

**ESSEX COUNTY
TURTLE BACK**



Zoological Society
of New Jersey, Inc.
AT ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

Turtle TALK

Spring 2019

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Photo of the Season!

Jared, Educator

To be considered for Visitor Photo of the Season, please send photos to bderose@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



Spring Early Childhood Classes

Starts March 2019

Early Childhood classes continue through Spring for our families with preschool aged children. Join us for this seasonally-themed series of programs that will introduce your children to the world of animals! Programs are in March, April, and May. Check bit.ly/2UWjC9i for current listings.

Summer Camp Open House

Saturday, March 9; 11am – 2pm

Free Event Admission, Advanced Registration Recommended. Get ready for summertime at TBZ's Summer Camp Open House! Try out some of our camp activities and meet some of our animal ambassadors with Turtle Back Zoo's Camp Counselors! Visit bit.ly/2BBMbS3 for more information.

Family Nature Club

Sunday, March 10; Sunday, April 14; Sunday, May 12

Want to spend more time outside as a family? Join us as we harness the power of gaming to get families up and moving while exploring and learning about local nature and conservation. Recommended for ages 4+. Visit our [events calendar](#) at bit.ly/2E8qllc for more information.

Zoo Storytime with the Easter Bunny

April 13 and 14, 20 and 21

Spring animals and stories! Recommended for children ages 12 and younger. Each participant must have a ticket. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Space is limited. Register at bit.ly/2E8qllc.

Spring Break Mini-Camp

Monday, April 15 to Friday, April 19

9am to 4pm daily

Spring into the season with Turtle Back Zoo's Mini-Camp! Tour the zoo, meet our animal ambassadors, and learn about your favorite animals with Turtle Back Zoo's camp counselors. Mini-Camp is the perfect way for children ages 5-7 and 8-10 to explore the world in your backyard. Stay tuned for the announcement of our theme at bit.ly/2BBMbS3.

Party for the Planet

Saturday, April 20 and Sunday, April 21

Included with zoo admission. Association of Zoos and Aquariums accredited zoos, like Turtle Back Zoo, are taking *Party for the Planet* to a new level! Join us on April 20 and 21 to learn about how you can help protect the world in which we live. Special events will be taking place at the zoo throughout the day; we hope to see you there!

Night Moves

Starts May 2019

Join us in 2019 for a nighttime viewing of our nocturnal animals. Night Moves is a guided evening tour of zoo exhibits, where you will learn about different animal senses and adaptations. Online registration required. Full list of dates at bit.ly/2E8qllc.

Zoo Summer Camp

July 8 through August 30; 9am to 4pm daily

Turtle Back Zoo's themed summer camps are filled with science for all ages! Show your WILD side with age-appropriate science experiments, teacher-guided lessons, animal encounters, fun arts and crafts, behind-the-scenes experiences, and more! Summer camp is for children 5 – 14 years old. Registration for current zoo members starts on Saturday, March 16; online registration for everyone opens on Saturday, March 30. Learn more at bit.ly/2BBMbS3.





CONSERVATION EDUCATION

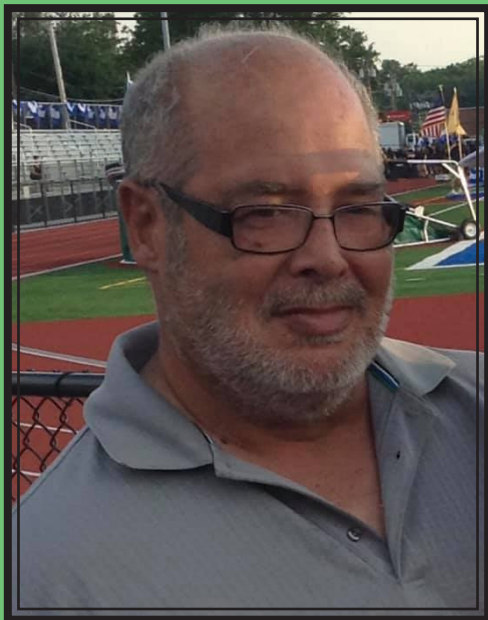
With winter drawing to a close, we're getting ready for one of its most iconic events: bird migration. New Jersey is an important rest stop along the Atlantic Flyway before nesting season. According to the Audubon society, there are two types of migrants: obligate and Facultative. Obligate birds migrate at specific times, no matter the conditions, while facultative birds pay more attention to weather before migrating.

One can imagine how tough it might be to make a big leap without knowing what's on the other side. That's where we step in – think of it like a Bed and Breakfast for birds. Prep for Spring by planting butterfly bushes, cone flowers, and flowering plants for pollinators and birds. Provide piles of wood and twigs, as well as nest boxes for birds to roost in at night. If your yard gets the bird seal of approval, you might find that some residents stick around. Plus, you get an added bonus of some unique species passing through your very own backyards!

Photos by: Katie, Educator



What is your favorite bird? Use #TBZTales on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to share your photos with us, for a chance to be featured in our newsletter. We also appreciate photos of our beloved zoo ambassadors at TBZ!

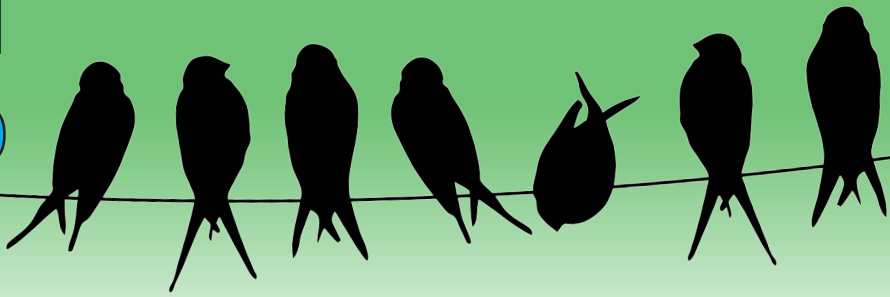


**In Memory of
John Doeffinger**

This past January, Essex County Turtle Back Zoo suffered a severe loss with the passing of the Zoological Society of New Jersey's President, John Doeffinger. John served as the Board President for 14 years, and as a Docent for 22 years. His prominent leadership was essential to the period of the Zoo's most ambitious growth. Always there to lend support, John was a regular at the Zoo & an unofficial historian in chronicling and reporting the park's tremendous growth.

The Zoo is proud to recognize John for his many accomplishments and his decades of service. The Turtle Back Zoo family wishes to share our condolences with his relatives and friends, many of whom have followed in John's footsteps in spreading advocacy for the Zoo and wildlife conservation.
– Adam Kerins, Executive Director

POST SEASON RECAP



TBZ Mini Camps – This year's camp season started with our "Animal Engineers" mini camp! TBZ campers came bundled up in jackets, scarves, and more to deal with the bitter cold. Despite the chill in the air, our campers were still excited to tour the zoo, and even met Aurora, our African Penguin ambassador! Aurora showed us a little bit of nesting behavior as she carried some dry bamboo around. Keeper Joanna brought Gary the groundhog and our mole rats to show off their digging skills!

Behind the Scenes Giraffe Tours are great for ages 6 and up! Our guests enjoyed meeting Milo, who is more comfortable approaching people inside the barn. This tour features educational presentations from Essex County Turtle Back Zoo educators about Masai Giraffe.

Winter Early Childhood is drawing to a close, but we had a blast! Highlights of this season were creating popsicle birds, pretending to be a bat in the dark, and visiting our animal ambassadors! Chloe, Shrek, and Mugsy are just a few of our explorer's favorite ponies at TBZ. We can't wait for Spring Early Childhood to start!

Docent interviews have been completed, and 2019 training started in February. Essex County Turtle Back Zoo docents are volunteer educators who engage the public through educational talks, special events, and more. We look forward to welcoming 2019's docent class to the zoo!

Family Nature Adventurers is perfect for the entire family to do together! On November 17, our Nature Play Leader and a group of 6 discovered their super powers on their journey to Turtle Back Rock. Our super sniffer found footprints of local wildlife before we sought out shelter from the cold. With the wisdom of our elders, we found the wood we needed to repair our little shelter. We look forward to what our next adventure will bring!

Outreach – Essex County Turtle Back Zoo's educators have been busy visiting schools for TBZ's outreach program, where the zoo comes to you! On-grounds programs and distance learning is also available. These themed educational programs introduce children of all ages (and adults too) to unique wildlife from around the globe. Learn more at bit.ly/2DE0Zjd.



D O N O R SPOTLIGHT

When did you start coming to the Zoo?

Our first visit to the Zoo was many years ago – Sandra was about 3 years old and Chris was about 6 or 7. Now there's so much to see compared to when we were kids, especially with the addition of the lions and giraffes and the new penguin exhibit.

What is your favorite exhibit or animal to visit at the Zoo?

Chris: My favorite animal is the penguin – even before the new penguin exhibit was built, I have always had a love for penguins. When I was in grammar school I created a game called Penguinopoly – similar to monopoly, but with penguins. Penguins have been my favorite animal to visit at the Zoo.

Sandra: My favorite animal is the snow leopard – I love how you are able to see them on exhibit lounging on the rock wall with their long tail hanging down. They are amazing animals that are able to hide in all the nooks and crannies in the exhibit. I just love the big cat area all together at the Zoo.

How has the Zoo changed since your first visit?

Sandra: A LOT! When we first started visiting the Zoo when we were kids the animals were more common, farm based familiar animals. Years ago we only saw anteaters in textbooks, now they are at the Zoo!

Chris: I have enjoyed visiting the new exhibits and watching the African Adventure area be built starting with the giraffe house, then lions and hyenas and now, my favorite animal, in the penguin house. The Zoo has grown so much with all the amazing events to raise awareness about animals and conservation.



If you would like to be considered for our donor and member spotlight, please contact jderose@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org.



How do you feel when you make a gift?

We feel good, connected to the animals at the zoo – like we are making a difference and contributing to the bigger picture of animal welfare. You don't have to be a millionaire to make a difference and make things better.

What interests you most about our organization and why?

Sandra: As a science teacher, I share with my students the many details that go into the Zoo, such as the engineering and construction to create a natural environment for the animals – there is so much more than just the animals.

Visitors have a chance to learn about conservation and the animals in their natural environment. There is a species survival plan and we and the other members of the Zoo are contributing to their survival.

What would you like to pass on to future generations?

The Zoo is so much more than a tourist attraction. When you visit Turtle Back Zoo you learn about the animals, the community and their ecosystem. We would like to teach the next generation that while we live locally here, in New Jersey, everything we do affects what happens globally.

What are your dreams for the Zoo and the Society?

Keep doing what you are doing – keep people involved and engaged. Keep people informed on social media, because even if people can't make it to the Zoo, they can still be part of it.

And we want to see polar bear come to Turtle Back Zoo! LOL

We would like to thank Sandra and Chris Stamos for their overwhelming support of Essex County Turtle Back Zoo and the Zoological Society of New Jersey.

SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE WILD ANIMALS OF ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

We appreciate your generosity in strengthening Essex County Turtle Back Zoo's commitment to conservation, education, & inspiration. All donations to the Zoological Society of New Jersey support the Zoo by providing necessary funds for new habitat design & construction, general zoo improvements, operating support, and conservation programming. There are many ways to donate: Adopt an Animal, Adopt a Bench, Living and Memorial Tributes, Corporate Matching, Amazon Wish List, Monetary Donation, or Becoming a Member of the Zoological Society of New Jersey and Essex County Turtle Back Zoo.



Visit www.zoologicalsocietyofnj.org/support to get started!

Zoological Society of NJ Board of Directors

The Zoological Society of New Jersey, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation, organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey. Its purpose is to promote the general welfare of Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, a facility of the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs; to stimulate the public's interest in the growth, improvement, and development of Essex County Turtle Back Zoo through education and research with an emphasis on natural conservation of all species of animals; to support and sponsor fund-raising events to help in the financing of new facilities, purchase of equipment, and acquisition of animals; to encourage membership in the Society by persons interested in the promotion of the physical and aesthetic qualities of Essex County Turtle Back Zoo; and to stimulate the public interest in the development and enjoyment of Essex County Turtle Back Zoo and of animals everywhere.

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To see other Zoo Communications, please visit
<https://bit.ly/2SDw0OR>