A Note from the President

Your Parks Foundation continues its mission of protecting the future of our parks. We recognize our board members’ dedication in this issue by highlighting programs that rely on their leadership and support. Thank you to Chuck Kuhle and Rod Schanefelt for their valued efforts in tennis and soccer! We are also grateful for the generous Schaub family gift. Please plan to visit the holiday showcase at the Floral Display Center and attend the ribbon cutting for the new memorial garden next spring. As we celebrate the 10-year birthday of the carousel and cherish the new penguin exhibit, we reflect on the many donors who have built the zoo over the years...one exhibit at a time. Thank you to all. We wish the very best to two dedicated Park District team members in their well-deserved retirement: Rick Anderson for his creative programming in junior golf, and Jim Kiefer for his contributions to Special Olympics, the Rodney T. Miller Triathlon, and many other community organizations. We truly will miss them. In your holiday planning, consider planting a tree! The national awareness of “green” initiatives shows our need to continue to protect and replace these gems. Thank you for all you do for Decatur’s parks. Your Foundation will be working for today, tomorrow and the future.

Endangered Species Carousel Celebrates 10th Birthday

On August 31, Scovill Zoo marked the 10th birthday of the Endangered Species Carousel! This work of art was actually built in the late 1940’s and used in a traveling carnival. Years later, Carousel Works in Ohio bought the carousel in an auction, refurbished the parts, added new animals, and sold it to Scovill Zoo in 2003. The Parks Foundation was instrumental in the purchase of the carousel and the lovely gazebo it sits under. Twenty-two generous donors have sponsored animals, and their support helps maintain this popular attraction, which educates riders about endangered and protected species around the world. The following animals are still available for adoption: Mandrill, Red Panda, Wart hog, Capybara, Saddle-billed Stork, Rhinoceros, Pygmy Hippopotamus, Elephant, Gould’s Wild Turkey, Sea Monster, Panda, and River Otter. Payment plans are available! If you are interested, please contact Jill in the Foundation office at 422-5911.

Zoo guests enjoyed cake, punch, and $1 rides at the 10th birthday party for the Endangered Species Carousel.
Leadership

Decatur Parks Foundation
Judith Locke, President
Dr. William Van Alstine, Vice Pres.
Cindy Black, Secretary
Larry Foster, Treasurer

Chris Riley, Cindy Deadrick-Wolfer
Park Board Liaisons
Erv Arends
Dr. Wendell Becton
Brian Byers
Melinda Chadwick
Kara Demirjian-Huss
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Kara Johnston
Chuck Kuhle
Cindy Laegeler
James Neff
Pete Paulin
Margo Rozelle
Rod Schanefelt
Jim Schwarz
Cyndy Smith
Mark Tupper
Kathy Wiesemann

Foundation/Park District Staff
Bill Clevenger
Jill Applebee
Mandy Childress

MidState Soccer Club: Expanding & Improving
by Rod Schanefelt

MidState Soccer Club strives to provide the highest caliber coaching and training while promoting good sportsmanship, integrity, and player development, both on and off the field. The Club offers soccer players the opportunity to travel and train throughout the year under the guidance of a nationally licensed coaching staff, with scholarship opportunities available. State-of-the-art indoor and outdoor soccer complexes host ages 3 to adult in competitive and recreational leagues. Integrated with the community, the Club works collaboratively with Millikin University and other Central Illinois colleges, the DMH Sports Enhancement Center, and other groups. Besides bringing visitors into the community for league games, the Club also hosts the Midstate Cup, an annual tournament bringing over 3,000 patrons for a weekend of excellent soccer and Decatur hospitality. Each year, MidState also hosts a 3v3 indoor tournament in the inclement season. The Club’s reputation and success have led to continued growth. The Tots program serves 120 youngsters year-round, and spring and fall programs have been added to meet the rising demand. Nearly 500 children in grades K - 3 participate in the Academy programs. Summer camps have grown every year for the last four years. The Club continues to enhance its offerings through the use of social media and an innovative technical program called iSoccer. Specialized training for goalies has also been added. We invite you to get involved as a parent, player, or volunteer! For details, call 429-3472.

ADA Accessibility

To ensure compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Park District engaged Recreation Accessibility Consultants to review its parks and facilities. A systematic approach is being taken to make updates to accommodate all individuals, including those with disabilities.

Fairview Tennis Center: A Central Illinois Jewel
by Chuck Kuhle

In 2008, the Fairview Tennis Center was honored as a U.S. Tennis Association Outstanding Tennis Facility. It is no coincidence, then, that out-of-town visitors continue to be impressed with this Central Illinois jewel. The Decatur Park District partners with the Decatur Athletic Club (DAC) for outdoor programming and continues its transition to U.S. Open blue tennis courts. During the summer season, the Park District offers youth clinics for ages 3 - high school. The most popular program is USTA 10 and Under, which includes shorter courts and low-compression balls. This makes learning the game much easier at a younger age. With entry level social leagues and intermediate and advanced competitive leagues, adults enjoy a variety of competition levels, as well. Home to the USTA Pro Circuit, the Fairview Tennis Center hosts 140 players from 20 different countries for the Ursula Beck Pro Tennis Classic. In addition, there are numerous junior and adult USTA tournaments throughout the season. In both spring and fall, several local high schools and Millikin University hold practices and matches. For information about tennis lessons or leagues, call 423-7020.
Schaub Gift Funds New Garden

At the Park Board meeting on July 17, Howard Schaub and his daughter Elizabeth were thanked for the family’s generous $50,000 gift to the Decatur Parks Foundation to create a garden showplace in memory of Norma Schaub, who passed away in April. With this addition, the Schaub Floral Display Center will truly be a destination, both inside and out. The ½ acre garden will include shade trees, native grasses, annual and perennial flowers, benches, a water feature, and a small pavilion. It is Howard’s dream that the Norma Schaub Memorial Garden will become a place for all in the community to take pictures for special events and hold small weddings. We are grateful for the Schaub family’s ongoing support for over 90 years.

Unique Donor Opportunity at Scovill Zoo

Bird lovers are being asked to consider sponsorship and naming rights to a new Scovill Zoo experience, a 22’ x 40’ aviary that will be home to nearly 100 budgerigars or “budgies,” small, long-tailed, seed-eating parrots. These delightful birds are native to dry regions of Australia and are popular as pets due to their small size and ability to mimic human speech. At Scovill Zoo, the aviary will provide opportunities for education and interaction, with seed-covered feeding sticks a major attraction at zoos nationwide. Included will be a flight house, trees and shrubs for perching, and small building to house the birds during inclement weather. The project cost is estimated at $35,000. For more information, call Jill at 422-5911.

Rave Reviews for Zoo Camp Out!

Recently, my family and I were able to experience an overnight stay at the Scovill Zoo with an auction package purchased at the Zoo-rific Evening event. Wow, what a night! We had a delicious dinner and s’mores over an open fire, fed the pelicans, zebras, and camels, then put the flamingos, guinea pigs and zebras “in” for the night. My grandchildren helped with the rabbits and checked on various bird eggs soon to hatch. After a peaceful night’s rest in our tents, we woke up to a homemade breakfast and some all-important coffee! We got to put some of the animals “out” for the day and make molds of a wolf’s footprint. We rode the carousel and made a quick stop at Project Playground before heading home, our minds filled with information and our hearts filled with joy. My grandchildren will have lasting memories of feeding and “herding” animals and listening to night sounds at the zoo. They want to know if we can visit the zoo for an overnight every month! Gay Donahue, Decatur

Camp Connections Grant

2013 marked the 3rd year the Decatur Park District and DPS #61 have partnered to present Camp Connections, an academic enrichment camp for students in grades K - 5. Thanks to a Parks Foundation grant of $2,100, Camp Connections was able to integrate 4 PE instructors into the camp day to encourage students to be physically active and gain life-long sports and fitness skills. The program has enabled students to achieve measurable success in both math and reading (27% and 14% improvement in scores, respectively).

Overlook Adventure Park Mini Golf to Open Next Spring!

Coming soon: two new resort-style mini golf courses, featuring larger-than-life replicas of Scovill Zoo animals, water features, and challenging obstacles. The mini golf pro shop at Overlook Adventure Park will be joined by CherryBerry Frozen Yogurt! Don’t miss the exciting unveiling of the newest Lakeshore Landing attraction next spring!

2013 Zoo Open Golf Outing

Special thanks to Team Soy, Wood Printing, Refreshment Services Pepsi, and the 27 teams who participated in the 2013 Zoo Open! This is an important fundraiser, which has generated over $300,000 for Scovill Zoo. Guest of Honor was Ramona Borders who helped fund the zoo’s animal care center and surgical room, sponsored the camel, eagle, and prairie dog exhibits, sponsored the lion cub on the Endangered Species Carousel, purchased the flag pole at the entrance to the zoo, donated a Wetherholt fishing boy sculpture, and makes ongoing contributions to the zoo education scholarship fund. Thank you for all you do, Ramona!

Save the date! The 2014 Zoo Open is scheduled for May 23, 2014.

Horticulture Department Plant Sale

Schaub Floral Display Center
November 22 & 23
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Another Fantastic Zoo-rific Evening! by Cindy Deadrick-Wolfer

On August 24, big kids had a fun filled, one-of-a-kind experience at the 2013 Zoo-rific Evening at Scovill Zoo! Guests enjoyed “wild” animal encounters, while the Ring Masters (our media friends) drew attention to the ISU Gamma Phi Circus acts of daring on the rings, silks, high wire, and trampoline. The highlight of the evening was the behind-the-scenes peek at the amazing new penguin habitat! And what a habitat it is...with a spacious swimming pool, nesting areas, and a fun pop up window. We know that Wild Liz, John Henry, MK, Chief, Ella, Royce, Huffy, Bogey and all of their friends will be happy to be in their new home at Scovill Zoo. Thanks to our sponsors, donors, and guests, over $63,000 was raised! These funds help greatly with our continued efforts to make the zoo a place for young and old, tourists and locals...and big kids, too! Special thanks to our generous sponsors: Dee and Larry Altenbaumer Sally and Mick Andreas Linda and Erv Arends Foundation Ramona Borders Brechnitz Group of Raymond James Brandy and David Brown Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Chadwick Mr. and Mrs. Donald Couch Dr. and Mrs. Alan Frigy Peggy Madden and Dick Phillips E.L. Pruitt Company Kathy and Bob Wiesemann

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Save the date for the 5th anniversary of Zoo-rific Evening at Scovill Zoo on August 23, 2014! 422-5911 for tickets & sponsorship info