



THE COMMUNITY PAGE™

Tautphaus Park Zoo: A Roaring Good Time!

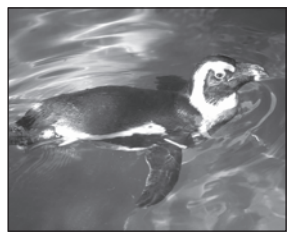


Endangered species like this Red Panda are prominent features of Tautphaus Park Zoo's managed breeding program.

One of the reasons Eastern Idaho is such a good place to live and raise a family is that there is a commitment to the development of tools that parents need. These resources include things that enlighten the mind, such as schools, museums, and libraries; the spirit, such as churches and youth groups; and the body, such as sports leagues, and varied outdoor recreational opportunities. In Idaho Falls there is one resource that appeals to all three of these elements, the Tautphaus Park Zoo.

Maintaining a zoological park is a major undertaking for any community that has one. For a community the size of Idaho Falls to have maintained an award-winning zoo for nearly three quarters of a century, 72 years, is a monument to civic dedication.

Supported by taxpayers, patrons, volunteers, members of the Tautphaus Park Zoological Society, and dedicated employees, the Tautphaus Park Zoo maintains the most diverse animal collection in Idaho. The Zoo is



Frolicking penguins are a natural attraction for children who visit the Zoo.

home to over 300 animals from six continents, providing a home to 100 different species, including penguins, camels, lions, tigers, red pandas, and snow leopards. It is a premier zoo, nationally recognized by the American Zoological and Aquatic Association. Of 2,500 zoos licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture, only 215 are so recognized, and only one in Idaho.

Big Things from Our Hometown Zoo
The Tautphaus Park Zoo proudly partici-



Tautphaus Park Zoo is now open daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended hours throughout the summer season. Visit www.idahofallszoo.org for exact times. Tickets are \$4.50 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens and \$2.25 for children 3 and older. Admission is free for children under age three.

pates in the Species Survival Plan® (SSP) for 14 different species including Snow Leopards, Amur Tigers, and Red Crowned Cranes. SSPs are conservation programs managed with the goal of preserving endangered animals for future generations through captive breeding programs. The zoo successfully raised three African penguin chicks in 2006. One of these birds will be part of the SSP, and will most likely be sent to another zoo. The other two birds will become zoo ambassadors, animals that meet the public during programs, shows, and educational or other special events.

A new male African lion, Dahoma, (which means 'long life' in Swahili) is now greeting visitors. Dahoma was born at the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, Wisconsin,

and donated by the Oklahoma City Zoo, as part of a managed breeding program for African lions. Dahoma joins lioness Sukari in the hopes of producing cubs in the not too distant future.

Communing with Nature Builds Children

The Tautphaus Park Zoological Society is working to help improve the zoo—for families and for the animals. Formed in 1992, the non-profit Zoological Society was meant to assist the City of Idaho Falls with increasing public awareness, fundraising, developing and expanding the zoo, and meeting the conservation and education



Zoo staff hopes that placing newly acquired Dahoma, above, with Sukari, left, will produce cubs in the near future.

an opportunity to expand their horizons.

Much of what is great about the Zoo is due to Bill Gersonde.

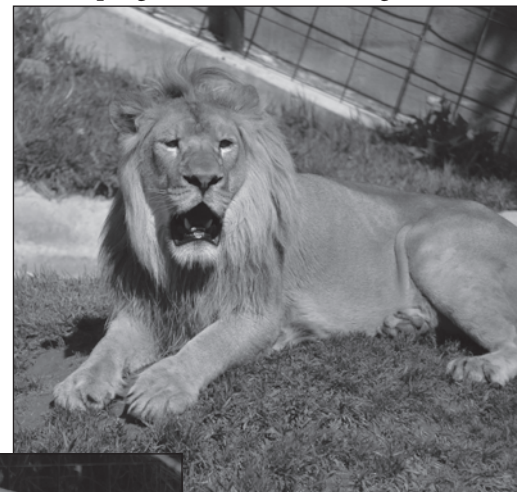
Superintendent since 1991,

Bill is responsible for the growth and improvement program committed to by City Government in the mid 1980s.

In an age when more and more kids are found glued to their televisions or video games and parents are finding it ever more difficult to make time for personal interaction with their spouses and children, we are blessed to have a tranquil place, where the glory of nature and life's simple pleasures can be enjoyed together. The Tautphaus Park Zoo is such a place.

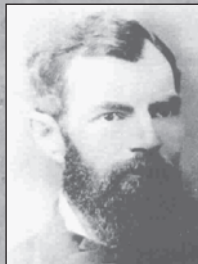
potential the Zoo provides. With only 35 percent of its budget coming from the City, the Zoo's proposed expansions and enhancements will be funded by the thousands of donated dollars.

Members who donated countless hours to that fundraising are proud of the award-winning zoo and educational programs they have developed, programs such as Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter "EdZOOcation" classes, where kids aged 2-12 have a great time while being introduced to many different animals. At week-long zoo camps, campers ages 7-12 get behind-the-scenes opportunities with Zoo staff and volunteers to learn arts, crafts, and animal interaction activities. Overnight Safari programs allow kids a chance to brave a night under the stars with the sounds of exotic animals all around. Just as important are volunteer and docent programs for adults that give folks



Pioneer Vision Leads to Community Wonderland

TAUTPHAUS
PARK



Charles Tautphaus



Thousands of visitors come to enjoy the tranquility of the Tautphaus Park Zoo every year.

Charles Tautphaus left Germany to satisfy yearnings for a rancher's life on the frontier. His wife, Sarah, was one of millions of Irish immigrants who made their way to America for a better life. Charles and Sarah made the perilous trip by ship around the Cape of Good Hope and married in California. Later, after making money in the Montana mining camps, they came to Eagle Rock.

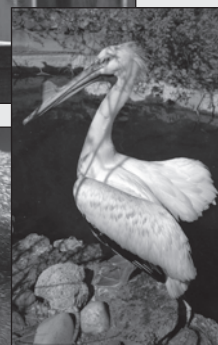
Eagle Rock was the frontier of men's dreams in 1885 when Charles and Sarah arrived with their five daughters. After purchasing 1,280 acres of ground south of town, for \$1.25 per acre, Tautphaus brought in huge scrapers, wheeled drags, and large numbers of work stock. A house was quickly built to house the workers. Then the real work began: to build a six-acre lakebed.

The following spring, a canal was built from the Snake River, eight miles away, to fill the lake. When the runoff was secured back to the river, another 30 miles downstream, the Idaho Canal Company was born, and Charles Tautphaus' dream of building an oasis in the desert was beginning to take shape.

A generous man by nature, sharing his beautiful dream with the entire valley was his greatest contribution. Charles Tautphaus died in 1906. After his death, 160 acres were sold for fair grounds, a racetrack, and an amusement park. Over time, tough economic times saw the park change hands several times between the Tautphaus and Reno families. The City of Idaho Falls purchased the park in 1935 and introduced animals into the Zoo for the first time: elk, deer, antelope, badgers, and coyotes. It was officially named "Tautphaus Park" in 1943.

The lake is now gone; the "sunken" baseball field occupies the site. Later "Funland," an amusement park for children featuring a

carousel, and other rides became a big attraction. Tautphaus Park, since 1935 the home to Idaho's best zoo, also serves as the playground for the whole community. That's quite a monument to one man's simple vision.



Charles Tautphaus' vision is now home to over 300 animals from six continents.