolling Hills Zoo on April 7, 2011. According to his keepers, Gobi was sassy, headstrong and stubborn, and loved attention and interactions with his keepers. Some of his favorite games were playing chase as the keepers ran along the outside of his habitat and stalking his keepers at supper time.

Gobi was trained to present different body parts which allowed the keepers to do physical exams on a regular basis. As one of the zoo's featured animal artists, Gobi loved to paint. While he was paired with several females at RHZ, Gobi never produced offspring.

Gobi will be deeply missed.





In recognition of dedicated animal keepers and animal care teams, Rolling Hills Zoo is celebrating National Zoo Keeper Week the week of July 19-25th.

Three hundred and sixty five days a year, seven days a week, in all kinds of weather (from severe thunderstorms, to blizzards, to heat waves, and now even a pandemic), zoo keepers have to be ready for anything. These animal care professionals are involved in captive animals' lives from birth to death and every moment in between. They create life-long bonds with these animals - like family.

A keeper's day involves an array of tasks which can include cleaning, food preparation and feedings, medical treatment, training, enrichment, landscaping, exhibit design, animal

introductions, public outreach and education, and much more. As the need to protect and preserve wildlife and their vanishing habitats continues to increase, the animal care professionals' role as educators and conservation ambassadors has become essential.

Our zoo professionals care for over 120 species, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and invertebrates. But, in the end, being a zookeeper is more than just a job. It's a career, it's a passion, it's a calling, and they are one of the many reasons Rolling Hills Zoo is such a special place to be.



Plastic Free July is a global movement that helps millions of people become part of the solution to rid the ocean of plastic pollution. While COVID-19 is making things trickier, there are plenty of swaps to try - and trying is important to make a difference! You're part of the movement with 250 million other people, and whatever you can do will have an impact! Let's celebrate Plastic Free July's 10th anniversary!

Here are 10 ways you can say no to single-use plastic this month and all year long:

1. Avoid the *worst offenders* like single-use plastic bags, straws, bottles and utensils, and choose reusable and sustainable alternatives.
2. Shop in bulk to avoid excess single-use plastic packaging.
3. Shop your local farmer's market for produce and meats that don't come pre-packaged in plastic.
4. Plan meals in advance to avoid single-use plastic associated with convenience foods like microwavable meals and fast food.
5. As the coronavirus pandemic continues, commit to using bar soaps and washable face masks.
6. When dining out, bring your own reusable containers to bring home leftovers, instead of taking them home in take-out single-use plastic containers.
7. Use baking soda or bar soap and washable cloths to do your dishes. For extra scrubbing power, opt for a copper scrubber instead of a plastic-based one.
8. If you already own a Swiffer mop, make the swap to a washable reusable pad.
9. Give up hair products in plastic bottles, and opt for shampoo bars, salves and pomades in metal tins and glass jars.
10. Avoid disposable plastic pens when possible by investing in a refillable fountain pen or reaching for a pencil instead.



Collectively, by making small changes to our everyday habits, we can make a huge difference.

DUE TO THE EVER-CHANGING COVID-19 SITUATION, events & activities are subject to change without notice. Please follow us on Facebook or visit our website for updates.



Toddler Tuesday is the first Tuesday of Every Month & Every Tuesday in the Month of July**

This is an educational experience for toddlers, ages 1-5, where they will enjoy a special story, learn more about the animal featured in the story, create a fun craft, and enjoy playtime.

Together, toddlers will connect with nature, wildlife and each other.

Upcoming Events: July 28, Aug 4, Sept 1, Oct 6

This event is included with paid admission. Members get in FREE.

***Some dates have been removed due to the COVID-situation.*

Sponsored By: 



SAFARI BREAKFAST

The Final & Only Available 2020 Safari Breakfast is at Lions: Saturday, September 12th at 8:00 a.m.

Enjoy the summer sunrise with breakfast in the Zoo, served at the animal exhibit.

Enjoy a tram ride to the exhibit after breakfast. Then, Keepers will give a presentation followed by a Q&A. Zoo admission is included!

On the Menu: egg casserole with cheese, sausage, hash browns, assorted donuts, orange juice, coffee & water.

Members:

Adults \$12 • Children \$8

Non Members:

Adults \$20 • Children \$12

REGISTER ONLINE!

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ARMED FORCES DAY

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Saturday, September 19th
FREE Admission to All Public Safety Personnel • and • All Active & Retired Military and Their Families

We would like to recognize our police, fireman, volunteer fireman, state troopers, sheriff officers, mounted patrol, EMS first responders & staff and any other first responders, as well as any active and retired military.

Our honorees and their immediate families receive FREE admission to the Zoo & Museum. (ID required)

Sponsored by: 



GRANDPARENTS DAY
- at -
Rolling Hills Zoo

Sunday, September 13th
HALF-PRICE Admission to Grandparents* with Purchase of Child Admission



Be sure to sit in on one of our insightful Keeper Encounters, which we'll have throughout the day. Take a snack or lunch break at the Overlook Restaurant!

***Maximum of 2 Grandparents per paid Grandchild.**

THE
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presents...

back to
SCHOOL
BLAST!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th
HALF-PRICE ADMISSION
for EVERYONE!

Have a FUN day at the Zoo before the kids
head back to school!

We'll have a \$1 Hot Dogs, Sno Cones (\$),
Cotton Candy (\$), Tram Rides (\$),
Keeper Encounters, and our new exhibit
Return of the Dinosaurs!

All activities subject to change without notice.



The
Bank
of Tescott presents...



Saturday, October 10, 2020

HALF-PRICE Admission*

FREE Pumpkin Per Child!*

1st 500 Kids Wearing a Costume will
Receive a FREE gift!*

Keeper Encounters • Food Trucks (\$)
Sno Cones & Cotton Candy (\$)
Return of the Dinosaurs Exhibit

*Ages 12 & under w/paid adult. While supplies last. Activities subject to change without notice. Activities & games included unless otherwise noted.

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For more information on ANY of these, or other upcoming events:

Call (785) 827-9488, ext. 114 or visit our website: www.rollinghillszoo.org





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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Please note that due to the fluidity of the COVID-19 situation, events and activities are subject to change or cancel without notice.

JULY 28	Toddler Tuesday	SEPT 12	Safari Breakfast · Lions
AUG 1	Safari Breakfast Colobus Monkey	SEPT 13	Grandparents Day
AUG 4	Toddler Tuesday	SEPT 18	Dream Night <i>(invite only)</i>
AUG 8	Back to School Blast	SEPT 19	Public Safety Appreciation Day/ Armed Forces Day
SEPT 5	Labor Day Weekend	OCT 6	Toddler Tuesday
SEPT 7	Labor Day · We're open!	OCT 10	Pumpkin PaZOOla

ANNUAL CORPORATE SPONSORS



AZA Accreditation Postponed

One of the major projects we scheduled for this year was the preparations for our on-site inspection as part of being an Accredited Member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). There are only 240 institutions that can meet the accreditation standards of this global organization and your Zoo is one of them. However, the pandemic has impacted that program as it has nearly everything else today. The AZA, therefore, has made the difficult decision to postpone those institutions under review this year to next year. While our process is delayed, we will not be resting until then and are even now working on ensuring that your Zoo retains this prestigious designation as it has since opening 20 years ago.



Our Mission

Touching Hearts • Igniting Passion
Saving Wildlife

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Founder:
Charles W. Walker
1932-2012

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Zoo Brew Craft Fest & Run for the Hills 5K & Fun Run Cancelled



Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the hard decision was made to cancel this year's Run for the Hills 5K & Fun Run on August 8th and our Zoo Brew Craft Fest scheduled for August 22, 2020.

While we share in your disappointment about cancelling these events, the safety of our guests, staff and animals must take priority.

We look forward to bringing both events back again in 2021.

