



FALL 2017





ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AQUARIUMS

conserving the **legacy** of the zoo

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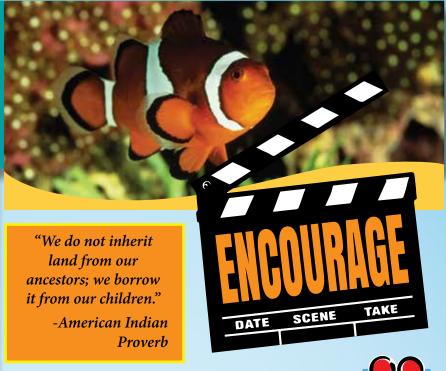
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Dan Miller Zoo Director Jim Lloyd **General Curator** John Gilman Zookeeper Olivia Reimers Zookeeper Bill Gallagher Zookeeper Michelle Miller Zookeeper Jennifer Giessinger Zookeeper Jerry Biewer Maintenance Kim Konrad Office/Visitor Services Manager Jaime Stricker Educator Roots & Shoots Barb Struwe Coordinator







black and white

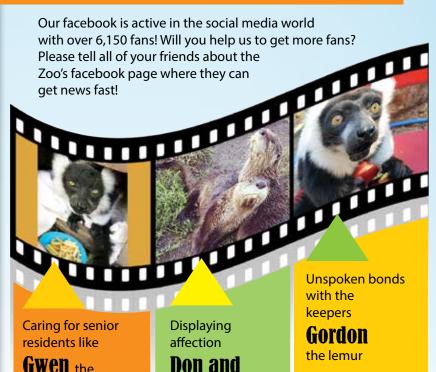
ruffed lemur







Search for BPZandLAZS on facebook today!



Darrell

DIRECTOR'S REPORT





DATE

Greetings from Bramble Park Zoo,

The Bramble Park Zoo (BPZ) has been a leader in conservation programs for over 100 years. Frank Bramble led the charge by taking in, and rehabilitating, numerous birds. He was also instrumental in introducing the ringnecked pheasant to South Dakota. Frank Bramble's early actions continue to inspire today's conservationists.

BPZ is located in an area known as the "Duck Factory" of North America. The Prairie Pothole Region produces over half of the continent's waterfowl. It also provides the most productive breeding habitats in North America for hundreds of migratory bird species. The Zoo maintains three ponds for various waterfowl species. The BPZ places a high priority on local conservation efforts. From rehabilitating and releasing bald eagles, other raptors and waterfowl, to planting many pollinator gardens, the zoo continues to develop new conservation initiatives to help protect our pollinators, migratory birds, and other local wildlife. In addition to field conservation, the zoo is committed to conservation education. Conservation is taught through zoo classes, tours and programs provided by the Education Department. The zoo has also seen success with its Sixth Grade Environmental Days program. In 2001, the zoo formed a partnership with the Jane Goodall Institute to bring Roots & Shoots (R&S) to South Dakota. R&S is a community based, environmental and humanitarian

program that emphasizes care and concern for animals, the environment and the human community through service learning projects. In 2016, R&S participants volunteered 876 hours performing service learning projects for conservation, wildlife and the environment.

Bramble Park Zoo's Conservation in Action

- Bramble Park Zoo joined the American Kestrel Partnership to construct nest boxes and record data of hatchability rates for kestrels.
- Over the last 20 years, the zoo has taken in, and released, hundreds of orphaned wood ducks.
- With the help of volunteers, the zoo has constructed many wood duck boxes.
- Over the last 30 years, the zoo has treated and released hundreds of birds of prey, including bald eagles.
- The zoo has planted hundreds of native prairie plants which attract numerous insects and birds.
- The Zoo distributed hundreds of nectar and host plants to individuals to construct their own conservation gardens.
- BPZ participates in 20 AZA Species Survival Plan programs. That includes Siberian tigers, jaguars, Andean condors, black & white ruffed lemurs, native swift fox, and others.
- The zoo continues to exhibit many threatened and endangered species.

Bramble Park Zoo's Conservation and Success Story

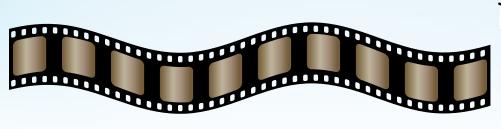
SCENE

The BPZ understands the value and need for serving as one of three rehabilitation facilities in South Dakota. One of BPZ's goals in its mission statement is to act as a wildlife rehabilitation center. This rehabilitation program has proven to be an important vehicle for promoting wildlife conservation, as well as respect for all living things. Becoming a rehabilitator allowed the zoo to form partnerships with South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Wildlife Refuges, and local animal shelters.

I am extremely proud of our local conservation efforts for a zoo of our size. Now it's time for all of us in our community to step up to the plate and give conservation the applause and encouragement it so richly deserves. It is the most essential and basic building block in the pyramid of conservation.

See you at the Zoo!

Dan Miller, Zoo Director





CURATOR'S COMMENTS

Conservation is something we take very seriously at the Bramble Park Zoo. It is at the heart of our mission and is in practice every day. What is conservation? 10 people will give you 10 different answers. Some will say that it is taking care of natural habitats, saving animals and giving money to conservation organizations. Others will say recycling, breeding endangered species or turning off light switches. We at the zoo feel that conservation is all of those things and more. It is all the little things that you do every day that positively impact the environment.

Conservation starts at the personal level. You cannot be a conservation organization unless the individuals in the organization practice conservation. The Bramble Park Zoo has come a long way in the last ten years practicing what we preach. We do not give huge dollar amounts toward conservation efforts or lead conservation movements, but we do practice conservation in many small ways that add up to a huge impact in our region.

The following is a list of conservation efforts that we have put into action: Migratory bird rehabilitation, visitor and facility recycling, recirculating animal pools, light timers and motion detectors, LED light bulbs, American Kestrel Nesting Project, Species Survival Plan with endangered species, planting nectar gardens, Roots & Shoots youth conservation programming, spray foam insulation in new construction and sky lighting animal buildings. Not one of these things alone makes a noticeable impact, but adding them all together makes an impressive impact. The Zoo also partners with local conservation organizations such as: The Upper Big Sioux River Watershed Project, SD Game Fish and Parks, USFWS, Waubay National Wildlife Refuge, Watertown Izaak Walton League, Pheasants Forever, Plant. Grow. Fly. and The Black Hills Raptor Rehabilitation Center to name a few. These partnerships have allowed us many opportunities to practice conservation.

grades

Is conservation in your everyday life?

Jim Lloyd, General Curator



EARLY OUT ZOO CLASSES

K-6th Continue your school day of learning and fun during these after school programs at the zoo scheduled on teacher in-service/early

out days.

Time: Classes run from

12:30-5:00 p.m. and include a snack.

Fee: \$18 + tax per program Rise and Shine-Wed., Oct. 25 Otter This World - Thurs., Nov. 9 Just Chillin' - Fri., Jan. 19 Enrichment 101 - Wed., Feb. 28 Animal Architects - Thurs., Mar. 8

Birds! - Fri. April 20

Day Camp at the Zoo

2nd-6th Pack a lunch, drink and a grades few extra snacks. Wear clothes suited for an adventure as you never know what kind of things we will encounter during this "Day at the Zoo".

Time & Date: 8:00 am-5:00 pm Thursday, March 1, 2018

Fee: \$27 + tax per person

Pajama Party

Wear your pj's and bring your favorite stuffed animal for a very special party at the Zoo.

Friday, March 2, 2018

Time & Date: 9:00-10:30 am

Fee: \$12 + tax per person

Spring Break Sleepover

Party at the Zoo overnight! Bring your sleeping bag, flashlight, and sense of adventure!

Time & Date: 7:00 pm-11:00 am,

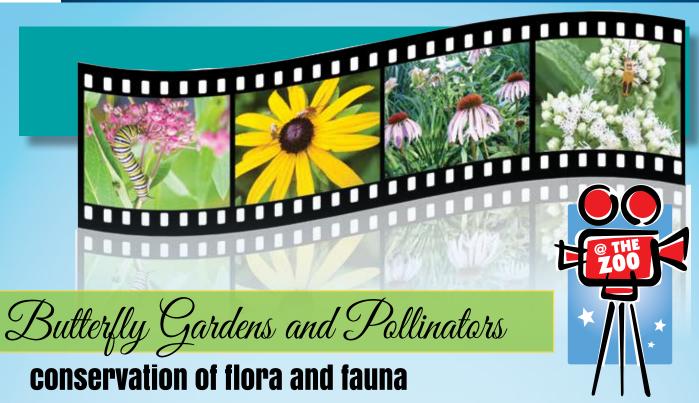
Tuesday-Wednesday,

March 13-14, 2018

Fee: \$50 + tax per person. Snack and continental breakfast provided. *Add a commemorative t-shirt for \$15 at check-out. Must be ordered prior to sleepover.







If you love flowers and butterflies, you'll really love this!
Bramble Park Zoo is on a mission to grow more plants that attract butterflies, bees and other important insects. For many years, the zoo has planted and maintained such plants on the zoo grounds. Now, with the help of a grant from the Watertown Area Community Foundation, the Bramble Park Zoo is taking the effort a step further.

The zoo has been distributing such

plants to others in the community via

the Master Gardeners at the Farmers Market on Saturdays and also through the zoo's Roots & Shoots programs. For the ideal outcome, you need both host species and nectar species plants, explained Dan Miller, Bramble Park Zoo Director. Each participant received five plants: 2 Rose Milkweed for Monarchs to lay their eggs upon; 1 Blazing Star and 2 Purple Coneflower plants.

The project is a win-win, Miller says. "Monarchs are becoming rare and it's

a good project for the kids in Roots & Shoots." Participants registered their gardens on the Blank Park Zoo's Plant. Grow. Fly. website (they receive this information with their plants) and we will continue to do some follow-up.

"Take nothing but memories, leave nothing but footprints."

– Chief Seattle

BRAMBLE PARK ZOO

Zoo Education programs include a hands-on approach to animal discovery, activities, games, art and interaction with zoo animals.

Sign up online at

Soulful Creations at the Zoo

Using beautiful colors and designs found in nature, create a one-of-a kind masterpiece to take home.

Time & Date: 2:00-4:00 pm,

Saturday, April 28, 2018

Fee: \$30 + tax per canvas and includes a snack.

Bramble Park Zoo • 800 10th Street NW, Watertown, SD 57201 • 605-882-6269

www.watertownparkandrec.com

FALL

ages 2-6

ZOO SCHOOL

Times: Thursdays 9:00-10:30 a.m. or Fridays 1:30-3:00 p.m.

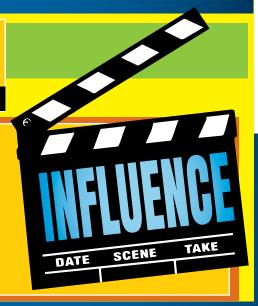
Fee: \$12 + tax per program

ZOOM – Oct. 12 or 13

It's a Birds' World – Oct. 19 or 20

Mmm, Let's Eat! – Nov. 2 or 3

Mmm, Let's Eat! – Nov. 2 or 3 Sounds Around – Nov. 16 or 17





Story by Roger Whittle and photos by Grace Ramey, Public Opinion staff

Officials and members of the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation took part in the release of a bald eagle at Dakota Sioux Casino near Watertown.

The release of the eagle, which had been shot and suffered a broken wing, came after the Sioux tribe donated money for much-needed lead testing equipment to benefit Bramble Park Zoo's raptor rehabilitation center.

Before the donation, blood samples needed to be sent out of state to be tested for lead, a process that could take up to a week.

"We would do a blood test for lead poisoning, and by the time we got the results, the bird would be dead," said Bramble Park zookeeper John Gilman."

Now, test results can be known instantly.

Dozens of tribal members and others witnessed the release, which came after speeches by tribal officials, prayers and a blessing of the eagle.

Gilman said the eagle was an adult and should have no problem surviving in the wild.

"In the end we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught."

Baba Dioum





A Day in the Life of a Zookeeper

konservation keepers!

Story and photos by Grace Ramey, Public Opinion staff

For five Watertown residents, caring for jaguars, river otters and alligators is a normal day at work.

Each day, zookeepers John Gilman, Jen Giessinger, Bill Gallagher, Michelle Miller and Olivia Reimers attend to over 800 animals spread across 15 acres at Bramble Park Zoo.

The keepers follow a daily routine, which consists of a designated group of animals each will take care of, feed, clean and watch for health or behavioral issues. However, they're all cross-trained to do any routine.

"A lot of what zookeepers do is cleaning up after the animals," said Zoo Director Dan Miller. "Everyone thinks it's this glamorous job – I mean, it is glamorous – but (they have) the day-to-day routine of fixing diets, cleaning the bear exhibit and cleaning the cat poop."

To Reimers, being a zookeeper means being "a maid, a nurse, a dietician (and) a grounds keeper. We do it all."

The full-time zookeepers are either veterinary technicians or they have a related degree and years of experience. They do behavioral training with the animals every day, teaching them to open their mouths, show paws and lay still on command to make regular examinations and treatments less traumatic.





"(The zookeepers) form a relationship with some of the animals," said Miller. "Some of the calmest people are the best zookeepers, I think, because they're calm around the animals and build a good rapport with them."

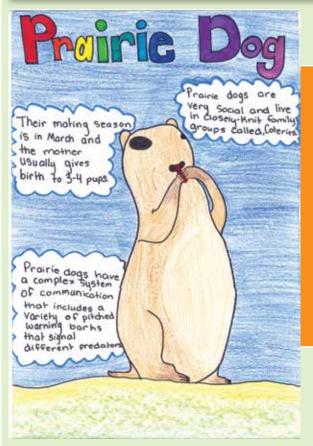
John Gilman, who handles the birds and big cats, has worked at the zoo for nearly 24 years and never thought he would end up working with the cats. "Working with the cats is really interesting," he said. "I don't know if it's because they could potentially kill you, but they have such personalities."

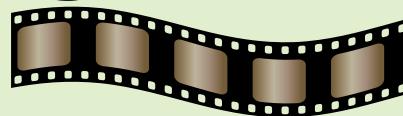
Bill Gallagher, who has worked at Bramble Park Zoo for approximately 18 years, thinks he has the best job. "Once you've hand-fed a grizzly bear when you're 18 years old, how could you get better than that?"

Bramble Park Zoo, accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), houses a diverse animal collection, from native animals like bison and wolves to exotic animals like the primates. Over 120 mammals, 200 birds, 60 reptiles and approximately 300 fish call the zoo their home.

The zookeepers are dedicated to providing thorough care and a bright future for the animals.

"They're the backbone of the zoo," Miller said. "Without the zookeepers, we wouldn't have a zoo."





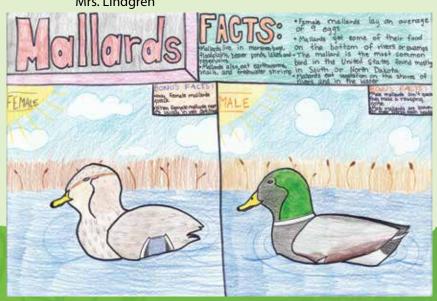
PRAIRIE DOG – ADYCYN JOHNSON

Mrs. Hanson



MALLARD DUCK - MADYSEN ROHDE

Mrs. Lindgren



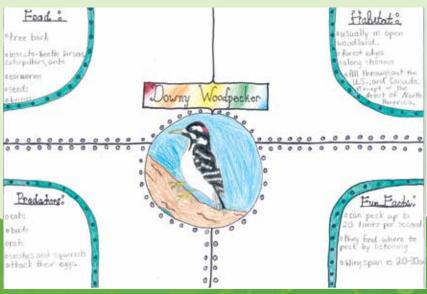


POSTER



DOWNY WOODPECKER - KE TAECKER

Mrs. Beutler





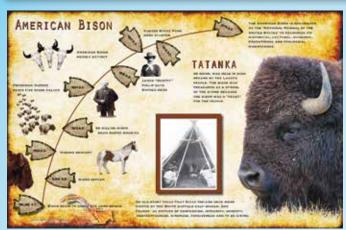
WHITE-TAILED DEER - KENNEDI ENGELS, MADELYNNE STORM, RYLIE CAMPBELL **AND KOLBY LACHER**

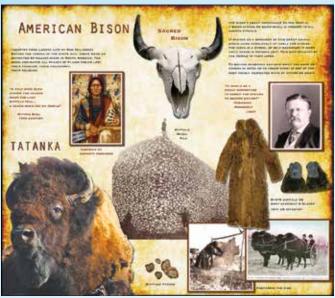


burch. Also many shrubs

Mative American Exhibit

conservation of culture







Zoo visitors
Rhiannon Larson
(left) of Watertown
and her cousin
Karenna Frost
of Clarksville, Tenn.
view one of the
Dakotah exhibits at
the Bramble Park Zoo.

The Bramble Park Zoo and the Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate have partnered to give zoo visitors a closer look at the Dakota people while viewing exhibits. After months of working with the elders of the tribe, the zoo now displays a sign with the Dakotah name and meaning at many of the animal exhibits. The Watertown Area Community Foundation awarded a grant in 2016 to the Lake Area Zoological Society in support of the project. The project has been really interesting, said Dan Miller, Bramble Park Zoo Executive Director. "A lot of the Dakotah terms really mean something. For instance the Dakotah name for Prairie Dog means 'squeaky noise they make.' Likewise the name for otter means, 'They're busy, busy, busy.' The name for bees is such because of their buzzing sound."

"Less than 60 people can speak the Dakotah language," Miller continued, adding that he has learned that the tribe is creating a curriculum for kids. As for the zoo project, in addition to the signs are some other historical artifacts of the Dakota that were either received through donations or are part of a loan from Augustana Western Studies and the South Dakota State Archaeological Society.

conservation print



conservation of family

Spot You at the Zoo

Aspen, Brecken, Vale, Oakley and Adam Wolcow.



American Kestrel

partnership!







This project brings together citizen scientists and professional researchers to create the largest kestrel research and conservation effort in history. They use information, such as banding encounters and the nesting data collected by citizen scientists to investigate, understand, and address the issue of declining kestrel populations.

The American Kestrel Partnership consists of more than 600 partners who are recording data from more than 1,400 kestrel nests, from Alaska to Argentina. In 2017, Bramble Park Zoo formed a partnership with the American Kestrel Project. The Zoo placed kestrel boxes on 17 sites in the Watertown area. We will implement a citizen scientist program for data collection at these kestrel nest sites.



ANIMAL UPDATE

ACQUISITIONS

American kestrel 0.1

1.0 North American river otter

various Freshwater fish various Saltwater fish

Giant Jersey chickens 1.2

1.1 **Emus**

Florida sandhill cranes 1.1

African cichlids 60

1.9 Chickens

DISPOSITIONS

Bactrian camel 0.1 2.2 **Red kangaroos** 1.0 African Pygmy goat

DEATHS

0.1 Emu (euthanized due to injuries) 1.0 North American river otter 0.1 Amazon parrot (60 years old) 1.0 Canvasback duck (16 years old)

BIRTHS & HATCHES

1.1 Bison

2.3 African pygmy goats

0.0.4 Ravens 1.0 **Bactrian Camel**

REHAB BIRDS

15 Mallard ducks Released 36 Wood ducks Released 2 Hooded mergansers Released 1 Canada goose Released 3 Cooper's hawks Euthanized

1 Bald eagle

1 Immature bald eagle

1 Bald eagle

3 Great horned owls

3 Red-tailed hawks

1 Prairie falcon

40 Wood ducks

8 Mallard ducks

1 Hooded merganser

1 Red-tailed hawk

1 Golden eagle chick

7 Wood ducks

1 Bald eagle

7 Mallards

2 Ring billed gulls

1 Long-eared owl

1 Red-tailed hawk

1 Bald eagle

1 Bald eagle

1 Bald eagle

1 Great horned owl

1 Great horned owl

STATUS

Released at Dakota Sioux Casino

Broken wing/euthanized

Broken shoulder/non-releasable

Pending

2 Euthanized and 1 non-releasable

Moved to Black Hills Raptor Center

Released Released

Released

Shot; lead treatment, possible release

Broken wing/fell out of nest

fell out of nest

Released Released

Euthanized Badly broken wing—died

Broken leg & shoulder—euthanized

Blind/lead poisoned—euthanized

Broken wing/shoulder/leg—euthanized

Seizures--died Release pending

Euthanized

3.2.1 = 3 males, 2 females, and 1 unknown sex. To save space when communicating with other zoos, we use this system to indicate the number and sex of each group of animals.



The mission of Bramble Park Zoo is to promote wildlife understanding and conservation through public education, maintenance of superior exhibits and high quality care for the animal collection.



MEMBERSHIP LIST . . .

These members have joined or renewed since the last newsletter. Become a Lake Area Zoological Society member today!

LIFETIME

Ian & Brianna Alverson

SUSTAINING

Ann Camp Bert & Darlene Fedt Robert J & Jill Gilman Dr. James & Susan Jones Shane & Angela Larson Scott & Deb Shephard Rick Stone **B&R Tree Moving** Blume Farms First Bank & Trust GCR Service & Tires Great Western Bank Pro-Tec Roofing & Sheet Metal Inc. Schoenbeck Law Lee & Donna Schoenbeck Sioux Valley Co-op Watertown Cooperative Elevator Watertown Dental Care Watertown Optimist Club Watertown Public Opinon **Worthington Industries** (Employees #1) **Worthington Industries** (Employees #2) Worthington Industries (Employees #3) Wurth Electronics Midcom Inc (Employees #1) Wurth Electronics Midcom Inc (Employees #2)

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Thank you for being a Lake Area Zoological Society Member!

Thank you for being a Lake Area Zoological Society Member! We invite you to renew your membership for 2018 so you will always know "What's Up" at the zoo. LAZS member benefits include free and speedy admission to the zoo for one year, free or reduced admission to over 100 participating zoos and aquariums, members' only specials, and an evening picnic at the Zoo. A LAZS membership makes visiting the Bramble Park Zoo affordable and fun every day of the year. And, as an LAZS member, you are helping support the Zoo's conservation and education missions locally and globally. As a non-profit, the Lake Area Zoological Society depends on your support to continue to add new things at the Zoo!

Darcy Dykhouse
Jacob & Sara Ebbers
Clay & Rachel Eberhart
Brian & Amanda Eckart
Pete & Jennifer Egstad
James & Jenny Elbert
Travis & Lauren Ellingson
Lisa & Matthew Elliott
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Dr. S.W. Allen Kathy Ausland Mike Barr Kale Braun

INDIVIDUAL cont'd

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GO GREEN!

Animal Chatter, the Lake Area Zoological Society Newsletter, is GREEN! If you would like to help us save money on printing and postage costs and help the environment, please drop us an email at bpz@ brambleparkzoo.com with the words "It's Easy Being Green" in the subject line and we will start sending your newsletter electronically. You'll get the same information and pictures, without wasting paper and money. You'll even get the news sooner if you choose to receive Animal Chatter via e-mail!

Note: Some editions will still be mailed via the US Postal Service due to important inserts located in the newsletter.

Roots & Shoots' Terabytes Group Hit the Road

by Barb Struwe

Members of the oldest Roots & Shoots group logged service hours to earn an overnight fieldtrip. This crew teamed up with Chahinkapa Zoo's Conservation Club (Wahpeton, ND), meeting in Sioux Falls, SD. Together, 20 of us toured The Great Plain's Zoo and Delbridge Museum. We received a behind the scenes tour, saw their koalas on exhibit, and enjoyed comparing the three zoos. Next we traveled to the Outdoor Campus East and took a class in canoe and kayak paddling. From there we toured the Sertoma Butterfly House. Moving onward, kids set up tents and explored Palisades State Park near Garretson, SD. Bramble Park Zoo hosted the evening meal of hotdogs and watermelon. Chahinkapa Zoo hosted the morning breakfast in a brown paper bag. The trip culminated back at Bramble Park Zoo for a pizza lunch and tour of our zoo before saying goodbye to our Chahinkapa friends.



Roots & Shoots is about knowledge, compassion and action for animals, people and the environment. This trip and crew did not disappoint on all of those levels.



www.rootsandshoots.org



LAKE AREA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 484 WATERTOWN, SD 57201

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ZOO HOURS

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Daily

Extended Hours (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Daily

ADMISSION FEES THRU 12/30

2 and under – Free • 3-12 years old – \$7.00 + tax • 13 and over – \$9.00 + tax Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

LAKE AREA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lake Area Zoological Society is to promote and stimulate interest in the Bramble Park Zoo and support the zoo's development and programs through fundraising, marketing and

other initiatives designed to enhance the zoo experience.

Perpetuating art,

Harry the debrazza's quenon Preserving footprints, **Savelii** the tiger

Keep up with current events at



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Zoos exist to connect people with wildlife and to inspire and motivate them to take action for the future survival of all species.

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

-Mahatma Gandhi

expression by

Gwen the lemur Conserving energy Cali the

jaguar

