

WILD TIMES

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

NEWSLETTER
WINTER 2011

RED RIVER
ZOOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Red River Zoological Society

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Winter Hours
Open Sat & Sun
10:00am - 5:00pm

Closed
Dec 24th & 25th

Director's Note

Lisa Tate
Executive Director
Red River Zoo

Dear Friends and Supporters
of the Red River Zoo,

As the end of the year
approaches, I find myself

looking back at the last 6 months, since my arrival to the Fargo area. I feel so fortunate to have landed in such a welcoming community, and to be working at such a great Zoo. While small, we are mighty- breeding some of the world's rarest cold climate species. We are dedicated to conservation, education, as well as being a true gem to the Fargo-Moorhead community.

We are constantly striving for growth and higher standards, but this comes at a price. Zoos are expensive ventures to operate, and the Red River Zoo receives no local, state, or federal funding. We rely on memberships, admissions, and donations to keep moving forward.

I ask that while you continue to enjoy the Zoo and all it has to offer, to also consider investing in your Zoo.

- A tax deductible year end donation greatly helps the zoo continue to operate throughout the winter months when we see very little income.

- Memberships to the Zoo make great gifts that continue to give all year long.

- Corporate sponsorships and business memberships are also available as a way to invest in your community while increasing your company's exposure.



I would like to end by thanking you all for your support and appreciation of the Zoo. Together we can continue to grow and thrive!

Happy Holidays, Lisa Tate

Changing With the Seasons

The next time you visit the Zoo, you may notice some things are starting to change. The Zoo is always analyzing its animal collection, exhibits, and guest services. It is an on-going process, and therefore, there are always changes that will occur.

One exciting change is that Zoo staff is currently working on construction of a new exhibit that will feature a female gray fox. This exhibit will be added to the North American section of the Zoo, just west of the wolves. Look for more information about Esther, the gray fox, in the Spring issue of the Wild Times.

You may also soon be wondering where the white-lipped deer and the camels have gone. The Zoo is currently in the process of moving the white-lipped deer to another institution. They will soon be moved to an off-exhibit holding area and transferred to a small zoo in Minnesota in February. Their exhibit will then be renovated for the Bactrian camels this spring. Until that renovation is completed, the camels will be moving to an off-exhibit holding area that also has access to a larger indoor area.



This will then allow for the domestic animals to temporarily be moved into the current camel exhibit for the winter. This will provide more room for these animals, as well as simplify the job of the keeper staff, especially snow removal. Future plans include a complete renovation of the 'Barnyard' area, with the conversion of the camel exhibit into a pasture area with walk-through access for visitors, but a time line for this project has not yet been determined. Please come out for a visit this winter and see all the changes that are happening.



Animal Antics

2011

Winter Break Animal Enrichment Camp
December 27th, 28th, & 29th

Believe it or not, animals get bored too! Spend part of your winter break at the zoo helping the keepers make toys for the animals. You'll learn about two different animals each day and watch as they interact with what you've created for them!



Animals covered during the 3 days include goats, red pandas, squirrels, camels, fox, and wolves! Attend one, two, or all three days!

Grades: K-6th
Time: 1-3pm each day
Fees: \$15/day for RRZ Members
\$17/day for non-members



Animal Antics Schedule

Tuesday, December 27	Wednesday, December 28	Thursday, December 29
Camels & Squirrels	Wolves & Gray fox	Red pandas & Goats

Animal Antics Registration Form

Participant's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Red River Zoo member? Yes No

Emergency Contact Person: _____

Relation to Participant: _____ Phone: _____



Please indicate the session(s) you would like to register for...

Program Date	Animals	Member	Non-member	Total Due
Tuesday, December 27 th	Camels & Squirrels	\$15	\$17	
Wednesday, December 28 th	Wolves & Gray fox	\$15	\$17	
Thursday, December 29 th	Red pandas & Goats	\$15	\$17	
Total Payment				

Cash Check Credit Card: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Program Release: I hereby for myself, my children, my heirs and executors, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages that I may have at any time against the Red River Zoo or Red River Zoological Society, their agents or representatives, for any injury or damages that may be suffered by me or my child in connection with my association or entry into the Red River Zoo, Junior Zookeeper Program, or other activities sponsored by the Red River Zoo or Red River Zoological Society. I understand that participation in programs at the zoo involves some contact with animals and as such carries with it the potential for risk of injury. In case of accident or illness, the Red River Zoo has my authorization to secure medical attention from physicians, nurses, hospitals and clinics for my child if I am not present.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mail registration form and payment to: Red River Zoo
4255 23rd Ave S
Fargo, ND 58104

Zoo Announces Birth of Muntjac Fawn

The Red River Zoo has a new addition to its family! Weighing in at only 2 lbs. 1 oz., the female fawn was born on Friday, November 25th. The fawn is a Reeve's muntjac, one of the oldest and smallest deer in the world. She is the second fawn born to the breeding pair at the Zoo, with her sister being born in April.

The proud parents, Jasmine and Prince, have been at the Red River Zoo for a number of years. Jasmine was born at the Zoo in 2003, and Prince arrived in 2008, when he was just 4 months old.



The muntjac family can be seen in the *Wings of the Orient* Asian aviary which was renovated and reopened this past spring. You can view them during winter hours at the Zoo on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.



PET SMART™

Stop by the West Fargo PetSmart and check out the Holiday Giving Tree for the animals at the Zoo. You can select an item to purchase and gift it to the animals. Everything from food and tasty treats to lots of toys. A big thanks to PetSmart for being a great Zoo supporter!

**PetSmart
1630 13th Ave East
West Fargo**



Naming the Triplets

When the triplet red panda cubs were born at the Zoo in June, one of the first questions was what are we going to name them. The staff decided that they wanted to allow some community members, particularly our younger fans, to have an opportunity to name these little fur balls. The Zoo held an essay-format naming contest where children were asked to select an appropriate name based on the natural habitat, geographic origin, and specific characteristics of the species.



One essay (next page) was picked as the winner. Aden Bickler submitted a fantastic essay in support of his name Xia (pronounced she-ah), which means “glow of the sunrise” in Chinese. The female cub was named Xia.



Another submission was for Magic, so the Chinese translation of this was used and we came up with Moshu (pronounced mwoh-shuu). One of the males was given this name.

The third cub was named Muse (pronounced muu-suh), which means Twilight.

All three cubs are doing very well and developing their own unique personalities. Moshu was originally referred to as ‘Shy Boy’ and Muse was dubbed ‘Brave Boy’ because of his outgoing, daredevil personality. Xia is also quite outgoing and playful.



Glow of the Sunrise

Congratulations on your new baby red pandas. I hope to meet one in person. Hopefully it is the one named Xia. Hi my name is Aden Bickler and I think one of your new red pandas should be named Xia. I will tell you a few reasons why this would be the perfect choice.

First of all, Xia means “glow of the sunrise”. Since red pandas like to be out in the time of dusk to dawn this name would be very fitting. Also when I see the pandas at the zoo they seem like a little ball of sun in the trees.

Secondly, Xia is a Chinese name as in Chinese red panda. This name would be the same as the panda’s origin. My name is Aden which is Scottish and I really like being connected to my culture. So the panda may want to have a name connected to his or her roots.

Finally, this name is good for both a boy or girl. It is your decision which one will get it, or which one looks like Xia.

Thank you for reading my essay on the new name of Xia for one of your Chinese red pandas. Even if I don’t win at least I will get to visit them often at your zoo.

Aden Jeremy Bickler
Age 9





HOLIDAY GIFT TRUE ANIMAL

CONTACT THE ZOO AT (701) 277-9240 FOR

MEMBERSHIPS

For only \$55, a Family or Grandparent membership is an amazing way to give a gift that keeps on giving all year. Every holiday gift membership is good until December 25th of next year.

That means the recipient can enjoy the Zoo all winter and all next summer. What a great gift for the whole family and still very cost effective!

Don't forget... memberships also include reciprocity which means they can visit 150+ zoos or aquariums for free or reduced admission!



KEEPER FOR A DAY

This is the closest you can get to being a zookeeper without actually working at the Zoo. As a Keeper for a Day, you will experience the Zoo from the inside out, spend a full day working with different animals and enjoy lunch at the Zoo.

During the 6-hour experience, you will assist zookeepers with the daily tasks of animal care such as food preparation, enrichment, training, and cleaning, in several behind-the-scenes areas.

Ages 18+

Cost: \$350 for one person; \$500 for two people

IDEAS FOR THE ANIMAL LOVER



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF THESE ITEMS.

SHARE THE CARE

What better gift for a true animal lover than to sponsor the care of an animal on their behalf. Make your gift a Share the Care package. Each Share the Care package helps with the daily care of the Zoo animals. There are several packages to choose from:

PEOPLE'S CHOICE: \$25

KEEPER'S CHOICE: \$75

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE
ANIMAL KIND: \$125

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

**Choose any animal at the Zoo
and receive:**

- Personalized certificate
- 4x6 photo
- Fact sheet on your animal
- Photo magnet
- One day pass to the Zoo
- Updates on your animal

KEEPER'S CHOICE

**Choose from gray wolves or
Chinese red pandas:**

- People's Choice package
- Plush animal
- 8x10 photo (in lieu of 4x6)
- 4 additional day passes

CLOSE ENCOUNTER OF THE ANIMAL KIND

- People's Choice package
- Plush animal of your choice (*based on availability*)
- 8x10 photo (*in lieu of 4x6*)
- Patron membership for one year

(includes 4 day passes and unlimited carousel rides)

• **BEHIND-THE-SCENES ANIMAL ENCOUNTER:** Choose the animal and the level of interaction will be dependent upon that species. For a maximum of 4 people.

2012 Photo Contest



Congratulations to the winners of the 2012 Photo Contest! Look for these and more photos in the 2012 Red River Zoo Calendar.

1st Place (top left) - Reflections of Asia by Teresa Garret-Martin.
2nd Place (top right)- Pretty Bird by Christina Sabot.
3rd Place (bottom) - Peacock by Aaron Benson.

A big THANKS to all who submitted photos, and make sure to submit your photos for next year.





Holly Jolly Zoo Days December 17th & 18th Noon - 4:00pm

**Take a picture with Santa and Mrs. Claus
Enjoy holiday crafts and activities
Zoo is open 10:00am - 5:00pm**

**Red Panda Cubs will
be on exhibit... one-day
only... Saturday the 17th!**

Creature Feature: Pallas' Cat



This month's **Creature Feature** is on the family of Pallas' cats that resides at the Zoo. The Zoo is currently home to eight Pallas' cats. Igor and Elvira are a breeding pair that arrived at the Zoo in 2009. The pair had a litter of five kittens that was born in 2010, and another kitten was born this summer.

Pallas' cats were first described by German naturalist Peter Simon Pallas in 1776. Pallas' cats are small in size, slightly larger than the average domestic cat, but have distinctly different characteristics. They are distinguished by a short, broad head with small, low-set ears. They have large eyes that are set high and forward, with round pupils. A sturdy body and short legs make them excellent climbers.

Originating from central Asia, they are native to a climate that is very similar to North Dakota, and therefore, have a long, bushy coat which also makes them appear larger than they really are. In fact, the hair on their belly and tail is twice the length of the hair on the top sides of their body. This provides extra insulation for lying on frozen ground and snow.

Like most wild cats, they are primarily solitary animals. They hunt at night for rodents, pikas (similar to a rabbit), and ground-dwelling

birds. Since they are not particularly fast, they usually catch their prey by ambush, using low vegetation and rocky terrain for cover. They broad head and low ears help them to stay hidden.



Igor, the 3 1/2 year old father, arrived at the Zoo in 2008. He was joined by Elvira, who arrived at the Red River Zoo a year later (2009). One year and five days later the two had their first litter of five kittens. The furry family was housed in the Pallas' cat exhibit until

the kittens were old enough to be independent. Once the kittens no longer needed their parents, Igor and Elvira were moved to an off-exhibit enclosure so they could breed again. Once mature, the kittens were separated. Currently on exhibit are the three males from that litter. Their two sisters are also housed off-exhibit in a separate enclosure.

This summer, Igor and Elvira had another kitten who has proven to be one of the most rambunctious animals to ever call the Red River Zoo home. He has rubbed off on his rather docile father and the are quite crazed some days.

The little family of Pallas' cats is getting ready for winter, as is the rest of the state. Their coats have filled in and disguised many of their markings. Be sure to visit their exhibit and see the three boys this winter.





Are red and normal pandas aggressive?

Submitted by Melinda

Giant pandas and red pandas are both generally passive animals and do not attack humans or other animals.

That being said, all animals may become aggressive if they feel threatened or out of irritation. It is always important to respect animals and their habitats.

Submit your questions for our Keepers to thezoo@redriverzoo.org or on Facebook.



Find us on
Facebook

Volunteer Opportunities

There are a variety of volunteer jobs at the Red River Zoo. Everything from running the carousel to helping feed the animals. To become a volunteer, send an email today to volunteer@redriverzoo.org.





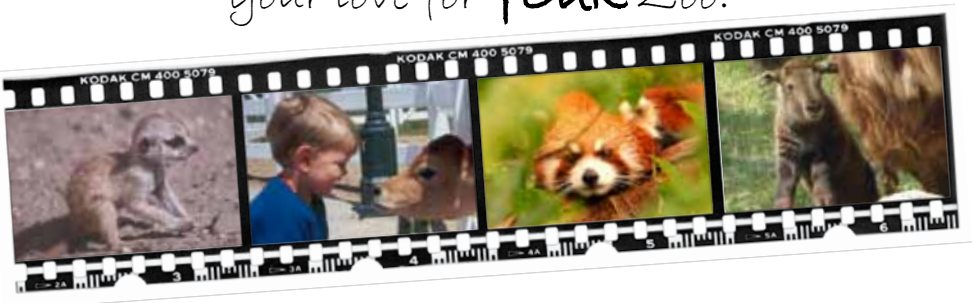
Giving Hearts Day

Hosted By: www.impactgiveback.org

24 Hour Online Fundraising Event

2.14.12

Make an online donation to the Red River Zoo on Giving Hearts Day and your donation will be **MATCHED**. If every member household donates just \$10, we can raise enough money to care for the red panda cubs, their parents and grandparents for an entire year! Together we can continue the mission of conservation and education. Please help us reach 100% participation and mark your calendar for **February 14th**... Valentine's Day... and show your love for **YOUR** Zoo.



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