

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

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Zoo announces death of male river otter

Rochester, NY – October 19, 2011 — Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo regretfully announces the passing of Admiral, the 21-year-old male North American river otter. Admiral was born in 1990 and came to the Zoo from Bayou Otter Farm in Louisiana on May 12, 1993.

According to Dr. Jeff Wyatt, Director of Animal Health & Conservation at the Seneca Park Zoo, the Zoo’s geriatric river otter suffered multiple organ failure and advanced chronic arthritis of the back and hips related to his advanced age. Final necropsy results will be available in about six weeks.

At the time of his death on Tuesday, Admiral was the oldest living river otter in an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited institution. The median life expectancy in zoos is 12 and about 10 in the wild.

“Our records tell us that the oldest female lived to be 27 and the oldest male lived to be 25,” said David Hamilton, the Zoo’s General Curator and the AZA North American river otter Species Survival Plan Coordinator. “Admiral’s long life was a testament to the high quality of care animals receive here at the Zoo and he will be dearly missed by our staff and many visitors.”

Admiral was the star of the summer otter demonstration until he retired this year. He learned how to recycle, which was a highlight of the summer demonstration. He loved trout and had a strong bond with his keepers.

Heather and Sarah, the Zoo’s two female river otters, still live at the Zoo and are doing well.

According the Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director, the Zoo does plan to bring another male river otter to the Zoo. Since the Zoo’s two females are young enough to breed, Sorel said we are hopeful to find a male in the near future.

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. The Society offers various levels of membership to the 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.