In this edition of WILD Magazine, we are featuring the Zoo’s incredible animals from North America. These animals include some of the rarest animals on the planet such as the red wolf, as well as numerous conservation success stories like the bison and bald eagle. Your Zoo is very proud to be helping all of these species, and working hard to make sure they never disappear from our planet.

The Roger Williams Park Zoo supports conservation programs and research initiatives helping wild animals around the globe through our Sophie Danforth Biology grants. However, the vast majority of fieldwork that we undertake is with local threatened wildlife from New England. We firmly believe that conservation needs to begin in our own backyard. In this vain, we encourage everyone to get involved with a local conservation program. In the upcoming pages, you will read about opportunities to learn how you can plant a pollinator garden to help critical species thrive in your own backyard.

In addition to the animals that we directly help, your Zoo is also very involved in working to help the environment. We are collaborating with the Rhode Island Hospitality Association to encourage bars and restaurants throughout the state to refrain from providing a plastic straw with every drink they serve; and instead use alternatives such as biodegradable paper straws when a patron requests a straw. The next time you visit a restaurant, tell your server you do not need a straw. If they are a straw free establishment express your appreciation for their actions. Your local steps can make a huge difference when we all work together. In other efforts to help eliminate plastics from our environment, the Zoo is encouraging its visitors to use options other than plastic water bottles to stay hydrated. We now sell water in aluminum cans as an option. Aluminum is a much better material than plastic and can be completely recycled. Even better, pick up a stylish reusable water bottle in any one of our gift shops. Part of your purchase goes to helping our animals and it is not only a great way to show your support for your Zoo, but it helps our planet. The Zoo will be installing new water fountains with bottle fillers in several locations this year to help make it easier for you to do your part.

The issues of plastic pollution and species extinction can seem like daunting problems that are too big and complicated to resolve. As you will see on the upcoming pages, we have tackled these issues and succeeded in the past. Together we can work to succeed again in the future.

As always, I look forward to seeing you at the Zoo!
In the United States, there is no greater conservation comeback story than the bald eagle. Known for its majestic beauty and strength, the bald eagle has been a symbol of America since 1782 when it became the national emblem.

An estimated 500,000 bald eagles soared the skies of North America during the 18th century. Unfortunately, as time followed, these numbers began to diminish due to hunting and habitat loss. By 1940, a law was created, now known as the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, making the killing of bald eagles illegal. Nonetheless an even greater threat lurked within the shadows. Soon DDT - an insecticide with widespread use - was developed and introduced to the public.

Over the next two decades, the eagle's populations plummeted. By the mid-1950s, less than 500 nesting pairs of bald eagles remained. The widespread effectiveness of DDT created a boost in popularity, while its adverse side effects on wildlife and the environment became apparent. As DDT residue would wash off agricultural fields and into aquatic ecosystems, the pesticide worked its way up the food chain. Soon bald eagles and other large predatory animals across the country were eating contaminated fish. Chemicals from DDT caused the bald eagles to lay eggs with brittle shells so thin that they did not survive.

Facing the very near demise of the national symbol of the United States, the bald eagle joined the Endangered Species list in 1967. With continued habitat loss and DDT poisoning, the Environmental Protection Agency sprang into action and in 1972 the United States banned the use of DDT.

Thanks to the ban, the bald eagle set forth on its long road to recovery. By the 1990s, eagle populations soared to more than 5,000 breeding pairs. Finally in 2007, after a supportive effort from numerous conservation initiatives from around the nation, the bald eagle was removed from the Endangered Species list.

The bald eagle has seen a remarkable population rebound, as stringent protections continue to exist today. While the fight for freedom continues - due to the ever present threat of human encroachment on habitat and the introduction of new toxins- we can be proud of the concerted effort that has brought back our national emblem from the brink of extinction.

The Roger Williams Park Zoo is home to three rehabilitated bald eagles – each unable to be released back into the wild as a result of wing injuries leaving them unable to fly. The Zoo’s bald eagles are animal ambassadors for their species and teach visitors about the importance of conservation.

Did you know?

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Fun Fact

The bald eagle can be found in every state in North America, except for Hawaii.
SYMBOLOF THE AMERICAN WEST

AMERICAN BISON DRIVEN TO THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION

It’s the year 1800 and some 50 million American bison free-roam the Great Plains and much of North America. Fast forward to the year 1880, and less than 1,000 wild bison remain. A largely celebrated symbol of the American West, the species was driven to the near brink of extinction due to unregulated hunting, wholesale slaughter, and habitat destruction.

Populations’ completely decimated, no other species on Earth had ever declined so quickly. As a result, in 1905 the American Bison Society (ABS) was formed at New York’s Bronx Zoo. Founded by conservationist and sportsman, William T. Hornaday and US President Theodore Roosevelt, the society was created to protect bison from the grasp of extinction and raise public awareness.

ABS took on the conservation initiative to restore populations by breeding wild bison in captivity and releasing them in their natural habitat. The original offspring of these bison were distributed to Wind Cave National Park, where thousands of their relatives roam today.

At present, approximately 400,000 commercial bison herds live across the United States where they are raised for their meat. Although their numbers have rebounded somewhat, the wild bison population is now less than one percent of what it once was. Today North America is home to fewer than 30,000 wild bison in conservation herds.

The continued survival of these wild herd populations is affected by numerous factors, including loss of habitat, disease, and hunting. Thanks to the work of the World Wildlife Foundation and several Native American tribes, conservation initiatives continue to work hard to save the American bison.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Roger Williams Park Zoo is home to three female American bison: Clementine, Thelma and Nutmeg.

FUN FACT
In 2015, the 114th U.S. Congress passed and US President Obama signed the National Bison Legacy Act, adopting the American bison as the national mammal of the United States.

DONATE NOW AND JOIN US IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE AS A FACE OF THE RAINFOREST
The wild turkey is a recognizable bird seen roaming through backyards and on the sides of roads, and a close relative to the bird that may grace your Thanksgiving table. Today estimates are that more than six million wild turkeys in the United States inhabit close to 715 million acres. Yet, this same species was once almost extinct!

In the early 1900s, wild turkeys were nearly wiped out due to hunting, habitat destruction, and widespread logging. By the early 1930s, the bird hit its lowest recorded number nationwide with only about 30,000 left in the wild. At that time, no game laws existed to prevent overhunting; meanwhile hundreds of acres of forests were cleared to make way for logging and agriculture.

As the population numbers continued to plummet, in many states, the bird vanished entirely. Luckily, thanks to efforts of conservationists and groups like the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), turkey numbers were able to make a rebound. Working closely with state and federal agencies, conservation initiatives were put in place to ensure a full restoration of the bird species.

Implementation of hunting seasons and species-specific protocols began protecting the birds from unregulated hunting. Forests that had been chopped down, began to grow back, creating habitats for turkeys and other wildlife to flourish. And with the help of NWTF, a reintroduction effort was established. By trapping and transferring turkeys throughout its native range, new flocks began to thrive in areas that had once seen significant declines.

The restoration of the wild turkey is a great success of wildlife management in America. Today and throughout history, conservationists play a vital role in the recovery of species across the country. At a time when rampant hunting and deforestation offered little hope for the turkey’s future, conservation and preservation brought the species back from the brink of extinction.

This success story proves what kind of positive impact people can have on the environment, wildlife and each other. The return of the wild turkey is a guide in restoring other wildlife. Human beings depend on nature – and by contributing to the conservation of earth’s animals, plants, and other natural resources – people are not just saving their home, but each other.

**Fun Fact**

Wild turkeys can sprint as fast as a horse and fly even faster, topping speeds of up to 55 miles per hour! They also have excellent vision, seeing three times better than that of a human.

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**Did You Know?**

A flock of wild turkeys roam alongside the pronghorn located in Roger Williams Park Zoo’s North American exhibit.
Roger Williams Park Zoo is home to many animals that are on the critically endangered and endangered species list including two red wolves, female Shiloh and male Macon. The critically endangered red wolf is a smaller, thinner cousin of the gray wolf, and is reddish in color on the head, ears, and legs, and a light tan to black on other parts of the body. Red wolves were very likely the first New World wolf species encountered by European colonists. This wolf originally inhabited much of the United States. Now confined to North Carolina, this animal has lost more of its historical territory—99.7 percent—than any other large carnivore, including lions, tigers and snow leopards. Three main issues threaten the future of this species: loss of habitat, hunting, and red wolves mating with coyotes.

As early as 1967, the red wolf appeared on the endangered species list. Now it is close to extinction due to aggressive predator-control programs, habitat destruction, and extensive hybridization with coyotes. Although there are only 40 red wolves living in the wild today, there are over 200 in captive breeding programs across the country. Numerous American zoos working with the Association of Zoos and Aquarium’s SAFE program began to breed the red wolf to save the populations. SAFE, Saving Animals From Extinction, focuses the collective expertise within accredited zoos and aquariums and leverages their massive audiences to save species. Some species exist only because of the efforts of aquariums and zoos.

Sadly as of June 27 of this year, the US Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with the US Interior Department announced it would lift some restrictions on hunting the red wolf if the animal wanders onto private land. According to an article in the Washington Post, the red wolf will be contained to the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, which supports about a dozen of the 35 red wolves that roam a five-county area in eastern North Carolina. This is the only area in the nation where the red wolf will be safe.

Red wolves, who mate for life, form a pack around a breeding pair in the wild. There may be five to eight wolves in the group most often composed of the breeding male and female and their offspring from different years. The pack is a very close family unit. The young leave the pack after one to three years to begin life on their own.

Red wolf packs have their own home range, and will fight to keep their territory. This species breeds once a year from January through March, with an average litter size of one to nine pups born between April and May. After about 10 days, the pups’ eyes open. For several weeks after this period, the other members of the pack keep a close eye on the pups, keeping them within the den until they mature.

The dens are hard to spot and could be near stream banks, downed logs, sand knolls, drainpipes and culverts. The adult pack members will range and return with food for the pups until they are strong enough to forage on their own. In the wild, red wolves typically live five to six years, and as long as 14 years in captivity.

Did You Know?
The older offspring in the pack may help the breeding male and female raise their younger siblings, and attend the den.

Fun Fact
The red wolf almost never attack humans. However, they might harm livestock and pets. This animal is very shy, but extremely sly.
WHERE THE DEER AND THE ANTELOPE (ACTUALLY PRONGHORN) PLAY

As we celebrate Independence Day and all things near and dear to us as Americans during the month of July, we must also celebrate one of this country’s most American of animals – the pronghorn. To those singing along to the state song of Kansas that begins “O give me a home…” the antelope in the song is actually the North American pronghorn also sometimes called the pronghorn antelope. In reality, the pronghorn is not a true antelope, which are “old world” animals. The antelope is related to buffalo, cattle, goats and sheep, and generally reside in Africa. North American pronghorns, who look somewhat like deer, are distinctly American and recognized due to their long horns, short tail, and long snout. This animal makes its home in the western part of the United States, and survives the tough topography of the area. The pronghorn is the fastest land animal in North America and second in swiftness to the cheetah! Males and females can run at a top speed of 55 mph for short bursts and maintain speeds of 30 mph for hours. Cheetahs may run at a faster top speed, but are unable to sustain that speed. The pronghorn, however, can sustain high speeds for miles at extended periods.

The pronghorn were first seen and described by Spanish explorers in the 16th century, but were not formally recorded or truly noticed until Lewis and Clark’s 1804–1806 expedition.

The pronghorn is a reddish-brown color, but it can also be tan or darker brown, and has white stripes on the neck and additional white markings on the face, stomach, and rump. Male and female pronghorns have a pair of short horns on the top of the head. Each “horn” of the pronghorn is composed of a slender, laterally flattened blade of bone that grows from the frontal bones of the skull, forming a permanent core. The female’s horns are small, usually only a bump. The male’s horns are around 10 to 12 inches long. They also have a unique shape, because unlike other hoofed animals, a pronghorn’s horns point backward. The horns extend straight up and then curve toward their backside. At the front of the horn is a small notch or prong that points forward, hence the animal’s name. The animal is about four and half feet long, three feet tall, and weighs between 90 - 150 pounds. Females tend to weigh less than the males. The animal has large eyes and superb vision, spotting predators from very far away, which is helpful on their flat grassland habitat.

If necessary, a pronghorn can go days without water, and will eat and thrive on plants no other grazing animal will touch - even thorny cactus. Pronghorns successfully survive both bitter cold and desert heat equally well. The pronghorn is not currently on the endangered species list. However, two things that do threaten American’s fastest runner are habitat loss from urban expansion and miles of fencing along ranches, farms, and developments. Pronghorn need wide-open spaces to forage for food – so urban sprawl minimizes food sources for these animals. Additionally, pronghorn may be great runners, but cannot jump fences. Miles of fencing along their migration routes blocks access to food and limits room to outrun predators.

When travelling, you can see pronghorn throughout Yellowstone National Park and in South Dakota and Wyoming where hundreds live and graze.

Did You Know?
At the Zoo, our pronghorn munch on grasses, alfalfa hay and herbivore chow - an enriched dried food containing many healthy nutrients. Visit them on the North American trail that leads to the Wetlands Trail – across from the bison.

Fun Fact
The pronghorn’s eyesight is that of a human only magnified eight times as if using binoculars.
**WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE ZOO AND CAROUSEL VILLAGE**

**Something Special at the Zoo**
*July 24 and August 15*
Join Mother Nature as she brings her singing puppets and global instruments to Roger Williams Park Zoo to encourage awareness of the natural world.

**Sensory Friendly Mornings in Hasbro’s Our Big Backyard**
*August - November and first Tuesday of the Month, 9:00 – 10:00 am*
Join us for an hour of nature play in Hasbro’s Our Big Backyard before the Zoo opens. Designed for families who have a child with sensory sensitivities.

**Pricing:** Regular Zoo admission ($12.95/child; $15.95/senior; $17.95/adult); Free for RWPZ members.

*Please Note: Rise & Play is free for Roger Williams Park Zoo members, but you must log into your account and pre-register!*

**Elephant Open House**
*August 12, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm*
Celebrate World Elephant Day meeting the animal keepers who work daily with the Zoo’s three African elephants, Alice, Ginny and Kate, and enjoy a tour of the Textron Elephant Barn. Tours are included in the price of admission, and are on a first come, first served basis. There are no animal interactions on the tour, and the elephants will not be in the barn during the tours. Guests may visit with the elephants after the tour in the Ivory Ella Yard.

**Touch-A-Truck**
*Saturday, September 22*
*Parking Lot at Zoo*
On your way in or out of the Zoo, stop by and enjoy a climb on a number of different working trucks.

**ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS at the Zoo**

**Harbor Seal Encounters**
Enjoy a special behind-the-scenes tour of the harbor seal exhibit, and feed the stars of the show, seals Action and Bubba!

*May 31 – September 2: Thursday/Saturday/Sunday*

*September 8 – 30: Saturdays & Sundays*
Seal Feedings $25 per participant; $20 for current RWP Zoo members. Pre-registration required.

*Please note: Participants must be 5 years or older. There are no feedings on August 25. For information and to register [www.rwpzoo.org/animal-encounters](http://www.rwpzoo.org/animal-encounters)*

**Masai Giraffe Feedings**
Tickets are available for purchase at the site of the giraffe feeding in the Fabric of Africa on a first-come, first-served basis, no advanced registration needed. Children must be age 3 or older to participate, and be accompanied by an adult. There are no feedings on Saturday, August 25.

*Through September 3: daily at 11:30 am and 2:30 pm*

*September 4-30 weekends only 11:30 am and 2:30 pm*

*Price: $5 per participant; $4 for current RWPZ members.*

**EXPLORE AND SOAR**

**Camel Rides**
Get up close this summer with our seasonal camel rides.

**Time:** Daily, weather permitting

*Price: $6; $5 for current Roger Williams Park Zoo members.*

Tickets are available for purchase at the Zoo and sold on a first-come, first-served basis. Last ticket sold at 4:30 pm. There is no advanced registration.

**Train Rides**
All aboard the Woodlands Express! Hop on-board this fun family-friendly premium train all summer long. Designed for all ages.

*Open daily during Zoo hours (weather permitting)*

*Price: $3 per rider

*Please note: The Woodlands Express is wheelchair accessible. Can not accommodate electric wheelchairs. Last ticket sold at 4:30 pm.*

**CAROUSEL VILLAGE**

For information on Carousel Village go to [rwpzoo.org](http://rwpzoo.org).

**Ride the Carousel at Roger Williams Park Carousel Village**
*July – Labor Day*  
*Daily: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm*

Train Rides same hours as Carousel (weather permitting)

All aboard the Carousel Express! Hop on-board this fun family-friendly train all summer long. Designed for all ages.

*Price: $3 per rider

*Please note: The Carousel Express is wheelchair accessible. Can not accommodate electric wheelchairs.*

**Sensory Friendly Days at the Carousel**
*First Tuesday of the month including: Tuesday, August 7, September 4 and October 2*

**Pony Rides**
*Daily through Labor Day*
Saddle up and enjoy pony rides at Carousel Village.

*Price: $5 per ride

*Please note: This activity is only available for children ages 3 -12.*

**Food Truck Friday**
*Fridays, May 4 - September 28*  
*5:00 - 8:30 pm*

Come experience the array of foods and delicious sweets from a variety of vendors at this magnificent event. The Carousel is open for rides, as are other Carousel Village activities - weather permitting.

Roger Williams Park Zoo is open every day except Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Roger Williams Park Zoo will close early on: Saturday, August 25, 2018 for Brew at the Zoo. For complete information on closings, please visit rwpzoo.org; or follow us on Facebook.
**KIDS’ CORNER**

**WILD TRIVIA**

1. What is a baby bison called?
   - A. Fawn
   - B. Calf
   - C. Poult
   - D. Colt

2. How many feathers does a wild turkey have?
   - A. 1,000-2,000
   - B. 3,000-4,000
   - C. 5,000-6,000
   - D. 7,000-8,000

3. Up to how many miles away can a grizzly bear smell food?
   - A. 5
   - B. 12
   - C. 18
   - D. 24

Answers located on bottom of page.

**DIY FLOWER SUNCATCHER**

Perfect for most seasons, this fun and interactive craft project will bring a splash of color to your window this summer. These fast and easy flower suncatchers are a great way to use natural resources, provide your kids with a rich sensory experience, and spruce up your home!

**What you need:**
- Paper plates
- Scissors
- Transparent Contact Paper
- Flowers/Leaves/Twigs
- Yarn/String

**Follow these easy steps:**
1. Create a frame for your suncatcher by cutting away the middle circle of your paper plate.
2. Add a center of transparent contact paper to your frame.
3. Press flower petals, leaves and thin twigs to the sticky contact paper.
4. Add another circle of contact paper over the top of your design to protect and hold your nature items in place.
5. Punch a hole at the top of the frame, tie a loop of yarn/string and ta-da! Hang in the window and watch how the light shines through your design.

**Try this:**
- Have a nature scavenger hunt! Discover how many items you can recognize: leaf, rock, ant, butterfly, flower, squirrel, worm, bird, ladybug, spider web, pine cone, and more!
- While you’re on the backyard hunt, see what natural items you can find and bring them to Nature Swap located within RWPZoo’s “Our Big Backyard.” Bring in your found items to collect points for swapping with items in our collection like fossils, antlers, and pressed plants!

**GUESS ZOO?**

These photos show close-up views of Roger Williams Park Zoo animals. Can you identify what’s in each picture?

Answers located on bottom of page.
Post a picture of Newport Creamery ice cream or an Awful Awful on Facebook and tag Newport Creamery for a chance to win a free half gallon of your favorite ice cream once every month for a year!

Winner will be chosen Oct 1st
CALLING NOVICE AND SEASONED GARDENERS

SEPTEMBER 6

For details and locations rwpzoo.org

Garden Installation Workshop
1:00-4:00 pm, Capacity 15

This workshop is for novice gardeners who may need help getting started with tools, site preparation, plants, planting methods, plant care, etc. Gardeners will install a 150 sq. ft. rain garden at the Zoo.

PLEASE NOTE: This is not a workshop for professionals and master gardeners.

Pollinator-Friendly Gardening Lecture
6:00-8:30 pm, Capacity 50

The evening lecture will feature professionals in the field. Topics will include:

• Choosing the best plants for pollinators
• How to use and manage the plants effectively to create beautiful pollinator habitats

Participants will tour the newly planted pollinator garden. This lecture is appropriate for master gardeners, professionals, or anyone with some gardening experience.

PARTY WITH ANIMALS!
AT ROGER WILLIAMS PARK ZOO AND CAROUSEL VILLAGE

Call For Details and Locations rwpzoo.org

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For more info - GSales@rwpzoo.org

THE HIVE HOLDS FIVE “FRAMES” OR STRUCTURES THAT THE BEES CAN BUILD UPON TO STORE HONEY OR LAY EGGS.

THE BIG BACKYARD EUROPEAN HONEYBEE VIEWING HIVE IS BACK FOR THE SEASON, THANKS TO HOPKINS HILL APIARY.

Many of the plants in the Big Backyard offer a wonderful source of pollen for the bees. Be sure to look at the Shrubby Saint John’s Wort with bright yellow flowers, to see the honeybees in action.

Look for the queen on your next visit—she has a red dot on her back, and can be seen near the areas where she has laid eggs.

LOOK FOR THE AZA LOGO WHENEVER YOU VISIT A ZOO OR AQUARIUM AS YOUR ASSURANCE THAT YOU ARE SUPPORTING A FACILITY DEDICATED TO PROVIDING EXCELLENT CARE FOR ANIMALS, A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR YOU, AND A BETTER FUTURE FOR ALL LIVING THINGS. WITH ITS MORE THAN 200 ACCREDITED MEMBERS, AZA IS A LEADER IN GLOBAL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION, AND YOUR LINK TO HELPING ANIMALS IN THEIR NATIVE HABITATS. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.AZA.ORG

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* In Memoriam

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