Friends of the Pana’ewa Zoo

From the President

Aloha Friends of the Zoo Members,

Members of Friends of the Zoo (FOZ) play a vital role. They provide the funds to help our zoo in ways that the County’s annual budget cannot. Their dues allow the Zoo board the flexibility to purchase items that will enhance the visitor experience and enrich our animal lives. Members donate through their annual dues and through symbolic adoption of many of the interesting animals who call our zoo home. We have many Life Time Members whose names are placed on plaques at the Zoo entrance.

We on the Board would love to have our members become more involved in the happenings at the zoo. We are looking for Board members, or would like to have help at the Petting Zoo on Saturdays, or with Animal Enrichment time on Wednesdays. If you are interested in any Zoo activities, please contact a Board member.

This year we are considering expanding our Annual meeting to include a potluck afterwards, so that members can get to know each other and so that the various societies whose members help to beautify the zoo grounds, can get to know FOZ folks. The Annual meeting will be held on August 20th at 11 AM. This gives any interested FOZ member ample time to get the date on a calendar and to plan a potluck item. We will announce the Annual Meeting again before the date and hope that the Palm Society, Water Garden Society, Orchid Society, Vireya Society and Bamboo Society will join us at the event.

Lastly, any FOZ member who would like to help at the Tiger Fun Day on July 2, 2016 is urged to contact us. On this first Saturday in July, we will celebrate the release of our tigers from their quarantine area after 4 months in a relatively confined space. Tzatziki (“Tzar”) and Sriracha will be able to explore their 1.5 acre compound starting just before that day. We plan on several games, live entertainment and will have food available for sale at the main pavilion. More information about this grand event will be on our web site and Facebook page as the date gets nearer.

Pat Engelhard
FOZ President
Tiger...Tiger and Alligator...Alligator!!! Literally, that’s what is new in the zoo...along with a whole lot of people coming to visit them!

The tigers left Portland, Oregon on the evening of March 2nd and after a very long plane ride with 3 transfers, they finally arrived at the zoo on Thursday, March 3rd at 6:10 p.m. Catman (Great Cats World Park Owner), Craig Wagner and his Park Administrator, Traveler Hawk accompanied them on their flight from Portland to Honolulu and were here to meet them on arrival. We were also very fortunate to have their Veterinarian, Dr. Carrie Barret here to ensure the cubs were safe, sound and well adjusted. The first weekend after their arrival we had a record breaking 5,000 visitors in the zoo to see them!

From these photos, you can see they no longer look like cubs. They are fast growing teenagers that have shed their furry Oregon winter coat and traded it in for a nice sleek Hawaiian summer jacket.

Sriracha will be a year old on June 24th and Tzatziki will have his 1st birthday on July 3rd. Their 120 day quarantine period will be completed on July 1st and we hope every one can join us on July 2nd for their Fun Day celebration!

On April 7th, the two alligators, Lilo and Stitch, left Denver, Colorado and had to endure a long layover in Honolulu before arriving at the zoo early morning on April 8th. Jay Young, owner of Colorado Gators Reptile Park was on hand to release the alligators and provide staff training on feeding and handling them. He and his family spent the week vacationing here and are hoping to be back soon to check on the gators.

If you’re hoping to visit the zoo and see tigers when they’re playing and active, the best time is first thing in the morning when we open at 9:00 a.m. If you’re interested in seeing the alligators have their daily meal, they’re fed every day between 1:15 and 1:30 p.m.

We have lots to see and do in the zoo, so make your plans to visit us soon!

Pam Mizuno
Zoo Director
Successful Annual Plant Sale

We had a beautiful day for our annual plant sale. Vendors from the local plant societies brought their most beautiful plants to sell again. Hawaii Island Palm Society gave a tour of the palms in the zoo and answered visitors’ questions.

Mahalo to these vendors for supporting the zoo:

- Pacific Island Nursery
- Royal Palm Enterprises
- Gervais Orchids
- Kalapana Tropicals
- Tropical Abundance Inc.
- Everyone’s Nursery
- Kapoho Kai Nursery
- Jay and Donna Manion
- Big Island Daylily
- Hawaii Island Palm Society

One of our new alligators basking in the sun.

**Alligator Facts**

**Genus/species:** *Alligator mississippiensis*

**Status:** They were once on the verge of extinction, but have made a remarkable recovery due to strict conservation measures and are no longer endangered. The American alligator is listed as threatened due to its similar appearance to the American crocodile, which is endangered.

**Size:** Average size for adult females are just over 8 feet and 11 feet for males.

**Description:** They have an “armored” body with a muscular flat tail. Skin on the back has embedded bony plates called osteoderms or scutes. A long snout with upward facing nostrils at the end lets them breathe while the rest of the body is underwater.

**Habitat:** American alligators are found from North Carolina to Texas and are usually found in freshwater rivers, swamps, marshes and lakes.

**Diet in the Wild:** They are carnivorous and have strong jaws that can crack a turtle shell. They eat fish, snails, birds, frogs and mammals. Small prey is swallowed whole. Larger prey is shaken apart into smaller pieces.

**Life span:** They may live to about 50 years in the wild.

**Interesting Fact:** The Alligator is the official state reptile of Florida since 1987.

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**Tzatziki and Sriracha?**

Tzatziki and Sriracha are the names of our new tigers. These are the names given to them by Great Cats World Park, where they were born. Pana’ewa Zoo, through our Friends of the Zoo organization, gave the public the chance to select names. Ultimately, the votes were enough for the tigers to keep the name they had always known.

For those who don’t know the meaning of the names, here’s the facts. Tzatziki is a delicious, white Greek sauce with cucumbers and yoghurt as the main ingredients. Sriracha is a popular type of hot sauce made from chili peppers.
Friends Of The Zoo invites you to:

Tiger Fun Day!

Saturday, July 2, 10:00-3:00

Schedule of Events:

Free Shuttle to and from parking at the Equestrian Center

9:30am ✶ Tigers released into exhibit with box toys and bone treats

10:00am - Noon ✶ Terry the Tiger
10:00am - 2pm ✶ Face Painting
10:00am - 3pm ✶ Fishing, Treasure Chest and Wheel of Fortune Games

Noon - 1pm ✶ Wendall Ing & Friends
1:30pm ✶ Alligator Feeding
1:30pm - 3pm ✶ Dennis & Christy Soares
1:30pm - 2:30 ✶ Petting Zoo

Smoothies, Coffee, Tea, Soda, Water, Hot Dogs, Pizza, Braddah Pops & Snacks available for purchase

Visit us at www.hilozoo.com