

connection. education. inspiration.

SYMBIOSIS

Quarterly publication of the Association of Zoo & Aquarium Docents & Volunteers | Vol. XXXVI No. 4, 2024

ZOO & AQUARIUM



VIDEO ARCHIVE

by Mark A. Rosenthal

Have you ever wished that you had sat your grandmother or grandfather down and conducted a video interview of their life? They had the ability to chronicle the family history for future generations of your family. But you never got around to it or that special person passed away or was unable to share stories with you due to a stroke or memory loss.

Valuable information gets lost or forgotten when those influential in the zoo and aquarium world die or become infirm. The Zoo & Aquarium Video Archive™ project is a 501C3 organization created to preserve the wisdom, knowledge and stories of esteemed zoo and aquarium professionals, serving as a conduit between past and future generations.

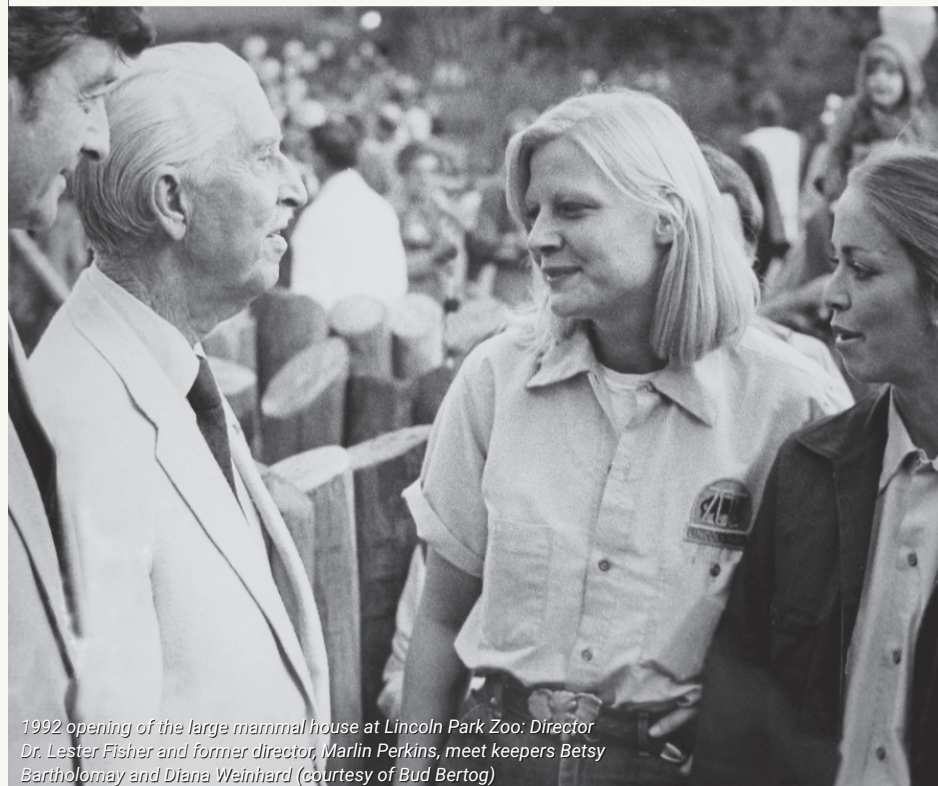
Started in 2011, the project has successfully interviewed 40 professionals. Of these 40 individuals, 18 have died or developed Alzheimer's, but their wisdom, knowledge and stories have been preserved.

Each zoo and aquarium professional has a unique story.

Marlin Perkins, director of the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, was the only zoo director to ever have his picture on the cover of *Time* magazine. He became a household name when he created the first animal show in the history of television. The show, "Zoo Parade," ran from 1949 to 1957. This show brought the world of animals into the homes of 300 families in the early days of television. Soon, it was being seen across the country. Marlin relates how the concept of an animal



Marlin Perkins hosts Zoo Parade, 1949



1992 opening of the large mammal house at Lincoln Park Zoo; Director Dr. Lester Fisher and former director, Marlin Perkins, meet keepers Betsy Bartholomay and Diana Weinhard (courtesy of Bud Bertog)

**If you don't know history, then you don't know anything.
You are a leaf that doesn't know it is part of a tree.**

—Michael Crichton



AZADV VISION

Empower public commitment to conservation of our natural world.

AZADV MISSION

Supporting our members' education, connection, and inspiration to strengthen understanding of and commitment to zoo and aquarium conservation goals.

Executive Board 2023–2024



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everybody. It's been a busy year. The board would like to share some initiatives that we are working on to keep conference costs down for our members going forward. One possibility on the table is seeking sponsorships for some of our events or sponsorship levels our organizations or businesses could pledge. Another idea is to make a few more of our conference events a la carte, like our pre- and post-trips are now. And finally, the board has unanimously agreed to subsidize conference registration in an effort to increase our conference participation and thereby hopefully grow our membership in the years to come.

I want to thank all our board members for their service. I'll recognize them in the order they appear down the side of this page. Shari LaRue, (secretary) for always having the agenda, minutes, and reminders out to us before we even realize we need them. She's done a Herculean job of getting all our records, past and present, on our shared Google Drive. Linda K. (marketing and communications), where do I start? She doesn't just do everything in her job description, for years she has been ready to help any member struggling with website or Facebook issues. We will miss you. Joanne Marshall (professional development) not only for stepping up mid-term, but just wait till you read her article later in this issue to see what great

things she has in mind for us. Ellen Kulie (conference advisory) for all she and her committee have done putting this virtual conference together for us. Even greater things coming in 2025 in San Diego and 2026 in Kansas City as well. Vicki Defalque (membership) has not only mastered our vast and complicated membership base, because of her familiarity with San Diego, she is the one that designed the survey included later in this edition. Andrea Hunter (newsletter editor) has put out the most interesting, colorful, information packed newsletters for four years now. We will miss you! And John Peel (parliamentarian), thanks for keeping us informed and in line!

I'd like to thank our standing committee members for their service this year. The Bylaw Committee was chaired by Judy Longmeyer. Her committee members were Ann Marie Fogarty, Ellen Orlowski, and John Ulmer. The Nominating Committee was initially chaired by Patty Whitecotton, who unfortunately had to resign, and we thank Peggy Moss who graciously stepped up. Her committee members were Van Harris, Pam Hancock, Ronit Kalmanor, Toy Marie Paddock, and Susan Gingrich as alternate.

On a personal note, I would just like to say that it has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your chair for the past year. Thank you!

Kay Johnson, Chair & Treasurer

Correction: In the summer issue of Symbiosis, the caption under the giant panda photos on page 4 incorrectly stated that San Diego is currently the only zoo in the U.S. to have giant pandas. Zoo Atlanta has had giant pandas since 1998, and currently has four giant pandas that are expected to return to China at the end of 2024. We apologize for any confusion.

Free One-year Membership Winners

The winners are Carol Dillenburg (Buffalo Zoo), Margaret Owen (Phoenix Zoo), and Dotty Doyle (Fresno Zoo).

Note: Members must have at least three consecutive years of membership to be eligible for the membership drawing.

AZADV is an organization of docents and volunteers from a number of zoos and aquariums in North America. We're here to support our member organizations and their missions. We share information freely, but all members are reminded that as volunteers, they represent their zoo or aquarium and must adhere to that organization's guidelines and policies in their role as volunteers.



Louie DiSabato and Colo, 1957

Zoo & Aquarium Video Archive continued

program came to be a reality. Not many zoo people can say they were involved in a groundbreaking concept. “Zoo Parade” paved the way for all animal shows that have been on television. It was a first.

Paul Breese was the first professional director of the Honolulu Zoo. He was a young man when he took over the zoo. Paul discovered that the nene goose, a bird only found in the Hawaiian Islands, was on the verge of extinction. The zoo only had one goose and a private landowner held the remaining 10 birds in a private collection. Paul had to convince the landowner to trust him and relinquish some of his birds for a breeding project to save the species. He relates in detail the ups and downs of his efforts in convincing the landowner that Paul would watch over his birds. His story is riveting, with the eventual outcome of a successful propagation program. Today, the nene goose is found not only on the Hawaiian Islands, but in zoos and waterfowl sanctuaries around the world. One zoo professional can save a species.

In the history of zoos, no gorilla had ever been born in captivity. In 1956, a young zoo professional named Louie DiSabato was working at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio when, much to his surprise and that of the zoo staff, a baby gorilla was born on December 22. They named her Colo and it was the first birth anywhere in the world of a captive gorilla. Mother Millie rejected Colo and it was up to Louie and other members of the staff to raise her. At the time, nothing was known about how to take care of a baby gorilla. Louie tells the story of how they reacted to the birth and the steps they took to guarantee the survival of the infant, informing subsequent births in captivity.

When Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium opened its doors in 1930, it was the largest indoor aquarium in the world. Its first director,

Walter Chute, hired a young professional named Bill Braker. Bill was destined to take over as director when Chute retired. During his tenure as zoo director, Bill moved the aquarium beyond the vision of its original designers. He had one foot in the past and one in the future. His stories of transporting fishes in specially designed railroad cars speaks to the history of the aquarium. The vision Bill had for the Shedd’s first major marine mammal exhibit speaks to his knowledge of design.

Women working in a leadership position in zoos and aquariums is relatively new. The first female zoo director, Belle Benchley of the San Diego Zoo (1927–1953), now has a score of women who have followed in her footsteps. Karen Sausman is one of them. Starting as a volunteer at Lincoln Park Zoo, Karen’s career took her to the directorship of the Living Desert Reserve in Palm Springs, Calif. She’s traveled over 10,000 miles to study zoo exhibits to shape the reserve from dream to reality. Karen’s grasp of exhibit philosophy helped to shape the unique zoo and its collection.

All this information is packed into the Zoo & Aquarium Video Archive website, which can be accessed at www.zooaquariumvideoarchive.org. Explore this website; there is so much more to discover. It is free and reaches a worldwide audience of not only zoo and aquarium professionals, but individuals such as researchers, scientists, docents, volunteers, and lay audiences who work at or visit zoos and aquariums.

The importance of the archive cannot be overstated. The project has been endorsed by numerous professional organizations, including the World Association of Zoos & Aquariums, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, the Zoological Association of America, and the Southeast Asian Association for Zoos and Aquariums, to name a few. All the sponsors and endorsements can be seen on the website.

In summary, the archive serves as a bridge between the past and future, ensuring that the collective wisdom of zoo and aquarium leaders continues to inspire and educate. We invite the members of the Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents and Volunteers to visit the website and spend time learning more and adding to your knowledge about the world of zoos and aquariums.



Milwaukee Zoo Curator Bess Frank working on a tranquilized brown bear (courtesy of Bess Frank)

2024 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

AZADV2024 Virtual Conference



AZADV Brings Education to You

Delegates' business meeting: Oct. 8, 2024

Conference presentations: Oct. 9, 2024

This year's delegates meeting will be a little different from what most people are used to seeing. We will be having a virtual

meeting on Wednesday, October 8, at 8:00 p.m. EST. Delegate check-in will begin at 7:30 p.m. A link to the meeting will be sent out to all registered attendees a day or two prior to the actual meeting. Only board members and delegates are required to attend, but as always, observers are welcome.

While observers are welcome to attend, it is important to remember that only board members and confirmed delegates

are allowed to speak in a delegates meeting. We therefore ask that any observers be sure to mute their computers. We want the meeting to run as smoothly and efficiently as possible so that we can accomplish everything on the agenda. With that in mind, it would be helpful for the delegates to also mute their computers unless they raise their hand (there is a button for that on the "Reactions" tab in the Zoom meeting) and are recognized by the chair.

At the time of this writing, final technical details are still being worked on in order to make this a smooth process for everyone. Please feel free to contact me directly at azadvmarketing@gmail.com if you have any questions!

2024–2025 SLATE OF OFFICERS

This is the slate of officers that will be voted on by your delegates at the 2024 virtual conference on October 8! As you may notice, this year no nominations were received for the post of treasurer. Our bylaws do have a provision wherein the incumbent can remain in office until someone else is elected if no one else runs for that position. This means that Kay Johnson will continue to serve until someone is found to fill her position.

The nominating period has closed, and the slate is set, so why is this important? There is still an opportunity available here. At every business meeting, after the slate is formally presented to the delegates, they are asked one simple question, "Are there any nominations from the floor?" Kay and the entire board strongly encourage anyone who is interested in becoming our treasurer going forward to consider attending the virtual delegates meeting and doing a floor nomination for themselves or someone who has agreed to be nominated.

The role of treasurer is such an important one for our organization. Kay would like to see someone else step forward so that she can help them fully transition into the position to keep AZADV efficient and effective going forward. If you have any questions about the duties and responsibilities involved, please feel free to contact Kay directly at azadvtreasurer@gmail.com

SLATE OF OFFICERS 2024–2025

Treasurer: *No nominations received*

Secretary: Shari LaRue (Topeka Zoo)

Marketing/Communications Director:

Alissa Chenetski (Columbus Zoo)

Membership Chair: Vicki Defalque (Greater Los Angeles Zoo)

Professional Development Director: Joanne Marshall,
(Rosamond Gifford Zoo)

Conference Advisory Director: Ellen Kulie (Detroit Zoo)

Newsletter Editor: Pam Ryan (Arizona Sonora Desert Museum)

2024 Conference Planning Committee:

Ellen Kulie (chair), Detroit Zoo; Ann Pisani, Kansas City Zoo & Aquarium; Jenny Reineck, Zoo Atlanta; Joanne Marshall, Rosamond Gifford Zoo; Judi Longmeyer, Phoenix Zoo; Mary Anne Lefevre, Phoenix Zoo; Ronit Kalmanor, Essex County's

Turtle Back Zoo/Bergen County Zoo. Past AZADV chair Tim Kouba (Oklahoma City Zoological Park and Botanical Garden) graciously agreed to update the conference website.

As you hopefully know, the conferences are planned by AZADV members. If you would like to help plan the 2025 conference, please indicate your interest by submitting the form available [here](#).

2025 CONFERENCE

IN-PERSON CONFERENCE | SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Dates: Oct. 14–20, 2025

Host hotel: DoubleTree San Diego (Mission Valley),
7450 Hazard Center Drive, San Diego; the nearest airport
is San Diego International Airport (SAN).

Contracted room rate: \$199 (single, double, triple, or quad)

Tentative itinerary

October 14–15: Pre-trips

October 16–18: Main conference (*opening session,
zoo day, paper presentations, speakers lunch, banquet*)

October 15: Delegates' meeting (*evening*)

October 19: Post-trip

AZADV MEMBER SURVEY

In an effort to create the best possible conference for San Diego in 2025, there is an online survey available for all AZADV members. You are strongly encouraged to submit your answers, even if you're not sure about your plans. The survey lists San Diego and Balboa Park attractions and we would like to know which ones our members are the most interested in. The link to the survey is <https://forms.gle/m8rrVEfc9r3jeqYR9> (the survey questions are included below for reference.) We look forward to hearing from you!

Please select the options that best describes your choices as of today. There is no commitment.

- ☐ I definitely plan to attend.
- ☐ I am likely to attend.
- ☐ I am undecided at this time.
- ☐ I am NOT able to attend in 2025.

MY INTERESTS ARE:

- ☐ I am most interested in the San Diego Zoo.
- ☐ I am most interested in the San Diego Safari Park.
- ☐ I am only interested in the main conference dates.
- ☐ I am interested in pre-trips.
- ☐ I am interested in a post-trip.
- ☐ I am interested in both pre- and post-trips.

CHECK UP TO FOUR (4) ITEMS THAT INTEREST YOU:

- ☐ Birch Aquarium
- ☐ California Harbor Seals and Sea Lions at La Jolla Children's Pool
- ☐ Harbor cruise of San Diego Bay
- ☐ USS Midway Museum
- ☐ Sea Port Village
- ☐ Old Town San Diego
- ☐ Narrated trip on the Old Town Trolley with a stop at the Hotel Del Coronado on the Beach and Pacific Ocean
- ☐ Balboa Park (offers 18 world class museums and multiple botanical gardens)
- ☐ Other:

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BALBOA PARK, WHAT SITES APPEAL TO YOU?

- ☐ Natural History Museum
- ☐ Fleet Science Center
- ☐ San Diego Air and Space Museum
- ☐ A docent guided tour of the Old Globe Theatre
- ☐ Japanese Friendship Garden
- ☐ Other:

Is there anything else you'd like to share?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELP WANTED

We are currently looking for new members to join the Professional Development Committee. Members work with the professional development director to plan and host educational webinars, topic discussions, book club and special events. They also write articles for *Symbiosis* and join in the conversations in our closed Facebook group. If you like reading, writing and research, this is the committee for you! Please contact azadvprofessionaldevelopment@gmail.com for more info.



AZADV BOOK CLUB WEST WITH GIRAFFES

THE AZADV BOOK CLUB IS BACK, BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER! We will be discussing a book every quarter. Our next book is the historical fiction novel, "West with Giraffes," by Lynda Rutledge. We will be hosting discussions in November. This is a bit of a departure from our past non-fiction book selections. "West with Giraffes" is a work of fiction inspired by an actual event.

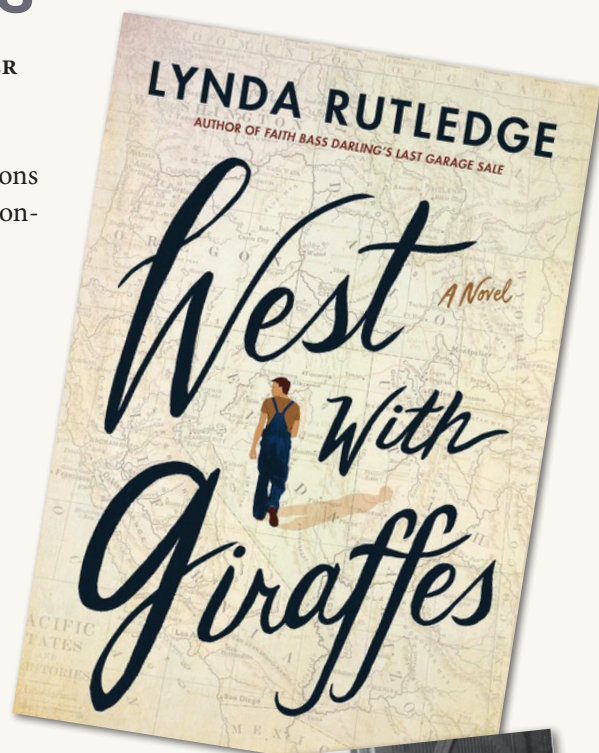
In 1938, Belle Benchley, director of the San Diego Zoo, raised the funds to purchase and ship a pair of young giraffes from Africa. Charley Smith, the head keeper of the zoo, drove to New York City in a truck loaded with specially designed crates for the giraffes. The giraffes and a rhinoceros were sailing for New York aboard the merchant marine ship S.S. Robin Goodfellow. Unfortunately, the ship was caught in a hurricane, washing the rhino overboard and damaging the crates containing the giraffes. The crate holding the female giraffe was so badly damaged that, at first, they thought she was dead. Fortunately, she survived with an injured back leg.

While the giraffes were quarantined in New Jersey, a veterinarian from the Bronx Zoo treated the injured leg and cleared the giraffes to travel to California. After the 12 day trip, the giraffes arrived to a big welcoming crowd in San Diego. A contest was held and they were named Lofty and Patches.

Since Smith didn't keep a journal or reveal many of the details of the 12-day trip, author Lynda Rutledge created a cast of characters and filled in the gaps. The fictitious narrator is Woodrow Wilson Nickel (Woody Nickel), who is 17-years-old when he joins the fictitious keeper Riley Jones (Old Man) on the trip. The story begins with elderly Woody writing the story of his trip with the Old Man and the giraffes. The story focuses primarily on Woody's "coming of age" during the trip. But the theme that runs through the book is really the giraffes, called Wild Boy and Wild Girl by Woody. He learns to respect and even love the giraffes, and to recognize the value of animals and the tragedy of extinction. As he says at one point in the book, "Because if ever I could claim to have seen the face of God, it was in the colossal faces of those giraffes."

In advance of the Zoom discussions, we'll be setting up a discussion thread on AZADV's private Facebook page. We hope you will join us!

(Get ready! The book for February is "The Soul of an Octopus," by Sy Montgomery.)



Membership Form

Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents and Volunteers



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

- ☐ New member ☐ Renewal
☐ Active/inactive docent/volunteer ☐ Associate

A "docent/volunteer" is considered any active or inactive zoo and/or aquarium volunteer. An "associate" is a retired docent or individual associated with an organization that supports the AZADV's mission.

- ☐ 1 Year: \$20 ☐ 2 Years: \$38 ☐ 3 Years: \$54

NEWSLETTER OPTION

- ☐ By Email
☐ By U.S. Mail (hard copy)

Please check the "by email" box if you would prefer to receive Symbiosis electronically.

MEMBER INFORMATION

Submit the required membership information online at www.azadv.org/form/membership or complete the following form (please print).

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Zoo/aquarium name _____

Make checks to "Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents and Volunteers (AZADV)." All funds payable through a U.S. bank. Mail to AZADV c/o Kay Johnson, 6808 9th Avenue West, Bradenton, FL 34209. You may also make payment by credit card at www.azadv.org/form/membership. You do not need to have a PayPal account. Simply login as "guest" when prompted.

REFUND POLICY: No refunds will be issued for amounts of \$5.00 or less. These funds will be considered a donation to AZADV. There will be a \$25.00 return check charge.



Pin & Patch Form

Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents and Volunteers

ORDERING INFORMATION

of patches: _____ x \$1 Amt: \$ _____

of pins: _____ x \$3 Amt: \$ _____

*Shipping + \$3.00 per order (up to 5 ea) \$ _____

Total enclosed with shipping \$ _____



Patches are round, 2" diameter; embroidered light and dark blue on white
\$1.00 each



Pins are round, 1" diameter; cloisonne light and dark blue on white
\$3.00 each

MEMBER INFORMATION

Name _____

Address _____

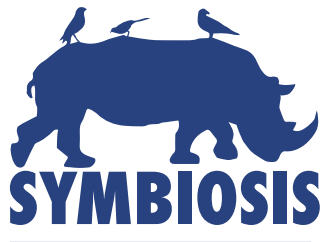
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Zoo/aquarium name _____

All prices U.S. dollars and must be payable through a U.S. bank. Please do not send cash. Make checks payable to "Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents and Volunteers (AZADV)." Mail to AZADV c/o Linda Kendzierski, 3107 Brookrun Drive, Jamestown, NC 27282

REFUND POLICY: No refunds will be issued for amounts of \$5.00 or less. These funds will be considered a donation to AZADV. There will be a \$25.00 return check charge.



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UPCOMING DATES

Symbiosis winter issue deadline: Dec. 1

UPCOMING EVENTS

2025 AZADV Conference in San Diego, Calif.: Oct. 14–20, 2025

2026 AZADV Conference in Kansas City, Mo.

Reciprocal Zoo Admission

The zoos below offer free or discounted admission to AZADV members upon proof of membership.

Arizona

Phoenix Zoo (50%)

California

Los Angeles Zoo & Botanical Gardens (50%)

Oakland Zoo (50%)

Santa Ana Zoo (100%)

Florida

Zoo Miami (100%)

Georgia

Zoo Atlanta (50%)

Illinois

Lincoln Park Zoo (free admission)

Iowa

Blank Park Zoo (50%)

Kansas

David Traylor Zoo of Emporia

(25% discount in gift shop)

Hutchinson Zoo (20% discount in gift shop)

Topeka Zoo (50%)

Sunset Park Zoo (100%)

Kentucky

Louisville Zoo (50%)

Maryland

Maryland Zoo in Baltimore (50%)

Michigan

John Ball Zoo (50%)

Minnesota

Minnesota Zoo (50%)

Missouri

Kansas City Zoo (50%)

Saint Louis Zoo (Free Admission)

Nebraska

Riverside Discovery Center (50%)

New York

Staten Island Zoo (50%)

North Carolina

Greensboro Science Center (50%)

Ohio

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden (50%)

Cleveland MetroParks Zoo (50%)

Toledo Zoo (50%)

Pennsylvania

Elmwood Park Zoo (50%)

Tennessee

Memphis Zoo (50%)

Nashville Zoo at Grassmere (100%)

Texas

Abilene Zoo (100%)

Dallas Zoo & Children's Aquarium (50%)

Houston Zoo (50%)

Washington, D.C.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park
(free admission)

Wisconsin

Henry Vilas Zoo (free admission)

Racine Zoo (50%)