

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

www.senecaparkzoo.org

Contact: Pam Cowan, Public Relations and Marketing Director

(585) 336-7201 or pcowan@senecazoo.org



The Zoo is hosting a birthday celebration this Saturday

Admiral, a North American river otter, turns 21

Rochester, NY – January 7, 2011 — Want to meet North America’s oldest captive river otter? You don’t have to go far to do so. This Saturday (January 8), head to Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo to celebrate Admiral, the river otter’s, 21st birthday!

“We are thrilled to be honoring this milestone in Admiral’s life; it shows the great care we provide to our animals,” said David Hamilton, General Curator for the Seneca Park Zoo. “Admiral is in great health and is oldest otter currently living in an Association of Zoos & Aquariums facility.”

According to Hamilton, who maintains the records for all captive river otters in North America, most otters in the wild have an average lifespan of about 8 years. However, otters in zoos and aquariums often live into their mid-teens. The oldest-ever captive otter lived to be 27.

The celebration, which begins at 11 a.m. in the ECO Center on Zoo grounds, will feature a Docent touch table station that will give visitors a look at some adaptations that help otters live in the wild, training demos and a singing of “Happy Birthday” to Admiral.

Birthday Celebration Schedule of Events

- **11 a.m. to 3 p.m.:** Docents will educate visitors about otters.
- **1:30 p.m.:** Training demonstration with Admiral, the guest of honor, and his exhibit mate, Heather.
- **2 p.m.:** The singing of “Happy Birthday” to Admiral.

Join us for the fun!

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, 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.