

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD



Species Survival Plans (SSPs) are AZA's trademark cooperative conservation and animal management programs, and we believe that all accredited institutions and related facilities should be committed to the goals and cooperative spirit of the SSP partnership. We also believe that the best way to ensure the sustainability of critical animal populations is to facilitate partnerships with our international colleagues.

Together, the WCMC and the AZA Board of Directors have developed a very thorough Non-Member SSP Participation Policy that will allow our institutions to work with non-accredited facilities while still ensuring the highest standards of animal care. The current policy is a recent one, enacted in January 2006, and because it is so new we have been constantly evaluating both the effectiveness and accessibility of the new application and inspection processes. Our main concern has been to ensure that the policy does not prevent our members from working with professional colleagues in other regional associations.

In the fall of 2007, AZA conducted a review of the new non-member policy to ensure that it facilitates international cooperation but with a strong concern for animal welfare. Following that review, the policy was revised so that Association Members of the World Association of Zoos and Aquarium (WAZA), as well as WAZA members in those regions not covered by a zoological association, have a more simplified application and inspection process. We believe that the revised policy will facilitate our ability to maintain a diverse and scientifically appropriate collection of animals.

We will soon communicate more information about this new policy and how it may impact the participation of non-AZA members in North America. In the meantime, for detailed information on becoming a non-member participant in an AZA SSP program, please see The Guide to Approval of Non-Member SSP Participants at www.aza.org/AnMgt/Documents/NM_SSP_Guide.pdf or contact Mark Reed directly.

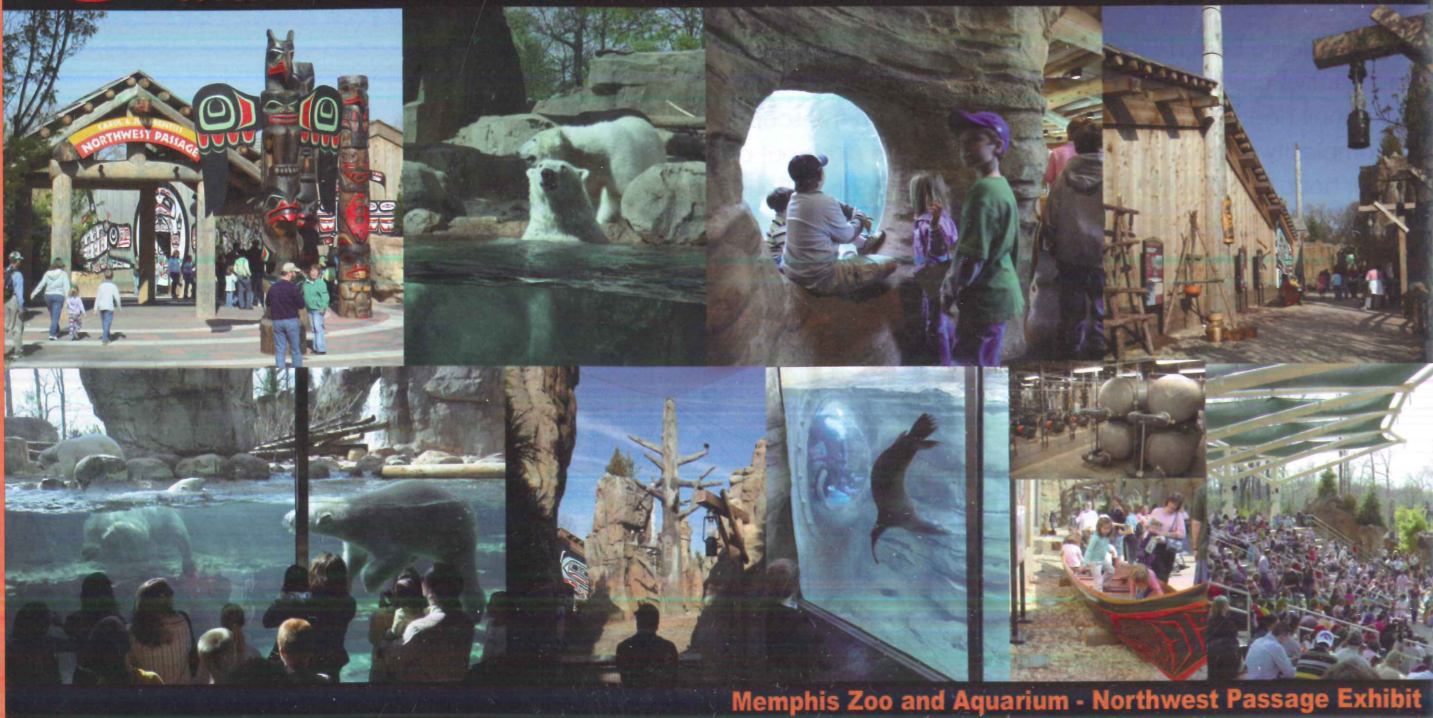
Mark C. Reed

Executive Director, Sedgwick County Zoo

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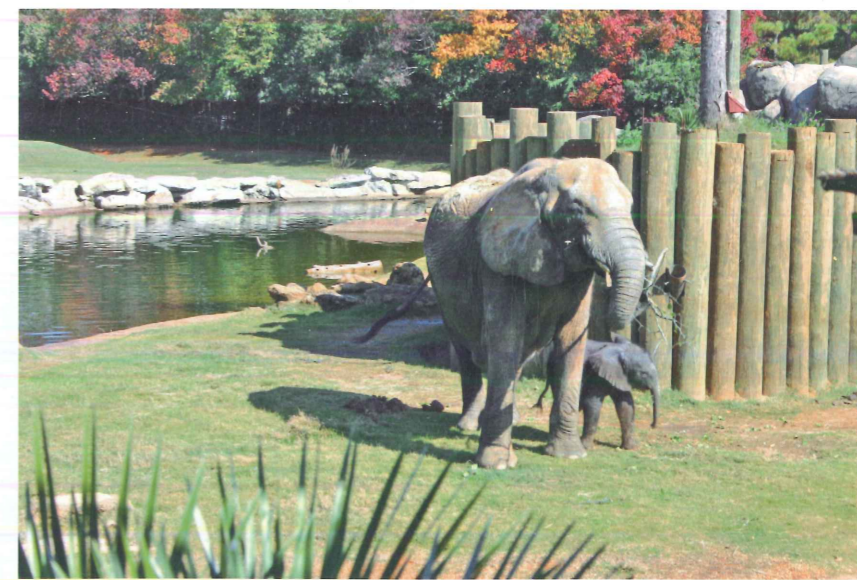
MONTGOMERY ZOO ANNOUNCES AFRICAN ELEPHANT AND INDIAN RHINO BIRTHS

The Montgomery Zoo had two significant births last fall. On 2 October 2007 a male Indian rhino was born to Jeta, a six-year old female on loan from the San Diego Wild Animal Park. This was an SSP recommended breeding. This is Jeta's second calf and the first rhino born at the Montgomery Zoo. In a naming contest involving zoo visitors the name Rocky was chosen. Rocky was estimated to weigh about 130 pounds at birth and he is doing very well and growing rapidly. Indian rhinos are highly endangered in the wild, it is estimated that only 2,300 survive in the wild and their range is very restricted.

On 7 November 2007, the Zoo's 23-year old African elephant Tina gave birth to a female calf. This was a natural breeding in captivity. This was Tina's first calf and the first elephant calf born at the Montgomery Zoo. Delivery and birth occurred unassisted in a protected contact environment. Tina continues to be very attentive and nurturing to her calf. The calf weighed 270 pounds at birth. The sire is 18-years old, imported from Swaziland in 2003 and on loan from the Lowry Park Zoo. Over the past few weeks the calf has been successfully integrated on display to another female who is pregnant and to the bull.

MIAMI METROZOO ANNOUNCES PUERTO RICAN CRESTED TOAD HATCHINGS

Miami Metrozoo's Mercantil Commercebank Children's Zoo announced the first time breeding of Puerto Rican crested toads (*Peltophyryne lemur*). The Zoo acquired adult females in 2004 and adult males in 2006. In preparation for breeding, the adults were cooled on 26 October. Zoo staff gradually lowered the temperature over a period of ten days. They remained at this cooled temperature for 23 days before they were set up for breeding.



© MONTGOMERY ZOO



© DETROIT ZOO

Recordings of mating calls were played when the males and females were placed together. Amplexus occurred on 28 November, viable egg masses on 29 November followed by tadpole hatching on 1 December. The tadpoles were then shipped to Fort Worth, Texas, on 4 December. The box of over 250 tadpoles met up with other zoos' PRCT tadpoles to make the trip to Puerto Rico. There they were released by the SSP. Twenty tadpoles were held back as per the SSP and toadlets began to emerge on 20 December. Since 2004 the Zoo has also been participating in the recovery plan for the Mississippi Gopher Frogs (*Rana sevosq*). Miami Metrozoo is one of only four AZA accredited Zoos to hold these rare animals.

DETROIT ZOO'S NEWEST STAR HAS STRIPES

The Detroit Zoo announced the arrival of an endangered female Grevy's zebra born 26 December - its second zebra birth in a year.

The approximately 75-pound foal is the daughter of 15-year-old Elvira and six-year-old ZZ. The Grevy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*) is the largest of the three zebra species, with adults weighing between 800 and 1,000 pounds. They can live up to 25 years in the wild and up to 30 years in captivity. The foal is a welcome addition to the world population of Grevy's zebras, which is currently estimated at fewer than 2,100.

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