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Spend Spring Break at the Zoo

Say farewell to Dara the orangutan and visit your other animal friends

Rochester, NY – April 4, 2014 — Spend Spring Break at Monroe County’s Seneca Park Zoo. A trip to the Zoo gives you the opportunity to visit our many growing babies, enjoy dynamic animal programs and say goodbye to Dara, the Zoo’s 14-year-old female Bornean orangutan.

Dara will be leaving at the end of the month to go to the Virginia Zoo in Norfolk, Virginia, where she will be paired with a young male Bornean orangutan to start her own family. The move is a breeding recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Orangutan Species Survival Plan (SSP). The SSP is a management program that maintains a healthy and sustainable population of endangered species.

“We support this transfer as it’s a great move for Dara personally and the species as a whole,” said County Zoo Director Larry Sorel. “Female orangutans in the wild generally start the process of leaving their mothers between the ages of 6 or 7. Since Dara will be 15 in September, it’s time for her to go off on her own and start her own family.”

Dara will call Virginia Zoo’s *Trail of the Tiger* exhibit her home. The exhibit, which opened in 2011, brings together wildlife from across Asia, including Malayan tigers, Asian small-clawed otters, orangutans, white-cheeked gibbons and more.

“Dara has been at the Zoo since she was born and we know the community has a real connection with her — and so do we,” said Pam Cowan, Communications Director for the Seneca Park Zoo Society. “While she will be dearly missed, the Zoo will remain home to three other orangutans: Kumang, Denda and baby Bella, who turns one on April 29.”

Come out to visit our orangutans, our growing lion cub trio and golden lion tamarin, all of whom turned one this past March, as well as P.J., our male sea lion who turns one in June. Additionally, special animal programs begin Saturday, April 12 and continue through Sunday, April 20. Guests will enjoy everything from penguin feedings to lion enrichment to otter training during the three daily programs, which will be held on a rotating schedule. View our dynamic Spring Break Program Schedule in its entirety at www.senecaparkzoo.org.

“The Zoo continues to be an exciting and educational place for the whole family,” said Cowan. “Regardless of why you choose to visit, there is plenty to see and do at your Zoo.”

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.