



SAVE THE DATE • SATURDAY, SEPT. 7

Rendezvous at the ZOO

A fundraiser for Happy Hollow Foundation



Come enjoy an extraordinary evening under the stars!

MORE INFORMATION: HAPPYHOLLOW.ORG/RENDEZVOUS

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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Happy Hollow welcomed four new residents to its zoo in 2018.

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This conservation success story stars an American alligator.

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ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This Annual Report was produced and published by Happy Hollow Foundation, and the information inside reflects the calendar year 2018 unless otherwise noted.

If you have questions about this publication, please contact Amy Pizarro, Executive Director of Happy Hollow Foundation, at apizarro@happyhollow.org or 1-408-277-3498.



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Dear friends of Happy Hollow:

Bayou, the toothy star of our newest exhibit, stole the show in 2018.

Our American alligator has been a resident at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo since 2009, traveling to local schools with the education team. It wasn't until last May that he found a permanent spotlight in a new state-of-the-art exhibit, funded in part by Happy Hollow Foundation. Read more about Bayou — and the extraordinary training provided by our zookeepers — in this Annual Report.

Bayou was one of many reasons to smile in 2018, a year when Happy Hollow:

- Welcomed more than a half-million guests through our gates.
- Greeted four amazing new animal residents in the zoo.
- Recovered from the 2017 floods, including restoration of the bee apiary that had been destroyed.
- Presented six Senior Safari events, offering a free and unique Happy Hollow experience to older adults in our community.
- Hosted the inaugural Rendezvous at the Zoo, a fundraiser for our efforts to promote conservation, education and play.

This Annual Report is our salute to the donors, sponsors and partners who make this work possible.

And there's more to come. In 2019, the foundation will strengthen its focus on education, funding field trips for students at low-income Title I schools. There are eight such schools — more than 3,600 children — within a two-mile radius of Happy Hollow. In these households, there often isn't money for a day at San José's beloved park and zoo. We are eager to break down these barriers, and I look forward to sharing more about these efforts with you.

On behalf of the children, parents, grandparents, conservationists, animal lovers and countless longtime fans of this special place, thank you for your support. Please come visit soon!



Amy Pizarro
Executive Director
Happy Hollow Foundation
apizarro@happyhollow.org

A black and white ruffed lemur named Loka is sitting on a nest of straw. The lemur has black fur on its face and ears, with white fur on its neck and chest. It has large, bright yellow eyes and is looking directly at the camera.

Loka

Black and white
ruffed lemur

Born April 6, 2018

NEW FACES @ Happy Hollow



*(name still
to come!)*

Parma wallaby

Born March 13, 2018



Kianto

Jaguar

*Went on exhibit
June 2018*

Say hello to the newest residents of the zoo — particularly the two little ones, who in 2018 were born right here at Happy Hollow!



Bayou
*American
alligator*

*Exhibit opened
May 26, 2018*



Meet Bayou

**THE UNLIKELY NEW STAR
OF HAPPY HOLLOW PARK & ZOO**

Bayou is the strong, stealthy type. After all, he is an alligator.

On a fall afternoon, he silently patrolled his swanky new home at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo, slowly moving through tall grass. He took a refreshing dip in his U-shaped lagoon, leisurely propelled by his powerful tail. Later, as he warmed himself in the sun, Bayou reminded onlookers that he's an apex predator by lazily opening his vice-like jaws for a better view of his teeth.

But when zoo educators Lori Morper and Chris Juarez arrived for his regular training session, there was a sudden transformation.

An excited Bayou energetically followed Morper around the habitat as she held a long stick displaying a dinner plate-sized white target. When Bayou approached and lightly touched his snout to the mark, Morper rewarded him with a tasty treat.

"Whoa, did you see that?" shouted one of the many kids crowding around the enclosure to catch a glimpse of what has become one of the zoo's must-see attractions.

What they were witnessing is highly unusual – a trained American alligator. Morper and Juarez stop short of claiming that Bayou is one-of-a-kind. But they know of no other alligators like him.

"It's just not common to have an alligator that is so well-trained," Morper said. "With Bayou, we're offering something that's pretty rare. You get to see an alligator moving around, swimming, eating and interacting with a zookeeper."

And the unlikely star of Happy Hollow looks happy.

"He's really playful, and I know people would not

think that about alligators," Morper said. "But he plays with his food, and when we're in there, he'll follow us just like a puppy dog."

Juarez and Morper said Bayou is perfect for Happy Hollow's mission of educating visitors about wildlife because he represents the incredible comeback story of the American alligator. Native to the southeastern United States, alligators had been pushed to the brink of extinction due to excessive hunting and loss of habitat. But after being protected as an endangered species, their numbers soared.

Bayou's own backstory remains a mystery. Even his age is uncertain. He was rescued in 2009 by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Since alligators aren't native to California, the suspicion is that Bayou had been somebody's pet before being dumped in the water.

He was just 1 foot long and malnourished upon his arrival at Happy Hollow. But he quickly became a popular ambassador for the park. Bayou was brought to schools as part of Happy Hollow's education program.

Five years ago, Morper and Juarez began exploring what other zoos were doing to train their alligators. They didn't find much and set out to create their own "choice-based" training program. Bayou isn't forced to do anything. But he chooses to participate because he gets rewarded with fish and chicken.

Following the moving target is only the start. Typically when alligators need to be moved or receive medical attention, it entails people holding down the animals, taping their mouths closed and tying their legs. It obviously can be stressful for the alligators, and they can even be injured.



But Bayou now dutifully walks into his crate, which is how he was transported to his new \$400,000 home, an exhibit that opened in 2018 with a grand celebration.

He can even “stay.” Bayou is trained to go to a whiteboard on the ground and wait. And he has been taught to enter his nighthouse and put his full body and snout flat on the floor.

“People ask us all the time: ‘Is he tame?’” Morper said. “No, he’s very much a wild animal, and we’re always aware of that when we’re in his enclosure. But we use his food to reinforce the behaviors we ask him to do.”

In the process, Bayou is showing visitors that alligators aren’t nearly as primitive as they might appear and have distinctive personalities. Because alligators have been known to live to be 80 years old, Bayou will likely draw crowds of admirers for decades to come.

“He’s a curious guy,” Juarez said. “He always wonders what we’re doing when we’re inside the exhibit with him. Because he knows the routine, he’ll usually come right into the nighthouse and wait for us. It’s almost like he’s saying, ‘OK, I’m ready. Let’s get going.’ He’s just adorable.”



Bayou was a baby when he was rescued from the Delta — just 12 inches long!

FAST FACTS

- American alligators are the largest reptile in North America.
- Between October and March, alligators enter a dormant state known as brumation, a process similar to hibernation.
- Alligators have between 74 and 80 teeth at any given time, replacing teeth that wear down or fall out. An alligator can go through more than 2,000 teeth in its lifetime.



Introducing Kevin Hertell

“HAPPY HOLLOW IS ALL ABOUT HAPPY ANIMALS”

In his nearly four decades of working with animals throughout the United States, Kevin Hertell has been around an amazing diversity of wildlife. Manatees. Sea turtles. Horses. Chimpanzees. Spotted Owls. Alligators. He's up to 300 different species – and counting.

Not surprisingly, Hertell often gets asked a question. Name your favorite? Well, he can't.

“I've never met an animal I didn't like,” said Hertell, laughing. “It's like being asked to name your favorite child. I couldn't pick just one because I love them all.”

That attitude should give you a pretty good idea why Hertell became zoo manager at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo in 2018, overseeing the management of 160 animals from 58 different species. Spend just a few minutes with the tall, gregarious Hertell, and one thing becomes clear: Animals always come first.

“If you have happy animals, you're going to have happy staff and ultimately happy visitors,” said Hertell, who was previously at the Micke Grove Zoo in Lodi. “We all want to see animals that are well cared for and live in a safe environment. Happy Hollow is all about happy animals.”

The excitement grows in Hertell's voice as he talks about plans for Happy Hollow, including adding mixed-species habitats, bringing together animals that are typically found together in the wild. And, yes, he wants to grow the zoo by adding new animals. (Spoiler alert! He has his eye on river otters.)

“I have no doubt that we're going to get these things done because we have a can-do attitude here,” he said. “Happy Hollow has a great model. You have the amusement side, which often brings in the young kids to see Danny the Dragon and the other rides. But then they see the animals, and everything changes because they fall in love with them.”



ABOUT KEVIN HERTELL

Age: 59

Home: Redwood City

Family: Three children; two grandchildren

Education: Master's of Science in Biology, specializing in Animal Behavior, from University of Missouri-St. Louis; Bachelor's of Science in Wildlife Conservation and Management from Missouri State University

Family pets: Two cats (one Bengal and one hairless Sphynx) and a bearded dragon lizard. “My hairless cat and the bearded dragon love each other. The three of us watch TV together on the weekends.”

Fun fact: He's a vegan who hasn't eaten meat of any kind for 17 years.

Kevin isn't afraid of any animal, but ... :

“I respect our jaguars because I know they have the strongest bite, pound for pound, of any big cat. You can train an animal, but you cannot domesticate an animal. It's always going to be wild.”

THE REVIVAL OF Happy Hollow's Bees



As flood waters the color of chocolate kept rising in February 2017, the sound of buzzing was silenced.

Rainwater-filled Coyote Creek overflowed its banks, devastating the bee apiary at Happy Hollow Park & Zoo. Forty hives and more than one million bees were lost.

"I was just sick," said Steve Demkowski, volunteer beekeeper at Happy Hollow. "All that life lost. All of those poor bees. It was terrible. For the next month, I was so down. I thought it was over. But then, all of these people started showing up."

And they were, well, busy as bees.

Thanks to hard work, donations and, yes, new bees, the apiary is better than ever. The Happy Hollow bees once again are producing honey that goes toward a remarkable preservation effort. (More on that in a moment.)

But most important, the gentle sound of buzzing has returned.

"We're right back to where we were," Demkowski said. "It's unbelievable."

Demkowski became an unlikely beekeeper about a dozen years ago when he found himself engulfed by a swarm of thousands of bees that had taken refuge in his Willow Glen yard. But he wasn't stung once in a moment that he now calls "an epiphany," and he soon was exchanging golf for a new hobby.

During the last decade, he has been the steward of Happy Hollow's behind-the-scenes apiary, teaching classes about the art of beekeeping and the crucial role these industrious insects play in the ecosystem by pollinating plants.



Demkowski



“Steve is the driving force behind the apiary,” said Charlotte Orr, Happy Hollow’s Conservation & Communications Manager. “And don’t forget about the ‘Gorilla Honey,’” Orr added. You see, Demkowski’s efforts actually benefit another species.

Proceeds of honey sales go to Virunga National Park, located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to help protect the endangered mountain gorillas and the rangers who watch over them. It’s considered the world’s most dangerous conservation project because more than 180 rangers have been killed there over the past 20 years. On average, Happy Hollow has donated \$16,000 annually to Virunga.

So, the ripples of those flood waters stretched all the way to Africa – making it even more important to get the apiary rebuilt. Close to 100 volunteers, including many from the Santa Clara County Beekeepers Guild, took part in the mammoth undertaking. More than \$70,000 in donations, including a \$25,000 grant from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors championed by member Cindy Chavez, allowed

Demkowski to purchase upgraded equipment for Happy Hollow bees.

Today the hives are producing delicious honey that is sold to benefit the gorillas and their guardians.

“It took us a year, but we’re back,” Demkowski said. “It was a bad thing that happened. But the best thing I’ve ever witnessed was the way we’ve come together.”

It’s a level of cooperation you might even see in a beehive.



INTERESTED IN BEEKEEPING?

Take a class at Happy Hollow!
For more information, visit
happyhollow.org/bees.

Thank You

IN GRATEFUL RECOGNITION OF INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF HAPPY HOLLOW FOUNDATION



DANNY THE DRAGON'S DREAMBUILDERS

These donors invest in Happy Hollow Foundation with annual gifts of \$1,000 or more to support its mission to advocate for, support and enhance Happy Hollow Park & Zoo.

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Creators Corner

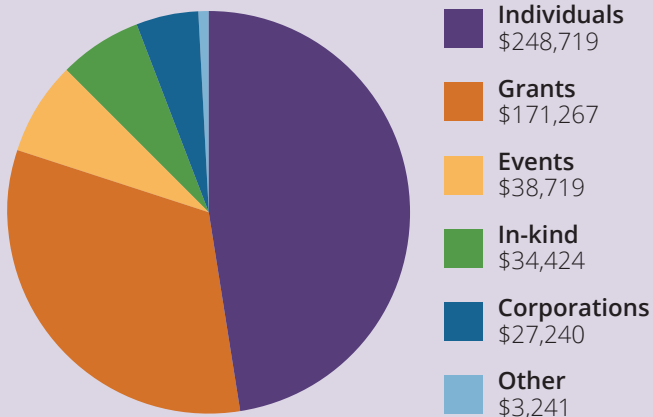
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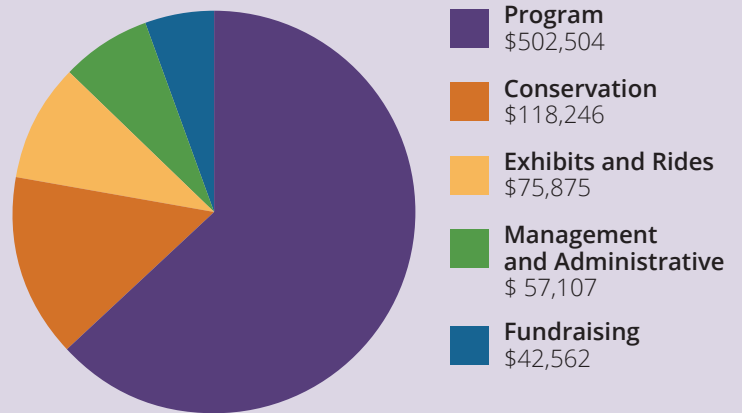
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Information reflects fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

Income



Expenses



ADDITIONAL SUPPORTERS

Thank you to these companies, organizations and individuals who invested in Happy Hollow Park & Zoo programs, events and exhibits.

\$10,000+

Linda Lee Lester
 County of Santa Clara - Division of Agriculture
 The Health Trust
 Kristi Yamaguchi's Always Dream Foundation

\$5,000+

Cafe Stritch
 California Bank of Commerce
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These lists reflect gifts made between January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018. If you are interested in supporting Happy Hollow Foundation, contact Amy Pizarro, Executive Director, at apizarro@happyhollow.org.

EVENTS @ Happy Hollow



RENDEZVOUS AT THE ZOO

Cheers to all the sponsors and guests who made our reimagined fundraiser a smashing success!



DANNY THE DRAGON'S DREAMBUILDERS

It's always a pleasure to celebrate the donors who make our work possible.



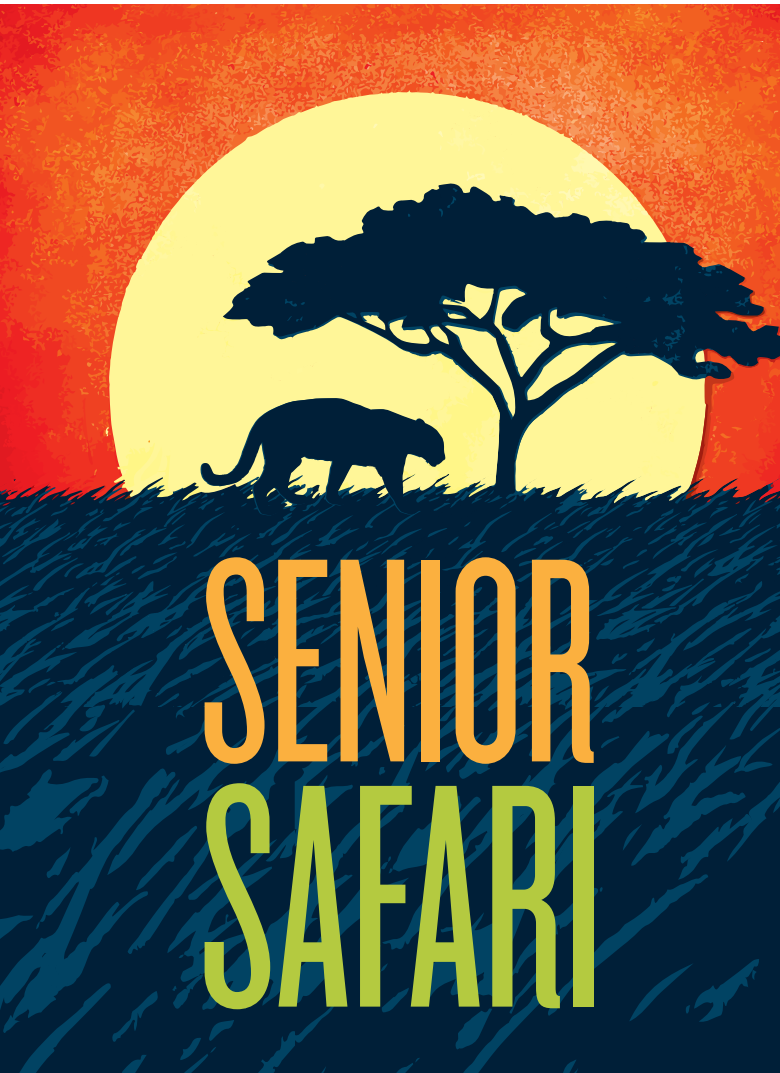
SENIOR SAFARI

These guests prove that going outside to play is awesome at any age!





1300 Senter Road
San José, CA 95112



2019 event series • Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

May 23 • June 27 • July 25

August 22 • September 26 • October 24

Arrive before 10 a.m. and stay as long as you like after doors open to the public!

Exclusively for ages 50 and up

Visitors ages 50 and up are invited to take over San José's iconic Happy Hollow Park & Zoo! Get fresh air and exercise as you enjoy:

- Free admission, free parking
- Early entry to the park
- Animal meet-and-greets
- A 10,000-step challenge
- Fun activities and giveaways
- Healthy breakfasts available for purchase



More information: happyhollow.org/seniorsafari