

Grizzly Bears Arrive at Central Park Zoo



Betty and Veronica, the first residents of a new grizzly bear exhibit at the Central Park Zoo.

Rescued grizzly bears have found a new home at the Central Park Zoo, in a completely remodeled habitat formerly occupied by the zoo's polar bears. The first two grizzlies to move into the new exhibit, Betty and Veronica, have been companions at WCS's Bronx Zoo since 1995.

A Home for Bears

The WCS parks are currently home to nine rescued brown bears, all of whom share a common story: they had come into conflict with humans in the wild.



Betty and Veronica were rescued separately in Montana and Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming. Both had become too accustomed to humans and were considered a danger to people by local authorities. Of the three bears that arrived in 2013, two are siblings whose mother was illegally shot, and the third is an unrelated bear whose mother was euthanized by wildlife officials after repeatedly foraging for food in a residential area.

"While we are saddened that the bears were orphaned, we are pleased WCS is able to provide a home for these beautiful animals that would not have been able to survive in the wild on their own," said Director of WCS City Zoos Craig Piper. "We look forward to sharing their stories, which will certainly endear them in the hearts of New Yorkers. Our goal is to help people better understand how to safely coexist with bears when visiting or living in bear country."

Significant portions of the Central Park Zoo bear exhibit renovations were made possible thanks to the generous support and love for animals of Sandra de Roulet.

Helping Bears in the Wild

WCS conservationists are working with local communities in the Adirondacks and the American West to promote human/bear coexistence, including educating people who live in areas with dense bear populations on proper food storage and trash disposal, so that bears don't become reliant on human food and instead forage in wild areas. To learn more about WCS's efforts to protect wild bears, please visit wcs.org.

A Touch of the Tropics at the Prospect Park Zoo

Two tropical lettered aracaris have made their debut at WCS's Prospect Park Zoo. This small species of toucan, native to South America, is known for its strikingly colorful plumage, compact body, and large bill. The lettered aracari weighs approximately four ounces and reaches about 12 inches in length as adult. They are social animals that generally roost in hollowed out trees with other adults and their fledging offspring.

The lettered aracari is native to the moist lowland forests and swamps of Ecuador, Brazil, Columbia, Bolivia, and Peru. While not endangered, the bird's natural habitat is facing serious threats from habitat fragmentation, climate change, and other factors. WCS's Latin America and Caribbean Program is

working in the field to mitigate these challenges and protect the area's most ecologically intact wild places, including the Amazon Basin where toucans live.

The Prospect Park Zoo is home to several other tropical and sub-tropical birds, including Victoria crowned pigeons, scarlet ibises, and peafowl. On your next trip to the zoo, visit the lettered aracaris in the zoo's *Animal Lifestyles* building.



Harbor Seals Return to Central Park Zoo

Two young harbor seals have arrived at WCS's Central Park Zoo. The two male seals, Adam and Anson, were born at WCS's New York Aquarium. This species has not been exhibited at the Central Park Zoo since 2011. The new arrivals are still juveniles; as adults they could reach up to 250 pounds each. They are the first harbor seals born at the aquarium

in more than 15 years. Though not endangered, harbor seals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. They are abundant off the coast of New York City and Long Island.

Seals or Sea Lions?

The two seals at Central Park Zoo are in the pool adjacent to the Polar Circle penguin and puf-

fin exhibits. The harbor seals are immediately distinguishable from their cousins in the sea lion pool. Both seals and sea lions are members of the pinniped family, but they look and move differently. Harbor seals lack the external ear flaps found on sea lions, and have more tubular bodies with spotted coats that can range in color from silver to dark brown or black. Sea lions are more agile on land since they can support their weight with their front flippers, on which they can even "walk" for short distances. On land, harbor seals move more like caterpillars. In the water, both are excellent swimmers but sea lions propel themselves with strong front flippers while harbor seals use powerful hind flippers. On your next visit to Central Park Zoo, you'll have the chance to compare these aquatic mammals and observe the differences between the two species first-hand.



Photos: Julie Larsen Maher © WCS

Mornings at the Zoo 2015

Monthly Events for Conservation-Level Members



The 2015 Mornings at the Zoo series begins in April! This series of special events is open to WCS Members at the Conservation Supporter level and above. Join us before the zoo opens for a look at some spectacular animals and exhibits, and the opportunity to gain an insider's understanding of wildlife conservation and animal care.

Central Park Zoo Scavenger Hunt

Sun., 4/12 at 9am at the Central Park Zoo

Embark on an educational and fun-filled Central Park Zoo scavenger hunt where you'll come face-to-face with amazing animals, learn some wildlife secrets, and win great prizes! You'll encounter sea lions, snow leopards, penguins, red pandas, and much more; your quest will take you throughout the zoo and teach you about many of your favorite animals. Meet in front of the snow monkey exhibit. Light refreshments served. *Smart phone or digital camera recommended.*

Not a Conservation-Level Member?

Mornings at the Zoo events are open only to Members at the Conservation Supporter level and above. If you are not at Conservation-level Member and would like to attend, you can join, renew, or upgrade your Membership today by calling 718-220-5112. Conservation-level Membership starts at the \$295 Conservation Supporter Level.

Pre-registration required!

Please visit bronxzoo.com/morningsatthetoo to reserve your spot. Reservations open approximately 60 days prior to each event.

Photos: Julie Larsen Maher ©WCS

There Are Many Ways to Save Wildlife

In addition to making a one-time donation, there are many ways that you can be a part of WCS's mission to save wildlife and wild places worldwide.



Give Monthly Become a Wildlife Protector and provide ongoing monthly support to save the world's most magnificent wildlife and wild places. You can make a difference for as little as \$5 per month. Please visit wcs.org/wildlifeprotectors for more info.

Leave a Legacy Designate the Wildlife Conservation Society as a beneficiary in your will or of your individual retirement account or life insurance policy. Your legacy gift will enable WCS to protect wildlife and the spaces they inhabit for many years to come. To learn more, please visit wcs.giftplans.org or contact Nora Benoliel at nbenoliel@wcs.org or 718-741-1628.

Become a Conservation Patron

Support 500 conservation projects in 60 countries, and enjoy exclusive access to panel discussions, special events, and tours. For more information, visit wcs.org/patrons or call 718-220-5085.

Give a Matching Gift Employees can double or triple the value of their donations to WCS through their company's matching gift program. Please see your company's personnel office for details.

Photos: Julie Larsen Maher ©WCS

A Rare Toad Returns to Puerto Rico



Puerto Rican crested toads are brown to yellow-brown in color and covered with warts and blackish spines.

WCS's Queens Zoo has successfully bred critically-endangered Puerto Rican crested toads for reintroduction to their native habitat. The zoo began breeding the species in 2014 as part of a collaborative effort with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums to boost the wild population.

Breeding Behind the Scenes

The successful breeding of this endangered species is an example of the conservation work that goes on behind the scenes every day at the WCS zoos and aquarium. In order to encourage the toads to reproduce, WCS herpetology staff had to recreate complex natural conditions. The males and females were separated and placed in enclosures that mimic the environment and seasonal changes they would experience in the wild. These environmental variations are important to the regular reproductive cycle of the species. In the wild, breeding takes place during the rainy season, so the males were introduced to females in enclosures equipped with misting chambers. Recorded toad breeding calls were played in the background to stimulate courtship and mating.

The male toad clings to the back of the female in a process called amplexus until she lays eggs, with tadpoles hatching from the fertilized eggs 24 hours later. Approximately 2,400 tadpoles were produced from the propagation efforts at the Queens Zoo.

Travelling Tadpoles

The tadpoles were sent to Puerto Rico where biologists from the Caribbean Ecological Services and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources introduced them to their low-lying rocky habitats.

The greatest threats affecting the Puerto Rican crested toad are human-related and include habitat loss and the introduction of the invasive giant toad. The wild population fluctuates between 1,000 to 3,000 adult toads, all of which are found in Guánica National Forest on the southern coast of Puerto Rico. It is hoped that the Queens Zoo tadpoles will provide a much-needed boost to the wild population.

Thousands of newly-hatched tadpoles have been sent to Puerto Rico for introduction into the wild.



Photos: Julie Larsen Maher ©WCS

**SAVE
THE
DATES**



BRONX ZOO
BIRDATHON
Presented by JetBlue

Saturday, May 9th

**2015 WCS MEMBERS' EVENINGS
AT THE BRONX ZOO**

Thursday, July 16 & Tuesday, July 21

Make Tracks for Gorillas at the

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY



BRONX ZOO

**Saturday,
April 25th 2015**



Join us at the Bronx Zoo on Saturday, April 25th for the seventh annual WCS Run for the Wild, a 5k run/walk dedicated to the majestic gorillas of Africa. The festivities begin at 7am and feature plenty of pre- and post-run fun, including face painting, music, warm-ups, giveaways, prizes, and activities. By participating in Run for the Wild, you'll help WCS continue to enhance our ecoguard programs, reduce poaching, and give gorillas and other wildlife a fighting chance for survival. Please run, walk, or donate today at www.wcsrunforthewild.org.

Join the Virtual Run

Can't be there in person? You can still help save gorillas and other animals from deforestation and poaching. To learn how you can join us as a virtual runner, visit wcsrunforthewild.org.



Member Discount, Prizes, and More

WCS Members may register to participate at the discounted rates of \$35 for adults, \$30 for children and seniors. There is a \$30 fundraising requirement for adults in addition to the participation fee; there is no fundraising requirement for children under 15. Participants can earn fundraising prizes ranging from t-shirts, to plush gorillas, special animal experiences, and even a VIP breakfast.

Presenting Sponsor



EVERYTHING
MATTERS

Supporting Sponsor



Media Partner





FAMILY, YOUTH, AND

REGISTRATION INFO

Please note that ALL WCS Education Programs require pre-registration and payment. Contact us to reserve your spot as soon as possible.

Family and Youth Programs: wcs.org/programs

Tours and School Programs: wcs.org/schools

Birthday Parties: wcs.org/birthday

Volunteer Opportunities: wcs.org/volunteer

Educators: wcs.org/teacherpd

Camps: wcs.org/camps

ONE number for all four WCS zoos!

1-800-433-4149

Bronx Zoo (BZ): bzeducation@wcs.org

Central Park Zoo (CPZ): cpzregistration@wcs.org

Prospect Park Zoo (PPZ): ppzeducation@wcs.org

Queens Zoo (QZ): qzeducation@wcs.org

New York Aquarium (AQ): 718-265-3457

nyaregistrar@wcs.org

Professional Development: 718-220-5136

teacherinfo@wcs.org



FAMILY PROGRAMS

Visit <http://www.wcs.org/programs> for more information, and to register for all WCS Family programs below!

Family Overnights at Bronx and Queens Zoos

Join us for the first overnights of the season! Have you ever wondered what you can see in the zoo after hours? You & your family will be treated to fun-filled activities throughout the zoo, and meet some of our animals up close. Bring your own tent, sleeping bags, & picnic dinner. Beverages, dessert, late-night snack, & breakfast will be provided. No need for alarm clocks, our vocal sea lions will provide the wake-up call. *May 2-3 at BZ, May 16-17 at QZ. Prices and ages vary. Discount available for BZ overnight ONLY.*



Caregiver and Me Class Series Programs

At all of the WCS zoos, we have programs that are developmentally appropriate and designed to engage our budding animal lovers in a variety of activities. All programs include live animal encounters, movement activities, crafts, exhibit visits, and storytelling. *Little Hatchlings for 10 month-23 month olds at CPZ, PPZ, & QZ. Zoo Play Toddlers/Toddler Time for 2-3 year olds at BZ, CPZ, PPZ, & QZ. Zoo Play Kinders/Kinder Kritters for 4-5 year olds at BZ, CPZ, PPZ & QZ.*



Family Fun Day - "Zoos Go Blue" at Central Park Zoo Autism Awareness Day

Join us for a day of fun for the whole family at the zoo! WCS welcomes families affected by autism to enjoy an early opening of the zoo along with visual support materials to prepare for the visit. The day will feature exhibit visits, sensory stations, crafts, and other activities. *Monday, April 6th.*

Sharkarama at the New York Aquarium

Sharks are the ocean's top predator, though they have a fearsome reputation. Help us celebrate these misunderstood creatures of the sea that have survived hundreds of millions of years in the open waters but now are threatened with extinction. Feeling brave? Join us to learn what makes each shark unique; explore shark skins, jaws, and fins; prowl behind-the-scenes to visit our sharks and make cool crafts in honor of sharks to take home. *Sunday, March 22nd, 2015, Ages 9 to 11.*



ADULT PROGRAMS

YOUTH & TEEN PROGRAMS

Spring Break Camp at Central Park Zoo and Queens Zoo

Spend spring break at the zoo! Each day, campers will play animal-themed games, make critter-y crafts, meet some of our animals and more! *QZ: April 6-10, CPZ: April 7-10. Grades Pre-K-2nd, or 3rd-5th (QZ only).* Visit wcs.org/camp for more information.

Summer Zoo Camp 2015

From toddlers to teens, we have unique summer camp experiences for all ages at our zoos and aquarium! Most camps are Monday through Friday, times vary between ages and facilities. Registration is open, and space is limited- reserve your child's spot at www.wcs.org/camp today!

Teen Volunteering Opportunities 2015 - Bronx Zoo, Prospect Zoo, Central Park Zoo and New York Aquarium

We're looking for teen volunteers who are passionate about conservation, animals, and education. Our volunteers teach visitors about conservation, interpret exhibits, help with events, and much more. Deadlines and age requirements vary by institution. Applications are now being accepted for Spring interviews. Visit wcs.org/volunteer for more information and to apply.



ADULT PROGRAMS

Wildlife Photography at Central Park Zoo

Learn what it takes to be a wildlife photographer. Experts from the field and our resident photographer will share some tips and techniques for capturing the perfect shot. You'll get a chance to take photos of the animals before the zoo opens and chat with the keepers about what it's like to work with these amazing creatures. Enjoy coffee and pastries before you head out into the zoo to start snapping photos. *Personal camera required. Saturday, April 18th.*

Onsite Professional Development Programs

The Education Division of WCS offers teacher courses throughout the year, on weekends as well as during vacations, at all five WCS parks across the city. All courses can be taken for graduate credits or P credits from the NYC Department of Education. For more information, visit <http://www.wcs.org/teachers/teacherpd/> or call 718-220-5136. Discounts available for Members!

The WCS Education Department has a new Twitter account:

 **@WCSEducation**

The channel will feature upcoming WCS Education programs, live tweets from camps and conferences, Nature Play activities to do at home, and ways that people can help in the wildlife conservation movement. We will also include environmental and conservation news and fun animal facts. We hope that you will follow @WCSEducation to find out about upcoming Educational programs.



Members' News
 Wildlife Conservation Society
 2300 Southern Boulevard
 Bronx, NY 10460
 www.wcs.org

Help Save
 Wildlife and
 Wild Places

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 LONG PRAIRIE, MN
 PERMIT NO. 939

**SIGN UP FOR
 MEMBERS'
 E-NEWS**

If you would prefer
 to receive online
 communications
 only, please visit
www.wcs.org/enews.

MEMBERS' NEWS

Mar/Apr 2015

what's inside

- 1 Grizzly Bears Debut at Central Park Zoo
- 2 A Touch of the Tropics at the Prospect Park Zoo
Harbor Seals Return to Central Park Zoo
- 3 Mornings at the Zoo
- 4 A Rare Toad Returns to Puerto Rico
- 5 WCS Run for the Wild
- 6 Family, Youth, and Adult Programs



Photo: Julie Larsen Maher @WCS

Escape the late winter chill and head into the Bronx Zoo's Zoo Center to warm up with the Komodo dragons.

MEMBERS' NEWS STAFF:
 Editor/Writer: Tal Aviezer
 Photographer: Julie Larsen Maher unless otherwise noted
 Designer: Dot Payne
 Thanks to Allison Hague, Denise McClean, Max Pulsinelli, and Barbara Russo.

