On Saturday, June 27th, Zoobilee 2015 raised over $280,000 to support Roger Williams Park Zoo’s education and conservation programs.

We gratefully thank our sponsors, volunteers and party guests:

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**Thank you to our Zoobilee 2015 Food & Beverage Providers**

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Rick’s Roadhouse (Part of Chow Fun Food Group)
The Sconette Company*

Spicy Penguin*
Starbucks Coffee Company
Sweet Indulgence
Texas Roadhouse
Tito’s*
Trinity Brewhouse**
Union Station Brewery**
Uno Pizzeria and Grill

*Denotes a Hope and Main Company
**20 year participant
The nationally acclaimed Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular presented by Citizens Bank will return with nightly showings of this autumn tradition. Last year this important Zoo fundraiser drew over 125,000 people from all over the county and the world, providing much needed support for animal care, education and conservation programs, and Zoo improvements. One 2014 visitor called it “Autumnal Bliss!” and another said “A fabulous night of gorgeous artistry!” This year’s show, “The People’s Choice,” will feature visitors’ favorite intricately carved artworks from the past 27 years of shows, with new lighting effects and of course, the “Laughing Tree” grand finale with its spooky fog, iconic beat and laughter.

RWP Zoo members receive $2 off adult admission and $1 off child admission for individuals included in the membership. For complete event details, hours, ticket prices and other information, visit rwpzoo.org.
In order to be a truly great institution, you must have a plan for the future. Roger Williams Park Zoo has been around since 1872 when it was a far different place, spread throughout the Park. While all zoos must constantly evolve to meet changing visitor needs and standards, we also aim to achieve consistent growth to ensure that we continue to be New England’s great zoo for many years to come.

We recently completed a new master plan that was developed from over a year’s worth of staff input, public surveys and analysis of national and international trends in the industry. It calls for exciting new animal exhibits, improved dining options and pedestrian flow, additional restrooms located in key areas, more parking spaces, improvements to meet standards for people with disabilities, high end rental facilities and event space, and more experiential features for our guests.

Zoo staff and our Board believe in everything we put in the new plan and we strongly believe it is achievable. We are fortunate that the voters of Rhode Island overwhelmingly supported the Yes on 7 campaign. As a result, the $15 million approved for Roger Williams Park Zoo provides a great foundation for the total $25 million needed to complete all of the projects in the first seven year phase of the plan. Design for our first project, an exciting new Rainforest, has begun and we expect to begin construction next summer. I hope you are as excited as I am as we build our new zoo together.

Hope to see you here real soon!

Jeremy Goodman, DVM  
Executive Director, RWP Zoo and RI Zoological Society

Working to save highly endangered species here in Rhode Island and across the globe is a major focus in our conservation work. Last year, we signed on in support of 96 Elephants, a worldwide campaign started by the Wildlife Conservation Society to help raise public awareness of the increased rate of African elephant poaching.

In 1980 there were 1.2 million elephants in Africa. By 2012, only 420,000 remained. If allowed to continue at its current rate of 96 elephants killed every day, the world will see the end of this magnificent species in our children’s lifetime. Equally critical is the rate of killing rhinoceros for their horns. The fact is, sales of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn bring millions of dollars to the criminals who ruthlessly harvest them. Though there are federal laws restricting import, export and interstate sale of ivory, this has not been enough to stop the killing. Several states have passed laws to ban the sale of elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn, and products made from those animal parts.

How you can help
A bill introduced in the 2015 Rhode Island legislative session generated valuable discussion. Some individuals were concerned about the impact this bill might have on museums and antique dealers. Because ownership of these items would not be outlawed, only their sale, and because whale ivory is not included in this bill, this legislation would have minimal affect in these areas. By significantly reducing the market for these products, we can begin to eliminate the monetary value of the ivory and horns on living creatures. That is what will ultimately save them from certain extinction.

As a part of our commitment to the 96 Elephants campaign we ask for your help now in getting the message to our legislators that we all care about this issue and want a bill passed in 2016 banning the sale of ivory in the state of Rhode Island. Please add your name to the petition for a Rhode Island Ivory Bill today at rwpzoo.org/save-elephants.
A 5 year old **white-cheeked female gibbon** from Nashville Zoo arrived to join our male, Ba Hee in their exhibit on the Wilderness Plaza. Her name is Aranel (elvish for Princess), and we call her Ari for short.

**Prehensile tailed skinks**, Wedge and Solomon, now live inside the Australasia building, while up in the Alex and Ani Farmyard, four giant Fleming rabbits have joined the collection beside the Farmhouse.

Two new **female river otters** from Prospect Park Zoo now reside on the pathway behind Australasia. Nkeke and Mishontoo are one and a half years old, and they are enjoying their wooded enclosure and entertaining visitors in their swimming pool with the glass wall.

**Thinking about the holidays?**

**FIERCE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS:**

- A year full of fun with a gift membership
- Priceless memories with day passes, or certificates for animal encounters
- A just-right token of love from our gift shop, such as the Alex and Ani Charity by Design “Ode to the Owl” bangle.

**FIERCE HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS:**

**Wild Party Places**

Whether at the Zoo or the Carousel, we’ve got the perfect location for your holiday fun! Contact gsales@rwpzoo.org for details.