

Tame *your* Curiosity

CONNECTICUT'S BEARDSLEY ZOO • 2006 ANNUAL REPORT



Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo *is dedicated*
to acquainting a diverse public to the
delicate balance that exists between
living things and their environment.

We achieve this through education programs,
conservation efforts and recreational opportunities.

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*Seasonal

WELCOME

I guess you could say that in 2006 we had a howling good time!

The opening of the WOLF (Wolf Observation Learning Facility) was very well received and even our wolves seemed to enjoy it. The interaction between our grey wolves and our guests (especially our little ones) was wonderful to see. Our red wolves also added to the mix with the birth of a female pup. This exhibit is very exciting to me because it added a new dimension to how we want to see the Zoo grow. The WOLF exhibit is now an integrated area with two species of wolves, multiple viewing areas and an educational storyline that tells the past, present and future of this species. We feel very strongly that this is the way we should be looking at future exhibits for your Zoo.

From a new way to view our animals to a new way to view special events brought us to the renovation of the Picnic Grove. This project came to us from partnering with Leadership Greater Bridgeport and led to making our Picnic Grove accessible for all of our guests. No longer will sodas slide off picnic tables due to the uneven ground! The completion of this project culminated with a new special event for us called Dream Night that opened up the Zoo for a very special evening for very special children and their families.

Not to be outdone, our animal collection decided to get into the act by giving birth to some very special youngsters. I have already mentioned the red wolf pup and, in addition to that, we had a pair of river otters born along with a pair of golden lion tamarins. Due to young age of our female otter, the pups needed to be hand raised, and thanks to the very hard work of the animal care staff those pups flourished. The endangered golden lion tamarin twins were a first for Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo, and both the mom and dad were great parents.

We also continue to lobby state legislators for support of our new Andes Adventure project that will exhibit jaguars, spider monkeys, and giant anteaters to name a few. Many of our area legislators are positive about the Zoo and the project, but we have not been able to secure any funding at this point.

I would like to mention that if you have any contact with your state legislators, please mention support for your Zoo.

I hope that you have been able to visit the Zoo and have enjoyed this year's Zoo improvements. I am very proud of what our staff has been able to accomplish, and I know that the future of this facility – with your continued help – remains very bright! I would love to hear from you so please feel free to call me at 203-394-6575.

Gregg Dancho
Zoo Director



Zoo Director Gregg Dancho thanks Larry Ganim from the Ganim Group, Inc. for his generous support of the Zoo's new Zoomobile.

Tame *your* Curiosity

...Preserving and Protecting Animals

- While everyone likes to see baby animals, the Zoo's job as stewards of our animals is to maintain healthy population sizes of both endangered and non-threatened species. We participate in the Association of Zoo and Aquarium's Species Survival Plan (SSP) and work cooperatively with other zoos throughout North America to ensure that all animals in our care have a home. We currently participate in 8 Species Survival Plans. They are Amur tiger, red wolf, Andean condor, golden-lion tamarin, North American river otter, ocelot, Andean bear, and maned wolf. In 2007 we plan to add two additional SSP species to our collection: Chacoan peccaries and calimicos.
- Our playful North American river otters are one of our most popular attractions, and we enjoyed the birth of three babies in March.
- As part of the golden-lion tamarin SSP, we celebrated the birth of two golden lion tamarins (GLT) in August. GLTs are one of the world's most endangered species, with approximately 1,500 living in the wild and roughly 450 living in captivity as part of breeding and protection programs.
- We bred another endangered species and welcomed a red wolf pup in May. The Zoo was one of the founding institutions to exhibit and breed red wolves and has sent offspring back into the wild as part of a formal release program. The Red wolf SSP is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2007.
- Other births for the year included black-tailed prairie dogs, black-crowned night herons, Cotswold sheep, pronghorn, ducks, pheasants and goats.
- We opened our Wolf Observation Learning Facility (WOLF) in the fall. This log cabin situated between the timber and red wolves provides an up close and personal visit with the wolves by viewing them through floor-to-ceiling glass windows. The WOLF has signage and audio that educates visitors about the differences between the wolf species.



Photo: Shannon Calvert

Our New England Farmyard is a great spot to interact with animals, including Cotswold sheep.

This red wolf pup takes in the view from the softest perch in the house.



Photo: Shannon Calvert

Tame *your* Curiosity

...Educating the Next Generation

- Whether we interact with people at the Zoo or off-site, our message is the same: it is up to each and every one of us to protect the animals we share the planet with and the threatened natural environments in which they live so we may all enjoy a high quality of life.
- Our Zoomobile drove to 76 towns and reached almost 10,000 children at their schools, while 525 groups came to us for on-site visits. In addition, our on-site education camps and programs saw more than 16,000 attendees.
- Thanks to The Ganim Group, Inc. and an anonymous donor, we purchased a Honda Element as our latest Zoomobile vehicle.
- We reached 18,000 people through statewide appearances at career nights, science fairs, home schoolers gatherings, and scout conferences.
- Zoo staff made eight television appearances on NBC 30, Channel 8 and Channel 12.
- We increased our education staff from 4 to 6 to meet increasing demand for our programs.



Farmin' Fever heats up the Zoo.

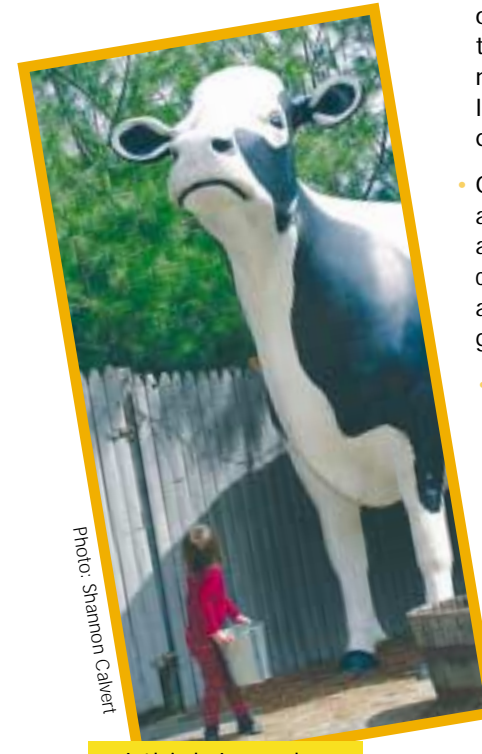


Photo: Shannon Calvert

"I think I need a bigger bucket!"



Zoo educator Jim Knox introduces a hawk to Zoo visitors.

We celebrated the birth of golden lion tamarins in August.



Photo: Shannon Calvert

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

- Visitors to the Zoo: 250,000
- Total Operating Revenue: \$2.3 million
- Number of Donors: 361
- Animal Species at the Zoo: 110
- Individual Animals: 305
- Endangered Species: 8
- Education Programs Presented: 885
- Children Reached Through Education Programs: 47,858
- Adults Reached Through Education Programs: 11,906
- Towns Visited by Zoomobile: 76
- Total Groups That Visited the Zoo: 525
- Birthday Parties Celebrated at the Zoo: 359
- Hours Donated by Zoo Volunteers: 4,718

Tame your Curiosity

...Receiving Generous Contributions

As a non-profit organization, the Zoo relies on the generous support of corporations, foundations and individuals. Some highlights from 2006:

- A very enthusiastic and talented team from Leadership Greater Bridgeport helped raise \$120,000 for the Zoo, allowing us to renovate our Picnic Grove and Peacock Pavilion to make the area more accessible to people with disabilities and families with strollers. The team secured major funding from Wheels in the Woods (\$55,000), GE (\$20,000), Ronald McDonald House Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts (\$20,000) and many other generous corporations, foundations and individuals. We celebrated the new and improved area with a free DreamNight event for more than 200 children with special health care needs and disabilities and their families.
- The State Legislature approved a \$1.5 million bond issue for the Zoo. We anticipate the Governor will put the issue on the bond agenda in 2007 and release the money, allowing the Zoo to begin the architectural design process for our Andes Adventure expansion. We are excited to officially embark upon this project and thank the state for recognizing the importance of the Zoo as both a fun and educational destination for families and individuals alike.
- Aquarion provided funding so we could launch an Adult Lecture Series that takes place in our Hanson Exploration Station. This building was made possible by the generosity of Lee and Eunice Hanson.

Thanks to the generous support of The Ganim Group, Inc. and an anonymous donor, we have a new Zoomobile vehicle ready for visits to local schools and organizations.

The Wolf Observation Learning Facility (WOLF) has signage and audio that educates visitors about the differences between timber and red wolves.



GE employees, retirees and their families worked hard to make our Picnic Grove and Peacock Pavilion area more accessible to Zoo visitors with disabilities and families with strollers.



Tame your Curiosity

...Partnering With the Community

- More than 100 dedicated volunteers shared their love of wildlife – and 4,718 hours – enhancing the Zoo during public events, gardening work, special projects, public interaction, animal care assistance, education programs assistance, office help, and countless other ways. This group also raises money for its Legacy Fund and donates an important item to the Zoo each year; in 2006, our volunteers bought dinosaur prints that will be placed throughout the Picnic Grove.
- We also received support from 36 interns, who learned more about their chosen career in biology, zoology or a related field, as well as 20 high school and college students who participated in job shadowing throughout the year.
- During GE's Global Community Days, approximately 200 GE employees, retirees, and their families spent three days making our Picnic Grove and Peacock Pavilion more accessible to people with disabilities and families with strollers.
- Many civic, school and church groups contribute service hours at the Zoo, including the Church of Latter Day Saints, Kolbe Cathedral H.S., Junior Women's Girls Club of Trumbull, and Quinnipiac University.
- The Zoo joined with organizations such as Bridgeport Free Shakespeare and Disney Enterprises to present more than two dozen special events in 2006.
- The Zoo offers staff a Conservation Release Time program to pursue activities outside of the Zoo. In 2006, staff participated in the Connecticut Amphibian Monitoring Project, salmon releases, a nighttime owl survey, monitoring of the Pequonnock River Steep Pass Fish Ladder, and the Purple Loosestrife Beetle introduction project.



The "turtle" family joined us for Boo at the Zoo.



A Zoo volunteer makes a friend.

DONORS

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the following individuals, foundations and corporations who recognize the value of supporting the Zoo's mission of conservation, education and recreation.

To see your name listed here next year, please call Development Director Jessica Summers at 203-394-6573 or email her at jsummers@beardsleyzoo.org.

0-\$99

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Snakes are not slimy after all!

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Wheels in the Woods Foundation

We make every effort to ensure the accuracy of our donor lists. If you find an error or omission, please contact us at 203-394-6573.

The Connecticut Zoological Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to fundraising and to encouraging community support of Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo.

Look
"whooo" is
supporting
the Zoo!

Photo: Shannon Calvert

Tame *your* Curiosity

...Looking Forward to 2007

Here are some of the exciting things happening at the Zoo in 2007:

- Go "hog wild" with our summer exhibit of African warthogs.
- "Don't Be a Gas Hog" – take a chance on owning a 2007 hybrid Honda Civic during our raffle sponsored by William B. Meyer Co. and Honda of Westport. Proceeds will be used to purchase another Zoomobile.
- We're getting "buggy" with a new Bug House opening this spring.
- We're sprucing up Zoo grounds with new educational signage, an enhanced entry way with new benches and shade sails, and a large deck behind the Hanson Exploration Station.
- Don't forget to check out new events and upcoming attractions on our website at www.beardsleyzoo.org.



Photo: Shannon Calvert

Look what nature has accomplished.



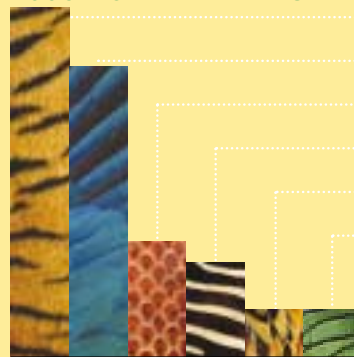
Photo: Shannon Calvert

2006 FINANCIAL REVIEW

Nine years ago, ownership of Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo was transferred from the City of Bridgeport to the Connecticut Zoological Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Since that time, Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo has taken the steps necessary to keep Connecticut's zoo a premier family destination and one of the state's top tourist attractions, welcoming 250,000 visitors annually.

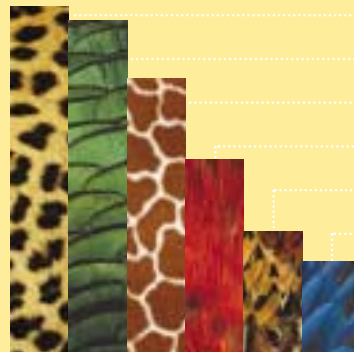
Every dollar spent at the Zoo goes directly back into making the Zoo a better place. The quality of care we provide our animals remains our priority as does the quality of our visitors' experience.

2006 TOTAL REVENUE



Admissions:	\$848,568	37%
Concessions:	\$735,777	31%
Donations:	\$289,801	12%
Membership:	\$242,450	10%
Birthday Parties, Rentals & Other:	\$108,407	5%
Education:	\$113,459	5%
TOTAL	\$2,338,462	100%

2006 TOTAL EXPENSES



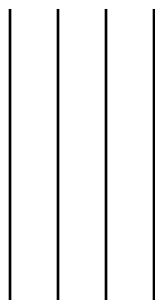
Cost of Sales:	\$534,089	25%
Other Operating Costs:	\$498,968	24%
Salary & Administrative:	\$415,409	20%
Animals, Conservation & Education:	\$319,128	15%
Grounds & Maintenance:	\$194,620	9%
Development, Marketing & Events:	\$158,800	7%
TOTAL	\$2,121,014	100%

WISH LIST

To donate, call
203-394-6573.

- Digital Camera
- Membership kiosk with signage sponsorship opportunities
- New bath and hand towels to keep the animals comfortable
- Wide format color printer that uses roll paper, for in-house signage and banners
- Two bookcases (no more than 3'x3'x1')
- Knowledge, time, and skills of a carpenter
- Gift certificates to paint stores, Home Depot, and Lowe's
- Walk-behind mowers
- New or gently used ride-on mower
- Sander for a dump truck
- 10" table saw
- 19-volt cordless drills
- Mechanic's roll around (creeper)
- Portable air compressor (pancake)

FIRST
CLASS
POSTAGE
REQUIRED



Pictured on front: Ocelot. Ocelots have both striped and spotted fur that provides camouflage from predators as well as prey. They live in North and South America and are endangered due to extensive hunting and habitat loss.

Photo: Shannon Calvert

CONNECTICUT'S
BEARDSLEY
ZOO

Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo
1875 Noble Avenue, Bridgeport, CT
203-394-6565 beardsleyzoo.org

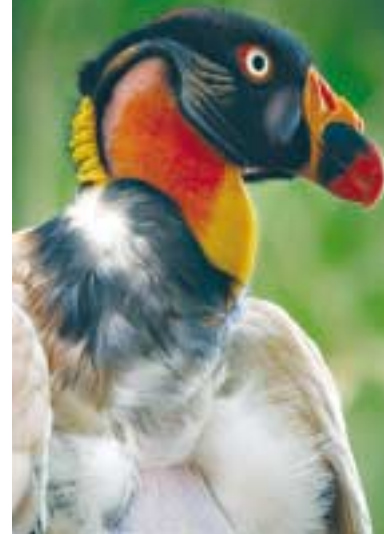


Photo: Shannon Calvert

The king vulture is a distinctive, colorful bird that stands between 24-34 inches tall, with a wingspan of 6 feet or more. They live in Central and South America as well as Trinidad.

Stay updated about Zoo activities. Subscribe to our free monthly newsletter at beardsleyzoo.org.



Connecticut's
Beardsley Zoo
1875 Noble Ave.
Bridgeport, CT
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GO WILD!

AT CONNECTICUT'S BEARDSLEY ZOO



Connecticut's
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1875 Noble Avenue
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