

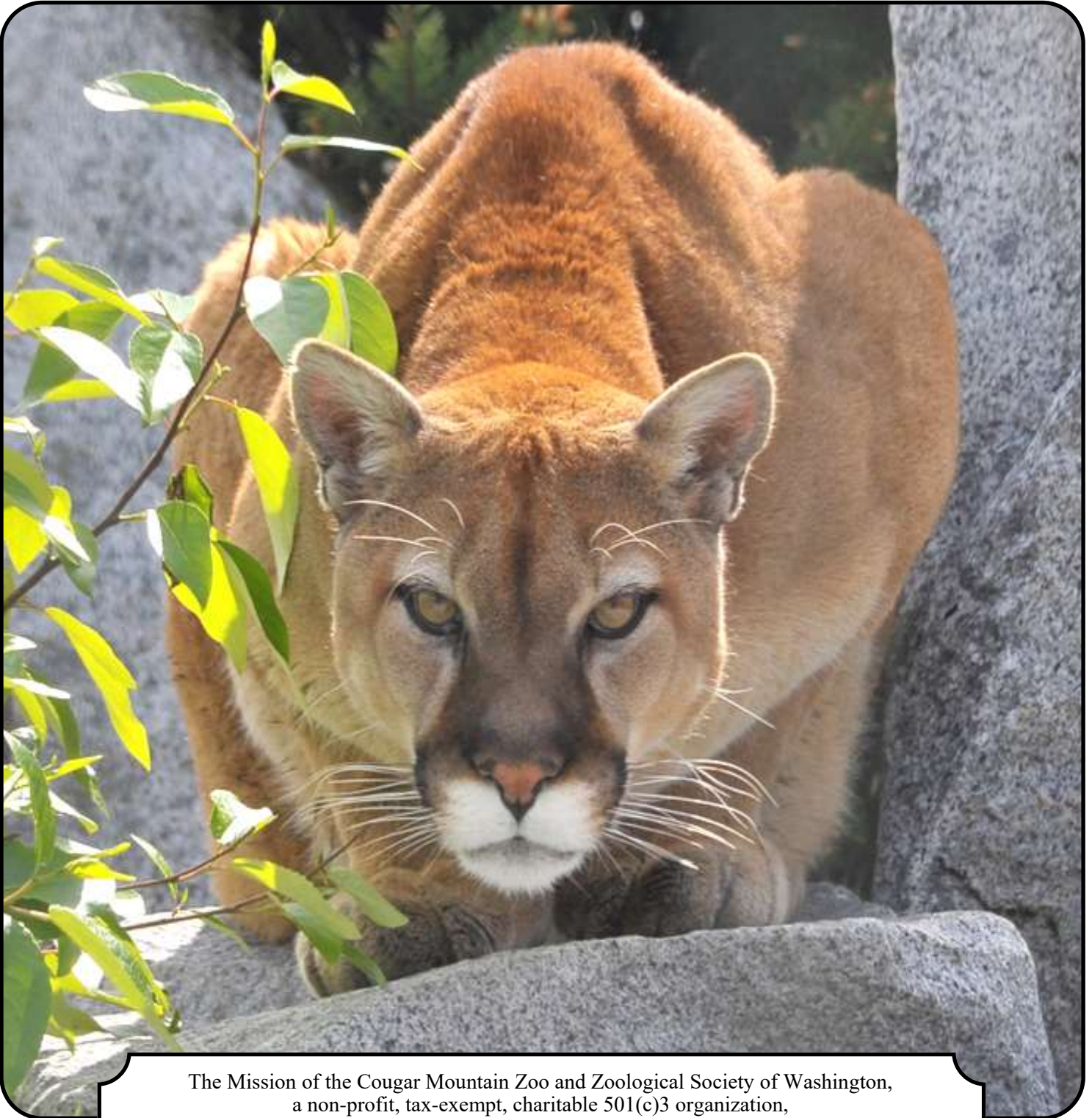


# Zoo Journal

A Publication of Cougar Mountain Zoo

and Zoological Society of Washington

March 2022



The Mission of the Cougar Mountain Zoo and Zoological Society of Washington, a non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable 501(c)3 organization, is to increase the understanding and appreciation of the Earth's irreplaceable wildlife and the role of humanity in nature through education, conservation, propagation and exhibition.

*Established 1972*



# Conservation in Action

At Cougar Mountain Zoo, our mission of “Conservation through Education” is paramount for the future survival of all species. In regions of the world where species are disappearing, on-going education through research continues to be an essential part of their survival. With this understanding, the Cougar Mountain Zoo reached out to Armonia, a conservation organization that divides its time researching critically endangered species, providing educational information to the local community, and running a nature preserve to promote ecotourism. After much consideration, Cougar Mountain Zoo chose to aid in the support of one of the world’s most endangered macaws, the red-fronted macaw.

Located in the heart of Bolivia, Armonia has dedicated its existence to help in recovery efforts of the blue-throated macaw, and now the red-fronted macaw. In order to assist in the survival of this species with the hopes of helping to increase their numbers, Armonia put together a research expedition to learn more about the macaws’ breeding needs and install nest boxes to aid in reestablishing the species in their natural habitat.



With the successful hatching of two of our own red-fronted macaws in 2020, the Zoo felt funding the construction and implementation of the nest boxes Armonia needed was of utmost importance for the success of future wild hatchlings. Throughout 2021, Armonia dedicated months towards studying the macaws nesting behaviors, scaling hundreds of feet of cliffside to find the best sites for installation, and numerous expeditions to safely install the nest boxes Cougar Mountain Zoo funded.

By supporting conservation abroad, we hope to inspire those who have the same passion to protect wildlife as we do and help support fellow conservation organizations around

the world. Cougar Mountain Zoo is continuing funding through 2022 in order for Armonia to monitor the nest boxes during breeding season and to evaluate project success.

Monitoring will involve routine inventory of egg production, and insurance that the nest boxes are still functioning at full capacity. We are excited to see what 2022 produces and hope the outcome will be beneficial for red-fronted macaw programs in the future. Please check out Armonia at [armoniabolivia.org](http://armoniabolivia.org) to see all of their current and past work as they help promote the propagation of Bolivia’s wildlife!



All photos  
courtesy of  
Armonia



## EDITORIAL DESK

The Zoo Journal is published periodically by Cougar Mountain Zoo and the Zoological Society of Washington.

### Zoo Phone Numbers

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**Check out our web site at:**

<http://www.cougarmountainzoo.org>

# Most Unique in the World

## Wood Frogs



Resembling a mask, the wood frog's (*Lithobates sylvaticus*) most distinguishing feature is the black marking across its eyes. Found in varying shades of brown, red, green or gray, the females are typically more brightly colored than the males. When they reach adulthood, these amphibians range in size from 1.5 to 3.25 inches.

Wood frogs are abundant throughout the woodlands of Alaska and Northeast sections of the United

States. They are the only frogs that live north of the Arctic Circle, but can also range as far south as Alabama and northwest into Idaho, but in smaller numbers.

During winter, they will typically take shelter in leaf litter on the forest floor. But instead of hibernating, wood frogs have adapted to survive the cold climates they live in by freezing during the winter and then thawing back out in the spring. In preparation for winter, their bodies produce a special high glucose antifreeze-like substance that helps their cells retain water but prevents ice from forming, which would be deadly. The frog stops breathing and its heart stops beating so biologically speaking, they are dead! When the weather warms, it takes 14 to 24 hours for the frogs to thaw and become fully functional again.



Wood frogs usually begin the breeding season in March and are one of the first frogs to breed each year. Males can be heard calling day and night to attract females. Once breeding has occurred, the females lay between 1,000 - 3,000 eggs in a vernal (or seasonal) pool.

The tadpoles will hatch as soon as 9 days or up to 30 days later. Evidence suggests that when many tadpoles are born in the same pool, siblings will actually seek each other out and stay together as a group.

It takes about 2 years for a wood frog to reach maturity. And the wood frog's lifespan in the wild is seldom more than 3 years.

## Living Classroom Education Program



This unique, one-of-a-kind program is funded by the Zoological Society of Washington and operated here at Cougar Mountain Zoo.

Designed for Preschools, School Grades K through 12 and other Child or Youth oriented entities, this program allows qualifying participants to receive a great subsidized value on guided group tours and outreach presentations. To become a Living Classroom Education Program Participant, contact the Zoo Education Department at 425-392-6278.



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## Wildlife Focus



## Red-fronted Macaw

The critically endangered red-fronted macaw (*Ara rubrogenys*) is found exclusively in the arid mountain scrub, deciduous and cactus woodlands of the Cochabamba valley in Bolivia, South America. It is the smallest of the large macaw species, and is an excellent flyer that can also hover.

The identical looking male and female red-fronted macaws form strong monogamous bonds. Pairs of them are often seen preening each other throughout the year.

Nesting in vertical cliff sides, pairs breed once per year between October and March. The females will lay between 1 and 3 eggs, which are incubated about 26 days. Since family bonds are very strong for the red-fronted macaw, when the

chicks hatch both parents participate in raising them.

2020 saw Cougar Mountain Zoo's first hatching and raising of this critically endangered species. Cocha and Bamba can be seen during many of the educational programs here at the Zoo!



## Groundhogs



The groundhog (*Marmota monax*) is the largest member of the squirrel family and can be found throughout the majority of central and eastern United States as well as westward into parts of Alaska and Canada. They are also commonly called "whistle-pigs" since one of their vocalizations used to communicate a threat to other groundhogs is a high-pitched whistle. Woodchuck and land-beaver are other popular names for the groundhog.

They are powerful diggers that make large, complex underground burrows which when abandoned by the groundhogs are often used by other burrowing animals such as foxes, opossums, racoon and skunks. With multiple entrances and chambers, even a separate excrement chamber (bathroom), these burrows can be 4-6 feet deep by 10-20 feet wide and up to 60 feet long. These burrows are the perfect place to raise young, provide safety from predators and

hibernate during the winter months.

Groundhogs are among the few animal species that are true hibernators. During late fall/early winter they enter a deep sleep during which their body temperature drops from 99 degrees F to 40 degrees F, and their heartrate slows from 80 beats per minutes to 5-10. While hibernating they will only breathe about once every 6 minutes! Until they reawaken in the spring, groundhogs survive on the fat reserves that they built up during the summer and fall.



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# Photo Gallery and Quotes

## Memorable Quote

"If you can reach out and touch and love and be with wildlife, you will forever be changed, and you will want to make the world a better place."

Terri Irwin



## Memorable Quote

"Humankind must learn to understand that the life of an animal is in no way less precious than our own."

Paul Oxtan

Have a great photo from the Zoo? You are welcome to submit it via email; [info@cougarmountainzoo.org](mailto:info@cougarmountainzoo.org). Space permitting, we might be able to use it in an upcoming Zoo Journal.

Unique Gift Idea!

## Adopt an Animal

Show that you deeply care  
and love Animals

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Memorable - Exciting - Unique

# Birthday Celebrations

for all Ages at the  
Cougar Mountain Zoo

For Your Exciting Birthday Celebration the Zoo asks only for a small minimum donation of \$190, which accommodates up to 10 people in your group, including one lucky Birthday person.

For each additional person please add \$17.

Restrictions apply, for additional information email [info@cougarmountainzoo.org](mailto:info@cougarmountainzoo.org)

**Zoo Members** receive a **10%** discount on **Birthday Celebration** packages!



Stay In Touch...

Through education, conservation and recreation, Cougar Mountain Zoo and the Zoological Society of Washington are dedicated to increasing the understanding and appreciation of the Earth's wildlife and the important role of humanity in preserving the natural world. So, come join us often

- 1) in person
- 2) on the Zoo website
- 3) at the Zoo Facebook, Instagram or Twitter pages



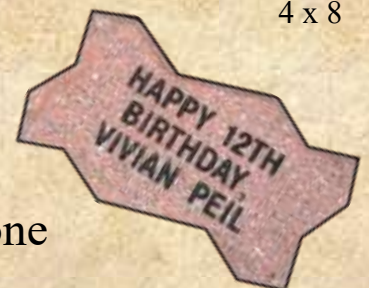
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# Thank You!



The 2021 Issaquah Reindeer Festival was quite successful thanks to the thousands of visitors who came to enjoy the sights and sounds of the holidays with family and friends. The money raised will help fund the Zoo's general operating expenses until the warmer weather brings in more admission donations.

Thank you to our 2021 Festival Sponsors:



*'Conservation through Education'*

## Guided Group Tours

On your customized tour, you experience unique encounters with the animals and enjoy the opportunity to learn about the world of other life forms. In addition to an exciting educational experience, guided group tours also offer a fun-filled recreational opportunity for all ages.

## VOLUNTEER and INTERN OPPORTUNITIES HERE AT THE ZOO



- 1 Volunteering and internships offer a chance to enrich your life through a better understanding of nature and the Earth's rapidly vanishing wildlife.
- 2 Develop special relationships with the animals and make new friends who share common interests.
- 3 Gain valuable experience and interact with some of the most unique and endangered animals on planet Earth.
- 4 Play an important role in promoting the natural world and conservation of wildlife.

## How to Support Your Zoo

There are many ways you can help the Zoo expand and remain on the leading edge of excellence while you receive a number of benefits such as reduction in estate, gift and/or current income taxes.

### Planned Giving

- \* Charitable Bequest
- \* Charitable Gift Annuities
- \* Charitable Lead Trusts
- \* Pooled Income Fund
- \* Gifts of Life Insurance
- \* Gifts of Real Estate

### Other Forms

- \* Cash and In Kind Donations
- \* Stocks and Bonds
- \* Collections
- \* Sponsoring a Zoo Habitat
- \* Sponsoring Zoo Events
- \* The Zoo's Five Fundraising Programs

The Zoo's Development Department will be happy to explain how planned giving and other donations can work for you.

***Non-profit, tax-exempt, charitable 501(c)3 organization***

Your Contributions are Tax Deductible and Eligible for Employer Matching Gift Programs





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*Your  
Zoo Journal*



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Available positions and applicant  
qualifications can be found on our website:

[www.CougarMountainZoo.org](http://www.CougarMountainZoo.org)



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