In 1970, the last Mexican wolf in the United States was shot. In 1976, the Mexican wolf was added to the list of endangered species. Four years later, the last five Mexican wolves to be found in the wild were trapped in Mexico to become the last hope in the fight to save these wolves from extinction. These animals were sent to the Arizona-Sonora-Desert Museum to become the founder breeding stock for an intensive recovery effort. Captive breeding has increased the number of Mexican wolves to around 200. The Utica Zoo has joined with the AZA’s (American Zoo and Aquarium Association) SSP (Species Survival Plan) program to help restore the haunting song of the wolf to its rightful place in the wild.

Wolves are more than just efficient predators. They live in highly social groups called packs. The highest-ranking male and female pair, called the alphas, usually runs the pack. They lead the hunts, have first dibs at the kill and are generally the only wolves in the pack to have pups. While the alpha female is usually the only one to nurse the pups, once they are able to eat meat, the entire pack helps to feed the young. The pack members bring meat from a kill in their stomachs and regurgitate it for the pups to eat. The pups grow up in the family pack and will stay and find their place in the hierarchy or leave to find a mate and form a pack of their own. An individual wolf may gain social status in the pack by besting a higher-ranking animal. But once a high-ranking animal is knocked down the social ladder it has little hope of regaining its former position.

Wolves can live almost anywhere, from the arctic tundra to the outskirts of the desert. The number of animals in the pack is determined by the size of the prey that they feed on. If a pack lives in an area with large prey animals such as deer, moose, elk or bison, the pack must be large enough to allow the wolves to overpower the animal. Some packs can be as large as 30 animals. In areas where the prey is smaller, such as the desert, the wolves may feed on rabbits, birds, and prairie dogs. These packs may only have 6 or 7 members.

Returning wolves to the wild will help restore the natural balance in ecosystems where deer numbers have increased so much that they are eating themselves out of house and home. Wolves also keep the smaller predators, like coyotes, in check. Since the eradication of the wolf, the numbers of coyotes has exploded. Even here in the Mohawk Valley, the coyote population is at an all time high. While coyotes do not pose a direct danger to humans, they do kill livestock and small pets, and can increase the spread of some diseases like canine distemper and rabies. As contradictory as it may sound, the predator-prey balance allows all of the animals in the ecosystem to flourish.

(Continued on page 2)
The mission of the Utica Zoo is to foster wildlife species and the ecosystems on which their survival depends through education, conservation and recreation.

A Publication of the Utica Zoological Society 99 Steele Hill Road, Utica, New York 13501
Free with Membership Volume 16, Number 2 April, May, June 2004 Published quarterly

You have to have 40 gallons of sap to make one gallon of maple syrup!

Member Notes

Just a reminder........
• Your membership card is not transferable and may only be used by the members listed on the card.
• A photo ID is required for admittance to the Zoo.
• If you have guest privileges with your membership, you must accompany your guest to the Zoo.
• Lost or damaged cards may be replaced for a $2.00 fee.

Moving?
The ZooNews and many other Zoo mailings are sent US Bulk Mail to minimize costs. The Postal Service does not forward this mail, even when you have filed a forwarding request. If you are moving, please send any address changes to:

Membership Department
The Utica Zoo
99 Steele Hill Road
Utica, New York 13501

Please include both your old and new addresses. We don’t want you to miss a thing!

My name is Weiling Chen. I am from New York City and originally from Taiwan. I am the public relations intern at the Utica Zoo. I am currently a junior at Utica College, working toward a dual major in public relations and marketing management. My chance to work at the Utica Zoo came when I took the class, "Public Relations Practicum." The class involved conducting research on the public relations and marketing programs for various organizations in the Central New York area. Though my group didn’t get to work for the Utica Zoo, I realized the zoo would benefit from having public relations interns through this project. I was very excited about the possibility and asked if the zoo accepted interns at the very beginning of the semester in August 2003. Beth Irons, Public Relations and Development Director, didn’t know me back then. I didn’t approach her until the end of the term, December 2003. She welcomed me to the organization and I was overly, completely, positively thrilled!! :) :) :) :) :)”

I wanted to work at the zoo because of my non-profit organization experience. I have volunteered at the American Cancer Society, Eastern Division, Chinese Unit for four years. It was at that time that I decided to work in the non-profit field as a profession. I love the non-profit environment. Everyone is there not just to work but the support a cause, a belief. They are there because they care. The Utica Zoo influences the public in the most positive ways through education and entertainment. That is the exact reason I wanted to work at the Utica Zoo.

Being here is great! Beth takes the time to work with me and teach me. Together, we work on news releases, newsletters, and numerous other public relations tasks. We learn from each other as we work through different projects and challenges and gain experience in doing so.

We are also in the process of setting up a continuous internship program between the Utica Zoo and Utica College. We hope that this will help both the zoo and the students that choose to participate. It will allow the students to learn not just public relations skills, but also how to care for society as a whole.

Last, I would like everyone to know how grateful I am to the zoo for taking me in and allowing me to work here. Not all organizations and people are willing to spend the time to train and educate an inexperienced person. I taught many students, from age 4-30, Chinese cultural dance back in New York City. I understand that one needs to have much patience and spend much time to educate someone before they can perform to standard. With this in mind, I will try to do my best in helping with the public relations tasks in order to promote the Utica Zoo the best I can.

(Continued from page 1)

(Continued from page 3)
From the Desk of Beth Irons, PR/Development

The winter is passing into history, albeit painfully slow, and there are hints of the warmer seasons to come. The staff of the Utica Zoo has been working hard through the long, cold winter to bring you new wonders to enjoy this summer. First of all, a huge THANK YOU! for everyone who was involved with presenting Snowfari 2004 to the community. This was, once again, a huge success.

Everyone had a good time despite the cold temperatures and the arctic-like winds that gusted throughout the day. There were plenty of smiles, as well as, wind burned cheeks and noses to attest to the day’s activities.

Every year, in late winter or early spring, we get a lot of invitations to participate in what are called “Career Days” at area schools. These events are organized by the schools to bring people from different professions into the classroom to talk about how they got to where they are. We have a large display board that shows a diagram of all the jobs that are performed by staff members here at the Utica Zoo. Often times the students are surprised by the number of people and the scope of the knowledge, it takes to run a modern zoo. One thing I find I often need to stress it that there is a business side of a zoo. So many times, there is a misconception that everyone who works here always works directly with the animals (actually, only the lucky ones do!) About halfway through my presentation I usually start to see a lot of relieved smiles from students who love animals but may have aspirations to become a CPA, or a television producer, or a professional photographer, or a retailer, when they realize that working in a zoo setting would be perfect for them!

This field demands many things of those wanting to become a part of it. Dedication, motivation, and the willingness to be open to constant learning are only the beginning. There is no such thing as a “typical” day when you work at a zoo. Every day holds surprises, some little, some big, some very, very big. Through the course of a “typical” day, I may be writing an ad, being interviewed for television, assisting the vet with a procedure, helping with an animal transfer, hanging decorations, picking up supplies, teaching a class, doing a presentation, the list could go on and on (and often does.)

One of the most frequently asked questions at Career Days is what kind of schooling is required to work at a zoo. Historically, a person who wanted to work at a zoo with animals only needed a drive to work hard and some common sense. The rest was learned on the job. Today, most zoos require at least an Associates degree (two years) in an animal-related field, and many require a Bachelor’s degree (four years.) However, the drive to work hard and the common sense parts still hold true. In this profession, or any profession really, you must always be open to learning new things, and even relearning old things.

Doing things the same way because “they have always been done that way” is no longer the smartest thing to do sometimes. The zoo field is highly technical sometimes and very specialized all the time.

Working at a zoo, this zoo specifically, is still one of the most fulfilling aspects of my life. My family is very supportive, and very involved, with my time spent to better the zoo and the zoo experience for our visitors. My grandfather once told me that if you find a job you can’t wait to get to everyday, that’s the best paycheck in the world. I think he would be proud of my choice of profession, cause I can’t see myself doing anything else, anywhere else.

Coach USA and the Utica Zoo present....

“Two Zoos For You”
August 13, 2004

Enjoy a day in the jungle as we visit the Buffalo Zoological Gardens and the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, giving you “two zoos for you.” We will depart with Coach USA for Buffalo for a day at the third oldest zoo in the country. Located in Delaware Park, the 23.5 acre zoo has a diverse collection of wild, exotic animals and over 320 species of plants. You will observe animals such as lowland gorillas, rhinoceros, hyenas, polar bears, and many more. And to add to our trip, we will have a Safari Lunch at the Beaastro!

After lunch, we will be on our way to the Seneca Park Zoo. Have you ever heard of a red-necked wallaby? How about a binturong named “Bart”? A pygmy marmoset is one of the smallest living monkeys, I am sure you knew that! Wander around the grounds and explore. Don’t forget to see the Coral Reef Exhibit!

After a day of living in the wild, we will head home with a break stop enroute. You will end your day with great memories of all you have learned at two other great Upstate New York zoos!

For Members:

Adults: $50.00
Children (12 and under): $40.00

For Non-members:

Adults: $55.00
Children (12 and under): $45.00
The Utica Zoo would like to thank the following people for their support
In October, November, December 2003
January, February 2004

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Mrs. Fredor’s 3rd Grade Class
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Richard & Phyllis Shamus
Kevin Bowen
Llama
Grizzly Bear
Jane Muehl
Kyle Bowen
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Golden Lion Tamarin
Siberian Tiger
Dustin Packer
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Siberian Tiger
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Snow Leopard
Kay Albright
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Chinchilla
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Siberian Tiger
Zbytniewski Family
Albert & Kloe Shkane
New Guinea Blue Tongued Skink
Grizzly Bear
Jedidiah Parker
Ashley Taylor
Bactrian Camel
Snowy Owl
Jennifer Turskis
Daniel Taylor
Eurasian Wild Bear
Snow Leopard
Collared Peccary
Michael Hubbard
Debbie Marks
Butterflies
Pot-Bellied Pig
Michael Wittman
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Siberian Lynx
Amur (Siberian) Tiger
Evon LaFeche
Julia Anello
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Marlene Kerly
Sally Petrillo
Porcupine
Pot-Bellied Pig
Lisa Lemieux
Ruthy Beach
Salmon Crested Cockatoo
Red Panda
Jacqueline Sanders
Roze Zuloom
Siberian Lynx
Red Panda

New and Renewing Zoo Parents
For October, November, December 2003
January, February 2004
We're glad you're part of the family.

Richard & Phyllis Shamus
Kevin Bowen
Llama
Grizzly Bear
Jane Muehl
Kyle Bowen
Mexican Wolf
California Sea Lion
Mr. And Mrs. Anthony Scalzo
Joseph Lacovino
Golden Lion Tamarin
Siberian Tiger
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Merridith Newman
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Porcupine
Pot-Bellied Pig
Lisa Lemieux
Ruthy Beach
Salmon Crested Cockatoo
Red Panda
Jacqueline Sanders
Roze Zuloom
Siberian Lynx
Red Panda
Creature Feature

"Few Spots" is our resident domestic rabbit. She is one of our most popular education animals and is happy to take advantage of that fact whenever possible. All breeds of domestic rabbit are the descendants of the European wild rabbit. In Roman times, rabbits were kept within walled yards and used as food. During the Middle Ages, rabbits were released on islands to serve as food for traveling sailors. Wherever these rabbits were released, they reproduced successfully, but at the expense of the native wildlife. True domestication of rabbits began in monasteries in the sixteenth century. Through the ages, selective breeding has produced the variety of colors that we see today. Did you know rabbits lose body heat through their ears? European monks raise rabbits in warmed greenhouses to provide comfortable conditions for their long ears. Again, through selective breeding, these monks were able to produce "lop-eared" rabbits!

We feed "Few Spots" a variety of things in her diet including rabbit pellets, hay (especially alfalfa!), and fruits and veggies.

Adopt the Animal in the Creature Feature at a Special Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Price with this flyer only</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buddy level</td>
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<td>Contributor level</td>
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<td>Guardian level</td>
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All sponsorship money is used to care for the zoo animals, from purchasing food to providing enrichment items. The more you give, the more we can give!

Offer good through 3/31/04

Animal: ___________________________________________________________
Name: ___________________________________________________________
Address: _________________________________________________________
City: __________________ State: ______ Zip: ______________
Payment: ______ check #________ Visa MC Disc __________
Card#: __________________ Exp. Date: __________ Signature: __________
This is a gift for: _______________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________
City: ______________ State: ______ Zip: _______________________
Send to me OR recipient ____________________________

Return form and payment to:
Utica Zoo
99 Steele Hill Road, Utica, New York 13501

Easter Extravaganza, April 10 - 11:00AM-3:00PM. Join us to welcome in Spring and welcome everyone’s favorite bunny, the Easter Bunny! Get your picture taken with a big furry hug and hunt for eggs in the giant Easter basket. There will be lots more happening too!

Earth Day, April 24 - 11:00AM-3:00PM. Visit us to learn how you can live gentler on the Earth. Area environmental groups will be on hand with information. Special attractions will include an Earth Day Storyteller, a flighted bird show in the Wal Mart amphitheater and designer kite flying! Don’t forget to bring your cans, bottles, and printer cartridges for recycling!

Teddy Bear Day, May 8—11:00AM—3:00PM. The Teddy Bear Parade is coming! Bring your favorite furry friend to meet our favorite furry friends. Visit the Teddy Bear Vet for a check-up, visit with our Grizzly bears and the folks who care for them everyday, and have a "beary" good time all day!

Mother’s Day, May 9—10:00AM—5:00PM. Moms get in free all day when accompanied by their children. And every mom gets an artistic ceramic tile for visiting us on their special day.

International Migratory Bird Day, May 15—The Utica Zoo, Audubon New York, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Migratory Bird Management are partnering to bring you the first annual bird day at the Utica Zoo! This year’s event theme is "Conserving Colonial Birds." Some visit and learn why some birds travel thousands of miles every year just to survive.

The Utica Zoo 90th Birthday Party, May 22—11:00AM-3:00PM. The Utica Zoo turns 90 this year! Come help us celebrate, have some cake, and party! We have invited a storyteller, a magician and of course, the animals to make sure everyone has a good time! Plus we will be introducing a new Utica Zoo character that you won’t want to miss!

4th Annual “Wine in the Wilderness,” June 5—6:00-9:00PM. The original, and still the best, wine-tasting event in the area! Wineries from around New York State and around the world (and a few surprises) await you. Don’t miss an evening event sure to tickle your tongue and your taste buds!

Harley-Davidson Day, June 19—11:00AM-3:00PM. Join us for a day full of appreciation for some of the finest machines on America’s roads, the Harley-Davidson motorcycle. New models on display, fun for the kids and surprises for the grown-ups too! If you love fast things on two wheels, you can’t miss it!

Father’s Day, June 20—10:00AM—5:00PM. Dads get in free all day when accompanied by their children.
**FUN PAGE**

**Did you know?**
- More than 1 in every 4 species of known animal on earth is a beetle.
- Flies have taste buds on their feet.
- Some species of slugs have more than 20,000 teeth.
- Ants can lift 50 times their own body weight with their mouth.

**INVERTEBRATE MATCH-UP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invertebrate</th>
<th>Animal</th>
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<td><strong>K</strong></td>
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**Invertebrates are found everywhere. Draw a line from the animal to the place you would be likely to find it.**

**Under one Rock – Bugs, Slugs and other Ughs.**

"The rough-rock rock was discovered by chance by a brown skinned boy in ragged pants – a curious lad who wondered aloud, ‘What could be hiding in the red-rich ground?’"

So begins another wonderful book by Anthony D. Fredericks. This book is for kids of all ages who can’t help but wonder who lives under that rock or log encountered on their walk in the woods. The colorful illustrations by Jennifer DiRubbio and the rhyming verse make it fun to read. This book is sure to become a favorite with your budding naturalist.

---

**Spring into the Utica Zoo for fun and learning!**

The education department at the Zoo will once again be offering a wide variety of fun and educational activities this spring and summer. Look for us at the zoo and at various community locations. For more information about the zoo’s education department or any of the programs listed below, call the zoo at 738-6047 and ask for Beth C. or Mary.

**Spring Break Zoo Camp**

"Don’t Bug Me!"

Grades k - 2 / April 13, 2004

Bugs ... Yuck! This is the usual reaction to the mention of these not so cuddly invertebrates. Bugs, worms and spiders, however, are a common and necessary part of our daily lives. Join us at the zoo this spring and learn about these fascinating creatures.

Spring break zoo camp runs from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Campers should dress for the weather and bring a bag lunch. A drink and snack will be provided. The cost is $15.00/child for members and $20.00/child for non-members.

**Sunday’s are wild at the Zoo!**

Join us on the second and last Sunday of every month for animal explorations. The docent building in the children’s zoo will be open from 1:00 to 3:00 PM with a variety of cool things to look at as well as crafts and activities for kids of all ages. A different animal will be featured every month.

April – Emu
May – Bactrian Camel
June – Bears

Animal Tails

Wednesday, April 14th will be story day! The Utica Zoo will be at the Utica Public Library at 10:30 with some of our favorite animal friends. Then at 2:00 PM there will be a story time at the zoo. Our education staff will read a favorite story and lead the kids in a craft. We will also meet one of the animals featured in the book.

**Zoo Adventures**

For children (ages 1–4) and their favorite adult. Class is from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM on the third Tuesday or Wednesday of each month and includes games, stories, crafts and face-to-face meetings with some of our favorite zoo animals. The cost is $5/child for members & $10/child for non-members. A drink and snack is included. Class sizes are limited so please call ahead to register.

April 20 & 21: Slugs, Bugs, and other Ughs.

Beautiful beetles and squirming worms will be joining us for this under the rock exploration.

May 18 & 19: May Flowers

April showers bring May flowers, but what do May flowers bring? You will have to come and find out.

June 15 & 16: Life in the Water

Toads, frogs and polliwogs – Alligators that look like logs. Come and discover the world of animals in and around the water.
What's Next......

4th Annual Wine in the Wilderness......
an adventure in wine tasting
Saturday, June 5, 2004 6:00—9:00 PM

Music provided by:
"Simple Props"
with
Opening act jazz guitarist
Bill Wolette

Sponsored in part by:
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Watch for more details..........................