

GREATER JEFFERSONTOWN
HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

June 2018

Vol. 16 Number 3

June Meeting -- 12:30 P.M., Monday, June 4, 2018.

We will continue to meet during the day at **12:30 P.M.** in the Jeffersontown Library, 10635 Watterson Trail. The Greater Jeffersontown Historical Society meetings are held on the first Monday of the even numbered months of the year. Everyone is encouraged to attend to help guide and grow the Society.

June Program

The Cherokee Trail: Another Trail to the California Gold Rush will be presented by Berl Meyer.

The **Cherokee Trail** was a historic overland trail through the present-day U.S. states of Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming that was used from the late 1840s up through the early 1890s and should not be confused with the Trail of Tears that was traveled by the Cherokee Indian Nation on their forced march to reservations in Oklahoma ordered by President Andrew Jackson.

The route was established in 1849 by a wagon train headed to the gold fields in California. Among the members of the expedition were a group of Cherokees. When the train formed in Indian Territory, Lewis Evans (his son, Marcus, was fatally wounded at the Battle of Perryville.) of Evansville, Arkansas, was elected Captain. Thus, this expedition is sometimes written as the Evans/Cherokee Train.

Berl is a longtime resident of the Jeffersontown Area and has a master's degree in geology and a minor in history. He is an avid Civil War buff and has led a geology fieldtrip to the Perryville Battlefield to explain how the geology of the area influenced the battle.

Berl is the past president of the Colorado/Cherokee Trail Chapter of the Oregon California Trail Association. At the present time he is the newsletter editor and webmaster of this area's chapter of OCTA.

In Memoria

Forrest B. Chilton passed away on May 17 at the age of 80. He was one of the founding members of The Greater Jeffersontown Historical Society and a proud member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), serving in state and local offices including Kentucky State Chaplain, President of the Kentucky Society, Vice President of the Central District SAR, and President of the Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter KYSSAR. He dedicated his time after retirement to helping veterans, amassing over 10,000 hours with the Veterans Administration Volunteer Service and was instrumental in marking over 300 graves of Revolutionary War soldier patriots. Members of GJHS participated in several of these services

Forrest worked in the family business, Ram Engineering, was a retired Baptist minister and a member of the 100th Division, US Army Reserve.

His funeral service was held at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church with burial in the church cemetery and a graveside service conducted by the Governor Isaac Shelby Chapter KYSSAR.

April Program

“What is New at the Louisville Zoo?” Docents from the Louisville Zoo spoke about new building plans, updates on some of the animals at the zoo, and upcoming programs and exhibits planned for this year. They also had with them some small animals and animal biofacts for everyone to see and touch. Biofacts are such things as animal horns, hair, pelts, and other items.

Opened in 1969, the Louisville Zoo currently exhibits more than 1,200 animals on 134 acres of natural settings representing geographical areas, specific habitat types or special education areas including: Glacier Run, Africa, Islands, New World Exhibits (North, Central and South America), Australian Outback, the HerpAquarium and the Metazoo Education Center. The Zoo’s award-winning Islands, Gorilla Forest and Glacier Run exhibits have been recognized by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for their excellence and innovation. The Zoo’s commitment to working with endangered species, specifically with AZA’s Species Survival Plan (SSP) programs, speaks of its dedication to conservation efforts. It is also one of just a handful of institutions in the world to house a captive breeding population of black-footed ferrets, North America’s most endangered mammal. The Species Survival Plan is the AZA’s cooperative breeding and conservation program and the cornerstone of efforts to assist endangered species.

In 2019 the Louisville Zoo will celebrate its 50th anniversary. It has started a multi-year building Master Plan that will include a new snow leopard habitat that will be located near the Tiger Tundra and will open in 2019, as will a new colobus monkey exhibit. Later projects is a network of overhead tunnels that will connect different areas and allow animals to roam from one section to another, a Shark Conservation Institute, a Crocotorium, the Safari Base Camp that will be the new education hub, and an expanded waterpark. You may have seen an article in The Courier-Journal back in February about the building plan.

Conservation is an integral part of the zoo’s mission to “Better the Bond Between People and Our Planet.” To accomplish this conservation mission the zoo partners with several programs: the Black-footed Ferret Recovery Program, Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, International Elephant Foundation, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) – this is with primates, Polar Bears International, Snow Leopard Trust, and the Wildlife Conversation Society & 96 Elephants.

We talked about new animals being born at the zoo and arrivals from other zoos.

Addax - 4 year old Male, Laird from the Brookfield Zoo joins 2 born here last year.

Gorilla - Kindi is 2 and doing great. Her father, Mshindi was transferred to another zoo and Casey, 35 year old male and 20-year old female, Bandia, came in from the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. Casey takes Mshindi’s place in Kindi’s group.

Bongos - 2 new born in April and May 2017, Singura (Hare) and Abigail.

Canada Lynx - Sitka, from Erie Zoo on April 2. We now have two.

Grey Seal -- Expect two new grey seals this spring. Our zoo has a history of breeding seals and the first set of twin grey seals born in captivity were born here.

Zebra - Female Hartmann mountain zebra, Azizi, arrived in May 2017 and this June will be two years old. She came from the Norfolk, Virginia zoo.

Komodo Dragon - Romulus, a 2-foot, 7-month old male from the Fort Worth Zoo. He will be on exhibit in June in a special space since he is so small.

Giraffe - Kianga, a Masai female, born November 9, 2016 at the Los Angeles Zoo. Her name means “sunshine” in Swahili. She joins 2-year old Masai male, Baridi, Frost in Swahili, who was also born at a zoo in California.

Mane Wolves - Valentine Day 2017, two pups were born, Cora & Catina. Now big as the parents and smell like them.

Elephant - Mikki our 32-year old African elephant is now confirmed to be pregnant. There is a 20 – 22 month gestation period, so the calf will be born next summer. Mikki came to the Louisville Zoo in 1987. Punch an Asian elephant is our other elephant and both eat 250-300 pounds of food a day.

Snow Leopard - New Snow Leopard, NeeCee, two years old from Miller Zoo, has joined six year old Kimti. The new exhibit space will be located by the upgraded tiger exhibit. Snow leopards can jump 40-50 feet from a standing start.

Blue Penguins (Fairy), Australian penguins. We originally received ten, but two have died from disease. They are very susceptible to diseases carried by mosquitoes. They will be on outside exhibit when it warms up.

Rockhoppers - Still working to solve water leaks in the exhibit. Might be on exhibit by now.

Rhino - Letterman, a 3-year old southern white male should be on exhibit by June. He came from The Wilds in Cumberland, Ohio. He was named by Jim Hanna in honor of former late night talk show host David Letterman. He will join 34-year old Sindi and sure to be shown just who is boss! We lost one of our older females to cancer in 2017.

Tiger - 12 year old, Heran, a Sumatran tiger had to have one of his eyes removed last year to alleviate pain due to a cataract and glaucoma in the eye, We now have 2 Amur/Sibearian tigers, Marietta and Vikentii. They are now in the Islands exhibit while the tiger exhibit is being rebuilt.

Lion - Our 19 year old male, Kenya, had to be euthanized. We have now received, Siyanda, a 3-year old male from the Fort Worth Zoo. His name means “we are increasing” and will be on exhibit in June.

We brought with us some animal ambassadors – a Red tailed hawk with only one wing, a domestic ferret, a ball python, a blue-tongued skink, and a Madagascar hissing cockroach. Some were received with great enthusiasm and two with not so much. We had several children in the audience who were excited to meet our ambassadors.

Finally we went over upcoming exhibits and events and Education Programs:

Lego sculptures - April 19 – Sept. 3

Butterfly House - May 19 – Sept 22 (Flutter Fest)

Earth Day - April 29 - \$8.25 Zoo Admission and Free Parking

ZooPoopyDoo - All April Saturdays and May 19 (7:30 – 11:30)

Fun Day Mondays - April 9,16,23,30 - \$5.25 Zoo Admission

Zoo Education Programs

School Field Trips - The Louisville Zoo serves as a living classroom, helping students of all ages develop an appreciation for and sense of responsibility toward the treasure of animal and plant life on our earth.

Group Tours - Explore the Zoo in a whole new way with guided interpretive tours of our award-winning exhibits. These 60-minute walking tours will introduce your students to the natural history and biology of the amazing animals at the Zoo. Students hear personal stories about our animals and discover the conservation efforts in place to help preserve their native habitats. Tours are Primates, Giants of Africa, and Cats of the World.

School At The Zoo - For almost 20 years the Louisville Zoo's MetaZoo Discovery Center has been giving local students the opportunity to foster life science skills in its living classroom through the School at the Zoo program. For the 2017-2018 school year, our program has expanded to include school visits and a science night at the participating schools.

Zoo Out Reach Programs - Let us bring the Zoo experience to you! These one-hour presentations are designed to blend science and language arts through the use of engaging stories, natural history and up-close encounters with some of our favorite animals.

Choose from the following:

- ◆ Nocturnal life
- ◆ Habitats
- ◆ Animal Senses

Spring Break Camps - Pre K – K: If I Ran the Zoo, Grade 1 – 3: Nature Connects®, Grade 4 – 6: Primates

Summer Camps - One or two week Programs for Pre-K through 6 Grade.

Early Childhood Programs - Audience: 2 to 5-year-olds with adult. Hours: 9 – 10:30 a.m. on First Saturdays.

Family Programs - These programs are designed for families with children 4 years old and up.

Night Safaris - Students will participate in engaging activities, explore the Zoo after dark and go on a morning walk to see our animals rising for the day.

Jeffersontown Magazine

The city has contracted with the Towne Post Network to produce a new *Jeffersontown Magazine*, a monthly publication featuring people, places, businesses, happenings, and history of Jeffersontown. Beth Wilder, Jeffersontown Historical Museum Director, is providing one or two great articles on Jeffersontown history each month. The free magazine is sent to J'Town residents and can be found at many businesses around town and at the library.

I will include as many of the articles as I can in the newsletter for our non-resident members. The following piece is what Beth submitted for the May 2017 issue.

ROSCOE GOOSE

Roscoe Goose, a descendant of one of Jeffersontown's founding families that dates back to the 1770s, was born in 1891 on the family farm at Rehl and Blankenbaker Roads. His father, Rufus Goose, was a Civil War veteran who fought for the Union army. He later lost his sight due to a war injury, but managed to sustain his wife and five sons on the \$5 monthly pension he received from the Veterans Hospital. When Roscoe was still a child, the Goose family moved to the Butchertown area, so that work would be easier to obtain. Roscoe and his four brothers had to do their share in supporting the family, so they took odd jobs. Roscoe started out as a newspaper boy, but later received some training in horsemanship at Fehr's brewery and the fire department in the Butchertown area, eventually becoming an exercise boy for the horses at Churchill Downs. This led to work as a jockey, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Roscoe rode to fame in the 1913 Kentucky Derby, astride a horse named Donerail. The horse was so poorly regarded that its owner, Thomas P. Hayes, and Roscoe *himself*, did not even bother betting on him. Hayes told Roscoe to just "go for cornbread" – that is, just "run well enough to pay the entry fee."

Donerail surprised everyone that year. With 91:1 odds – the longest in Kentucky Derby history, Goose prodded Donerail to win the race by a half-length at the wire. The horse paid \$184.90 for a \$2 wager, an all-time Derby record. Roscoe Goose received \$500 for the win, which he immediately blew on a party for all the jockeys.

He and his brother, fellow jockey Carl Ganz (the German spelling of Goose), who won the Kentucky Oaks that same year, bought a spacious three-story brick house on Third Street near Churchill Downs for their mother. Tragically, she suffered fatal burns in a small fire at the residence. Roscoe married his lovely cousin, Frances, Baird, and he continued to live in that house until his death in 1971. Roscoe and his wife loved to entertain, and everybody who was anybody came to the lavish Derby parties thrown by the couple.

Carl Ganz, unfortunately, died in a race track accident in 1915, prompting Roscoe Goose to advocate the wearing of helmets by all jockeys, and to have helmets become part of their required racing gear. After Roscoe retired from racing following a track injury he sustained in 1918, he made the care of jockeys his life-long pursuit. He served as mentor to many jockeys, allowing them to stay at his home whenever necessary and ultimately ended up adopting a young man who tended the horses of Roscoe's close friend, local real estate developer and philanthropist, James Graham Brown.

Roscoe Goose -- nicknamed "the Golden Goose" -- was one of the first ten men to be named to the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame and was president of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association for three years. He is one of the few jockeys to win both the Kentucky Derby and the Kentucky Oaks (1916). He became a millionaire, but never forgot his roots or the poverty he experienced as a youth; even though he kept company with the rich and famous, Roscoe always took the opportunity to help those who were experiencing difficulties. The National Turf Writers Association pronounced him "a thorough gentleman and example of all that's best in racing."



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