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Seneca Park Zoo to say goodbye to Mexican wolves

Three brothers are expected to leave in early November

Rochester, NY — October 27, 2015 — Place a post-Halloween visit to the Zoo on your to-do list to say goodbye to the Zoo's 8-year-old male Mexican wolves. Chico, Diego and Durango — the trio of gray wolf brothers — have been on loan to the Zoo since they arrived in May of 2011 from Julian, California. The wolves are expected to leave in early November to go to the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) in South Salem, NY.

WCC, a nonprofit founded in 1999, is a wildlife conservation and education organization that promotes wolf conservation by teaching about wolves, their relationship to the environment and the human role in protecting their future.

Despite 33 years of protection under the Endangered Species Act, fewer than 50 Mexican gray wolves remain in their natural range today. In the face of this crisis, Seneca Park Zoo partners with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to support a wolf reintroduction program with the goal of creating a sustainable population.

“Because these individuals could one day be introduced into nature, the decision has been made to send them to WCC where human interaction will be limited,” said Larry Sorel, County Zoo Director. “This move is best for both these specific animals and for the future of the species.”

“In the four and a half years the wolves have been at Seneca Park Zoo, we have been committed to telling their story and informing the community about the importance of keeping them on the endangered species list,” said Pamela Reed Sanchez, Executive Director of the Seneca Park Zoo Society.

The Zoo Society is grateful to Salena's Mexican Restaurant for its corporate support of this exhibit since it opened in 2011.

Celebrate our wolves and say goodbye on Sunday, November 1

Join us from 1 to 3 p.m. to learn about the issues regarding wolf conservation, why our wolves are leaving and why it is so important to keep wolves on the endangered species list. There will also be a zoo keeper talk. Children who color wolf photos, which will be included with letters to our Congressional Delegation, will be entered to win one of three \$25 gift certificates from Salena's Mexican Restaurant. The afternoon's event will take place either in front of the Wolf Exhibit or in the Event Tent near the Wolf Exhibit.

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.