



News From

Maggie Brooks

Monroe County Executive

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BROOKS ANNOUNCES NAMING CONTEST RESULTS FOR ZOO'S SNOW LEOPARDS

Shadau and Shyla chosen out of more than 1,000 entries

County Executive Maggie Brooks today was joined by Zoo officials and representatives from Bank of America to announce the names for the Seneca Park Zoo's snow leopards. Shadau (pronounced Shah-doh) and Shyla were chosen out of more than 1,000 entries submitted by the community during the naming contest, which was held from May 14th through June 7th, 2010.

"The success of this contest is a testament to the strong, community support for the Seneca Park Zoo and the fascinating animals in its care," said **County Executive Brooks**. *"This contest was a giant success and I want to personally thank everyone in our community for their participation."*

The May Family of Fairport submitted Shyla for the female, which is Hindi for "daughter of the mountain." The family said they came up with this name because snow leopards live in high, snowy mountain ranges, including some in India.

Michael Hint of Ithaca, Tompkins County submitted the name Shadau for the male leopard. Shadau is the name of one of the sibling lakes in the high mountains of Tajikistan, also the native range of the cats.

"Our snow leopards are extremely unique animals and they are deserving of the thoughtfully selected names they received," said **Rachel Baker August**, Executive Director of the Seneca Park Zoo Society. *"The Zoo's animals are ambassadors for wild animals and we are proud that their names signify who they are and where they come from."*

The sibling pair came from California's Los Angeles Zoo last month. They are Seneca Park Zoo's 16th Species Survival Plan (SSP) animal. The SSP is a cooperative population management and conservation program for selected species in zoos and aquariums accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

Snow Leopards Naming Contest

The snow leopard exhibit is sponsored by Bank of America and Merrill Lynch Private Banking.

“The community answered the Zoo’s call for help with the naming of their snow leopards and they did a fantastic job,” said **John Pitton**, Rochester market president for Bank of America. *“Bank of America is proud to partner with a rich, cultural and educational gem like the Seneca Park Zoo.”*

The snow leopards can be viewed on the east side of the Zoo’s Main Building.

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