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2009 Annual Report

**Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc.**

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**The** Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc. is an independent, non-profit corporation organized for the establishment, maintenance and operation of the Zoological Gardens; for the education and recreation of the people and visitors of the Niagara Frontier; for the advancement and encouragement of the science of zoology; for the practice of conservation of the world's wildlife; and for the exhibition of diverse species of animals from throughout the world.

### **Zoo Attendance**

<b>2009</b>	<b>456,414</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>414,794</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>412,369</b>
<b>2006</b>	<b>391,729</b>
<b>2005</b>	<b>370,311</b>



# From the Chairman of the Board

*Hal D. Payne*

**This** Board of Directors can be proud of its achievement this year of increasing the assets of the Buffalo Zoological Society, despite a very challenging economy. This was my first year as Chairman of the Society's Board, and I was honored to work with the committed members of the Board and a dedicated staff in steering this institution—the most frequently visited cultural in Western New York—into its 135th year as a major asset to this region.

During 2009 (the first full year following the opening of our M&T Bank Rainforest Falls exhibit), we oversaw a 10 percent increase in attendance over the 2008 year and improved our self-generated revenue from \$3.7 million to approximately \$4.3 million. Responding to a challenge from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), we opened a new veterinary hospital and witnessed a barn-raising for our new Delta Sonic Heritage Farm.

In the fall, we explored the feasibility of conducting a new Capital Campaign in

order to fund the implementation of the next phase of the Zoo's Master Plan. Findings from the study resulted in our retaining Capital Quest, Inc. to provide consultation services during the next 33 months of this campaign.

The Board has shown great confidence in this institution, and in the support the institution garners in the Western New York community, by undertaking a Capital Campaign during a challenging economy. That confidence was tested during our 2009 Annual Fund campaign and our 2009 Catillion, which were both successful. Thanks to the leadership efforts of Jim Smyton (then chair of the Board), and Bob Yalowich (chair of Catillion), the event earned more than \$100,000. As always, the success of these events owes a great deal to the development and marketing office staff at the Zoo.

We are pleased with Buffalo Zoo President/CEO Donna Fernandes' efforts on completing complex negotiations with our two labor unions during 2009. We also owe a big thank you to Jon Dandes

for continuing the chairmanship of our Government Affairs Committee as we move forward to improve relations between the Zoo and our government partners.

During 2009, James Magavern and his staff at Magavern Magavern Grimm, LLP have also provided good service to the Zoo. We also appreciate Jim's many contributions to the Strategic Planning Construction Committee and to the Executive Committee.

This year, the Committee on Directors replaced the Nominating Committee. A big thank you goes to Barbara Baker for chairing this new committee, to Melissa Garman Baumgart for advice on Board self-evaluation and assessment and to Amy Habib Rittling for working with Jim Smyton to advise on the development of our policies on Board conflict of interest.

The ProZoo Board invited officers of the Zoo Board to attend a meeting during the fall of 2009 to discuss ways the two Boards can be mutually supportive. We are grateful for James McDermott's

efforts to convene that meeting, as well as his enthusiastic leadership of the ProZoo Board, which conducted enormously successful Wines In The Wild and Polar Bites events in 2009.

The Zoo also enjoys extraordinary support from its ancillary Boards, including the Women's Board (thanks to President Deanna Sciole) and the Docent Organization (thanks to President Gordon Everett).

Moving forward, the work of the Board will be shaped by our Strategic Plan. Many thanks go to Jim Smyton for agreeing to chair this effort. Feedback from the staff and the Board will greatly influence the Board's efforts in 2010 and 2011.

It has been a great privilege for me to serve as Chair of this organization during 2009. I am grateful to Jim Smyton, the past Chair, for his great support and to the wonderful staff under the leadership of Donna Fernandes for their good work. Our President is widely regarded as a great leader among heads of cultural

organizations in Western New York. We are fortunate to have her, and I am privileged to be able to work with her, the staff and all the members of our boards as we work to strengthen the Buffalo Zoo for years to come.



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Donna M. Fernandes, Ph.D.

This year was a banner year for the Buffalo Zoo. Attendance reached 456,414 visitors—a 10 percent increase from 2008. This can be attributed to the impact of M&T Bank Rainforest Falls on our winter attendance in its first full year of operation. With more people coming to the Zoo, visitor generated income was up \$373,454 (or 15 percent) to \$3,134,945. Membership income skyrocketed to \$1,237,164—a 13 percent increase from last year.

This extra income allowed us to do several long-awaited capital projects at the Zoo, including replacement of all the flooring and furniture in the vacated Science Magnet school, lead abatement on the second floor of the Reptile House, new concrete pads in our reindeer, roan antelope, bison and rhino exhibits, hay mangers for our elephants and replacement of our parking lot equipment. We were also able to purchase video cameras for our bear and elephant areas, a new skid loader, hydrostatic tractor and cargo van.

The biggest capital project of 2009 was the expansion and renovation of our Veterinary Hospital, which opened on May 21. The building's addition and reconfiguration established an aseptic surgery suite and tripled the quarantine facilities. The surgery suite includes separate areas for animal preparation, surgeon's scrub and post operative recovery. We also doubled the amount of space devoted to laboratory facilities and invested in state-of-the-art digital radiography equipment. The total project cost for design, construction and equipment was \$2,026,464, with construction coming in \$90,000 under budget. We wish to thank our architects, Foit-Albert Associates,

Manning Squires Hennig Construction and especially all of the donors who contributed to our Show Us Your Stripes campaign, spearheaded by the Western New York veterinary community.

The end of 2009 marked the beginning of our Delta Sonic Heritage Farm with a barn raising event on November 3. County Executive Chris Collins attended, as well as representatives from the Benderson Family/Delta Sonic, New York State Parks, NxGen Foundation and David Stapleton of David Homes, who donated the barn.

The development department remained busy this year. The Annual Fund brought in \$335,000, which was \$5,000 above our goal. We completed Phase I of the Capital Campaign with receipt of the last few gifts for the veterinary hospital. By the end of the year, we were ready to begin work of PHASE II of our campaign and hired Capital Quest to conduct a campaign feasibility study.

We also received a major grant from the John R. Oishei Foundation to purchase new software for ticketing, fundraising and financial accounting for the Zoo, the Darwin Martin House, Burchfield Penney Art Center and the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society.

Membership had a record year, bringing in \$1,120,000, which was \$60,000 over budget. The morning team from 97 Rock served as our Membership Chairs.

In 2009, our marketing department worked with the Niagara Falls Tourism Commission (NFTC) to develop online ticket sales on the NFTC's new website. The Buffalo Zoo has a "mini-site" within the page to highlight special events and entice visitors to the

region to come and see us.

Marketing was also busy signing up new sponsors and renewing some old favorites. New sponsors included Buffalo Exterminating and Yancey's Fancy. Renewing sponsors included NOCO Energy, BlueCross BlueShield, Univera, Tops Friendly Markets, Fisher-Price, Time Warner Cable, Perry's Ice Cream, Sahlen's and Coca-Cola.

The Zoo was featured on bi-weekly segments on WNLO's "Wake Up" program from May through the end of August. The segments enabled us to promote many of our special events and increase public awareness of some of the lesser known members of our animal collection.

In our animal department, we received several new animals from other zoos. We added Eurasian lynx and African crested porcupines to the animal pavilion located next to the bighorn sheep exhibit. Desert cottontail rabbits were added to the southwestern desert exhibit in EcoStation, and white-tailed trogons were added to M&T Bank Rainforest Falls. We also received an older male polar bear, Nanuq, for a recommended pairing with Anana, our young female. Finally, the former meerkat exhibit in the rear Reptile House hall was converted to an on-exhibit conservation area for our hellbender head-start program.

The Buffalo Zoo participated in a number of local and national research projects in 2009. SUNY Buffalo graduate students measured the effectiveness of various enrichment devices in mandrills, examined behavioral correlates of stress in Japanese macaques and studied the effects of olfactory enrichment in ring-tailed lemurs. A Canisius College professor and stu-

dent studied the behavior of our gorilla troop before and after one of our adult females was sent to another zoo on breeding loan. Bones from our deceased lion were sent to a Michigan State University researcher studying bone concentration. Gorilla saliva samples were provided to a researcher for DNA analysis. The Zoo participated in a national study of elephant viral disease and a study of great ape viral infections. We provided saliva and blood samples from various zoo primates to the Erie County Forensics Lab to be used as comparison samples with humans. We also participated in a national study of gorilla behavior, a study to help identify cardiac risk factors in gorillas, a comprehensive study of giraffe husbandry and disease and an olfactory study involving polar bears.

Last year, the Buffalo Zoo received an Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Conservation Endowment Fund (CEF) grant to study the occurrence of chytrid fungus in local amphibian populations. As part of a federally funded New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) project to head-start hellbenders in New York, the Buffalo Zoo received more than 700 eggs for incubation and rearing of young until approximately the age of three, when they will be released back into the wild. We are also helping the DEC with a head-start program for New York State bog turtles by rearing young until they are a safe size to release.

In October, zookeeper Vicki Hodge spent one week in Churchill, Manitoba at a polar bear research facility. The program was offered through Polar Bears International

(PBI). She will be doing numerous talks at the Zoo and in the community about her experience.

This year, we did mourn the loss of three of the Buffalo Zoo's most beloved and long-term residents. In January, the lion, Apollo (Simba), was euthanized due to advancement of osteoarthritis, urinary incontinence and diminished response to pain management. In April, his mate, Isiolo, was immobilized to evaluate loss of appetite and found to have a large cancerous mass involving her lungs and liver. Finally, in late September, our beloved Asian elephant, Buki, died from severe cancer with countless tumors throughout her abdominal cavity. Buki's health issues and ultimate passing resulted in a flood of get-well cards and condolences for Buki, many of which were on display in the windows of the Elephant House and river otter filtration room.

In other veterinary news, when not caring for our extensive Zoo collection, Dr. Kurt Volle spent a lot of time on the road. He joined keeper Penny Danielewicz and DEC wildlife biologist, Ken Roblee, on a trip to the Good Zoo in West Virginia to observe husbandry and rearing methods for hellbenders in preparation for our hellbender head-start program.

Dr. Volle also traveled to the Erie Zoo and the Syracuse Zoo to assist Dr. Bill Swanson of the Cincinnati Zoo with egg collection and embryo transfer of Pallas' cats and sand cats. He subsequently joined Dr. Swanson for a two-week trip to Mongolia to collect blood samples from Pallas cats, nomadic herds of sheep and goats and native

rodent species to evaluate the prevalence of Toxoplasmosis, a protozoan parasite that can be found in a number of different hosts, particularly cat species.

Additionally, Dr. Volle attended the elephant foot care workshop in Phoenix, Arizona, the Midwest Zoo Veterinarians meetings at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Ohio and the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in Indiana, and the American Association of Zoo Veterinarians annual conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Lastly, Dr. Volle accompanied gorilla, Bumpy, on her trip to Memphis, Tennessee in December.

The grounds and maintenance departments kept busy with the ongoing maintenance of some of the older areas of the Zoo. One very lengthy project involved extending the height of the Zoo's entire perimeter fence to meet the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and AZA requirement of eight feet. In conjunction with construction of the new veterinary hospital wing, the horticulture department rebuilt and landscaped the African waterfowl pond adjacent to the Giraffe House.

In summary, 2009 was a great year. The weather cooperated and our new exhibits, particularly the Rainforest, brought in record numbers of new visitors as well as a steady stream of our long-term supporters. Thank you to our Zoo members, staff and the three boards for all you have done on our behalf!

As I near my 10-year anniversary at the Zoo, I can honestly say that there is no place I'd rather be, or, as Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz" once said, "There's no place like home."





Scarlet macaw  
(acquired 2009)

Spotted hyena  
(born 2009)



Yellow spotted  
Amazon River  
turtle,  
(acquired 2009)



# ANIMAL COLLECTION AND INVENTORY

## Species born or hatched in 2009

Rock hyrax, black howler monkey, prehensile-tailed porcupine, capybara, agouti, desert cottontail, vampire bat, spotted hyena, reindeer, reticulated giraffe, bighorn sheep, gemsbok, Eurasian black vulture, Indochinese box turtle, Chinese three-striped box turtle, Annam leaf turtle, African pancake tortoise, yellow-spotted Amazon River turtle, hump-headed dragon, Mexican lance-headed rattlesnake, Venezuelan rattlesnake, Pratt's rocket frog

## Species or specimens acquired in 2009

African crested porcupine, desert cottontail, meerkat, maned wolf, polar bear, addax, roan antelope, gemsbok, boat-billed heron, sun-bittern, scarlet macaw, spotted turtle, veiled chameleon, Chinese crocodile lizard, eastern indigo snake, eastern massasauga, yellow spotted Amazon River turtle, hellbender, Puerto Rican crested toad, Antillean pink-toed tarantula, Brazilian graysmoke tarantula, Brazilian red and white tarantula, Brazilian salmon tarantula, Colombian giant tarantula

## Species removed from the collection in 2009

Mandarin duck, cape teal, Edward's lorikeet, Forsten's lorikeet, blue-crowned motmot, matamata turtle, Asian water dragon, southern fence lizard, Virgin Islands boa, olive python, Japanese giant salamander, golden mantella, scorpion, goliath bird-eating tarantula, centipede



Bighorn sheep (born 2009)

	2009 Species / Specimens
Mammals	64/244
Birds	36/98
Reptiles	39/197
Amphibians	9/756
Fish	6/220*
Invertebrates	7/295*
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>161/1,810</b>

These numbers do not include Education Department animals; otherwise, all species and specimens physically at the Buffalo Zoo are counted. Counts indicated by \* are estimated.

# RENOVATIONS AND UPCOMING EXHIBITS

## **Delta Sonic Heritage Farm**

The Delta Sonic Heritage Farm is the first project to be built as part of Phase II of the Buffalo Zoo's master plan. The family-friendly exhibit recreates a historic farm from the 1850s and replaces the former Children's Zoo. This Erie Canal-era homestead features heritage breeds of domestic animals and includes an adjacent wetlands and a historic replica of an Erie Canal lock.

Through fun, hands-on interaction with live animals, activities, demonstrations and guided investigations, children of all ages will understand the importance of a strong balance between undisturbed wild spaces such as wetlands for wildlife, and modified spaces, including farms and canals, for human existence. The exhibit is designed to help visitors understand the importance of water to wildlife and domestic farm animals, as well as the historic importance of water and the Erie Canal to people as a means of transportation for crops and other goods.

A 35' x 45' barn was donated to the Buffalo Zoo by David Homes President David Stapleton and his family. Built during the 1850s, this barn was relocated to the Buffalo Zoo from Wheatfield, NY. The donation was made not only to

save this historic structure from being demolished as new properties are built in its place, but also to ensure that the community can learn about the significance of the Erie Canal era.

The exhibit cost of the exhibit is approximately \$1.8 million. Major funding for this project comes from a public/private partnership, which includes leadership gifts from Erie County, The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Delta Sonic, The Benderson Family and the NxGen Program of the East Hill Foundation.

The exhibit was designed by Gwen Howard of Foit-Albert Associates and is scheduled to open in the spring of 2010.



*The barn was relocated to the Buffalo Zoo from Wheatfield, NY.*

*Major funding for this project came from a public/private partnership.*

*The exhibit was designed by Gwen Howard of Foit-Albert Associates.*

*The exhibit is scheduled to open in the spring of 2010.*

# Research

The Zoological Society of Buffalo recognizes that important contributions are made to the Zoo and to the profession by research efforts. The Society also recognizes that research benefits society at large by contributing to our collective knowledge of nature. Listed below are research projects conducted in 2009 (or continued from 2008). These projects were conducted as a result of approval from the Zoo's Research and Conservation Committee and/or cooperation with Association

of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) requests. Additional information about the Committee, as well as other research projects supported by the Zoo, can be found in the Buffalo Zoo's Research and Conservation Committee's 2009 Annual Report, which is available at [www.buffalozoo.org](http://www.buffalozoo.org).

## "Social Dynamics in a Changing Gorilla Group"

*Sue Margulis, Ph.D. Canisius College Department of Biology.*

Behavioral monitoring of Buffalo Zoo's gorilla group: monitor changes in behavior following the departure of 0.1 gorilla; monitor sexual and reproductive behavior; given the current breeding recommendation in the group, monitor maternal care and infant development.



## "Gauging Bite Strength at Different Gapes of Lions and Tigers"

*Frank Mendel, Ph.D. SUNY Buffalo Department of Anatomy.*

Fluid filled, gauged, puncture proof, non-toxic hoses of different diameters were presented to lions and tigers in order to gauge their bite strength. Refinements of the puncture proof devices were accomplished in 2009. Data collected will be applied to extinct sabertoothed cats.



## "Behavioral Indicators of Stress in Japanese Macaques"

*Dawn Bruffett, SUNY at Buffalo Department of Anthropology.*

This study will constitute preliminary data for a larger study of physiological and behavioral stress indicators in groups of captive Japanese macaques. The aims of the larger study are to validate the usefulness and temporal qualities of measures of cortisol and other stress hormones from a variety of sources (blood, hair, urine, feces) and to explore their relationship to previously identified behavioral stress indicators. Once validated, they will be used to identify particular aspects of captive enclosures, husbandry and attributes of individual monkeys (sex, rank, social connectedness) that are associated with high and low levels of stress. The aim of the preliminary work is to identify the most useful behavioral stress indicators and relate them to a few specific conditions of zoo life.

## "Pregnancy Diagnosis Through Urine Hormone Analysis in Giraffes"

*Janine Brown, Nichole Abbondanza, National Zoological Park Conservation and Research Center; Gerald Aquilina, Vicki Hodge, Buffalo Zoological Gardens.*

The purpose of this pilot study is to determine if pregnancy in giraffes can be accurately diagnosed through urine hormone levels. Data collection continued in 2009 with the pregnancy and delivery of a female calf.



## "Management and Restoration of Species of Greatest Conservation Need and their Critical Habitats in New York State Hellbender Headstarting"

*New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).*

Agreement with the NYSDEC to hatch and rear hellbenders for release at age three into present and former range sites in New York State.



## "Food Preference in Rainforest Birds"

*Michael Noonan, Ph.D., Canisius College; Austin Milibrand, Canisius College; Jill Odachowski, Pam Harmon, Katrina Guariglia, Kurt Volle, DVM, Buffalo Zoological Gardens.*

The goals of this project are to assess whether birds in a mixed group will alter their feeding stations to actively seek out their preferred diets, to assess which diets are preferred by each species, and to assess the use of the new Mazuri Fish Analog diet in use within the display.

# Conservation Projects Supported in 2009

Financial support was provided to the following conservation organizations in 2009:

## Polar Bears International

Contributions to this non-profit organization dedicated to the worldwide protection of the polar bear. CFC

## AZA Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake SSP

Support of in situ conservation programs for the endangered eastern Massasauga rattlesnake.

## International Rhino Keepers Association

Financial support provided to support in situ rhino conservation programs.

## Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center

Financial support of brown bear conservation and rescue and Yellowstone National Park education efforts.

## American Livestock Breeds Conservancy

Contributions to support the conservation of heritage livestock breeds.

## Amphibian ARK, IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group

Contributions for captive and in situ research in the husbandry and breeding of amphibians. CFC

## El Valle Amphibian Conservation Center (EVACC)

In situ and ex situ Panamanian amphibian conservation was supported in 2009. The goals of EVACC are to save 12 species of Panamanian endemic frogs for education, display and the future maintenance of the species. The Buffalo Zoo supplied funding for the salary of one local Panamanian as an EVACC keeper for a year. Panamanian frogs were exhibited in the Reptile House with an educational graphics package. CFC

## Abbe-Freeland Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Major NYS wildlife conservation and rehabilitation center in Angelica, New York. Support provided through donation of materials and expertise in husbandry, shipping, management, etc.

## Wildlife Conservation Society, Bronx, NY

Contributions to support the world conservation programs of the NY Zoological Society. CFC

## National Elephant Center AZA

Contributions for the development, construction and operation of a 300-acre facility for the management and reproduction of AZA elephants.

## AZA Puerto Rican Crested Toad SSP

Support of the reintroduction, conservation, education and research programs for the Puerto Rican crested toad

## Lion Tamarins of Brazil Fund

support of the conservation, education and release research projects for lion tamarins in situ.

## Proyecto Titi

Contributions for the conservation of the cotton-top tamarin in Colombia. CFC

## Bear Conservation Fund, International Association for Bear Research and Management

Contributions for the research and conservation of in situ bear populations. CFC

## Cars for Conservation Fund

Since 2006, funding for conservation projects has been secured through the Buffalo Zoo's Cars For Conservation program. This program receives \$0.25 from each (car) parking fee collected. The funds generated are distributed to national and international conservation programs. A total of \$14,310.68 was distributed in 2009. Projects below receiving Cars for Conservation funding are notated CFC. Additional information about the Buffalo Zoo's involvement in conservation programs, including captive animal management, can be found in the Buffalo Zoo's Research and Conservation Committee's 2009 Annual Report, which is available at [www.buffalozoo.org](http://www.buffalozoo.org).

## AZA Conservation Endowment Fund

Regular donations are made to the Conservation fund through proceeds from on site "wishing wells" and through the Research/Conservation Fund. Informational graphics about the Conservation Endowment Fund are provided at the site of the donation. CFC

## International Snow Leopard Trust

Financial support of Natural Partnerships Program. CFC

## Addax SSP, Antelope TAG, AZA

Funding provided to aid in the re-introductory program for addax antelope through the Sahara Conservation Fund. CFC

## AZA Rhino TAG Research Council

Support of requested research projects and data collection regarding captive rhino husbandry and management.

## Kyoto University, Japan

Contributions for in situ Japanese macaque research; radio collaring project. CFC

## International Rhino Foundation

Financial support provided for North American Save the Rhino Campaign, which helps to conserve rhinos in the wild. CFC

## International Elephant Foundation

Financial support of in situ conservation projects.

## Pan African Sanctuary Alliances (PASA)

Financial support of in situ sanctuary activities focusing on primate conservation and education.

## AZA Ape TAG

A three-year commitment to provide funding for research projects involving great apes.

# Education

**The** education department had a very successful year and stayed busy with new programs and involvement in local conservation projects.

This year, the education department collaborated with the animal department on a grant proposal to the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Conservation Endowment Fund (CEF). The Buffalo Zoo subsequently received funding to develop a program for training laypersons as citizen scientists to identify New York State amphibians and test them for the presence or absence of the deadly chytrid fungus, which has decimated amphibian populations worldwide. The Buffalo Zoo is also collaborating with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Roger Tory Peterson Institute and the University at Buffalo's Environmental Science program to implement this project.

In August, the Buffalo Zoo received word from the Buffalo Public Schools that the Zoo's proposal for using the former Science Magnet School for a week-long residency program for 5th graders was accepted. In response,

new furniture for the classrooms and office space was ordered, and new vinyl flooring was installed to replace the 25-year-old carpeting. The classrooms were all painted and decorated with nature-themed borders. In November, discussions began with Erie 1 BOCES to provide science programming for students and teachers in the 20 school districts they serve, using the newly-refurbished school.

The Spring and Summer Nature Camps met their enrollment and revenue goals, with many sessions oversold. The Cub Club preschool program continues to remain popular with two sessions held each day on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The Buffalo Zoo also added another outreach program to the ever-growing list of offerings. "Zoo Tales," designed for preschools and day-care centers, is an early reading program. Zoo staff and the client choose a relevant children's book that is read to the group. The book is supported with a live animal and biofacts related to the story to help the book come alive. The program was pilot-tested with the childcare center associated with the Niagara

County Community College.

This year, the Buffalo Zoo hosted the Upstate New York Zoo Conference on October 8. More than 80 attendees came from zoos in Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Watertown, Binghamton and Toronto. Sessions were held on a variety of topics, including creating more biosecure animal holding areas, managing mixed species habitats, building long-term relationships with school districts, new ideas in conservation-related special events, sponsorship in the current economic climate and attracting good year-round and seasonal staff.

The Buffalo Zoo's programs would not be as successful without the support of the Zoo's volunteers. In 2009, the Zoo's 811 volunteers, including the 115 docents, dedicated a total of 33,231 hours to support the Buffalo Zoo and conservation education.



*The Buffalo Zoo developed a program for training citizen scientists.*

*Spring and Summer Nature Camps met their enrollment and revenue goals.*

*"Zoo Tales" was added to the Buffalo Zoo's outreach program.*

*The Buffalo Zoo hosted the Upstate New York Zoo Conference.*

# Development and Marketing

## Events and Programs

### Valentine's Day Adopt an Animal Program

The Valentine's Day Adopt an Animal program sold out for the first time as more than 1,500 valentines were purchased! Partnering again with Fowler's Chocolates, we offered \$10 valentines, which included an animal adoption certificate, 4 oz. chocolate heart and two guest passes to the Zoo (a \$19 value).

### Polar Bites

Polar Bites was a huge success again this year! More than 1,200 attendees arrived at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center on February 19 to enjoy food, wine, beer and specialty services from more than 45 vendors. The event, which was hosted by the ProZoo Board, raised more than \$30,000 for the Zoo. Phillips Lytle, LLP, M&T Bank, 97 Rock, Mix 104.1, MyTV, Fox 29 and Buffalo Spree sponsored this ever-popular fundraiser.

### Buy the Animals Lunch Campaign

New for 2009, a campaign was launched to raise money for the Adopt an Animal program during the month of June. The "Buy the Animals Lunch" campaign gave visitors the option of adding \$1 donation to their bill at the Beastro, Zootique or membership office. They were then able to put their name on a heart cut-out to be displayed at the Zoo. Approximately \$1,200 was raised through this initiative.

### Catillion

Catillion, the Zoo's annual black-tie gala, was held on June 12. Attendees filled 47 tables, and the evening netted more than \$100,000 for the Zoological Society of Buffalo Foundation. This "Living Treasures" celebration featured a delicious dinner catered by Rich's Renaissance, dancing and live and silent auctions. Chairman of the Buffalo Zoo's Board of Directors, Hal D. Payne, and Buffalo Zoo President and CEO, Dr. Donna M. Fernandes, presented The Friend of Wildlife Award to long-time Zoo board member, Dorothy T. Ferguson, for her service.

### Wines in the Wild

This annual summer fundraiser, hosted by the ProZoo Board, continues to grow each year. Wines in the Wild sold out six weeks in advance and welcomed more than 2,500 guests to the Zoo on July 29. In addition to sampling food, beer, wine and specialty services from 56 of the area's finest establishments, guests also enjoyed a basket auction, silent auction and animal visits. More than \$80,000 was raised for the Zoo's Adopt an Animal program, which helps feed the Zoo's 1,200 animal residents. Event sponsors included AT&T, Bank of America, WUTV Fox 29 and Citadel Radio.

### Labor Day at the Zoo

This annual end-of-summer celebration brought more than 10,000 visitors to the Zoo on September 7. Visitors received \$1 admission when they presented coupons that were distributed at local Tops Friendly Markets locations. Sponsored by Yancey's Fancy, Tops Friendly Markets, Fox 29, My TV and WBEN, this event featured a bounce house, games, animal feedings and discounted food items.

### Jungle Cruise

Hosted by the Women's Board, the second annual Jungle Cruise on the Miss Buffalo II took place on September 13. This fundraiser drew 166 guests, who enjoyed the three-hour twilight cruise, as well as the snacks, beer, wine, soda and entertainment that were included.

### Art Gone Wild

Held on November 12 at the Pearl Street Grill and Brewery, the sixth Art Gone Wild event, was a big success. The event featured the sale and auction off art created by a variety of Buffalo Zoo animals. Two pieces of artwork were particularly special this year—both of which were created by Buki, the Buffalo Zoo's beloved female Asian elephant who passed away in September. Overall, the evening brought in a total of \$6,400 for the animal department.

### Women's Board Holiday Luncheon

The annual Women's Board Holiday Luncheon was held on December 10 at the Westwood Country Club. Festivities included a basket auction and delicious lunch. This event is the Women's Board biggest fundraiser, and this year, approximately \$6,800 was raised for the Zoo's Adopt an Animal program!

### Holiday Adoption Package

This year, a new holiday promotion was launched to benefit the Adopt an Animal program. For \$25, a holiday animal adoption package was offered that included a collectible, limited series ornament, a special holiday adoption certificate and two guest passes to visit the Zoo. Only 250 of the custom ornaments were minted, and a new ornament will be featured each year in the series.



*The sixth Art Gone Wild event was a big success!*

*Polar Bites 2009 drew more than 1,200 attendees and featured 45 vendors.*

*Chairman of the Buffalo Zoo's Board of Directors, Hal D. Payne, and Buffalo Zoo President and CEO, Dr. Donna M. Fernandes, presented The Friend of Wildlife Award to long-time Zoo board member, Dorothy T. Ferguson, for her service.*

*Wines in the Wild sold out six weeks in advance and welcomed more than 2,500 guests to the Zoo.*

# Selected Special Events

## Warm Up With the Cold-Blooded

On January 16, visitors enjoyed learning more about the Zoo's reptile residents! Highlights included keeper talks, snake feedings and interactive enrichment activities. The event was free with Zoo admission and took place from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Wilson Farms generously provided coffee, tea and hot chocolate for the event.

## Carnaval

New for 2009, Carnaval celebrated the animals inside M&T Bank Rainforest Falls! A variety of activities were offered, including keeper talks, feedings, the chance to make enrichment for the capybaras and raffles. A mask-making craft activity, along with Venezuelan music, completed the Carnaval experience! The event was free with Zoo admission.

## Jungle Love

On February 13, Dr. Donna M. Fernandes, Buffalo Zoo President/CEO, presented a session on Animal Courtship and Mating. Held every year, this fun seminar also alternates with two other topics. Tickets were \$15 for non-members and \$12 for members. Wine and cheese were also provided.

## Family Valentine's Day

Visitors of all ages attended Family Valentine's Day at the Buffalo Zoo, which was held on February 14. Animal demonstrations, enrichment activities and storytime were offered throughout the day. Visitors were also given the opportunity to make Valentine's Day cards for family members, friends or even one's favorite animal at the Zoo! After the event, the marketing and development staff delivered the cards to various animal areas throughout the Zoo. Visitors also enjoyed coffee, tea and hot chocolate provided by Wilson Farms.

## Cool Cats Weekend

The ever-popular Cool Cats Weekend event took place on March 7 and 8. Visitors enjoyed making crafts and watching the Zoo's servals, lions, tigers and snow leopards receive enrichment. The event ran from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and was free with Zoo admission.

## Ape-ri!

The Zoo's western lowland gorilla troop was celebrated during the Ape-ri! event, which was held on April 5. The day's activities included keeper talks, enrichment, raffles and crafts. Visitors who donated an old cell phone received \$1 discount off regular Zoo admission. The promotion helped to support the Eco-Cell program, which collects cell phones to recycle or refurbish. Coltan, a mineral contained in cell phones, is mined illegally in some areas in the Congo that are gorilla habitat. By recycling cell phones, the demand for coltan mining decreases.

## Wings of Spring

In honor of International Migratory Bird Day, Wings of Spring was held on May 9. Visitors were given the opportunity to learn more about the birds at the Buffalo Zoo, as well as migratory birds and the history and significance of migration. Other highlights of the event included informational tables, keeper talks and crafts. The event ran from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and was free with Zoo admission.

## Bear Awareness

To continue the Buffalo Zoo's efforts at raising public awareness about bears and how their habitats are affected by global climate change, highlights of Bear Awareness included informational tables, crafts, keeper talks and enrichment for the animals. Held on May 24, the event took place from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and was free with Zoo admission.

## Elephantastic Weekend

Sponsored by Perry's Ice Cream, Elephantastic Weekend celebrated the Buffalo Zoo's beloved female Asian elephants—Buki, Jothi and Surapa. Activities included Bathtime With Buki, Elephant Painting With Surapa, keeper talks and enrichment for the elephants. Representatives from Perry's Ice Cream also handed out free samples. The event took place on June 6 and 7 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

## Earth Day at the Buffalo Zoo

Visitors explored how to make healthier choices for our environment as they met with a variety of environmental groups, businesses and college organizations during Earth Day at the Buffalo Zoo. Visitors also had the chance to enter a raffle for the chance to win a free kid's bike donated by Ski Market of Williamsville. Additionally, the Niagara Frontier Reading Council also distributed free books to visitors as part of their "Wild About Reading Program" to promote literacy. Presented by the WNY Earth Day Committee, Earth Day at the Buffalo Zoo was held on June 20.

## Sea Lion Birthday Party

Another new event was held in 2009—the Sea Lion Birthday Party! Sponsored by NOCO Energy, this event gave visitors the chance to wish California sea lions Smokey, Dallas and Pocus a very happy birthday. Visitors also enjoyed cake provided by Tops Friendly Markets, games and raffles. The event took place on June 27.

## Party For the Planet

Presented by Fisher-Price, Party For the Planet gave visitors the chance to explore special stations to learn more about conservation and to take part in games and other fun activities. The youngest visitors also enjoyed special guest appearances by Fisher-Price Little People®, as well as viewing the hottest new toys in a super-sized play area and trying out the driving track featuring the new Power Wheels™ Stinger XS. Held on August 1, the event took place from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. and was free with Zoo admission.

## Wild About Wellness

On August 22, visitors had the opportunity to meet with area health and wellness practitioners who specialize in physical training, alternative medicine and the health food industry. This Wild About Wellness event was free with Zoo admission.

## Labor Day

The annual Labor Day at the Zoo end-of-summer celebration was held on September 7. More than 10,500 visitors joined in the festivities, which included a bounce house, games animal feedings and discounted food items. Admission was only \$1, with coupons available at local Tops Friendly Markets locations. The event was presented by Yancey's Fancy with support from Tops Friendly Markets, Fox 29, My TV and Entercom Radio.

## Grandparents Day

On September 12, each grandparent received free admission with each paid child's admission in honor of Grandparents Day. Grandparents also received a \$5 discount off any grandparent membership purchased that day. Presented by BlueCross BlueShield with support from WJYE Radio, the event also featured several tables staffed with representatives from BlueCross BlueShield, who discussed senior health outreach programs with visitors.

## Howl-O-Ween Hayrides

The Buffalo Zoo's 13th annual Howl-O-Ween Hayrides, presented by Tops Friendly Markets and Fisher-Price, were held on October 17, 18, 24 and 25. More than 2,800 visitors attended this family-friendly event, which featured treat stations, hayrides, games, apple cider and donuts. Children also wore their favorite Halloween attire and participated in a costume parade.

## Breakfast With Santa

The annual Breakfast With Santa event was held on December 12, 13, 19 and 20. Tickets included a buffet breakfast provided by CJ's Catering, prizes for the children, admission to the Zoo and a chance to visit with Santa. The event was extremely popular again this year and was nearly sold out.



Our tigers received enrichment during Cool Cats Weekend.

Elephantastic Weekend celebrated the Buffalo Zoo's beloved female Asian elephants.

Fisher-Price Little People® made an appearance at the Zoo's Party for the Planet.

Children participated in a costume parade led by 97 Rock's Russ Burton at this year's Howl-O-Ween Hayrides.

# Friends of the Zoo

The Board and Staff of The Zoological Society of Buffalo, Inc. would like to thank all of the individuals and organizations listed below. All leadership gifts made during the 2009 calendar year are acknowledged here. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If you notice any mistakes or omissions, please notify the Development Office at the Buffalo Zoo. We are grateful to all of our donors for their continuing support and generosity.

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The Annual Fund supports the operation of the Buffalo Zoo. The unrestricted gifts from all segments of the community assist in carrying out the mission of conservation, recreation and education for all Zoo visitors. In 2009, more than \$335,000 was given to support the Zoo. Listed below are the leadership donors who supported the 2009 initiative.

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Our Adopt An Animal program helps us pay the Zoo's grocery bill each year. Adopt An Animal parents sponsor a healthy diet for their adoptee for one year. Those listed below made gifts of \$100 or more to support many of the animals in our care. Thank you for your support and concern.

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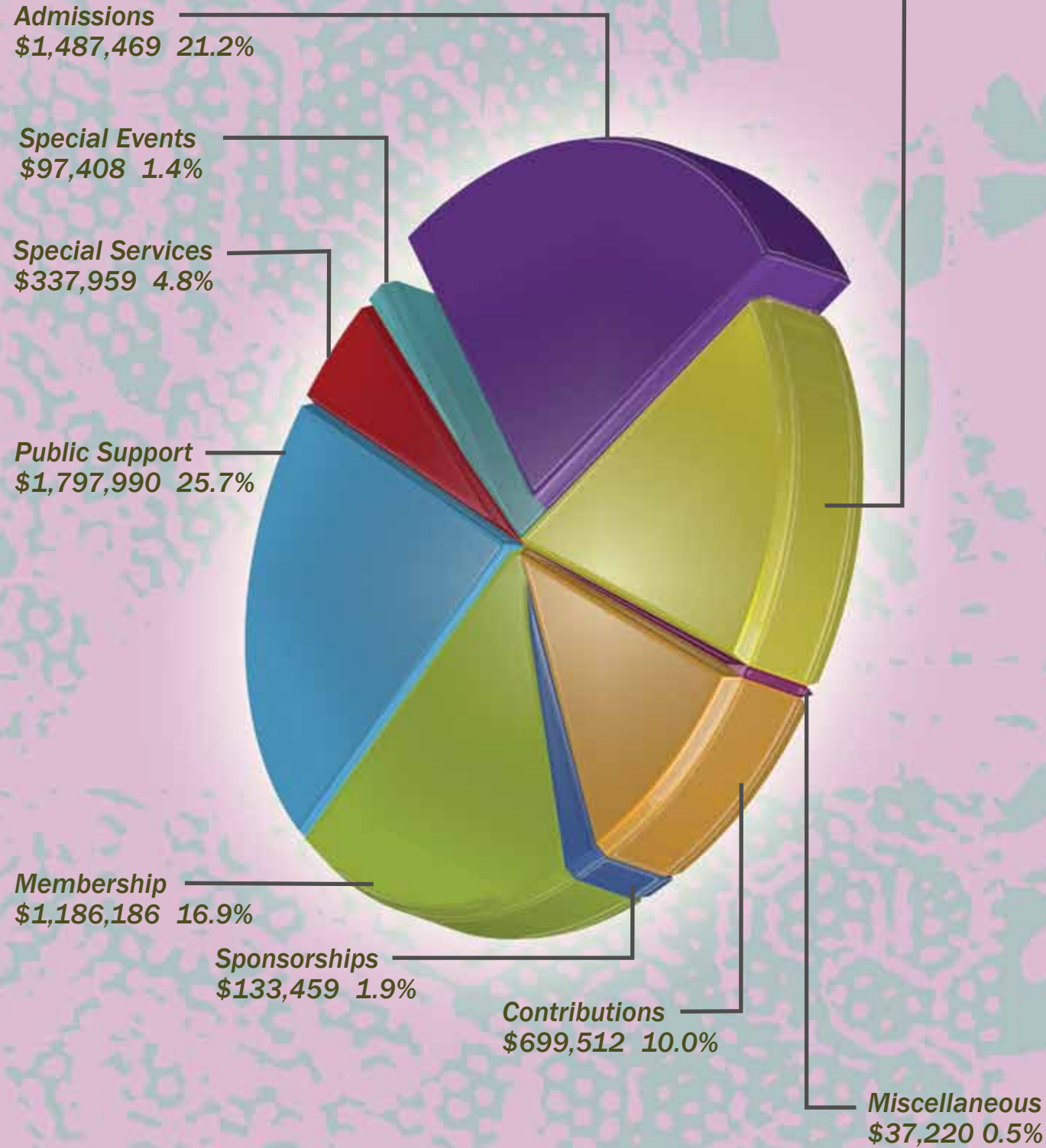
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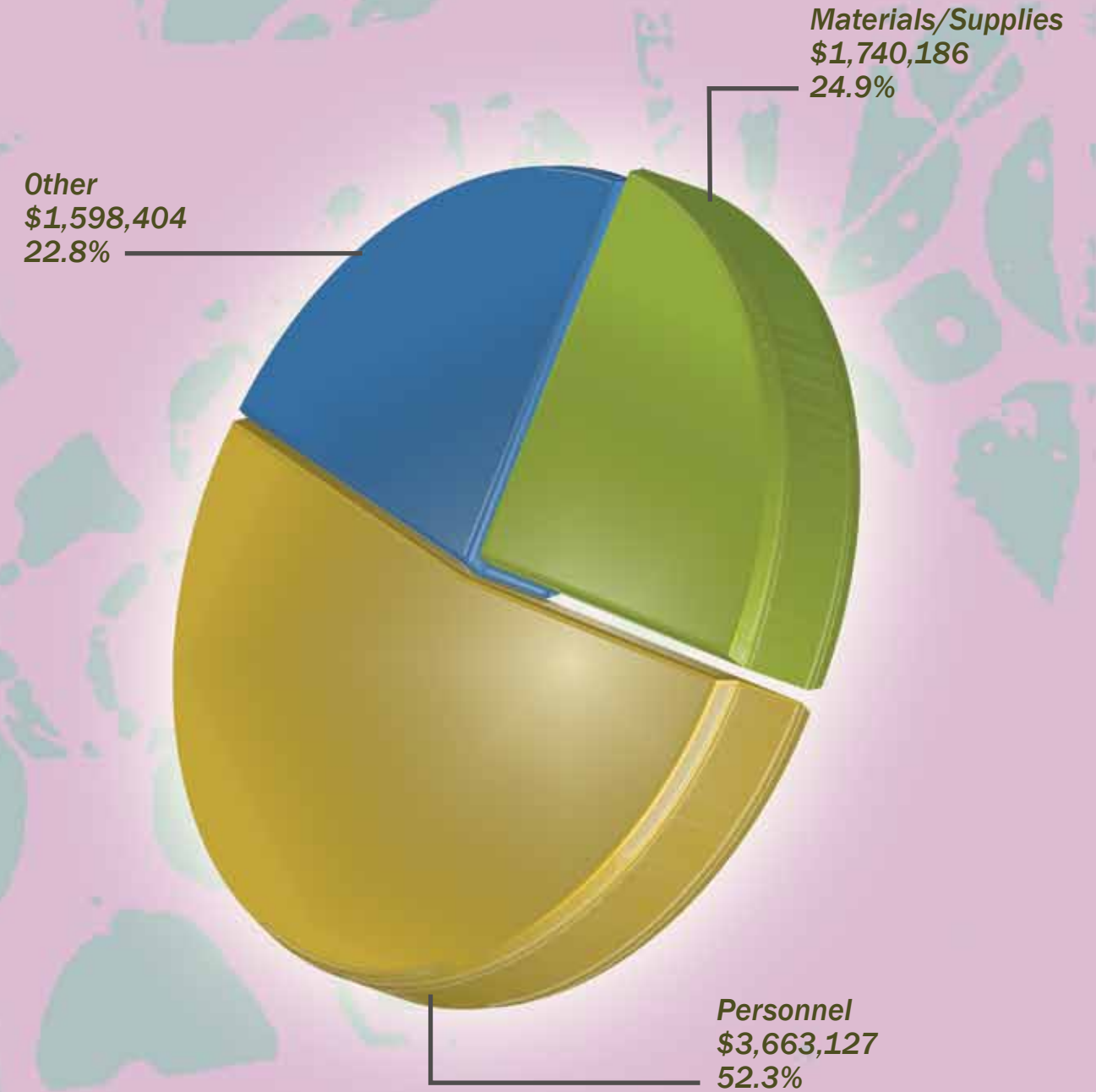
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**Revenues Total \$7,001,716**



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