IT’S TRIPLETS!

INSIDE:

► BECOME A FACE OF THE RAINFOREST
► WHAT DO ANIMALS AT THE ZOO EAT?
► TIPS FOR A GREAT SCHOOL VACATION VISIT
The next time you visit your Zoo don’t just look at the animals – take a close look at everything around the animals as well. Notice the toys in the exhibits. Observe the types of furnishings in the animals’ habitats. Witness the skilled staff interacting with the creatures they so passionately care for. Take in all of the support facilities like our state-of-the-art veterinary hospital and incredible team that together keep our animals healthy and happy. That team includes not only animal care and veterinary staff, but also an operations staff that is on call 24/7, a behavioral specialist, an enrichment coordinator, a life support specialist, and professionals overseeing diet and nutrition, just to name a few.

Roger Williams Park Zoo has proudly been accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums for more than a quarter century. That means that our Zoo is one of the top 10% of zoos and aquariums in the country and meets the rigorous standards of the association in animal care, conservation, education, and the visitor experience. So when you next visit your Zoo, be very proud of the way that we treat our animals and stop to take notice all of the little things that go into making that happen.

I look forward to seeing you at the Zoo.

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EVER WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO WORK AT A ZOO?

If you have a passion for animals and the environment, and enjoy being around people who share your excitement, Roger Williams Park Zoo may just be right for you!

CAREERS:
- Our Big Backyard Safety & Play Specialist
- Group Sales Coordinator
- ZooCamp Inclusion Specialist
- ZooCamp Conservation Heroes Lead Counselor
- Wild Bunch Animal Ambassador
- Seasonal Horticulturalist
- Seasonal Building & Grounds
- ZooCamp Conservation Heroes Counselor
- ZooCamp Counselor
- ZooCamp Junior Counselor
- Wild Bunch Exhibit Staff

INTERNSHIPS:
- Conservation Internship

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:
- Zoo Crew (Students in grades 7-12)
- Events Volunteer (Ages 18+)
- Play Partner (Age 16+)

INTERESTED IN APPLYING?
Please visit rwpzoo.org/about-us/careers for more information.
Roger Williams Park Zoo is pleased to announce the birth of three – one male and two female – North American river otters to mother Mishi and father Clyde. The pups were born on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

“This had been a long time coming,” stated animal keeper, Matt Fugate. “North American River Otters experience a delay in implantation of 8 to 10 months, so we did not know for certain that Mishi was pregnant until a fetus was seen during an ultrasound exam on January 24th. That’s roughly 11 months after the last time Mishi and Clyde were observed breeding.”

After several days of observations, the pups had a physical exam – checking their overall healthy appearance, weight, and gender. It is always preferable for Zoo staff to stay as hands-off as possible, as long as the mother is tending to the care of her offspring. Mishi is a first-time mom and she is giving her young lots of love and affection.

As with any Zoo birth, there are special arrangements to keep new mom and pups comfortable and allow them to thrive during this crucial stage of their development. A visual/contact barrier is in place between Mishi and Clyde’s stalls, and a few husbandry modifications allow keepers to manage Mishi and Clyde separately until the pups are ready to meet dad. Clyde will begin to spend time with his pups once the little ones learn to swim. Often times the new dad will take on the role of playmate, joining the pups on daily swims.

These spirited triplets have more growing up to do. River otters are very intelligent and curious animals known for their great sense of smell, hearing, and natural swimming ability. Pups wean by three or four months, and usually stay with mom for almost a full year. They will start to walk at five/six weeks, begin eating solid foods and start learning to swim at six to eight weeks, and become swimming aficionados around three months.

Zoo visitors can continue to visit with father Clyde on exhibit, but will not be able to see Mishi or the pups until the week of April 29.

**Did You Know?**

River otters’ whiskers detect movement in the water, tipping them off to fish and other prey.
In the last issue of WILD Magazine, our readers learned about the new animals that will be in our Faces of the Rainforest space as well as choices anyone could make to help the rainforests survive. Now, we want to take you behind the scenes and discuss some of the great features in the new exhibit.

Our dynamic state-of-the-art exhibit will bring a completely new level of interaction for guests. Faces of the Rainforest is creating an atmosphere that comes alive. Guests won’t just walk through a structure with animals; instead, they will witness an open concept design with technological advancements. As we conceptualized the structure and began the design, we visualized the perfect space for all our animals. That means we knew which key species, including giant otters, black howler monkeys, and two-toed sloths, would be coming to our Zoo before any design of the building even started! So let’s go behind the scenes and see what is there...

One of the key building components guests will see is actually right in plain view – the giant triangle of glass. This glass allows UV light to go through it (normal glass blocks UV rays), which is critical for the health of all of the live plants in the space and important for the health of our animals. Just like us, our monkeys need UV light to metabolize vitamin D. You may notice that it appears opaque – that is for the safety of both our birds inside the Rainforest and the wild birds outside. This marking on the glass makes it visible to birds in a way that regular glass does not. That means no birds will be flying into the glass and getting hurt.

What about some of the elements you cannot see – like the series of enclosures on the second floor next to the primate exhibit? We will use this system of enclosed spaces to help us care for all of the free-roaming animals in our aviary. It will allow keepers to make sure our animals are eating the correct diets (the monkeys like to steal the diets of other animals), routinely weigh our animals, easily catch them for trips to the vet, and introduce new animals to the space. Why is it up high? Most of our birds as well as our two species of free-roaming primates are arboreal – that means they live up in the trees. This caging area is up high, exactly where they feel the safest, instead of floor-level where they could feel vulnerable.

The giant otters have many features specifically designed for them including a special coating on the floor to protect their feet, lots of dirt to dig in, and windows along the back wall of the building so the otters have natural light. A separate food prep area in the main kitchen of the building (including a sink, table and fridge) will allow us to prepare diets of the other animals in the same place where we will prep the yucky fish.

Our much-loved giant anteaters will have two separate holding areas located on opposite sides of the exhibit. This is for flexibility during the breeding season when the female and her offspring require separate housing from the male. It will allow for all the animals to alternate time on exhibit, but still live quietly in two separate spaces.

After working with an entire team of artists, animal experts, architects, builders and the whole Zoo staff – we cannot wait to be able to move our animals into this amazing new space! Moreover, we are looking forward to seeing all of our members and guests share our excitement when we open the Rainforest this summer.

PJ Jones is the animal care manager at Roger Williams Park Zoo. Lynne McLain is the manager of interpretations & graphics at the Roger Williams Park Zoo.
Opening this summer at Roger Williams Park Zoo, the new rainforest exhibit will educate your community on how the many faces of the rainforest all play a role in sustainability - from animals, to native peoples, modern industry, and YOU!

As a rainforest supporter and donor, you will be one of the first invited to experience the exhibit and your name will be included on the donor wall, joining the growing list of individuals who are committed to helping our environment and the rainforest.*

So don’t delay! Add your name or your family’s name to the wall and be a face of the Rainforest.

*Please note, gifts of $250 or more will be recognized on the rainforest donor wall. All contributions, no matter the size, are greatly appreciated.
A quick glance into the commissary at Roger Williams Park Zoo and the casual observer would be impressed with the fruits and vegetables being prepared, and even speculate the staff was enjoying healthy and delicious lunches. Look more carefully and chat with the commissary staff, and you surprisingly learn that all the food preparation is for the animals in the Zoo.

Dr. Michael McBride, director of veterinary services at Roger Williams Park Zoo, develops the appropriate diet for every animal based on species, age, and size. "I work in conjunction with the animal keepers and Dr. Kim Wojick, an associate veterinarian on staff. I need to make sure that the diet I recommend provides each animal proper nutrition, and is safe and palatable for the animals. Every animal, like every human, has an ideal body weight, and like humans, that ideal weight may vary from animal to animal." As a result, Dr. McBride, Dr. Wojick, as well as the deputy director of animal programs Tim French and the keepers, determine the optimal weight for each animal, and then design appropriate diets.

Dr. McBride does explain that because some of the animals interacting with guests end up getting treats they should not, that the animal often rebuffs the appropriate diet. The goats, otters, and giraffe somehow get treats, especially in the summer, as guests visit. These "treats" can be detrimental to the health of the animal.

Once Dr. McBride submits the diet for each animal, the two-person commissary staff prepares the food each day. PJ Jones, animal care manager, says, "We follow the same guidelines, in our kitchen, regarding the temperature of food and sanitation as do restaurant kitchens serving food to humans. We check the temperature in the refrigerator and freezer two times a day; we never freeze food, thaw the food and re-freeze, and like a restaurant, have strict quality control."

"While the guidelines for the commissary are the same at restaurants," says Jones, "once you get past the fruits, grains and some meat – and look more closely you will see food humans generally do not consume including crickets, mice, and rats. The rodents, mice and other items in that category come from companies that specialize in food for animals. Companies raise the rodents specifically as feed so they are disease free and nutritious. The produce, however, is of the same quality found in any supermarket. The produce delivery is two times weekly."

Both McBride and Jones explain that during animal training the keepers may use special treats. For instance, Riley the Linne’s two-toed sloth responds to scrambled eggs, while other animals love dried fruits. It is always a matter of finding a balance between what is good for the animal, and what they enjoy eating.

The commissary is not in an area guests regularly visit, but is instead in a staff-only section of the Zoo. Later this year, thanks to a generous donor, the Zoo will have a new spacious commissary located behind the current Meller-Danforth Education Center to accommodate the growing population of animals calling Roger Williams Park Zoo home. Bon Appétit!
**WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE ZOO AND CAROUSEL VILLAGE**

**APRIL**

- Rock-A-Baby Concert: April 7
- Party for the Planet: April 16 – 20
- Zoo Camp: April 16 – 20
  Includes: Tadpole Academy and Spring Adventures

**MAY**

- Rock-A-Baby Concert: May 5
- Bronx Zoo Day Trip: May 12
- Mascot Meet and Greet Day at the Zoo: May 19
- Scout Safari Night: May 19
- Scout Safari Snore & Roar: May 19 – 20

**JUNE**

- ZooCamp: Monday – Friday June 18 – 29
- Zoobilee: Saturday, June 30

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**SUGGESTIONS FOR A GREAT VISIT TO ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO**

**WE ARE EXCITED TO WELCOME MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS FOR APRIL SCHOOL VACATION WEEK!**

**HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON HOW TO ENJOY THE ZOO DURING THIS BUSY TIME OF YEAR:**

- **For fastest entry**, members should have their active membership card and matching photo ID in hand when they arrive.
- **Still without a membership card?** Show a receipt or confirmation email with matching ID for express entry.
- **Once on-site, staff will direct you to our members-only express entrance.**
- **Renew online** beforehand for speedier entry on high volume days!
- **Need to buy a ticket?** Pre-purchase Zoo tickets online beforehand for faster entry.
- **Adjust your membership ahead of time** to avoid delays. Need to upgrade a membership, appoint a caregiver, or order a replacement card? Call the Zoo’s membership department at (401) 785-3510 ext. 375 before you plan to visit. Be sure to ask for a confirmation email to present to Admissions staff with a matching photo ID.
- **Come early!** The Zoo opens at 10:00 am, though lines start forming as early as 9:30 am.
- **Come later!** Crowds are often lighter in the afternoon.
- **Download the free mobile app** for Roger Williams Park Zoo. Enhance your visitor experience with an interactive map of the Zoo; receive updates on special events, exhibits, animals, and more right at your fingertips.
- **Finish your day at Carousel Village** (open daily 11 am – 6 pm), members get a discount on Carousel ticket packages.

**If you are not a member - JOIN TODAY!**

Members receive free daytime Zoo admission, discounts on popular events (like the beloved Jack-o-Lantern Spectacular, presented by Citizens Bank) and express entry during peak times.

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**MAKE YOUR CHILD’S BIRTHDAY EXTRAORDINARY!**

**PLAN YOUR CHILD’S BIRTHDAY BASH AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO OR CAROUSEL VILLAGE. WE CAN HELP PLAN A PARTY THAT FITS ANY PERSONALITY.**

Contact GSales@rwpzoo.org
**DIY PINECONE BIRD FEEDER**

Grab the kiddos and get outside with this fun and interactive craft project. These super simple pinecone bird feeders are a great way to use natural resources and make something nice and delicious for our feathered friends this spring!

**What you need:**
- Pinecone
- String/Twine
- Mixed bird seed
- Peanut butter

**Follow these easy steps:**
1. Tie your string onto your pinecone.
2. Now the fun (and kinda' messy) part – spread the peanut butter onto your pinecone bird feeder, filling in all the gaps.
3. Once completely coated, roll your peanut buttery pinecone in the bird seeds – making sure it’s nice and compact.
4. And presto – your pinecone bird feeder is done! Before you know it, your new feeder will be the talk of the trees, and because they are so quick and easy to make, as soon as all the treats have been eaten off one cone, hang another for their hungry appetites!

**Try this:**
- While you’re on the backyard hunt for pinecones, see what other natural items you can find – rocks, acorns, shells, leaves – and bring them to Nature Swap located within Roger Williams Park Zoo’s “Our Big Backyard.” Bring in your found items to collect points toward swapping for items in our collection like fossils, antlers, and pressed plants!
Saturday, June 30, 2018 • 7-11 pm*

at Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, RI

feast on food and beverages prepared by 50+ restaurants and caterers and Zoobilee’s own ZOOTINI Bar!

bid on valuable and exciting silent auction packages online at biddingforgood.com/rwpzooauction/2018

groove to the music of World Premiere Band

Member tickets: $100  •  Non-member tickets: $125
rwpzoo.org  •  401-941-3910 x453
*VIP early admission 6 pm  Zoobilee is a 21+ event