

ESSEX COUNTY
TURTLE BACK



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

Turtle TALK

Spring 2020

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Photo of the Season!

Zoo Guest Jake Danishevsky

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



Home School Programs

Select Wednesdays, February - May @10am - 12pm
Turtle Back Zoo is an amazing classroom! This new program offers homeschooled students ages 8-11 the opportunity to participate in environmental stewardship and explore the amazing Earth we share. Program includes zoo tours (weather permitting) and animal presentations. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/38CWkfw>.

Out of School at the Zoo: Zoo Club

Multiple Dates Through May @3pm - 7pm
Animals after school? That's cool! Our new afterschool program offers students grades 1 - 5 the opportunity to explore environmental stewardship through themed programming, zoo tours and hikes, animal presentations, and more! Learn more here: <http://bit.ly/2B1QOUZ>.

Valentine's Day Date Night

Saturday, February 22 @6pm - 10pm
Back for its fourth year in a row! Looking for something different to do for a fun night out? Join our staff for an academic, but cheeky, discussion of the "birds and the bees" at the Zoo! Includes zoo tours and dinner. Must be 21 or older; learn more: <https://bit.ly/30ZcPQa>.

Multigenerational Camp

Saturday, March 14 @9am - 4pm
Whether you're a cub or the leader of your pack, bring your favorite young person to our first ever multigenerational camp! Join us for Behind the Scenes Tours, lessons, animal presentations, and more! For ages 5+, stay tuned: <http://bit.ly/2vmMAEd>.



Summer Camp

July through the first week of September
Looking for summer plans? Look no further than our summer camp! Week-long camps for ages 5-14; includes science experiments, zoo tours, animal presentations, and more! Member's registration opens Saturday, March 14th, general registration opens Saturday, March 28th. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2GvNm70>.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Select Dates February through June @12pm
Join us for our educational tours! Go behind-the-scenes with our educators and keepers to learn about unique zoo careers and meet our residents. Tours include BTS Giraffe Tours (Saturday and Sundays @12pm, February-March). Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2RF2FA4>.

Nature Adventurers

Every 2nd Sunday starting in March
Nature Adventurers is back for spring! Explore the South Mountain reservation on this guided hike, but with a twist! Join our Nature play guide to solve a quest on our journey, don't forget your hiking boots! Learn more: <http://bit.ly/38zOu64>.

Explorers, Hatchlings, and Tots

Multiple Dates in Spring
Registration is open for Spring Hatchlings (6-24 months + caregiver), Tots (2-3 years + caregiver), and Explorers (4-5 years, no caregiver). Our educators introduce young learners to nature through play, stories, and animal presentations. Learn more: <http://bit.ly/2NLW5J>.

Spring Break Mini Camps

April 8-10, 13-15
TBZ's WILD! Join us for our spring break mini-camp, themed "Where the Wild Things Live" to take a walk on the wild side! Camp includes games, stories, animal presentations, zoo tours, and more. Stay tuned: <http://bit.ly/2GvNm70>.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

by Educator Jared Moloshok

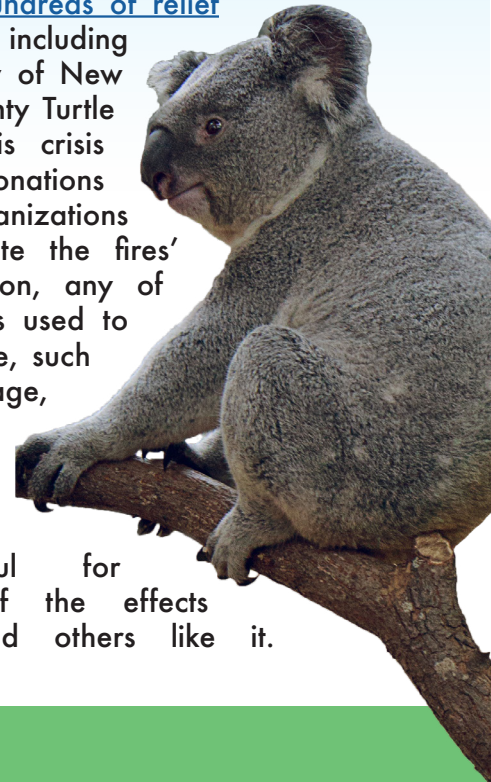
While bushfires in Australia are an annual event, since June 2019 there have been an unusually large number of fires along the eastern and southern parts of the continent. Thought to have been extended in part by the effects of climate change, the fires have destroyed over 72,000 square miles of land, and claimed the lives of 34 people and up to 1.25 billion animals – experts fear that the fires may drive some endangered species to extinction. More ominously still, plumes of black carbon produced by the blazes have spread over 7000 miles across the Pacific,

reaching countries like New Zealand, Chile, and Argentina. As black carbon is both hazardous to human health



and a major cause of climate change, the fires in Australia are now having an effect that extends well beyond the continent.

In response, [hundreds of relief efforts](#) have sprung up, including the Zoological Society of New Jersey and Essex County Turtle Back Zoo. While this crisis is ongoing, any donations made to these organizations could help to mitigate the fires' devastation. In addition, any of the everyday methods used to combat climate change, such as mindful energy usage, [calculating one's carbon footprint](#), or even planting additional trees, could be helpful for diminishing some of the effects of this disaster and others like it.



Members Only Events

If you are a member of the Zoological Society of New Jersey at Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, please join us at our upcoming Members Only events! You must bring a valid membership card and ID for entry. Please see the schedule below:

Member Mornings:

Enjoy the Zoo one hour before opening.

9am - 10am

Saturday, April 11

Saturday, May 16

Saturday, July 11

Sunday, August 9

Member Late Night:

Enjoy the Zoo one hour after closing.

5pm - 6pm

Saturday, September 19

Members
only



POST SEASON RECAP

Winter & MLK Mini-camps - Our mini-campers spent this Christmas break learning how animals have influenced myths & legends around the world – docent Randy Keenan showed off her extensive gallery of animal iconography in cultural legends, while campers made a “quilt” of their own. On Martin Luther King Day, campers found out how our Zoo animals spend their winters. Special visitors to the programs included Rasputin the red-tail boa, Pineapple the baby alligator, Acuri the Hyacinth macaw, Coral the skunk, and Mosi the penguin chick! All of our campers were well-prepared for winter themselves, bringing along their favorite human preparations: hats, jackets, scarves, and boots.

Behind the Scenes: Giraffe Tours - Guests took a look ‘on the other side’ as they joined our educators and keepers for behind-the-scenes giraffe tours. A lot more than meets the eye goes into animal care; from hoof trimming to annual medical checkups, daily care and more, our staff do it all. Many of our guests made memorable connections with our barn residents, which include Masai giraffe, hornbills, and our favorite bontebok, who is known for sniffing hands!



Holiday Lights & Storytime w/ Mrs. Claus - How festive! Our educators donned their holiday attire to welcome Mrs. Claus for a special storytime. Mrs. Claus shared her favorite stories about NJ-native wildlife with all the good families who came to the zoo. Cookies, hot cocoa, coffee, and a special visit from our animal ambassadors made our eyes twinkle with delight!

Gibbon Breakfast - The guests at our Gibbon Breakfast swung into a fascinating lesson about the world of primates and how to protect them, while enjoying breakfast in the process! Afterwards, they watched our gibbon family play with the enrichment items made during the breakfast.

Nature Adventurers - Nature Adventurers visited the trails around Turtle Back Rock, learned how animals prepared for winter, and got to build a shelter of their own! This program takes guests out and around the South Mountain Reservoir to explore the amazing classroom that nature provides.



D O N O R SPOTLIGHT

When did you start coming to the Zoo?

I first visited the Zoo in 2015 when we had family visiting while I was pregnant with my twins. It was a great opportunity to visit a smaller zoo and have a more intimate experience compared to larger zoos that can be overwhelming. Turtle Back is more accessible and very accommodating for families especially with younger children. It was shortly after this visit we joined as members. The membership is key! It's cost effective and you can visit for an hour or spend the day and there's free parking!

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

Even though it's a little smelly, the new penguin exhibit is my favorite. The different levels give you the opportunity to see the animals up close swimming and feeding.

How has the Zoo changed since your first visit?

There have been huge changes! First was the Africa Adventures path with the giraffe house, then the lion and hyena exhibit. The flamingo exhibit was probably the most recent addition and the train line has been rerouted and is really fun! The carousel is another highlight and cost effective.

What interests you most about our organization and why?

I really like that good educational programming is available and there is a focus on advocacy to educate the public about the animals and conservation. It's great for children to learn to take care of animals and respect the planet. The Zoo is fun because you're not just looking, you're learning. The docents are wonderful, passionate teachers who help educate all visitors.



Eva Zorad (left) and Valerie Corbin (right) of Bonhomie Wine Imports.

What would you like to pass on to future generations?

Educational programming and the welfare of animals for future generations is key. Being a Society member, I understand maintaining the Zoo facility is a hard balance, but additional education for the public to better understand why the animals are at the zoo with the focus on conservation would be helpful.

What are your dreams for the Zoo and the Society?

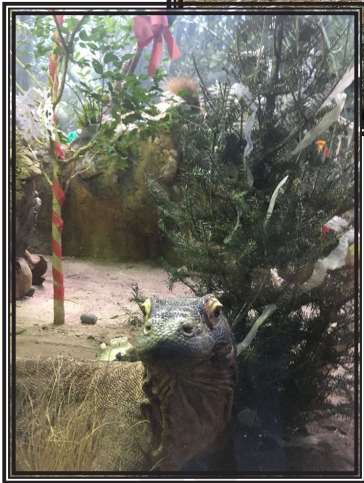
I would like to continue with education about the zoo and the animals. I think more information about the Society for visitors to learn about all the wonderful things that happen at the zoo will help change some people's perception about zoos.

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

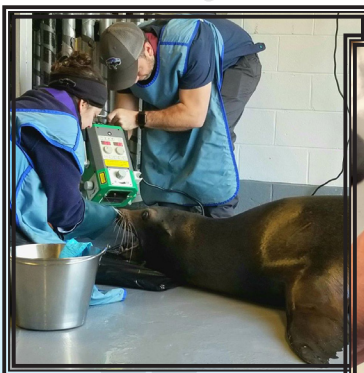
If you would like to be considered for our donor and member spotlight, please contact bderose@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org.

ZOO NEWS

Thank you to all who donated Christmas trees to TBZ, our animals are loving them!



JR, our 29 year old sea lion, recently passed his yearly exam with flying colors! Like humans, sea lions can develop dental problems later in life, so voluntary participation in their care is crucial. JR participates in his healthcare by letting our veterinarian touch his eye to check his eye pressure, which is vital for diving, and remains still for dental x-rays. Sea lions normally live into their teens, but under human care, they often live into their twenties and even thirties!



Here's what you've all been waiting for, the Dolly Parton Challenge, starring Acuri the Hyacinth macaw! Tropical Rainforests are home to around 80% of all species on earth, yet only cover about 6% of Earth's surface, you can take action by recycling paper and spreading the word about our amazing rainforests.



New to TBZ:

Kunekune Pigs - One does not simply visit Essex Farm without visiting our pigs! Come to the barn to meet our newest barnyard residents, Frodo, Samwise, Rosie Cotton, and Bilbo. With the addition of this litter, we officially have our own fellowship of Kunekune pigs!



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