



Cosley Tails

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Inside this issue

Cosley Zoo: Conservation and You	1-2
Conservation @ Work.....	3
Barn Owl: A Conservation Success Story.....	4
Programs & Events.....	5-6
Thank You Wish Tree Donors	7
Cosley Run	8



Cosley Tails

Information about Cosley Zoo and The Cosley Foundation, Inc. is available by calling 630.665.5534 or by writing to Zoo Director, Cosley Zoo, 1356 N. Gary Avenue, Wheaton, IL 60187. You may also e-mail us at CosleyZoo@wheatonparks.org. We welcome your comments and suggestions.



Cosley Zoo is a facility of the Wheaton Park District.



1356 N. Gary Avenue
Wheaton, IL 60187
630.665.5534
cosleyzoo.org

Cosley Zoo: Conservation and You

By Tami Romejko, Education & Guest Experiences Supervisor

You probably hear about conservation on a daily basis. You know it's important, or that you're supposed to think it's important; it would be the right thing to get involved or get more involved with. But sometimes the idea is just daunting. You're only one person. What can you do?

One of the easiest conservation actions you can take is to visit Cosley Zoo. This directly supports the collaborative efforts of hundreds of researchers, field conservationists, and scientists from Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)-accredited facilities working to save animals from extinction.

Each dollar you spend—whether it's admission fees, a souvenir from the Wild Side Gift Shop, or a hot dog at the Coyote Cafe—supports the zoo, which in turn supports conservation onsite and off. The 229 AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums nationwide have more wildlife care experts, more animals, and a greater opportunity to engage the public than any other entity. We have 750,000 animals representing 6,000 species, and close to 1,000 of them are endangered in the wild.

AZA-accredited institutions are already collectively investing over \$160 million annually towards field conservation to help save animals in the wild. Field conservation focuses on actions that help secure the long-term survival of species in natural ecosystems and habitats. While AZA zoos and aquariums have been participating in conservation for many years, a new initiative, AZA SAFE (Saving Animals from Extinction), will help focus these efforts and make even more of an impact.

Through the program, AZA and its members will convene scientists and stakeholders to identify threats, develop action plans, raise new resources, and engage the public. AZA SAFE harnesses the collective power of all AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums and invites you to join the effort.

Buy a pair of FishFlops®, purchase a penguin charm from Alex and Ani, or download the Tail-sUp app. For more information on these products, visit aza.org/SAFE-partnerships/.

– continued on page 2

Conservation and You

—continued from page 1

Don't forget to look for the SAFE logo at Cosley Zoo and other local zoos and aquariums to learn more about endangered species and ways you can help.



Looking for something a little more than just a visit to the zoo? We'll be hosting two special events this spring concentrating on conservation.

Party for the Planet

Party for the Planet™ is AZA's signature Earth Day event and the largest combined Earth Day celebration in North America! Each year, more than 100 AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums across the country celebrate Party for the Planet™ on or around Earth Day (April 22) with activities, giveaways, and special events designed for kids of all ages. Cosley Zoo will be hosting its **Party for the Planet event on Saturday, April 23 from 10A-2P**. Learn about local conservation efforts from area businesses and organizations and help us celebrate our conservation successes.



Turtle Day

Come and experience all things turtle at Turtle Day on **Saturday, May 21** from 10A-2P. Cosley Zoo has been a partner in a Blanding's Turtle Head Start program since 2001, raising juvenile turtles for release into the world. Learn about this program and support the zoo's efforts to protect this endangered Illinois species, meet live turtles, and take part in themed activities.

Still interested in doing more? Become a FrogWatch volunteer!

FROG WATCH | **US** FrogWatch
FrogWatch Cosley Zoo is a local chapter of FrogWatch USA™, AZA's flagship citizen science program that invites individuals and families to learn about the wetlands in their communities and help conserve amphibians by reporting the calls of local frogs and toads.

FrogWatch USA™ volunteers play an important role in amphibian conservation. Over 2000 amphibian species are currently threatened with extinction and many more are experiencing sharp population declines. This alarming trend may be a sign of deteriorating wetland health, as amphibians can serve as environmental indicators, helping identify the health of the ecosystem in which they live.

You don't have to be a frog or toad expert to be a FrogWatch USA™ volunteer! All you need is:

- An interest in frogs and toads
- A willingness to participate in a volunteer training session at Cosley Zoo, your local FrogWatch USA™ Chapter
- A commitment to monitor a wetland site for 3 minutes multiple evenings throughout the breeding season

Training will be held at Cosley Zoo on Friday, April 29 from 6-8P. \$7/person; \$20/household (or group). To learn more and to register, email frogwatchcosleyzoo@wheatonparks.org.

See, conservation doesn't have to be overwhelming! It can be as simple (and fun) as a visit to the zoo, attending a special event, or becoming a citizen scientist.

What is right for you? How will you contribute to conservation today?



Group Overnights

Experience animals and nature from dusk till dawn without ever leaving the suburbs. We'll provide the activities, an evening snack, continental breakfast and tons of fun!

Two ways to stay...

- Sleep indoors in the climate controlled upper level of the Vern Kiebler Learning Center!
- Available year-round

- Pitch your tents on the zoo's front lawn!
- Available April-October

Details at cosleyzoo.org/overnight.htm

Conservation@Work

By Alison LaBarge, Zookeeper

At Cosley Zoo, we're recognized as a leader in local conservation efforts, always looking for new ways to minimize our impact on the environment and support native wildlife. That's why we're so pleased to have earned The Conservation Foundation's Conservation@Work certification.

The Conservation Foundation started in 1972 as the Forest Foundation of DuPage County. Over the past 40 years, they've helped protect and restore natural areas in north-eastern Illinois. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to "restoring open space, protecting rivers and watersheds, and promoting stewardship of the environment."

The Foundation's Conservation@Home program, launched in 2004, helps homeowners make environmentally conscious landscaping decisions to preserve and restore the natural environment. An offshoot of that program, Conservation@Work, helps business owners do the same. To become certified, businesses and organizations are required to have certain elements on their grounds:

Presence of native plants and management of invasive species

Native plants are the most important component of eco-friendly landscaping. Plants that have evolved in the Midwest are tolerant to the extreme weather conditions common here.

From frigid winters to hot, dry summers, native plants survive and thrive with less maintenance than non-native species. Prairie plants are deep-rooted, able to absorb and filter rainwater better than grass, which prevents erosion. They require less water and little to no fertilizer, making their designation as "eco-friendly" an obvious one.

Native plants also provide food and shelter to animals. The loss of local prairies and wetlands has left numerous species vulnerable, but every piece of reintroduced native flora can boost biodiversity. Non-native invasive species, on the other hand, can outcompete and endanger plants that grow here naturally. Moreover, they can prove unpalatable, or even toxic, to native wildlife.

Cosley Zoo's butterfly garden is a great example of a space which uses native plants to attract and sustain wildlife. Not only have butterflies been spotted visiting the native flowers, grasses, and shrubs, but bees, dragonflies, hummingbirds, and songbirds have all been observed, too. Along with the butterfly garden, the



water detention area in the southwest part of the zoo contains native plants and provides wetland habitat used by invertebrates, amphibians, and birds.

Mechanisms for conserving rainwater

Dirty rainwater runoff greatly contributes to poor environmental quality in urban areas. Impervious surfaces, like pavement and rooftops, prevent the soil from absorbing rainwater. Excess storm water is forced into streams instead, and carries with it contaminants that lead to water pollution. Moreover, large amounts of water flowing through storm drains can erode banks and cause flooding.

Here, permeable pavers are used in the parking lot instead of impermeable asphalt. The brick pavers allow water to seep into the soil beneath them, drastically reducing rainwater runoff.



Our parking lot also contains rain gardens: shallow depressions planted with hydrophilic (water-loving) native plants. Rain gardens collect and filter rainwater, letting it infiltrate naturally back into the soil.

The water detention area was built in 2011 and designed to accommodate storm water runoff, while the south end of the zoo was regraded to ensure proper drainage.

Reduction of chemicals

Fertilizers, pesticides, salt, and other chemicals can cause pollution in waterways and potentially harm wild plants and animals. While eliminating their use completely may be unlikely, it's certainly feasible to reduce our dependence on them.

We began our composting program at Cosley Zoo in 2014 to reduce both food waste and reliance on purchased fertilizers. Composting is a way to turn organic material, such as leaves or food scraps, into a nutrient-rich, chemical-free fertilizer. Though we do have to use ice melt during winter months, we always purchase animal-safe products.

We're proud to highlight our eco-friendly practices through our Conservation@Work certification, and hope it will inspire others in our community. For more information on steps you can take to make your own yard more earth-friendly, visit theconservationfoundation.org.

Barn Owl: A Conservation Success Story

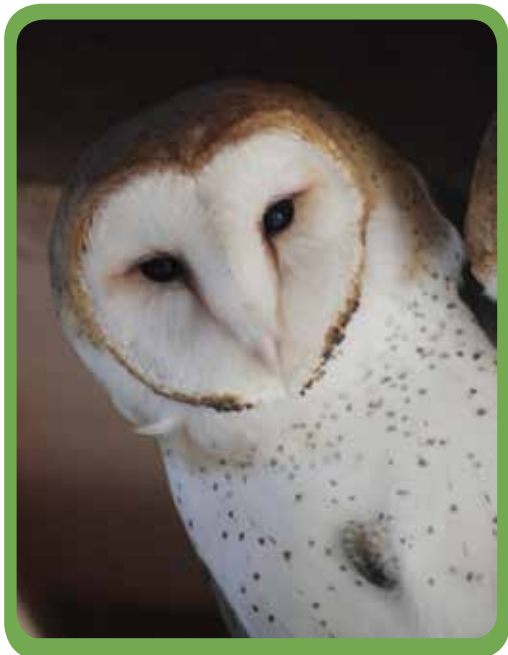
By Tami Romejko, Education & Guest Experiences Supervisor

Barn Owls, known for their unique heart-shaped faces and large heads, are found throughout the world.

However, in 1977 they were listed as an Illinois Endangered Species due to low population numbers related to habitat loss. Population declines are strongly correlated with changing agricultural practices in the Midwest. Many open grassy areas such as hayfields or pastures have been converted to row crops which support fewer prey species like voles, a barn owl's preferred meal. Named for their choice of nesting sites in old wooden barns, these nocturnal birds have also been affected by the replacement of wooden barns with more modern, closed metal sheds.


Because of the species' endangered status, Barn Owl conservation efforts have been widely attempted over the years. These initiatives are often the result of partnerships with private landowners, local and state government, and sometimes regional and national organizations. Such efforts have included captive rear-and-release programs, nest box installation, and grassland conservation and restoration. In fact, for a period of three years, Cosley Zoo partnered with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County on a barn owl captive rear-and-release program.

Once the owlets were released, they were monitored for habitat and nesting site selection and migratory patterns. While this partnership helped collect very useful information about Barn Owls, programs to improve habitat and nesting sites have proven most effective.



The largest conservation effort to date is the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Barn Owl Recovery Plan, implemented in 2010. Through the efforts of this comprehensive recovery program, which included improvements to habitats and the provision of additional nesting sites, the Barn Owl population has rebounded substantially. The comeback was significant enough that the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board approved changing the status of the Barn Owl from endangered to threatened.

While work on behalf of the Barn Owl is far from over, this is a great example of how people, partnerships, and agencies can work together to make a difference in the conservation of important species. To learn more about the Illinois Barn Owl Recovery Plan, visit dnr.illinois.gov/ESPB/Pages/Recovery-Plans.aspx.

PARTY FOR THE PLANET
 COSLEY ZOO  Saturday, April 23 | 10A-2P
 Celebrate Earth Day at Cosley Zoo!

cosleyzoo.org

Programs & Events

Zoo Tots

Curious toddlers experience learning through self-guided play in this special class for ages 2-4. Led by a Cosley Zoo educator, each class features a live animal visit and animal-themed activities. (NF)

Limit: 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
Animal Color and Patterns					
2-4	5/10	Tu	9-10A	\$9/\$12.50	206510-02

Zoo Games

Come and learn all about animals by playing exciting animal-themed games! Games are led by a Cosley Zoo educator and each class features a live animal visit. (NF)

Limit: 12

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
8-12	4/14	Th	4-5P	\$9/\$13	206302-01
8-12	5/5	Th	4-5P	\$9/\$13	206302-02
8-12	5/26	Th	4-5P	\$9/\$13	206302-03

Register online at wheatonparkdistrict.com for Bookworms, Zoo Games, Barnyard Bedtime Stories, and Zoo Tots at Cosley Zoo.

Party for the Planet Saturday, April 23 | 10A-2P

Join us as we take part in the largest combined Earth Day celebration in North America with more than 100 other zoos and aquariums. Come visit with representatives from businesses and conservation organizations and learn about a wide variety of conservation efforts related to nature and wildlife.

- Regular Admission Rates Apply



FrogWatch USA Training Session

Do you have an interest in frogs and toads? Become a FrogWatch Volunteer! You don't have to be a frog or toad expert to be a FrogWatch USA™ volunteer! All you need is:



- An interest in frogs and toads
- Willingness to participate in a volunteer training session at Cosley Zoo, your local FrogWatch USA™ Chapter
- Commitment to monitor a wetland site for 3 minutes multiple evenings throughout the breeding season (February-August)

FrogWatch Cosley Zoo is a local chapter of FrogWatch USA™, AZA's flagship citizen science program that invites individuals and families to learn about the wetlands in their communities and help conserve amphibians by reporting the calls of local frogs and toads.

FrogWatch USA™ volunteers play an important role in amphibian conservation. Over 2000 amphibian species are currently threatened with extinction, and many more are experiencing sharp population declines. This alarming trend may be a sign of deteriorating wetland health because amphibians can serve as indicator species, representing the well-being of the ecosystem they live in.

Training will be held at Cosley Zoo on Friday, April 29 from 6-8P. \$7/person; \$20/household (or group). To learn more and to register, email frogwatchcosleyzoo@wheatonparks.org.



Programs & Events

Turtle Day

Saturday, May 21, 10A-2P

Join Cosley Zoo staff and some of your favorite reptiles as we celebrate turtles and learn more about the species residing at Cosley Zoo, including the locally endangered Blanding's Turtle. Live animal interactions will take place throughout the event.

- Regular admission rates apply



Eco-Exploration Backpack Tours

Cosley Zoo offers backpack tours for families. These eco-friendly packs are filled with a combination of activities and discovery items families can use while at the zoo. Each pack focuses on a different theme and will act as a "tour guide" as you make your way through the zoo, highlighting various exhibits and promoting animal and habitat conservation messages. Backpack tours are a great way for parents and children to explore the zoo together.

- \$3/pack
- Successfully complete your adventure and receive an official Eco-Explorer button. Complete each theme to collect all 8 buttons!
- Packs can be checked out from the Wild Side Gift Shop

Morning Chores

Have you ever wanted to help take care of animals on a farm? Now's your chance to get a firsthand experience. Join our staff as you help clean and bed stalls and feed farm animals, plus try your hand at grooming.

- Available Wednesday and Saturday, April-October, 7:15-9:15A
- Ages 8-adult (ages 8-13 must be accompanied by a paying adult)
- \$20/person
- 10% discount for Wild Bunch Plus and Keeper Club Member levels

To sign up, call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534

Bobcats Backstage

A unique experience with the bobcats!

Join our zookeepers for an exclusive behind-the-scenes visit with the bobcats. Learn about this fascinating feline as you enjoy a close-up view of a training session where the bobcats learn how to participate in their own care.

- Available daily 11:00-11:30A
- Sign up by 10:45A in the Wild Side Gift Shop during your zoo visit. First come first served, maximum of 6 participants each day.
- \$12/person
- 10% discount for Wild Bunch Plus and Keeper Club Member levels

Zookeeper for a Day

Do you want to be a zookeeper? Spend part of the day and work side-by-side with one of our Animal Care staff. Assist with routine cleaning and care, provide enrichment to the animals, and be part of a training demonstration. Participants will also receive a certificate, special souvenir, and photo.

- Available all year from 10A-1P
- Ages 14 and up
- \$95/person
- 10% discount for Wild Bunch Plus and Keeper Club Member levels

To sign up, call the Cosley Zoo Education Department at 630.665.5534

Daily Activities

Duck Feeding

Through October 12

Offered daily April 16 through October 12 from 10-10:30A and 3-3:30P, weather permitting.

- Cost: \$1/serving
- All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.*

Chicken Feeding

Through October 31

Offered daily through October 31 from 11:30-11:45A and 1:30-1:45P, weather permitting.

- Cost: \$1/serving
- All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.*

Discovery Stations

Training demonstrations, animal encounters, and more take place at 10:30A and 2:30P, weather permitting, on Saturdays and Sundays in April and May, daily beginning June 1. Look for the Daily Activities sign when you enter the zoo to discover the topics and location for the day's presentations. Programs are free and open to all ages.

Thank You to Our Cosley Zoo Wish Tree Donors 2016

A Big Fan
 Aaron
 Acilia
 AJ
 Aiardse Gaden
 Alice
 Alivia & Anthony Lederer
 Alyssa Gaden & Taylor Engquist
 Amanda & Lexy Powell
 Andrew & Amelica
 Andrew & Crystal
 Anna Stewart
 April
 Becca
 Ben
 Bichler Family
 Blake and Kylie
 Bob & Mary Ann
 Brielle & Michaela
 Brock & Bruce
 Cain Gallegos & Linda Blatch
 Carolyne Moreira
 Carly
 Celeste
 Charlie & Sadie
 Charlotte
 Charlotte Amoroso
 Cheyenne Warricks & Mommy
 Christine
 Clawedia, Zoe, & Orbit
 Chloe Jean Walter
 Conner & Eleanor Burnes
 Connor
 Cow Lover
 Danielle Marshall
 De Ward
 Deb & Ron Smith
 Divito Family
 Ella
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 Ellie, Emma, Eddie
 Eloise
 Emily
 Emma Nem
 Erica & Tom
 Ethan
 Fiona
 Frank Anthony Sterioti
 Gemma Paige Abbott
 Hannah Banana
 Hannah, Maddox, Melissa, & Nolan
 Harrison And Weston Such
 Hermione
 Holubetz Family
 Hudson May
 Isaac
 Jackie Radke
 Jaxon Alford
 Jamie Fulco
 Jaxon Walsh
 Jeff
 Jeffrey Lee
 Jen Caliendo
 Jennifer
 Jill
 Joanne Cruz & Family
 Joanne R
 John & Mary Anne
 Jonathon Lee
 Joshua & Jacob
 Josiah
 Josslyn & Kellen
 Julie
 Julyana Moreira
 Kate & Ryan Wilson
 Katie & Javier
 Kazmierczak Family
 Kelli B
 Kelly, Chris & Aaron
 Khai Gaisie
 Kim Holland
 Kim, Shane Gialdini
 Kira
 Kwiatkowski's
 Kyra & Audrey
 Landon
 Laura
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 Lillian English
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 Linda K
 Lindasue
 Liz
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 Lynn & Jennifer
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 Maddie & Frey
 Madigan
 Mairéad
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 Marcio Moreira
 Mark
 Mark Fornal
 Mark Swiss
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 Max Coffin
 Mia & Evan
 Michael & Mary Speer
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 Michelle & Rich
 Miles
 Miller Family
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 Montana
 Nicholas & Jacob
 Nick
 Nick, Isaac, & April
 Nicole
 Nikki & Jon Melin
 Olivia & Amber
 Olivia & Emily
 Paige
 Pasterz Family
 Pattie & her Furballs
 Patty & Micky
 Patty Murphy
 Paxton
 Peter & Amanda Turano
 Phil & Bonne
 Pucher Family
 Quinn
 Ray, Margo Sarko
 Reed
 Rich & Liz Tillwach II
 Rick & Terri Saucedo
 Rolewick Family
 Roman & Isabella
 Rowen
 Saffron & Cameryn Garvey
 Sam
 Sam & Mitch
 Samoska Family
 Sarah Fornal
 Shyire
 Stephanie
 Steve O
 Steve, Lisa, Tessie W.
 Tommy & Alexis
 Terri
 Terry & Libby Ludwig
 The Bald Family
 The Brand's
 The Burkharts
 The Casey's
 The Ciceros
 The Curtice Family
 The Edson's
 The Ellis Family
 The Gebbia's
 The Gidcumb's
 The Giuetti's
 The Isgrens
 The Moe Family
 The Muellers
 The Olsons
 The Partington Family
 The Sullivan Family
 The Trento's
 The Ude Family
 The Vojack Grand Kids
 The Welnowski Family
 The Zych's
 Theresa Miniscalco
 Theresa
 Thomas C
 Tom & Kim
 Wesley Peterson
 Weston
 Weston Romashko
 York Family
 Your Biggest Fan
 Zach
 Zachary
 Zara
 Zoe & Christian

COSLEY ZOO

2016 RUN FOR THE ANIMALS

Running for 35 Years!

JUNE 4

DOWNTOWN
WHEATON

5K/10K

7:30A

1/2 MILE ZIPPITY ZOO

8:45A

REGISTER AT

COSLEYZOO.ORG/RUN

Proceeds benefit ongoing development at Cosley Zoo.



CIRCUIT RACES

COSLEY ZOO

A Pretty Wild Place...

A participating **RACE
WHEATON** Event

Find out more @RaceWheaton

*Cosley Zoo is located at 1356 N. Gary Avenue in Wheaton.
A facility of The Wheaton Park District.*

 / CosleyZoo

ACCREDITED BY THE
**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**