



E-News Vol. 1, Issue 4 • Fall 2013

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**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

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
www.cosleyzoo.org

The Bobcats: One Year Later

by Kristi Sampiller, Zookeeper

On September 20, 2012, Cosley Zoo was proud to officially open the new bobcat exhibit. The bobcats, brothers named Salvatore and Valentino (affectionately known as Sal and Val) quickly grew acclimated to their new home and have been seen exploring every part of it from the top of the waterfall down to the plant beds on the ground. Staff and visitors have been enjoying the cats' antics as they play with their enrichment and investigate the tallest logs in their exhibit. Obviously comfortable in their new surroundings, the brothers are often seen playfully interacting with each other. Val is known for rolling over onto his back and mischievously swatting at Sal's face, amusing staff and visitors alike.



As with any new animals, there have definitely been some challenges working with the cats, but with a little work on the part of our staff, the bobcats have taken the experience of settling in to a new home in stride. Prior to arriving at Cosley Zoo, the brothers had never had an indoor space like ours, nor seen so many people. Sal in particular seemed quite nervous in his indoor holding area at first, so keepers immediately worked on establishing a bond with him and feeding him exclusively indoors to help him develop a positive association with that space.

Over time, both cats have become accustomed to the unfamiliar sounds of visitors and vehicles. Although Val spent much of his time in his early days at Cosley Zoo watching visitors and following them as they walked around the exhibit, that behavior has greatly decreased and he now seems less affected by human sounds, acting more like a typical bobcat.

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The Bobcats: One Year Later

– continued from page 1



Another challenge we anticipated was that the cats had never experienced an Illinois winter. Although bobcats are native to Illinois and have ample fur coats to protect them from cold temperatures, these particular cats were born and raised in California and were unfamiliar with the type of winter weather we experience in northern Illinois. Zoo staff took this into consideration when planning the exhibit, and included a heated rock in the design. The cats were often seen lying on this rock during their first winter at Cosley Zoo, and it was a special treat to see the cats' positive reaction to their first snowfall! Val spent quite a bit of time diving at chunks of snow and pouncing on the large piles that accumulated on top of the exhibit logs.

To keep the cats healthy and active, the zookeepers provide a wide variety of enrichment for Sal and Val. The exhibit already offers many items that are enriching to the cats, including a waterfall and various plants in the outside habitat and hammocks made of fire hose in the indoor space. The zookeepers also provide the bobcats with additional enrichment on a daily basis. Sometimes enrichment is as simple as spraying scents in the exhibit or putting another animal's fur in with the cats to give them something novel to explore. Other times keepers hide food inside of boxes and bags, hang tires and balls in the exhibit, or give the bobcats frozen treats on a hot summer day. These various forms of enrichment encourage the cats to use their natural skills and attributes, such as hunting and employing their keen senses of smell and sight.

Shortly after the cats arrived they were incorporated into our operant conditioning training program (positive reinforcement training). A team of four zookeepers trains Val and Sal on numerous behaviors. This training provides them with additional exercise, gives them mental

stimulation, and aids in their care. In just one short year, we have been seeing great results! Because of this training, we are able to get monthly weights on the cats (by asking them to step onto a scale) and have been working on getting Sal and Val to voluntarily walk into a crate. Both of these behaviors are crucial to their care.

To share our training progress with visitors, this summer we began offering a new program called Bobcats Backstage. This program gives visitors the unique opportunity to go behind-the-scenes and learn about our bobcats while observing one of their training sessions! Bobcats Backstage takes place daily from 11-11:30 am. If you are interested in participating in this exciting program, you can sign up in the gift shop between 9 and 10:45 am any day of the week or call ahead to reserve a particular day. You'll need to be quick though, as this program is only available to the first six people who sign up each day! The fee is \$12 per person for nonmembers and \$10 per person for members.

It has been a great first year with Sal and Val. The zookeeper staff has had a wonderful time becoming familiar with each cat's unique personality. As one of our zookeepers has been known to say, "What they lack in size, they make up for in personality." With Val and Sal, we know that the year ahead will be full of many new and interesting experiences! If you haven't had the opportunity yet, or if it has been a while since you've seen the bobcat brothers, I highly recommend that you visit the bobcats soon. We can't wait for you to see what the cats are up to next!

**Purchase One Bobcats Backstage
at Full Price
Get One at Half Price
Up to \$6 Value**

Reservations may be made ahead of time or can be taken the day of the program up until 10:45 am.

Program offered daily at 11 am.

- First-come, first-served.
- Maximum of six participants.

No cash value. Discounted admission must be used the same day as the full price admission. Present coupon to receive discount.

Expires 12/30/13

Code CZFall13

Programs & Events

Fall 2013

Grazing Fest, "Bobcat Bash"

Thursday, September 19 | 5:30-9 pm



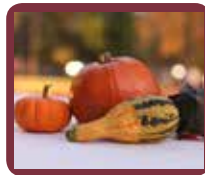
Be our guest during this one-of-a-kind evening featuring an open bar and cuisine from local restaurants. Highlights include a silent auction, raffle, and visits from some of the zoo's favorite residents. Enjoy a fabulous evening socializing with friends

and associates while supporting Cosley Zoo. Call the zoo at 630.665.5534 to sign up. RSVP is required by September 9. You must be 21 years or older to attend.

– \$50 per person

Pumpkin Fest – Month of October

Cosley Zoo is a feast for the senses during the month of October. Breathe in the crisp fall air as you enter the zoo through a cornstalk lined path, hear the crunch of the leaves underneath your feet, listen to the squeals of excitement from the children conquering the straw pyramid or finding their way through the corn stalk tunnel, and take in the thousands of pumpkins scattered on the zoo's lawn.



Apples, gourds, pumpkins, cider, cornstalks, and various sizes of straw bales are available to purchase. Be sure and check out the fall merchandise in the Wild Side gift shop too. Proceeds from your purchases benefit the continued development of Cosley Zoo.

– Regular admission rates apply

Sponsored by 

Spooktacular

Friday, October 25 | 5:30-7 pm and 7-8:30 pm

Don't miss this fall festival full of Halloween fun! Come dressed in costume to enjoy loads of activities. Take a stroll through our "not so scary" straw maze, a gander around the spooky pond path, meet live animals, carve or decorate a pumpkin, play games, enjoy refreshments, and make crafts. Stop at various stations along the Trick or Treat Trek to collect your supply of holiday goodies. Please register by 10/21/13. Payment is due at the time of registration. Sign up today at 630.665.5534.

– Free to Cosley Zoo Members based on membership level
– \$10 ages 3-14; \$5 ages 15-Adult; Free ages 2 and under

Morning Chores

Have you ever wanted to help take care of animals on a farm? Well, now is your chance to get first-hand experience. Join the staff as you help clean stalls, feed farm animals, and try your hand at grooming.

– Available Wednesday or Saturday morning, April through September from 7:15 to 9:15 am.

– Ages 8-adult (Ages 8-13 must be accompanied by a paying adult)

– \$15/Cosley Zoo Member; \$20/nonmember

To sign up, please call the zoo and ask for the Education Department.

Fun-damentals of Zookeeping

Come spend part of the day and work side by side with Cosley Zoo's Animal Care Staff and learn what it's like to be a zookeeper. Assist with routine cleaning and care, provide enrichment to the animals, and be a part of a training demonstration. Participants receive a certificate, special souvenir, and photo.

– Available Sunday or Friday all year from 9 am to 1 pm

– Ages 14 and over

– \$120/Cosley Zoo Member; \$150/nonmember

To sign up, please call the zoo and ask for the Education Department.

Bobcats Backstage

A unique experience with the bobcats! Join our zookeepers for an exclusive behind-the-scenes visit with the bobcats. Learn about this amazing feline as you enjoy a close-up view of a training session where the bobcats learn how to participate in their own care. You will even be able to take home a special souvenir!

– Available daily 11-11:30 am

– Sign-up in the Wild Side Gift Shop during your zoo visit or call ahead to reserve a particular day. First-come, first-served; maximum of 6 participants each day.

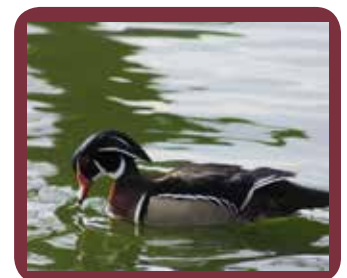
– \$10/Cosley Zoo Member; \$12/nonmember

– See coupon on page 2.

Duck Feeding

Through October 13 | \$1/serving

Offered daily from 10-10:30 am and 3-3:30 pm, weather permitting. *All proceeds benefit Cosley Zoo.*



Programs & Events

Fall 2013

Reserve
your tree
today!



Christmas Tree Lane

Gather together your scout group, friends, coworkers, or family members to help decorate Cosley Zoo for the holidays! We provide a lit five foot tree and you provide wildlife-friendly ornaments and imagination. Trees are displayed through December. Payment is due upon reservation; trees are limited so call 630.665.5534 today!

- \$35/tree
- Limit 30 trees
- Tree decorating to take place December 1-7, 2013

Eco-Exploration Backpack Tours for Families

These eco-friendly packs are filled with a combination of activities and discovery items that families can utilize 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.

- Fee \$2 per pack per visit
- 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.



Watch for More Information on These Upcoming Holiday Events

Santa's Craft Corner

Saturday, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 & 14, 10 am-2 pm

Festival of Lights & Christmas Tree Sales

Friday, November 29-December 30

Thank you...

To all our sponsors for supporting the 30th annual Mike Williams Cosley Classic Golf Outing at Arrowhead Golf Club!

Presenting Sponsor



A Xerox Company

Dinner Sponsor

Jan Kiebler

In Memory of Vern Kiebler

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Programs & Events

Fall 2013

Bookworms

Do you and your child love stories and animals? In this class, we'll read a story, meet an animal, and complete an activity. Each week is different, so join us for all sessions!

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
Series 1					
18 mos-4	9/4-10/9	W	9:30-10A	\$28/\$43	406502-01
18 mos-4	9/4	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406502-02
18 mos-4	9/11	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406502-03
18 mos-4	9/18	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406502-04
18 mos-4	9/25	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406502-05
18 mos-4	10/2	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406502-06
18 mos-4	10/9	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406502-07
Series 2					
18 mos-4	10/23-12/11*	W	9:30-10A	\$31.75/\$48.25	406505-01
18 mos-4	10/23	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406505-02
18 mos-4	10/30	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406505-03
18 mos-4	11/6	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406505-04
18 mos-4	11/13	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406505-05
18 mos-4	11/20	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406505-06
18 mos-4	12/4	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406505-07
18 mos-4	12/11	W	9:30-10A	\$5.75/\$8.75	406505-08

*No class 11/27.



Toddler Time

Curious toddlers experience learning through play in this special class for 2-3 year olds. Led by a Cosley Zoo educator, our class features a live animal visit and animal-themed activities.

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
2-3	9/9	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	406510-01
2-3	9/23	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	406510-02
2-3	10/7	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	406510-03
2-3	10/21	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	406510-04
2-3	11/4	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	406510-05
2-3	11/18	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	406510-06
2-3	12/2	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	406510-07
2-3	12/16	M	9:30-10:30A	\$8.25/\$12.50	406510-08

Zoo Investigators

Use all your senses to experience the world as an animal would. Hands-on activities and animal interactions will guide your exploration of animals and nature.

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
Series 1					
5-7	9/6-9/27	F	4:15-5:15P	\$32/\$48	406203-01
5-7	9/6	F	4:15-5:15P	\$10/\$15	406203-02
5-7	9/13	F	4:15-5:15P	\$10/\$15	406203-03
5-7	9/20	F	4:15-5:15P	\$10/\$15	406203-04
5-7	9/27	F	4:15-5:15P	\$10/\$15	406203-05

Family Fun at Cosley Zoo: Hide and Seek

Join us for a fun-filled evening of camouflage-themed activities, including a tour and live animal encounter as we learn how an animal's coloring helps it survive. Program is recommended for ages 3 and over, but all ages are welcome. Children and adults must register. Program is outdoors, so please dress appropriately.

Age	Dates	Day	Time	R/NR Fee	Class #
All ages	9/13	F	6:30-8P	\$12.25/\$15	406511-01

It's easy to register for Bookworms, Toddler Time, Zoo Investigators, and Family Fun at Cosley Zoo.

Visit wheatonparkdistrict.com, register by mail or in-person at the Wheaton Park District Community Center, 1777 S. Blanchard.

Become a member and take advantage of reduced program fees!

Come visit Cosley's new Nature Play Area!

Simple objects in nature come alive when you use your imagination.



Cosley's new Nature Play Area is based on Nature Play educational theory, which invites kids to use creativity in engaging with everyday things they find in the natural world.



Also, enjoy the free library provided by Girl Scout Troop 368 from St. Michael Parish School in Wheaton.

