Welcome back! Spring is such an exciting time at our Zoo. As the plant life begins to bloom, there is a sense of rebirth in the air. It is hard to believe that one year ago we were closed to the public and unsure of our future. It is a wonderful feeling to once again see families and friends enjoying themselves and connecting with wildlife at our Zoo. Sometimes we do not realize how lucky we are to have something until it is taken away from us. I believe our community fully appreciates the importance of our Zoo and our role in providing a high quality recreational and educational facility for the people of New England. New Englanders also recognize our commitment to our community and conservation as we continue to rebuild together.

We have so many new things happening this spring! We are proud to present our first Asian Lantern Spectacular. This multicultural event celebrates Asian traditions and features beautiful lanterns from China, Asian-inspired cuisine and drinks from around the continent, and performers playing cultural folk music. I am sure you will be amazed! Remember, every ticket sold helps fund our mission-driven work.

This season we will also welcome several new residents to the Zoo including ostriches, Bactrian camels (the two-hump variety) and a rare white alligator. The white alligator, lent to us from another AZA-accredited facility, will be on display in the Zoo’s completely remodeled greenhouse from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

As you visit the Zoo, please make sure to continue to social distance yourselves from other groups and wear your masks for your own safety and the safety of others around you.

I look forward to seeing you at the Zoo!

Welcome!

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

Meet the Zoo’s New Director of Development

We are pleased to announce that Gina Cantelmo has joined the Zoo team as the Director of Development. This important role will develop, lead, and implement fundraising campaigns and community initiatives to raise vital funds to support the Zoo’s mission to save wildlife and wild places.

“The Zoo is so excited to welcome Gina to our family. I’m sure New Englanders will be very excited to meet her,” says Jeremy Goodman, Roger Williams Park Zoo Executive Director. “Her tremendous breadth of knowledge will be an invaluable asset in helping to move the Zoo forward with our vision for the future.”

“It is an honor and a privilege to serve the Roger Williams Park Zoo and Rhode Island Zoological Society as Director of Development,” says Cantelmo. “I am amazed by the talented and dedicated staff whose efforts create memorable experiences and showcase the tremendous scope and profound impact of the work we do here, everyday – both within and outside our park.

“The Roger Williams Park Zoo remains a vital resource to the Rhode Island and greater regional communities,” continues Cantelmo “and I look forward to building on the incredible work being done to ensure the Zoo’s preservation for generations to come.”

Cantelmo comes to the Zoo with more than 15 years’ experience serving nonprofits in the greater New York region. Prior to joining the Roger Williams Park Zoo, she served in various frontline and philanthropic roles in healthcare, secondary and higher education, animal welfare, and humanitarian organizations.

Click to donate!
Across New England, many turtles are active and on the move from spring through early fall. You may encounter them crossing roads, in wooded areas, or even in your own backyard. Here are some helpful tips on what to do if you see a turtle in the wild!

- If you find a turtle somewhere you don’t think it belongs, do NOT relocate the turtle to somewhere you think would be safer. The best thing you can actually do is leave the turtle alone.

- If you are confident that conditions allow you to do so safely, you can assist turtles crossing the road by carrying them across the road in the same direction they’re heading.* Many of the turtles you see crossing roads will be egg-laden females looking for a site to lay their eggs.

- In the late summer or fall, you may see baby turtles emerging from their nesting sites. These hatchlings do NOT need assistance and can guide themselves back to where they belong by instinct.

- Never keep a wild turtle as a pet.

- Always wash your hands with soap and hot water for at least 30 seconds after handling turtles. Some turtles can carry bacteria dangerous to humans and pass it on through contact.

Turtles are an incredibly important part of the ecosystem, and many local turtles are members of endangered species. With these tips you can help keep them safe and join Roger Williams Park Zoo in its mission to protect and preserve wildlife and wild places in your own community.

*Be very careful picking up any turtle and avoid the head area. Large snapping turtles can cause significant injuries and even a small one can inflict a painful bite.
Journey through a wonderland of illuminated larger-than-life lanterns inspired by our wild world. From dazzling and interactive displays to delicious Asian-inspired cuisine, this enchanting multicultural experience is sure to delight all ages!

April 15 - July 4
The show which is produced by Hanart Culture will feature over 50 spectacular glowing lantern displays, a kid’s interactive lantern area, savory Asian-inspired cuisine and drinks, hand-crafted keepsakes, and more.

This Zoo-wide walk-through event will be held Wednesday – Sunday evenings from 5:30 - 10:00 pm. Last admission is at 9:00 pm.

Tickets sold online ONLY. No tickets will be sold at the door.

The Asian Lantern Spectacular experience is open rain or shine.

For more information visit rwpzoo.org/lantern or follow the Asian Lantern Spectacular on Facebook and Instagram.
Every summer since May 2015 a variety of locally owned food trucks have been offering some of the best food from the Carousel Village inside Roger Williams Park. The first event was planned to see if there was an appetite for a community food truck night with only six food trucks. Since then, the event has continued to grow - adding more food trucks, beer and wine, and even live music entertainment. This year Food Truck Friday will be expanding it’s footprint even larger!

Each week you will find a rotation of 15 or more food trucks, live music from local artists, and locally produced beer and wine from Trinity Brewhouse. Relax and unwind each week to some of the most delectable food offerings around – there is sure to be something for everyone.

This family-friendly event hosts activities for all-ages to enjoy including carousel and train rides, and the Hasbro boundless playground. With plenty of open spaces to socially distance and stay safe, it is the perfect night out. Bring a chair or blanket, sit on the lawn, and relax with some great food and music.

During these challenging times we are working harder than ever to support the local food truck community while keeping our followers and fans safe. Please be prepared to practice safety protocols including staying home when you’re sick, keeping 6 feet apart from other patrons in line and wearing a face covering and socially distancing while waiting to order/pick up food. Staff are enhancing Carousel Village cleaning procedures and hand sanitizer will be readily available. Please follow all local and state guidelines.

This year’s lineup will welcome back some fan favorites such as Bonetown BBQ & Burgers, Championship Melt, Friskie Fries, Poppy’s Waffles, Presto Strange O Coffee and many more. These popular food trucks are some of 50 locally owned small businesses that will rotate each week throughout the summer.

Admission is free. Just pay for what you eat and drink. Carousel Village attractions are separate pricing. Food trucks accept cash, credit, and debit.

Special thanks to Eric Weiner of PVD Food Truck Events and FoodTrucksIn.com for his dedication to helping us bring this event to the local community each year!

You can learn about Food Truck Fridays visit rwpzoo.org/food-truck-Friday/

THANK YOU TO OUR FOOD TRUCK FRIDAY SPONSORS

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Unlike their kangaroo relatives, tree kangaroos spend nearly all their lives in trees. Well-adapted for life in the forest canopy these small arboreal marsupials are built for climbing! With powerful limbs, long-gripping claws and a long tail for balance they can easily maneuver from branch to branch. Despite their impressive abilities, they spend 60% of their time sleeping.

Although there are 14 species of tree kangaroos, our zoo is home to two Matschie’s tree kangaroos – Morobe and La Roo. Topping out around 22 pounds, this mighty little mammal is recognizable by its deep red and cream coloring. This thick fur works to insulate them against damp weather and act as camouflage protection against predators.

Native to the mountainous rainforests of Papua New Guinea this critically endangered species needs our help. Your Roger Williams Park Zoo has long supported wildlife and habitat conservation programs to help this threatened species survive including a close partnership with the AZA Tree Kangaroo Species Survival Plan (SSP) breeding program and the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program.

More recently, thanks to a match by a very generous donor, our Zoo has made a $30K commitment to the Port Moresby Nature Park project to benefit wild tree kangaroos. This park is Papua New Guinea’s only Wildlife Rescue, Rehabilitation, Breeding and Research Centre. A safe haven for wildlife, the Nature Park is a leader in wildlife education, conservation and ex-situ research. Support from our Zoo, generous donors, and other partner organizations allows the Nature Park to continue to rehabilitate wildlife for release, provide a home and life care for wildlife that are unable to return to the wild, and support research opportunities and breeding programs.

Through your continued support, you are an ally in saving and protecting this species and wildlife worldwide.
ANIMAL HOMES TRIVIA

The Earth is home to over 7 BILLION people, but scientists estimate there are over 20 QUINTILLION (that’s 20,000,000,000,000,000,000,000) living creatures that live alongside us! Much like humans, animals live in very different types of homes. Can you answer these trivia questions about awesome animal architects?

1. Named after the massive size and complexity of their homes, the Australian _____ build mounds up to 15 feet high out of mud, chewed wood, saliva, and animal waste:
   a. Tower mole
   b. Castle bird
   c. Cathedral termite
   d. Skyscraper ant

2. While many birds build nests out of sticks and other dry materials, the red ovenbird gets its name from the distinct dome-like shape of their nests that they build out of ____?
   a. Charcoal
   b. Clay and mud
   c. Scrap metal
   d. Hollow logs

3. In order to keep themselves safe while transitioning from the larvae stage to the pupa stage, different types of aquatic caddisflies protect themselves with:
   a. Nets stretched between underwater plants
   b. Moveable silk domes
   c. Suits of armor made from rocks and shells
   d. All of the above

4. The _____, a type of arachnid, uses a covering made of soil, plant matter, and its own silk to create a covering for their underground homes.
   a. Trapdoor spider
   b. Hatch scorpion
   c. Gateway tarantula
   d. Dungeon spider

Instructions:
1. Start by looking through a few old magazines for pages that have lots of fun earthy colors on them. Cut (with adult supervision) or rip those pages out of your magazines.

2. Cut out a rectangle tree trunk from one of your brown magazine pages and glue it onto your light blue cardstock or construction paper sky. Then cut out smaller rectangles from your brown magazine pages and glue them around your tree trunk for tree branches.

3. Cut out leaves from your other magazine pages. Then glue them all around your tree branches to fill them out.

4. Find a page with a large section of green and cut or rip a strip out for grass and glue it onto the bottom of our paper. (This step is totally optional.)

Try this:
This may be a Spring Earth Day Craft, but you can create any kind of tree you want! Add red, orange, yellow and brown leaves for a Fall tree, or white snow for a Winter scene!
Snuggle with your favorite animal every day when you become a zoo parent through our symbolic Adopt-an-Animal program. And the best part is you are making a difference for all the animals at the Zoo.

Learn More

Save up to 25% on groceries for the whole family.

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For membership information call (401) 785-3510 x375 or visit rwpzoo.org.

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