

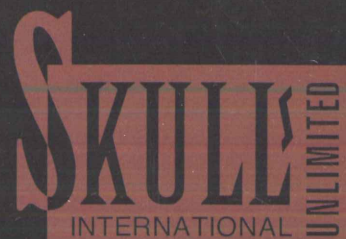
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December 2010

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## ON THE COVER

Winning photo of the AZA 2010 Photo Contest: Great Horned Owl, by Denise Soden of Happy Hollow Zoo. For more about Denise and the photo, see page 13.

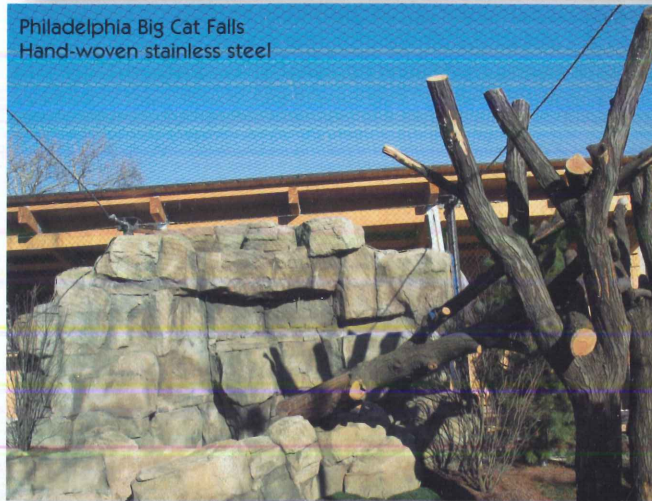
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## EXHIBITS

### GREAT PLAINS ZOO AND DELBRIDGE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY ZOO OPENS RARE RHINOS OF AFRICA EXHIBIT

The Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum of Natural History celebrated the grand opening of its new *Rare Rhinos of Africa* exhibit. The *Rare Rhinos of Africa* exhibit engages visitors about Africa, rhinos and conservation through a number of interactive and immersive experiences.

"This is really a transformative exhibit for the Great Plains Zoo," said Elizabeth A. Whealy, president and CEO of the Great Plains Zoo. "We are moving our Zoo from the old model of simply seeing an animal in an exhibit, to an immersive engaging experience for both our animals and our guests."

The new exhibit offers numerous hands-on experiences to help visitors learn about rhinos and the natural world. It features:

- Interactive kiosks that offer a behind-the-scenes peek at the training Zookeepers do with the rhinos.
- Touch panels where kids can feel rhino skin and horns.
- Rhino ears visitors can put on to learn about a rhino's super sense of hearing.
- A rare rhino crossing where visitors can watch the rhinos cross right in front of them to enter their new exhibit.

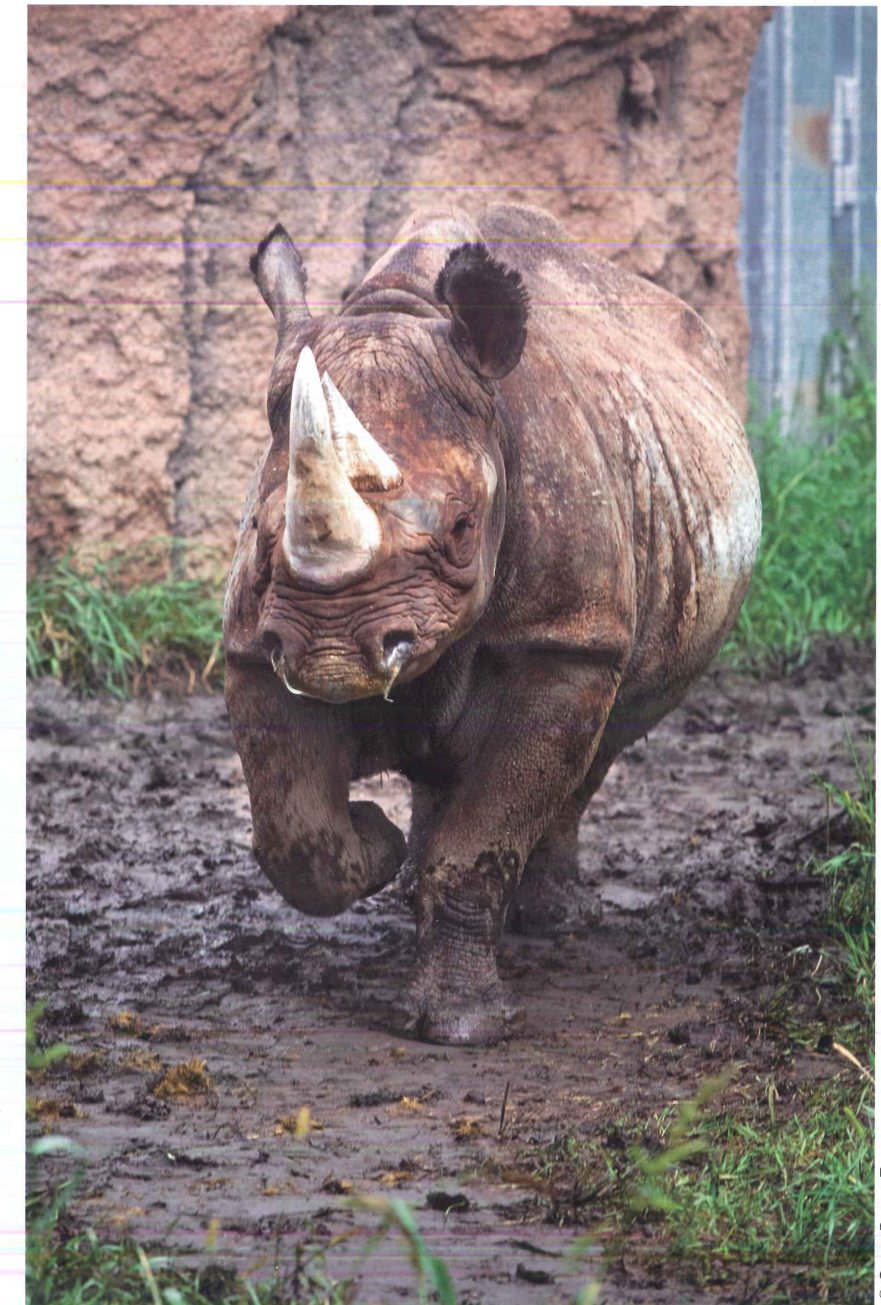
In addition, the exhibit helps communicate the importance of Eastern black rhinos, and how they fit into the world. Eastern black rhinos are extremely endangered; fewer than 4,000 survive in the wild. Rhinos don't have any natural predators apart from people. Poachers seek their horns because of the price the horns fetch on the black market. A rhino horn is worth about three-times its weight in gold.

The Zoo is a critical player in the endangered species breeding program, having two (a breeding pair) of only 60 eastern black rhinos in the United States.

The new exhibit includes two outdoor exhibit yards and an outdoor holding yard. Large exhibit areas will allow both rhinos - or a family of three

- to roam and run outside in the grass, wallow in mud, and snack on browse at the same time. The rhinos' indoor living space includes nighttime holding and breeding areas, and the innovative "rhino day room," which allows guests to see the training zookeepers do with the rhinos. This exhibit offers year-round viewing opportunities.

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