



THE ZOO'S LETTER

Volume 7, Issue 4

The Official Newsletter of the Friends of Pine Grove Zoo

Spring 2008

The Presidents Letter

By: Tina Wheeler

It has been a long....cold.....winter. We are looking forward to a 'new' zoo season with opening day in mid April. I'd like to "thank" everyone who has renewed their memberships. There is a new Grandparents membership available, you can get a membership form from the zoo web site or call. It is going to be an exciting year at the zoo -- baby bears will be here, there will be some changes in some of the exhibits, new items in the gift shop, plans are under way for our annual Hullabaloo and this is the first year for the 'junior zookeeper' program through the Programs Committee. This is the 3rd year of our contract with the city as far as 'Friends' managing/operating the zoo. This year the city did not approve the budget we presented and came back with a counter budget which was less than we needed. The zoo board and Marnita spend a considerable amount of time planning the budget for the year. We look at staffing, supplies, utilities, maintenance of the exhibits, caring for the animals, safety and security of the animals, visitors and staff and many more things that go into running a zoo. The new bear exhibit requires extra upkeep and with many more visitors to the zoo, that requires more staffing. The zoo staff takes a lot of pride in the zoo, and does a wonderful job keeping the grounds clean and groomed, exhibits are well maintained, and the animals are well cared for. The city council has said they are very pleased with the way 'Friends' are managing the zoo, though as a result of the decreased budget, we will be increasing the admission fees this year. You should know that all money that comes to the zoo whether it is admissions or donations is used directly for operations of the zoo, future exhibits and programs. We have completed the first year of a two year Strategic Planning grant through the Initiative Foundation. As a board we have a clearer understanding of our roles and responsibilities. Board meetings are more productive as we look at the future of the zoo focusing on our mission and vision. We are in the process of updating the by-laws and will be creating a procedure manual which will include the organization chart, descriptions of each board position, and committee descriptions. Through strategic planning we have developed different committees, each with a specific focus. Some of the committees meet on a regular basis -- say one time per month, some meet on an as needed basis.

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2008 Membership Meeting Calendar

The following meetings are open to all Friends

- March 11, 2008
- June 10, 2008
- September 9, 2008
- December 9, 2008

Membership meetings begin at 6:30 pm and are held in the Pine Grove Zoo's Education Building.

The Director's Chair



Marnita VanHoeck
Zoo Director

What did you say? Reciprocation?

By: Marnita VanHoeck

There are many who believe that people in the same business are competition and therefore have to watch how much information they share. I have been in the zoo world for almost 10 years and I have found that to be completely untrue!! All zoos, large and small, have been extremely helpful and gracious. Each one has generously offered their help, from giving advice on how we should build an exhibit to setting up Zoo policies. Chahinkapa Zoo in Wahpeton, ND, has truly been a blessing for us. Kathy, the zoo director, her husband Tom the Zoo foreman, and the rest of her staff have always been extremely kind in giving whatever information we may need. Another way that zoos work together, is by being on a reciprocation list. In January, we sent letters to see if the other zoos will allow our members to have free admission or half-price admission to their zoo. Most, in turn, will send a letter to us for the same reason. We will have a list that will continually be updated on our website that will show those zoos that will allow free admission or half-price admission to our members. This is definitely a huge benefit of being a zoo member. Remember; visit the website, pinegrovezoo.com, to view the current list as well as other great updates. This is our first year for reciprocation and I am looking forward to a fantastic year!!

Friends of Pine Grove Zoo Executive Board Members

President:

Tina Wheeler

Vice President:

Ray Manlick

Acting Secretary:

Marnita VanHoeck

Members at large:

Sharon Bauer

Denny Nuehring

Robb Orr

Paulette Pappenfus

Ex Officio:

Marnita Van Hoeck

Treasurer (non board member):

Anne McNamara

Presidents Letter continued . . .

The idea; having a committee with a specific focus may get more people actively involved. Committees; Fund Development Committee (donors/sponsorships/grants, etc...), Membership & Marketing Committee, Volunteer Committee, Programs Committee (education/enrichment/adopt-an-animal, etc...), and Events Committee. If any of these committee sparks an interest or you would like more information please call any of the board members or Marnita at the zoo. We are looking for new ideas; it is your chance to share your special skills or talents. In February we held a focus group with children and adults, looking at new ideas for the gift shop. What a fun and interesting meeting and as a result you will see some wonderful new things in the gift shop this year. Be sure to check it out!! As President of the Zoo Board, I believe it is important to be updated and informed as to the happenings at the zoo. I meet with Marnita on a regular basis and can bring updated information to our monthly board meetings. All members are encouraged to attend the quarterly 'Friends' meetings – we want to hear from you, your ideas, concerns, questions. The meetings are in the volunteer building at 6:30 pm – March 11, June 10, September 9 and December 9, hope to see you there. I have always loved zoos and have many fond memories of family trips to different zoos. Since I have been apart of this zoo board, I look at zoos so much differently – I have learned so much as far as the inner workings of the zoo, it has truly been a valuable and rewarding experience.

The Zoo's Letter

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Advertising and Newsletter Committee:

Leah Oetting (chair)
Mary Olson
Marnita Van Hoeke.
Tina Wheeler

Vet Clin

Warm and

Dr. Robb Orr: Vet

At the zoo we do have some warm and fun
imagine cuddling up with like your cat at home

today I want to talk about the challenges of w
Ok, if I had titled this 'cold and scaly', you w
this. The first challenge is feeding. Two lizard
same area on our planet, and eat completely d
carnivores, eating only meat, and some are he
These lizards may even eat the wrong diet if
health issues later. Next challenge, "Is it sick?
animals the first clue to being sick is a loss of
however does not sound the alarms. Two mea
Well, what about a snake that eats every 2 we
the last meal and we've just getting concerne
now that we are alerted to a problem. We nee
when you are ill, the doctor wants to know if
a body temperature is not useful in reptiles, 'c
reptiles are not 'cold blooded', more correctl
word meaning to be the same temperature as
takes place in a 70 degree exam room the ani
100 degree aquarium the animal is 100 degre
have tests we can run to get to the bottom of
interesting challenges. In the years to come, b
scaly friends showing up at the zoo.

Volunteer Spotlight

Hats Off To The

FOPGZ Executive Board!

By Mary A. Olson: Volunteer Coordinator

The Volunteer Spotlight this month is not on
one individual but a group of individuals. The
Friends of Pine Grove Zoo was started in 1991
and has worked with dedication and spirit over
the last 17 years to help make Pine Grove Zoo
what it is today. From a drive-by zoo with small
cages and cement floors to spacious exhibits that
now comfortably house our animals, Pine Grove
Zoo has become educationally and
environmentally sound as the original Friends of
Pine Grove Zoo organization had meant it to be.
The Board of Directors of Friends of Pine Grove
Zoo now manages the zoo for the City of Little
Falls. This adds greatly to the time that the
Executive Board Members put into zoo affairs, all
of which is volunteered. They meet once a
month, but also spend outside time in preparation
for the meetings. This is in addition to the
volunteering and planning that they have done for
various events at Pine Grove Zoo.

The **VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT** shines
brightly on the:

**Executive Board of Directors of Friends of
Pine Grove Zoo:**

**Tina Wheeler, Ray Manlick, Marnita Van
Hoecke, Sharon Bauer, Denny Nuehring, Robb
Orr, Paulette Pappenfus, Ann McNamara and
Byron Quinn.**

Thank you for sharing your knowledge, expertise
and wisdom to help make Pine Grove Zoo a
progressive zoological park.

Volunteering Opportunities Coming Up!

Admissions Volunteers—help us at the admissions building from April 15th to
May 30th and September 1st to October 15th

Educational Tour Guides—give an educational tour to the many school groups
that visit Pine Grove Zoo during the spring and summer months

Zoo Hullabaloo, June 14th—one of the Zoo's major fund raisers. Volunteers
will be needed for set-up, Hullabaloo, clean-up.

Give us the time that you can—We'll work with your schedule—**You'll have a
blast! Contact the Zoo at 616-5595 or email us at
volunteering@pinegrovezoo.com**

**The Pine Grove Zoo would like to thank the following
businesses for their support**



**Friends of Pine Grove Zoo
1200 West Broadway
Little Falls, MN 56345
(320) 616 – 5595**



Visit us at www.pinegrovezoo.com

JOIN US! For the 1st Annual FOPGZ MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Let's get the word out about our "Hidden Treasure"

Pine Grove Zoo!

(See the YELLOW FLYER for membership drive details)

Help!

Enclosed is a GREEN FLYER that has a special call for help!

Volunteers need to be spotlighted. If you have a story or any thoughts about your volunteering experience please take some time to share them with us - we would love to feature them in future Newsletters. **Thanks for the memories volunteers!**

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