



E-News Vol. 1, Issue 1 • Winter 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

Surviving Midwest Winters

by Melanie Kuse, Zookeeper & Angie Dosch, Animal Collections Supervisor

We get a lot of questions from visitors asking what we do with our animals during the cold months, and how to help wildlife in the wintertime. While sending them off to a Florida Keys beach resort may sound like a great plan, our animals actually stay on zoo grounds all year round. Cosley Zoo is open to the public all year, which means you can visit even on the coldest, snowiest days Illinois has to offer, and still see plenty of our furry and feathered friends.

The zoo’s animal collection consists of domestic farm animals and Illinois native species. Many animals will grow a thicker winter coat to keep warm through the chilly months. Because they normally live in this state, they are accustomed to the changes in climate. In fact, during a winter visit to the zoo, you will find that the animals are often more active than in the warm summer months. While many animals enjoy the colder weather, some animals do need to seek significant protection from the elements. In the wild, some animals such as turtles, will burrow underground and hibernate throughout the winter. Here at the zoo, the turtles are brought inside to warmer areas.



Many birds, such as the Black-crowned Night Heron migrate to warmer climates during the winter. While some “snow birds” do this to avoid the frigid temperatures, most do this because their food and water source is not available in the winter. To meet the needs of these birds, we provide heated perches to warm their feet, offer sources of open water, and supply a proper diet which gives them the calories they need to keep warm.

So what can you do in your own backyards to help native wildlife in the wintertime? The same things we do at the zoo! Give them adequate shelter, make water easily available, and provide ways for them to conserve their energy.

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Surviving Midwest Winters

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Animals can, and will, find shelter in just about anything. To keep wildlife from finding shelter inside your home, keep leaf piles and stacks of firewood or brush away from the sides of houses. Even piles of snow can help these animals stay warm! It's hard to imagine, but animals will burrow down to the ground where they can absorb the heat from the earth. The snow acts as an insulator to keep them snug as a bug.

You can provide shelters that are pleasing to the eye and beneficial for animals, such as trees and shrubs. Holly bushes, for example, provide protection from the elements and produce fruit that wildlife can eat. As a bonus, they add beauty to your yard all year long. Other popular alternatives are Sumac, Viburnum, Hawthorn and Bayberry.

During the winters of Illinois, fresh water can be hard to come by. Placing heated bird baths in your yard will help keep animals hydrated. It also assists them in conserving energy, by not having to search for water.



Giving birds a high calorie diet, such as suet and black-oil sunflower seeds, will help them more easily survive the frosty winter temperatures. A fun at-home project is to make garlands of dried fruits, popcorn, and nuts to hang throughout your yard. You can also use pine cones filled with suet to hold seeds, and hang them from shrubs

or trees to provide high calorie food that most birds need throughout the winter.

By providing adequate shelter, fresh water, and food, you will begin to notice more native wildlife in your own backyard. Some people think that winter is a time when animals become scarce, but in reality, they might be right under your nose. Giving them a little help in the wintertime can go a long way. These animals will not only become apparent in the winter, but they will then stick around for spring, summer, and fall.

The winter months can provide some unique opportunities to view wildlife. By making your yard more wildlife friendly, you can enjoy some of these opportunities right through your own window. Better yet, take time to bundle up and enjoy a refreshing walk in a local forest preserve or stop by Cosley Zoo for a visit. Cosley Zoo is open year round and winter affords a great chance to see the animals as they enjoy the cooler temperatures the season has to offer.

As seen at Bobcat Bash...



SHAWN K. WOODS
& ASSOCIATES

Empowering businesses and individuals to unleash their full potential.

In today's competitive business arena, every organization faces challenges. If your company is faltering or stagnant, you're probably looking to make some changes and sharpen your edge. The problem is, you may not understand exactly what needs to change—or how to change it.

How would you like to:

- Increase accountability,
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- Boost morale and productivity,
- Manage change and transition
- Discover more effective ways to streamline operations,
- Identify new opportunities, and
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Contact us today to discover the difference, and place your business or career on the path to excellence.

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Cosley Zoo

Festival of Lights & Christmas Tree Sale

November 23 through December 30



Enjoy the sounds and sights of the season as you stroll through Cosley Zoo and view thousands of twinkling lights. Choose from more than 2,200 fresh Michigan trees, a variety of wreaths and holiday gifts.

The zoo is open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., and the lights come on at 3 p.m.



Enjoy free admission November 23 through December 30!

A Cosley Zoo membership makes a great gift – zoo members receive a discount on trees, wreaths and garland, and many more benefits.*

*Based on membership level

More unique gift ideas for you and the animals!

New Bobcat Animal Adoption Package Available – only \$45. Package includes:

- A Cosley Zoo gift
- Adoption certificate
- A 5"x7" photo
- Plush animal
- Animal information sheet
- Recipient's name on the animal adoption board at the zoo

Other packages available are: Turtle, Rabbit and Horse.

Holiday Wish Tree

Purchase an ornament from the Wish Tree located in the Wild Side Gift Shop. Each ornament displays a gift for one of the animals. Simply select an ornament and donate the item's value and we'll do the shopping.

Sponsored by



Program & Events

December 2012-February 2013

Santa's Craft Corner

Saturday, Nov. 24, Dec. 1 & 8, 10 am-2 pm

Can't make it to the North Pole? Do the next best thing and come to Cosley Zoo! Enjoy a visit with Santa make a craft or two and enjoy cookies, punch and coffee.

- \$3/person suggested donation
- \$3 for printed photo with Santa

Santa's Craft Corner is held upstairs in the Vern Kiebler Learning Center.

Refreshments provided by Flour Barrel Bakery, Corner Bakery, Costco and Caribou Coffee.



Hey kids... do you enjoy coloring?
Print out our holiday activities page at
www.cosleyzoo.org/kids



Festival of Lights & Trees

Friday, November 23-Sunday, December 30

20,000 twinkling lights and spectacular displays transform Cosley Zoo into a fairy tale winter wonderland from

Thanksgiving Friday through the month of December. The lights come on at 3 pm and the zoo closes at 9 pm. Visit the animals and purchase a cup of hot chocolate, your tree, wreath, and holiday gifts! Your purchases are tax deductible (to the full extent of the law). Zoo members...be sure and take advantage of your membership discount!
- Zoo admission is free



Open daily 9 am-9 pm. Open 9 am-Noon on Christmas Eve Day and New Year's Eve Day. The zoo is closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.



SOLID WASTE
NORTH AMERICA

Wheaton Christmas Tree Collection

Christmas trees will be collected and composted by Veolia during the first two full weeks in January for no charge starting January 7, 2013. Trees that are put out prior to January 7 may freeze to the ground and won't be collected until weather permits. During this free two-week collection period, trees must be free of all decorations and cannot be in plastic bags. After the two-week collection period, Christmas trees will require one yard waste sticker affixed to the tree in order to be collected.

Program & Events

December 2012-February 2013

Zoo to You!

Can't make it the zoo? Let us bring the zoo to your organization. Classroom up to assembly size presentations are available.

Topics include

- Fur & Feathers
- Reptiles
- Birds
- Zoo & Aquarium Careers
- And more

Visit www.cosleyzoo.org to view our Zoo to You brochure!



Bookworms

Be sure and check the Wheaton Park District Program Guide for dates and times of our Bookworms and Toddler Time programs offered for young children with an adult.



Volunteer Opportunities at Cosley

Each year, our volunteers contribute more than 9,000 hours at Cosley Zoo. We greatly appreciate the time and dedication that they provide in the areas of:

- research
- animal care
- education
- guest services

Congratulations

Thank you to Lorraine Pachankis for the contribution of more than 250 volunteer hours assisting the Education Department at Cosley Zoo.

**Get outdoors
at the Lincoln Marsh!**

Winter programs available now
www.lincolmarsh.org



Thank you for a great year!



Cosley Zoo prides itself on the exceptional care it provides for its animals. Each year the cost for feed, supplies and enrichment for the 250 animals that live at the zoo, adds up to more than \$750,000. By donating now, you can help care for our animals and continue our tradition of excellence.

Your support also helps us...

- Keep the zoo free for kids
- Provide free or low-cost education programs to more than 40,000 each year
- Take part in critical conservation projects that protect endangered species like the Blanding's Turtle
- Maintain national recognition as an AZA accredited zoo
- Continue to update exhibits

Making a donation is easy...

Log on to www.cosleyzoo.org and click on Make a Donation, complete the form on the next page and mail with a check to Cosley Zoo or stop by and visit!



Thank you for being a part of the future of Cosley Zoo!

“Every dollar raised makes a difference for our animals and for your community!”

Donor Name _____

Address _____

City, State and Zip _____

Phone # _____ Email Address _____

Donation Amount \$ _____ Your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please contact me to serve on a future special event committee for Cosley Zoo

Make check payable to Cosley Zoo Foundation and mail this page to:

Cosley Foundation Annual Appeal, 1356 N. Gary Avenue, Wheaton IL 60187

or make a credit card donation online at www.cosleyzoo.org

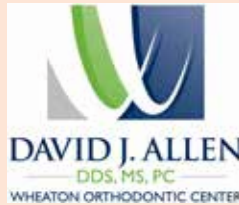
Questions? Please call 630.665.5534.



New Bobcat Exhibit Open!

Thanks to the generosity and support of many donors, the Foundation collected sufficient funds to allow for construction of this exciting new exhibit. Especially notable is a \$300,000 grant that was received from the “Public Museum Capital Grants Program” through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois State Museum.

**Hope you enjoyed the annual Pumpkin Fest!
Thank you to our sponsors and friends
of Cosley Zoo for a great month.**



There is still time to support Cosley Zoo with a quote from Liberty Mutual. You can discover your insurance savings while also giving back to The Cosley Foundation, Inc. If you receive a car insurance quote from Melissa before November 30, Liberty Mutual will donate \$10 to the Cosley Foundation (home quotes provide \$5 donation). Offer available for Illinois residents only.

Contact Melissa Goyette at Melissa.Goyette@libertymutal.com or call 630.836.1025, ext. 55057.