

**ESSEX COUNTY  
TURTLE BACK**



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

# Turtle TALK

**Summer 2019**

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**Photo of the Season!**  
**Docent Randy Keenan**

To be considered for Visitor Photo of the Season, please send photos to [bderose@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org](mailto:bderose@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org)

# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Behind-the-Scenes Sea Lion Tours

*Saturdays and Sundays in May*

Something's fishy! Behind-the-Scenes sea lion tours return on Saturdays and Sunday in May! For ages 6+. Register here: <http://bit.ly/2GzTz35>.

## Family Fun Nights

*Wednesdays and Thursdays in July and August*

Family Fun Nights return this summer! Admission required to enter the zoo. Visit our zoo after hours and then catch a "Zoo-vie" on Wednesday nights! Stay tuned here: <http://bit.ly/2vmMAEd>.

## Night Moves

*May 16 @7:30pm, more dates coming soon.*

Evening guided tour of zoo. Learn about animal senses and adaptations. Register here: [bit.ly/nightmoves2019](http://bit.ly/nightmoves2019).



Photo by Educator Katie Fenyar

## 56th Anniversary Gala

*May 21 @6pm*

Please join us for our 56th Anniversary Gala at the Park Savoy in Florham Park on Tuesday, May 21, 2019. All donations support the Zoo by providing funds for new habitat designs & construction, general zoo improvements, operating support, & conservation programming. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/2vmkpWc>.

## Docent Memorial Day Parade

*May 27 @9:30am*

TBZ's docents are marching in the Bloomfield Memorial Day Parade! Join us Monday, May 27th at 9:30AM! Parade starts near Brookside Park in Bloomfield, NJ.

## Nature Adventurers

*June 9 @1pm*

Rain or shine, join our Nature Play Leader for an outdoor adventure! Stay tuned to register: <http://bit.ly/2XDVPWB>.

## Brew at the Zoo

*Saturday, June 29 @6pm*

Essex County Turtle Back Zoo and the Zoological Society of New Jersey will celebrate the park's 56th Birthday by hosting the 7th Annual Brew at the Zoo on June 29, 2019 from 6:00PM - 9:00 PM. The festival will feature live entertainment, an abundance of brewers and vendors, and a selection of over 100 craft beers. For more information, please visit <https://bit.ly/2UAaHtv>.

## TBZ Summer Camp

*July through August*

Each camp is one week, ages 5-14. Includes Behind-the-Scenes tours, animal encounters, age-appropriate activities, and more! Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2GvNm70>.

## Education Center Programs

*Select Dates*

Visiting the zoo? Add on an education program! Themed programs for pre-k to adult ages. Outreach programs to your facility available. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2KVifHJ>.



## BARKtoberfest

*Saturday, October 26*

Save the Date! The Zoological Society of New Jersey's annual animal adoption event and marketplace will take place on Saturday, October 26. More details to be announced.





# CONSERVATION EDUCATION

by Katie Fenyar

## Human-animal conflict: what is it?

With humans inhabiting over 75% of the planet, human-animal interactions are increasingly common. An interaction resulting in a negative impact on both parties is called human-animal conflict. The driving forces of these conflicts include political, economic, and social issues and trends. A complex subject, but important to understand.

Consider the Snow leopard, unable to find its normal prey, but finding and hunting local livestock with ease. The leopards have found a reliable food source, but the farmer who owned the livestock has now lost part of his livelihood. The farmer has no financial compensation for his loss and retaliates against the leopards. According to Snow Leopard Trust, an *in-situ* (working in the leopard's habitat) conservation organization, over 50%

of Snow Leopards are killed for this reason.

Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as global conservation organizations and wildlife preserves, can help. Relying on donations of funds, supplies, and services, these groups work with the governments, businesses, and individuals within affected communities to mitigate their struggles and create agreeable solutions. An example of this is protecting farmers from poverty by compensating for their financial losses, thus reducing further leopard retaliation. This is known as *in-situ* conservation.

*Ex-situ* (i.e. not local) organizations assist with raising funds for and public awareness of conservation issues. Many accredited zoos, like Turtle Back Zoo (TBZ), donate to stewardship initiatives, such as Snow Leopard Trust, as part of their dedicated ex-situ conservation missions. TBZ also provides a living classroom to our visitors that promotes meaningful connections to our animals, leading to lifelong stewardship behaviors that can touch the lives of people and wildlife around the globe.

## ZOO TEAM GO

CONSERVE • EDUCATE • INSPIRE

Thank you to everyone who participated in Zoo Team Go's first conservation volunteer event on May 5th at The Waterfront at South Mountain Recreation Complex. With the help from all the families and staff that attended, we were able to clean up 65 pounds of trash at the reservoir. A little rain couldn't stop us!

We are looking forward to future conservation efforts with Zoo Team Go. If you are interested in joining Zoo Team Go on our next mission, please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details or join our mailing list by emailing [bderose@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org](mailto:bderose@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org).





# POST SEASON RECAP

**Spring mini-camp** - Did you know that Snow Leopards have a superior sense of smell and taste? Our campers do! Themed animal senses, TBZ campers learned about how animals see, smell, hear, taste, and interact with their surroundings. Highlights included meeting our African Penguin ambassadors in person!

**Easter Storytime** - What's spring without a tale? Or should we say a bunny tail? Our springtime guests enjoyed storytime and a greeting from TBZ's own Easter bunnies! Tea, cookies, and animals: what could be better?

**Giraffe Tours** - After a long winter, our Giraffe tours have come to a close. Guided by the education department and TBZ Africa keepers, our guests got an inside look at what it's like to work with and protect these amazing animals. Also, Giraffe have blue tongues so they don't get sunburned. That's so cool!



Photo by  
Educator Anika Francisco



Photo by Docent Jerry Weinstein

**Scout Sleepover** - TBZ's education department hosted an overnight sleepover for a local scout troop this April! S'mores, tie-dyed bandanas, Behind-the-Scenes tours, and close-up animal encounters were the highlights of this night.

**Family Nature Club** - Our Nature Adventurers and our Nature Play Leader went on a trip to the reservoir across from the zoo! Our adventurers played a blindfolded hide-and-seek game, witnessed by a few Red-Eared Sliders sunning themselves by the lake. Unplugging from technology and enjoying the beauty of nature is important for our health and wellbeing.

**Party for the Planet** - The numbers are in: 1,500 guests visited our "Party for the Planet" education tables! Party for the Planet is a national initiative at AZA-accredited zoos that encourages visitors to spring into action with conservation efforts. Connecting people with nature is one of the most important parts of our conservation mission.



Photo by Docent  
Ronit Kalmanor



Photo by Educator  
Katie Fenyar

Party for the  
Planet



# D O N O R SPOTLIGHT

## The Craner Family

**What would you like to pass on to future generations?**

To me, a zoo is one of those common thread things that is accessible to just about everyone, no matter what your financial means are. Take a basketball game for example, the seats are not all the same, so if you are of lesser financial means you may never be able to sit "courtside". At the zoo none of this is the case and that makes it a great place to bring your child and family. So to answer the question specifically it would be that the zoo is a broadly accessible place for everyone and future generations should know and understand that.

**Tell us about the group trips you've organized.**

For the past few years I have organized group outings for my church, The Presbyterian Church Morristown NJ. These have been great. The location and cost are very advantageous to get a group of people together for an outing. Also, I am about 100% sure that we will have several birthday parties there when our kids are a bit older. I see them all the time and it is such a great place to have an event.

**What are your dreams for the Zoo and the Society?**

Well, if I am dreaming.....I think it would be cool if the zoo installed "ski chairs" in certain parts of the zoo (not over the animals!) to see it from a different point of view.

**When did you start coming to the Zoo?**

About 4 years ago when our first son was born. We had so many people tell us this was the perfect place to take children and they were right! His first visit was probably around 5 or 6 months old and we have not stopped coming since.

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

Well if you are asking me (Brad) I'd have to say the sea lions. The view below and above water at the same time is really cool. If you were to ask our oldest son (Jameson) he would say the lions, but before that it was the gibbons.

**How has the Zoo changed since your first visit?**

Wow, a lot. The African portion of the zoo was being built when we first started coming, the penguins upgraded their house and the flamingos are new. It's really amazing all the changes that have happened and if you were just visiting for the first time today you would think they have been there since the beginning. It's really nice how the different exhibits have fit so well within the existing landscape.

**What interests you most about our organization and why?**

Hard to say. There are so many things about the organization that I love. The zoo itself, the educational programs, all of the things to do when you get there, the special events like during the holidays. I can't think of many places we can go as a family on a consistent basis and still find new things to do. I am also really interested in how you actually get animals to the zoo, like where do you get a lion!?!

**If you would like to be considered for our donor and member spotlight, please contact [bderose@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org](mailto:bderose@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org).**





# ZOO NEWS

Our American alligator, Masai giraffe herd and walk-through bird Aviary are back on exhibit! Our Aldabra tortoises will be on exhibit once it warms up a bit more.



April 27th was Rico, our male Jaguar's 5th birthday! Rico is an important part of the jaguar species survival program, which researches and maintains a population of threatened wildlife across all Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) facilities.

## New to TBZ:

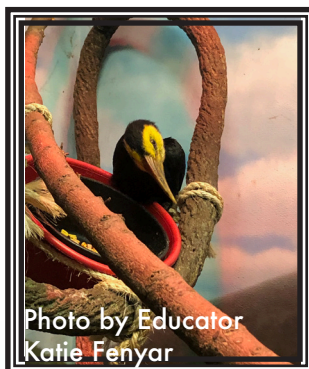
### Toco Toucan

(*Ramphastos toco*): Avian species

**Where to see them:** Reptile House

**Habitat:** Forests, shrubland, and savannah habitat in S. America, primarily south of Brazil

**Fun Fact:** Their lightweight beaks contain air pockets to reduce body temperature.



### Sulawesi Hornbill

(*Rhabdotorrhinus exarhatus*): Avian species

**Where to see them:** Reptile House

**Habitat:** Forests of Indonesia

**Fun Fact:** Their name is inspired by their curved beak, which looks like a horn.

### Pine Martin

(*Martes martes*): Mustelid species

**Where to see them:** main path across from Amazing Asia

**Habitat:** Forests and shrublands across Europe

**Fun Fact:** this species nearly went extinct in the 1900's, but has since rebounded



TBZ's train and main entrance were recently renovated, featuring a new train house and an entire new entrance. It is open again for the season!



# Experience From A Volunteer

by Hannah Winter

We're pleased to introduce an article from Hannah Winter, a graduate of Turtle Back Zoo's VolunTEEN program. Hannah published this piece to earn her cord for the National English Honor Society and is a valued member of our zoo community. TBZ wishes her the best as she begins her college education at Drew University this fall!

Each year, Essex County Turtle Back Zoo hosts week-long summer camps available for ages 5-14. I attended zoo camp for 3 summers during my childhood, and grew to love it so much that I decided to dedicate all 4 of my high school summers, and 485 service hours, to helping with the program!

The zoo camp is a wonderful opportunity for both campers and VolunTEENS! It fulfills the expectations of typical summer camps through its fun activities for the campers, but also provides learning opportunities that encourage them to appreciate animals, our environment, and conservation to a new extent. One of the most amazing opportunities provided to the campers is the daily classroom animal visits. Each day, education animals, such as roosters, owls, snakes, porcupines, rabbits, bearded dragons, and of course, turtles, are brought into the classroom and taught about.

Occasionally, even regular zoo animals, such as a penguin or the sloth, visit the campers!

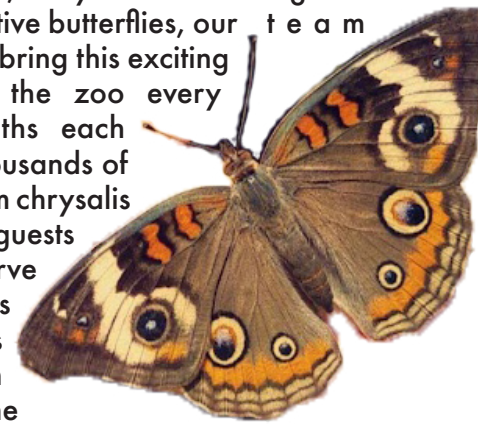
Campers are often allowed behind the scenes looks at the zoo and its exhibits. Possibly my favorite memory as a VolunTEEN was when my camp group was given a tour of the animal hospital and witnessed one of the zoo's cougars undergoing its annual checkup! Another amazing experience was when my camp group placed food around the giraffe exhibit for them to find. The camp definitely provides amazing opportunities for the campers, and is definitely worth the experience!



## Butterfly Exhibit Opening Soon!

by Horticulturist Deborah MacEvoy

Our amazing Horticulture team has been busy working on our Butterfly Exhibit that opens on Memorial Day weekend, May 31st! Featuring over 400 plants and 1000 native butterflies, our team puts in 100's of hours to bring this exciting seasonal attraction to the zoo every summer. For two months each year they hand raise thousands of butterflies and moths from chrysalis and cocoons to give guests an opportunity to observe these graceful pollinators up close. Watch as butterflies emerge from their chrysalis or see the mysterious nocturnal Luna moth on your relaxing stroll through the 90' exhibit.



Entrance to the butterfly exhibit is \$2 per person; all proceeds are donated to the Zoological Society of New Jersey.





# SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE WILD ANIMALS AT 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](http://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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