

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

www.senecaparkzoo.org

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American alligators are back at the Zoo

Rochester, NY — May 21, 2009 - Monroe County's Seneca Park Zoo is excited to announce that our southern visitors have arrived. Three alligators have come to us from St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park in Florida and will be living at our Zoo until the end of September. "Red Eye," one of the alligators, has visited the Zoo for the past several years.

"Every year, right around the beginning May, people start asking us when they will be back," said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. "These primitive animals have become a summer favorite at the Zoo. We are thrilled that people are so fascinated by them and happy to be able to bring them back for another season."

Each Thursday at 1:30 p.m. — beginning May 28th and continuing through Labor Day — visitors can watch as our alligators are fed. A zookeeper will also be on hand at this time to answer your questions.

If you can't make the feeding, don't fret. You can stop by the Zoo from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily to visit with our alligators and the rest of the animals at the Seneca Park Zoo. (Admission Gates close at 4 p.m.)

Did you know ...

- An adult male alligator can get as large as 11- to 15-feet-long, while adult females are a bit smaller at 8- to 10-feet-long.
- Because of legal protection, alligators are no longer endangered. They have made a remarkable comeback, but are still classified as threatened due to similarity of appearance. This helps insure its continued protection.
- The sex of an alligator is determined by the temperature at which eggs are incubated. If the nest is below 86 degrees Fahrenheit, all are female; above 93 degrees Fahrenheit, all are male and a temperature in-between will produce both sexes.

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, check us out on the Web at:

www.senecaparkzoo.org.

