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Seneca Park Zoo To Say Goodbye to Roscoe the Rhino

Roscoe is expected to leave in mid-June

Rochester, NY – May 23, 2014 — Spend part of your Memorial Day holiday weekend at Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo. Enjoy the unofficial kick off to summer while you take in our Summer Programs. Visit with our growing babies and say goodbye to Roscoe, the Zoo’s 10-year-old male white rhino.

Roscoe is expected to leave in mid-June to go to The Wilds in Ohio, to start his own family. The Wilds, a wildlife conservation center operated by the Columbus Zoo located in Muskingum County, is situated on 9,154 acres of reclaimed coal mine land. It is home to 25 non-native and hundreds of native species, making it the largest wildlife conservation center for endangered species in North America.

The move is a breeding recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP). The SSP is a management program that maintains a healthy and sustainable population of endangered species. The Seneca Park Zoo leadership and staff support this transfer.

“Roscoe is genetically valuable and it is important for the long-term health and sustainability of the white rhino population for him to start his own family,” said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. “This is a wonderful opportunity for the Seneca Park Zoo to contribute to this critically important effort.”

Bill, Roscoe’s exhibit mate and half-brother, will remain at the Zoo. While he will not be getting a mate immediately, his keepers will be paying extra attention to him. This year, the Zoo embarked on a long-term planning process for our entire collection, most specifically for the Zoo’s Main Building. Because of this, no decisions or changes to the rhino collection will be made until that process is complete.

“Roscoe joined our Zoo family in 2006 and Bill came in 2007. Quickly, the boys become favorites within our Zoo family and with our guests,” said Pam Cowan, Communications Director for the Seneca Park Zoo Society. “While it is hard to say goodbye to one of our family members, we know the move is necessary and important. We encourage the community to visit with Roscoe before he embarks on his journey to The Wilds.”

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, who owns and operates the Seneca Park Zoo. For additional information, visit www.senecaparkzoo.org.