

Zoo Undergoing Historic Transition

New officers to be announced Monday

3 p.m. press conference at Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club

Naples, FL – Caribbean Gardens has been in the news for the past two years for more than its rare animals. Indeed the announcement that the land under and around Caribbean Gardens would be for sale made the Zoo itself an endangered species. But the community rallied and in a three-to-one landslide, the voters spoke clearly that they want the land and Zoo preserved. Now while the price and critical details of the land transaction are underway, the Zoo is undergoing a foundational change affecting the very core of its operations.

Since 1969, the Zoo has been a private corporation operated by the Tetzlaff family on land leased from the Fleischmann family. If current plans are realized, the Zoo will continue to lease its land from a new landlord: Collier County. To fulfill a promise made to the community, the Zoo plans to be a not-for-profit charitable organization. Paperwork was filed this past winter with the Internal Revenue Service to convert the Zoo to a 501c (3) not-for-profit charitable organization.

The IRS documentation indicated an answer on the not-for-profit status would have been presented by now. In recent conversations, however, IRS staff explained that due to a heavy workload they are months behind in processing all not-for-profit requests. While frustrated with the delay, Zoo Director David Tetzlaff says “Zoos are almost universally not-for-profit so we have every reason to believe we will be granted this status in the near future. In the meantime, the Zoo is continuing the momentum of progress by establishing a Board of Directors.”

And so, for the first time in its 36 year history, the Zoo will soon be overseen by a Board of Directors. While the Tetzlaffs hope to continue in a management role to insure success of daily operations, they will serve at the pleasure of the board. “It’s an exciting, yet anxious, time as my family hands over control,” explains Tetzlaff. “We deeply love the animals and have stewarded this precious garden for all these years and hope to be able to continue that same ethic and success into the future.”

That future will also include a new name. While the Zoo will long be “Jungle Larry’s” or “Caribbean Gardens” to local residents, a new name will soon reflect the profound changes happening. Beginning Monday, July 25 a new era begins under a new name: Naples Zoo.

As part of the transformation of the Zoo, the Board of Directors has been established to advise and support the organization. David Tetzlaff explains why a Board of Directors is important for the Zoo’s success. “As we

look to the future, we must broaden the base of those who support the Zoo. One important aspect of this is our Board of Directors. We will rely on them to help us further understand how the Zoo can meet the community's needs and will count on them to champion the Zoo's mission."

The first meeting of the Naples Zoo Board of Directors will be held on Monday, July 25 at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. Officers will be established and results will be announced at a 3 p.m. press conference at the hotel.

Currently, 15 members serve on the Board of Directors including just three members of the Tetzlaff family. According to the organization's by-laws, the number of board members can be expanded in the future up to 35.

The following individuals (in alphabetical order), who will serve up to two three-year terms on the Board of Directors, were selected for their varied expertise and commitment to the mission of the Naples Zoo:

Wayne S. Boyer is the newly appointed Director of Parks and Recreation for Collier County. He has served in a variety of leadership positions in municipal government including Superintendent of Parks and Recreation in Goshen, Indiana; Director of Parks and Recreation in Davenport, Iowa; and Director of Park Services for the City of Memphis, Tennessee. He has a Master of Science Degree in Public Park and Recreation Administration from Indiana University. Boyer has more than 27 years experience working with zoos including the Memphis Zoo and the Fejervary Zoo in Iowa. Boyer has two grown sons.

Gary Brown worked for the Collier County Public Schools for almost 35 years. He was at Naples High School for 30 of those years, first as a teacher, then as an assistant principal for 14 years and finally as principal for 11 years. Brown retired in 2004. His wife Sandy also worked for the Collier County Public Schools for more than 30 years as a teacher and guidance counselor. The couple has two children and two grandchildren.

John R. "Jay" Campbell, BHS, PA, JD is the President of Transplant Management Solutions, Inc. and OPO Solutions, Inc., two companies devoted to successful organ transplantation and organ donation in the United States. He graduated from Duke University Medical School and received his Juris Doctor from the University of North Carolina. He has worked as a paramedic, police officer, firefighter, and musician and is published in outdoor magazines, books, and literary journals as well as trade and professional journals. He has written extensively about man's relationship with wildlife in the modern world. Campbell moved from Florida to Albuquerque, New Mexico where he lives with his wife Karen. They have seven children between them.

Malcolm Davis is originally from Long Island, New York. He has been living in Naples, Florida for the past 39 years. Davis is a retired certified public accountant. He has two daughters and three grandchildren. Davis believes that Collier County has a unique opportunity to support the Zoo and preserve open space at the same time.

Steven T. Hovland is President of Hovland Real Estate of Naples, Florida. The Hovland family partnerships have been active in construction, development, brokerage and management of commercial, industrial, and multifamily real estate since 1968 in Southwest Florida. The company has developed or marketed The Trade Center of Naples, Corporate Square, Rail Head Industrial Park, North Collier Industrial Center, Bernwood Business Park and Greyhound Commerce Park.

Ted Hudgins moved to Naples, Florida in 1993 after graduating from the University of Florida School of Law with a post-graduate Masters of Law degree in Taxation (LLM). Currently self-employed at the Law office of Thomas F. Hudgins, PLLC, specializing in tax issues of all types, small business representation and estate planning. Hudgins also has degrees from the Culinary Institute of America, Florida International University and St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami. He is an Adjunct Professor at Florida Gulf Coast University School of Resort & Hospitality Management. Hudgins is originally from Houston, Texas and has a five-year-old daughter.

Jack Lieber first came to Naples in 1978. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects and is founder and principal of the firm J. Roland Lieber, pllc, Landscape Architects. Over the years he has served on the Boards of The Friends of the Collier County Museum, The Collier County Historical Society, and The Naples Botanical Garden. Plants are his passion and he looks forward to sharing his abilities to help shape the future of the Zoo.

Anne-Marie Miles is a television documentary producer for WGPU Public Media specializing in environmental programming. Before joining the PBS affiliate in 2001, Miles was a television reporter for WINK News, the CBS affiliate for Southwest Florida. The job brought Miles to Southwest Florida for the first time in 1998. She was first introduced to the Zoo while working out of WINK's Collier County bureau, and has enjoyed a great relationship with the Zoo ever since. Miles also serves as Board President for Friends of the Florida Panther Refuge as well as her condo association.

Dr. Jeff Noble, DVM, is the proprietor of St. Francis Animal Clinic, a veterinary facility which treats small and exotic animals, in Naples, Florida. He received his DVM at Purdue University School of Veterinary Science and Medicine. He has worked with the Naples Zoo over the past three decades to provide veterinary care for the animal collection. He also provides medical and surgical services for The Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

William E. Puckett has worked in the zoo, aquarium and attractions industry in Florida for the past 25 years. He is currently the General Director of The St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park in St. Augustine, Florida. He is President of the St. Augustine Attractions Association and President of the Flagler County Chamber of Commerce. He served as President of the Florida Attractions Association for two terms. Puckett and his wife Laura have been married for twenty years and have eight children and 12 grandchildren between them.

Warren Raese, CPA, is president of the firm Raese, Strickland, Berry, Grubb & Nuske, Inc. The company is a full service accounting firm specializing in tax law, financial reporting, business consulting, business valuations and litigation support. Raese has served as the outside CPA for Naples Zoo for the past 35 years. He has a degree from Ohio University. Raese and his wife Margaret live in Medina, Ohio and have three grown children.

Marla Olsvig Ramsey, CPRP, is currently the Public Services Administrator for Collier County Government. Previously, she held the position of Director of the Collier County Parks and Recreation Department for seven years. She has a degree in Recreation Leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Lacrosse and worked for the YMCA for 18 years. She is an active member of the Zonta Club of Naples. Her motto is "pursue only those things that catch your heart." Ramsey will serve as an alternate representative for Wayne Boyer.

Larry Richardson is a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge in Naples, Florida. He regularly appears nationally as a wildlife expert in newspapers and magazines, in front of a variety of audiences and on radio and television shows. Richardson is a nature photographer and has a Master's Degree in Wildlife Management and Ecology. Richardson writes for magazines and peer-reviewed journals and co-authored the book "Florida's Unsung Wilderness – The Swamp" in 2000 with photographer and writer Connie Bransilver. Richardson's research in vocalizations of white-tailed deer has been written about and sourced in every major outdoor magazine since 1985. He and his wife Wendy have been married for 27 years and have two daughters.

David L. Tetzlaff serves as Director of the Naples Zoo and previously oversaw presentations and operations at the zoo's second facility at Cedar Point in Ohio until 1994 when he decided to focus all his efforts in Naples. As the son of zoo founders Larry and Nancy Jane, he brings a lifetime of animal experience to the table. Tetzlaff worked at both the Zoo and Cedar Point during the 1980s and 1990s and became one of the country's most accomplished big cat trainers with a focus on leopards. As Zoo Director, Tetzlaff spearheaded the Zoo's involvement and national accreditation by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. From the creation of new exhibits and improvements of facilities and methodologies, he works closely with all Zoo staff, particularly in the presentations *Serpents: Fangs & Fiction* and *Planet Predator* where he has educated and delighted millions. David is married to Kelly and has three sons.

Nancy Jane Tetzlaff Berens founded the Naples Zoo with her late husband Larry Tetzlaff in 1969. A driving force behind the success of the Zoo and introducing women to the zoo field, she now serves as a consultant for the Zoo. Traveling the world and bringing her knowledge of wildlife to zoo visitors, she has touched the lives of millions at both the Naples Zoo and Cedar Point in Ohio. She and husband Robert C. Berens now spend part of the year in Naples and the other portion in Ohio.

Tim Tetzlaff oversees strategic communication, conservation programs, and education for the Naples Zoo from his office in Ohio. He is the Public Awareness Advisor for an international conservation organization,

the Madagascar Fauna Group, and serves on the Conservation Education Committee and the Public Relations Committee for the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Tetzlaff has two degrees from The Ohio State University. He and his wife Kathryn have an 8-year-old daughter.

Terrance F. Wolf has worked in the zoological field for more than 30 years. He has served as Wildlife Director at Lion Country Safari in Loxahatchee, Florida since 1982. Lion Country Safari is home to more than 1,000 animals in the drive-through preserve and in the Safari World exhibit area. Wolf is a Professional Fellow in the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and has a degree in biology and ecology from the University of Texas Arlington. He has two grown sons and is married to Janice Hudson.

“We are thrilled these talented individuals have agreed to form the first Board of Directors for the Naples Zoo. The work they will accomplish will help lay the foundation of the organization for years to come” said Tetzlaff.

Evidence of these changes will soon be appearing. “Beginning with signs, printed material, and other items, the new name will be visible in coming months. And with a new master plan to implement over the next decade, the full effects of this change presents an exciting new journey for the Zoo -- and the community,” says Tetzlaff.

Naples Zoo is nationally accredited by the prestigious American Zoo and Aquarium Association. The 52-acre zoo is located at 1590 Goodlette-Frank Road in Naples across from the Coastland Center mall. In addition to innovative presentations like Serpents: Fangs & Fiction and Planet Predator, the Zoo offers a historic botanical garden and many rare animals. Guests board the Primate Expedition Cruise to glide by islands inhabited by monkeys, lemurs, and apes live in natural habitats. Admission (\$15.95 adult/ \$9.95 children) includes all shows and the boat ride. Visitors can also pick up a healthy lunch and snacks at the SUBWAY® Cafe and shop for wild gifts at tame prices in The ZOO Gift Shop. The Zoo welcomes guests daily from 9:30 to 5:30 with the last ticket sold at 4:30. To learn more, click www.napleszoo.com or call (239) 262-5409.