

Seneca Park Zoo, 2222 St. Paul St., Rochester

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Celebrate Spring Break at the Zoo

Say hello to some new animals and farewell to one of our orangutans

Rochester, NY – April 18, 2011 — Spend Spring Break at Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo! While on grounds, visit with our newest animals, enjoy the fresh air and say goodbye to Datu, the Zoo’s male Bornean orangutan.

“The Seneca Park Zoo is one of our community’s most popular family destinations,” said County Executive Maggie Brooks. “The Zoo is an exciting, educational and affordable way for families to spend the day together while kids are on Spring Break.”

“Even if it’s a little chilly, now is the time of year when kids need to get outside and explore,” said Rachel Baker August, Executive Director for the Seneca Park Zoo Society. “Whether you’re visiting with our penguins in their new exhibit, observing our playful sea lions and polar bears in the Rocky Coasts or watching our *A Step Into Africa* exhibit come to life, there is plenty to see and do at the Zoo.”

In addition to two new sea lions, visitors can spend time with our newest addition – a meerkat kit! The kit, born in February, is now on exhibit and has been busy exploring its new surroundings.

Spring Break will also give visitors a chance to say farewell to one of our most beloved animals. Datu, the Zoo’s male Bornean orangutan, will be venturing off to the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, Wisconsin, as part of a breeding recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Species Survival Plan (SSP). The SSP is a management program that maintains a healthy and sustainable population of endangered species.

“While we are sad to see Datu leave, we are excited to know he will be in a wonderful place to start a new life building his family,” said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director.

Once in Wisconsin, Datu will be introduced to a female orangutan to begin a new phase of his life. When you say goodbye to Datu visit with his mother Kumang and sister Dara, who will remain here at the Zoo.

For updates on activities going on this week, please visit our blogs, which can be found on our Web site at www.senecaparkzoo.org and our Facebook page, “Seneca Park Zoo.”

Seneca Park Zoo is owned and operated by Monroe County. The Seneca Park Zoo Society is a not-for-profit organization which has, since 1957, provided education, fundraising, special events and public relations support to Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo, which includes discounted and/or free admission to more than 170 zoos and aquariums across the country. For additional information, visit www.senecaparkzoo.org.