

In winter, it's still happening at the zoo

By Lynn Pollerito
staff writer

SO WINTER is upon us with her gloomy gray days and chilly breezes and nothing to do. Wrong.

It's time to put on those earmuffs, scarves, mittens and winter jackets and visit frisky polar bears splashing in the water, sea lions swimming and playing with one another and exotic birds in a tropical setting at the Detroit Zoo, which, to the surprise of many, is open in the winter.

"It's become a hobby — how do you get people into the zoo?" said Bill Austin of the zoo's education department.

The zoo has been open during winter for 15 years although many people are still not convinced.

Once, snow falling about them, Austin and Sonny Elliot did a Sunday television program from in front of the Siberian tiger exhibit, urging people to come see the tigers.

The next day, Austin received a phone call from a woman who watched the show inquiring when the zoo would be reopened for the summer.

"I've come to the conclusion that native residents of Michigan have become accustomed to seasons and going to the zoo is a summer event," Austin said.

YET AUSTIN feels that the best time to see the animals is in the winter. They tend to be more alive and active. Instead of watching the polar bears sleep on the rocks in the sweltering heat of summer, you can watch them frolic in the snow and play in the water.

"After a fresh snow, watching the tigers playing in it is well worth the experience," said Austin.

"I'm certain that the animals get bored looking at people in August but by December they are curious again and you are a novelty too."

Austin said the zoo tries to collect animals that naturally live in a climate similar to Michigan's. Of the zoo's stock, only the giraffes and elephants do not go outside in the winter. The giraffes, which can stand at least 18 feet high, would not be able to survive a fall on the ice and the elephants just don't like the

cold. Usually, the elephants can be viewed indoors, but this year they cannot because of construction on the elephant house.

WINTER VISITORS to the zoo can expect to have the facility to themselves. It is like owning your own wildlife sanctuary except for the occasional zoo staffer driving around the grounds. Instead of hearing the hustle and bustle of people, one can hear the sounds of the animals throughout the entire area.

How empty is the zoo in winter? Austin said one day, only two people visited. A big winter day draws 600 people; a big summer day can attract up to 20,000.

Austin guarantees plenty of shelter to escape the cold throughout the 12-mile zoo walk.

Whatever the weather, a zoo visit promises an array of 1,200 animals, many representing species that are near extinction.

"It is a matter of degree of how imminent the danger is," said Austin. "It is much more so than people believe. There is a tendency for people to come to the zoo and say everything is cool."

In fact, things aren't well in the animal kingdom. Austin said the number of Siberian tigers left in Siberia is dwindling to nothing because the development in the area is taking away the tiger's food source. It takes 100 square miles of land to support a tiger in Siberia.

Another endangered species that may surprise people is the chimpanzee.

"CHIMPS ARE teetering on the brink of extinction, and no one is working with them. There are only a half dozen proven male breeders left," said Austin.

To help alleviate the problem, the Detroit Zoo is going to establish a significant breeding colony of chimps.

"We are going to produce chimps, not mock human beings," he said. Austin said there was also a sentimental reason for helping the chimps. "The chimps saved the zoo during the Depression (with their chimp shows), so now it is time for the zoo to save the chimps," he said.

Fund-raising has already begun for the project through the Detroit



JERRY ZOLINSKY/staff photographer

Often in winter, the employees outnumber the customers at the zoo. Here, Don D'Aoust feeds oranges to the Japanese Macaques.

Zoological Society.

Other endangered species at the zoo are polar bears, a snow leopard, Asiatic elephants, bald eagles and the American alligator and Jamaican boa.

Reptiles are one of the few species that do not receive any sympathy from people even though they are the most popular exhibit at most zoos, said Austin.

"The tendency is for the lay per-

son to be casually judgmental. They will give money for a non-threatening animal or eye-appealing bird but not for a venomous snake," explained Austin.

Austin is bothered by the lack of regard people have for the animals and by their lack of knowledge. Watching National Geographic specials on television is not going to save the animals, he said; going to

the zoo does help.

"By walking through the front gates, you cast a vote telling the administration that you care about the zoo."

"We've placed the animals in jeopardy; we owe it to save them now," said Austin.

Other ways to get involved with the zoo is by joining the Detroit Zoological Society or taking part in the Adopt-A-Animal program. The money in the adoption program is used to help feed the animals.

Zoo hours during the winter are Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for 13 years and older, \$2 for senior citizens and \$1.50 for children 5 through 12. Children younger than 5 are free.

campus pipeline

If you have news from a college, university or other campus of higher education — and there's a Farmington-area connection — we'd like to hear from you so we can share your news item with other Farmington Observer readers. Send items to: Campus Pipeline, Farmington Observer, 32023

Grand River, Farmington 48024.

JOINS SORORITY

Janet Pawlusiak of Farmington Hills was initiated into Beta Xi chapter of Delta Gamma sorority at Michigan State University.

DEAN'S LIST

Roger Cochran, C.A. Greenstein, Ronald Lernowich and Daniel Parks, all of the Farmington area, were named to the dean's list at Lawrence Institute of Technology.

Vicki Panoushek and Sarah Unger were named to the dean's list at Val-

paraiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.

Paul Winter, Allan Curtis, Jeffrey Sell and Janette Fleck, all of the Farmington area, were named to the dean's list at Northern Michigan University.

DISTINGUISHED

Shawn Lyon of Farmington Hills earned a spot on the distinguished student list at Purdue University. The students on the distinguished student list achieved a 5.5 or higher grade-point average on a scale of 6.

Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce for reservations: 474-3440.

Chamber workshops continue

Chamber-sponsored business workshops continue at the Farmington Community Center.

Topics include:
• Feb. 25 — Advertising, with Al Haberstrom of Simons Advertising.
• March 25 — Sales Motivation & Training, with Doug Kaminski of Anderson Paint.
• April 22 — Using Professional Services, with Donald Spencer of

Management Alternatives.

• May 20 — Public Relations with Dan Criscenti of Bunnell & Co. Workshops run 8:15-9:30 a.m.; they include a continental breakfast.

Cost is \$10 for one-two workshops or \$17 for three-four workshops.

Farmington Community Center is at 24705 Farmington Road, Farmington Hills. Call the Farmington/

VILLAGE SWEETS 'N TREATS

Northville's Gourmet Country Store

For Your Valentine

- Chocolate Hearts
- Cinnamon Hearts
- Jordan Almonds - red & white
- Boxed Hearts - fill with your choice

New Arrivals Daily

Downtown Northville

349-4477

124 N. Center Street

Your child will gain one full grade level in just 36 hours. Guaranteed.

Sylvan's proven approach to learning has helped thousands of children to do better in school. In just a short time, your child will be reading at a full grade level better than he or she does now, or solving math problems that right now seem incomprehensible. Best of all, your child will feel a lot more confident in school. WE GUARANTEE IT. For more information on how Sylvan can guarantee your child's academic growth, call: 737-2880

Measurement will be based on a nationally recognized achievement test for improvement in other reading comprehension or vocabulary (or math computation or application).

Sylvan Learning Center
Recent location
Sylvan Learning Center
737-2880

5705 W. Maple West Bloomfield Tower Plaza W. of Orchard Lake Rd.

©1986 Sylvan Learning Corporation

WHAT'S AILING YOU?

Check this list

- ☐ ARTHRITIS ☐ SINUS TROUBLE ☐ ARM AND SHOULDER PAIN
- ☐ FATIGUE ☐ LEG PAIN ☐ DEPRESSION ☐ HEADACHES
- ☐ PAIN IN LOWER BACK ☐ PAINFUL JOINTS

JEETTU
CHIROPRACTIC CENTER, P.C.

13 MILE RD. FARMINGTON
12 MILE RD. ORCHARD LAKE RD. MIDLAND TOWNSHIP

Call for your Free Consultation
477-5255

30405 W. 12 Mile • Farmington Hills • Suite B, Lower Level

11 DANGER SIGNALS

DEPRESSION
NERVE TENSION
STIFFNESS OF NECK
PAIN BETWEEN SHOULDERS
RESTLESS NIGHTS
NUMBNESS IN ARMS AND HANDS

HEADACHES
PAIN IN CHEST
STIFFNESS OR PAIN IN LOWER BACK
TIRED MPF AND LEGS
PAINFUL JOINTS

MOST INSURANCE PLANS ACCEPTED

CINEMA EXPRESS

We **DELIVER** The Best Movies To Your Home
Latest Releases • Classics • Children's • & More

- ABSOLUTELY FREE ONE YEAR MEMBERSHIP
- ALWAYS FREE DELIVERY & PICK-UP TO YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
- First Tape Rental Just \$3.50 Delivered Free within 2 Hours - Additional Nights or Tapes \$2.50
- Latest Releases, Updated Weekly
- Never Hassle with Returning Tapes Again!

353-2424
OPEN: TUES.-SAT. 2 P.M.-9 P.M./SUN. 2 P.M.-7 P.M.
Centrally located in Central Park Plaza • Southfield

OUR COMPREHENSIVE PAIN CONTROL PROGRAM BRINGS TO YOU:

LOW BACK SURGERY? OTHER OPTIONS TO CONSIDER
February 11, 1987 7:00 p.m.

It is estimated that 23 million Americans suffer from chronic lower back pain. In many cases, relief can be obtained through non-surgical means.

FEATURED SPEAKER: Joseph Chatfield, D.O., Board-Certified General Surgeon, Fellow, Chronic Pain Management, Southfield Rehabilitation Hospital

HELD AT: Southfield Civic Center, City Council Chamber, 26000 Evergreen Road (N. of 10 Mile), Southfield, MI 48075

There is no fee for the program.
To preregister or for further information, please call:
Southfield Rehabilitation Center, Pain Research & Control Institute 423-1458
City of Southfield Department of Human Resources Lynn Chynoweth 354-4864

Sundance SHOES

SALE
4 CRAZY DAYS
THURSDAY Feb. 5th FRIDAY Feb. 6th SATURDAY Feb. 7th SUNDAY Feb. 8th

ALL WINTER SHOES
\$25⁰⁰ and \$35⁰⁰

ALL WINTER BOOTS
AND SELECTED GROUP OF ACCESSORIES
1/2 OFF

THE BOARDWALK W. BLOOMFIELD 737-9059
NORTHLAND 569-1347
FAIRLANE 336-7137

Credit Cards, Non-Sale, All Rights Reserved