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## Seneca Park Zoo welcomes ring-tailed lemurs

Dynamic mixed-species exhibit in the Zoo's Main Building is home

Rochester, NY – December 22, 2014 — Seneca Park Zoo is proud to announce the addition of two ring-tailed lemurs to our animal collection. The pair — a 6-year-old male named Bradigan from Indianapolis Zoo, and Selma, a 4-year-old female from the Bramble Park Zoo — reside in the Zoo's first Madagascar-themed, mixed-species exhibit. Radiated tortoises coexist with them in this forest habitat in the Zoo's Main Building.

“As the weather gets colder in Monroe County, we are thrilled to welcome two new lemurs, Bradigan and Selma, to a warm home at the Seneca Park Zoo,” said Monroe County Executive Maggie Brooks. “This mixed-species exhibit is sure to be an attraction for those who take advantage of all the Zoo has to offer in the winter months. I encourage local residents and families to stop by and welcome the duo to our community.”

In their natural range in Madagascar, both lemurs and tortoises are threatened by forest fragmentation, leading to isolation and breeding bottlenecks.

“The Zoo has long been a strong supporter of impactful lemur conservation initiatives by well-known lemur expert and National Geographic Explorer, Dr. Patricia Wright,” said Dr. Jeff Wyatt, the Zoo's Director of Animal Health and Conservation. “Dr. Wright pioneered a holistic conservation approach, first listening to the Malagasy villagers about their survival needs, and then developing with them a more balanced and sustainable co-existence with the forest. It's a win-win for all.”

The Zoo's new exhibit simulates the animal's habitat while giving staff the opportunity to educate visitors on the plight these animals face in their natural range.

With the addition of ring-tailed lemurs, the Zoo now participates in 37 Species Survival Plan (SSP) programs. SSPs are management programs designed to maintain healthy and sustainable populations of endangered species.

“Educating our visitors about endangered species is one of the main reasons we exist as an organization,” said Pamela Reed Sanchez, Executive Director of the Seneca Park Zoo Society. “Staff is excited to educate guests on both our lemurs and those living in their natural range.”

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Internationally, and in our own backyard, Seneca Park Zoo plays a key role in species survival. Chartered as an educational institution in 1957 by New York State, the Seneca Park Zoo Society plays an integral role in supporting Monroe County, the owners and operators of the Zoo. Together, we are working to bring animals back from the brink of extinction.