

# 27th FELID TAG

The Erie Zoo is proud to be hosting the twenty-seventh annual Felid Taxon Advisory Group Conference in Erie, Pennsylvania on July 16 – 22, 2017. We welcome everyone from around the world to join us in learning the latest advances and updates in felid husbandry, research, and conservation. We invite you to present papers and/or posters, attend Species Survival Plan meetings for individual cat species, learn from experienced professionals at the Felid Husbandry Course, and exchange ideas with colleagues on many felid issues. The theme for the 27<sup>th</sup> Felid TAG Conference will be “Growing Populations – Moving the Needle”, with the focus on actions and goals to increase conservation efforts for our RCP species both in and ex situ.

We invite you to join us, mingle with your peers, and share your experiences and information to enhance the understanding, the care, and the conservation of all the world’s magnificent cats.

## CALENDAR

- **Felid Husbandry Course** – July 16 – 19; \$110 by June 5 or \$130 afterward (30 students only)
- **SSP Meetings** – July 18 – 19; SSP meetings calendar to be announced; No cost
- **Felid TAG Conference** – July 20 – 22; \$100 by June 5 or \$120 afterward
- **Both Felid Husbandry Course and Felid TAG Conference** \$160 by June 5 or \$180 afterward
- **Optional Guided Bus Tour of Presque Isle State Park and Tom Ridge Environmental Center, Erie, PA** – evening of July 20<sup>th</sup>; \$35/person (limited to 30 people)
- **Optional Post Conference Trip to Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, Cleveland, OH** – July 22; \$40/person (limited to 30 people)



## Description of Events

**Felid Husbandry Course** – This course is designed for both the novice and the advanced cat keeper to learn the best practices of captive cat husbandry from some of the most experienced felid husbandry managers and keepers. Beginning Sunday, July 16 with the Icebreaker/Dinner, instructors will lead students in an introduction over the following 3 days of the agenda and practical interactive lessons. Topics include exhibit design, safety and restraint, nutrition and body condition, reproduction, birth management and rearing, training and enrichment, veterinary medicine, pathology, quality of life assessment and other subjects. Instruction will be enhanced through group discussions and presentations, video, live demonstrations and a tour, including behind the scenes, at the Erie Zoo. Sessions will be taught at the conference hotel. The course will end mid-day on Wednesday July 19 and students are invited to attend concurrent SSP meetings. Written materials and some meals will be provided. Registration costs \$110 by June 5 or \$130 afterward. The course will be limited to the first 30 students to register.

**Species Survival Plan Meetings** – On July 18 – 19 there will be a series of concurrent felid species SSP meetings. SSP Chairs, Advisors, Population Managers and interested participants will present and discuss individual species projects, husbandry, research, conservation, population management plans and other topics of interest. Meetings are open to everyone at no cost. A schedule will be posted on the Felid TAG and Erie Zoo websites by June 1.

**Felid TAG Conference** – The conference kicks off the evening of Wednesday, July 19 with an introductory icebreaker party where attendees can make new friends and catch up with old friends. On July 20 there will be a full day of fantastic talks, videos and group working discussion sessions on select topics. On Friday morning of July 21 there will be continued presentations on many felid species and topics. At mid-day, attendees will be transported to the Erie Zoo for a savory lunch and tour on your own of many exhibits including behind the scenes tours. Late afternoon will feature adult refreshments and poster presentations. The evening will continue with the Felid TAG Silent Auction and a scrumptious catered dinner. The conference will finish on Saturday July 22 by mid-day with further presentations and final reports. Through the entire week attendees are welcome to visit the Erie Zoo by showing their conference badge to the front gate attendants. Registration costs \$100 by June 5 or \$130 afterward.

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[Guided Bus Tour of Presque Isle State Park](#) - There will be an optional guided bus tour of Presque Isle State Park on Thursday evening (additional fee). The bus will leave the hotel at 6:00 PM and return to the hotel at approximately 8:30 PM.

Presque Isle's location relates to a moraine – a ridge of sediment left behind by glaciers – that crosses Lake Erie. The glacier that formed the moraine across Lake Erie was a late, minor advance of the last major ice sheet that covered much of northern Pennsylvania about 13,000 to 14,000 years ago. The moraine marks the location where the glacier stopped, and clay, sands, and gravel were left behind as the ice melted away.

Although the French name Presque Isle means “almost an island,” the area has actually been a real island several times. Storm waves have broken through the neck to isolate the main section of the spit at least four times since 1819. One gap remained open for 32 years.

The first users of the inland waters of the peninsula were the Eriez Nation. The group, also known as the “Cat Nation”, inhabited the Lake Erie shoreline and their name eventually became the name for both the lake and the city, though the Eriez were defeated by the Iroquois in 1654.

Because of the diversity of ecological zones at Presque Isle State Park, many different species of plants and wildlife inhabit the park from the shoreline to the climax forest. Of all the plants and animals on Presque Isle, birds are the most studied and understood. The peninsula's location along the Atlantic Flyway and the diversity of natural habitats make Presque Isle State Park a haven for bird life. Migrating birds, including several species of special concern, rest, feed, and nest here. Over 320 species of birds have been recorded on Presque Isle; at least 39 of these are listed as species of special concern.

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**Post Conference Trip to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo – After the Felid TAG Conference ends on Saturday July 22, there will be an optional trip (additional fee) to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo two hours away in Cleveland, Ohio. The bus will leave the hotel at 12:30 PM and return at approximately 8:00 PM.**



The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo is excited to welcome Felid TAG Conference participants for a Post Conference visit. We invite you to explore the 183 acres of the 7<sup>th</sup> oldest zoo in the country on your own, hopefully meeting some of your favorite species along the way. Just opened in 2016, we will be offering tours from the guest perspective of Rosebrough Tiger Passage. We will also be offering behind-the-scenes tours of The Sarah Allison Steffee Center for Zoological Medicine. This tour will also highlight some of our Felid related research and conservation work. Upon arrival, you will receive a \$10 voucher and employee discount that you can use at any one of our dining locations. Also included in your day will be a free Giraffe feeding and a ride on the Circle of Wildlife Carousel. If shopping is more your thing, the employee discount is also available to you at our Gift Shop. The Zoo closes at 6:00p.m., so there will be a lot to fit in before the bus returns you to the hotel. If you would like to plan your trip more, please visit the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo website at: [clemetzoo.com](http://clemetzoo.com). Be sure to wear your name tag. Cost is \$40/person and is limited to 30 people.

## **Hotel:**



The Sheraton Erie Bayfront is the official hotel for the 27<sup>th</sup> Felid TAG Conference. Please reference the Erie Zoo or the Felid TAG Conference when making your reservation to receive the conference rate of \$169 per night – single, double, or triple occupancy. However, to get \$169 per night conference rate you must contact the hotel's front desk for reservations by June 16<sup>th</sup>. You can do this by calling (814) 454-2005. For a description of the Sheraton Erie Bayfront hotel facilities, rooms, and free continental breakfast, please visit their website [www.sheratoneriebayfront.com](http://www.sheratoneriebayfront.com).

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## Area attractions during your stay:

### Seawolves Baseball Games

There will be Seawolves Baseball games on Monday July 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. Game time is 7:05 – both against the Richmond Flying Squirrels. Ticket prices range from \$9 - \$15 for the game

Monday is a buck night which means they have hot dogs, popcorn 12oz Pepsi drinks and select draft beer for \$1 – beer sales stop at the 7<sup>th</sup> inning stretch.

Tuesday is a Cowboy Monkey Rodeo night and a 2 buck Tuesday which offers \$2 drink specials in the Bud Light beer garden (beer special stops after 6<sup>th</sup> inning).

The field is 10 blocks from the hotel.

### Free Concert on the Bayfront

A concert will be held at the Liberty Park Amphitheater (one of eight consecutive concerts held on Tuesdays in July and August) on Tuesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>. The concert is free and open to the public. It runs from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. There are food vendors and beverages available for purchase. This is a short scenic walk from your hotel.

### Victorian Princess



The Victorian Princess is a three level paddle wheeler that holds up to 120 passengers with two climate controlled enclosed salons for dining. It has an open third deck that is great for those warm summer days out on the lake. Cruises feature weekly happy hours, lunches, brunches, and dinners, all while taking in the exquisite views of Lake Erie. Cruises need to be booked ahead. Visit their website: <http://victorianprincess.com> or call (814) 459-9696. The Victorian Princess departs just a short walk from the hotel.

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July 16 – 22, 2017 ♦ Erie Zoo

**REGISTRATION FORM**

Please print your name and title as they should appear on your badge.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Institution: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

- Both Felid Husbandry Course and TAG meeting - \$160 if registered by June 5 or \$180 after \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Felid Husbandry course only (July 16-19) \$110 if registered by June 5 or \$130 after \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Felid TAG Conference only (July 19-22) \$100 if registered by June 5 or \$130 after \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- SSP meetings (July 18-19) No cost – meals on your own
- Guided Bus Tour of Presque Isle State Park (July 20) \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Post Conference Trip to The Cleveland Metroparks Zoo (July 22) \$40 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**27<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY FELID TAG T-SHIRT**

- Indicate size and quantity (\$15) S \_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT DUE** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

When will you be arriving in Erie? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Will you be bringing an auction item to benefit conservation?  
 Y  N Items: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any dietary or other special needs?  
 Vegetarian  Vegan  Other  
 If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT**

Send registration and payment to: Erie Zoo  
 P.O. Box 3268  
 Erie, PA 16508  
 Attn: Christina Hatch

Make checks and money orders payable to: Erie Zoo

Pay by credit card:

VISA  Mastercard  Discover

Does your card have a chip?  Y  N

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**HOTEL REGISTRATION**

Contact: Sheraton Erie Bayfront  
 55 West Bay Drive  
 Erie, PA 16501  
 814-454-2005

Reference the Erie Zoo - Felid TAG  
 To receive the conference rate of  
 \$169/night, make reservations by  
 June 16<sup>th</sup>.



For any questions, contact Cynthia Kreider, 814-864-4091 Ext 226 or [ckreider@eriezoo.org](mailto:ckreider@eriezoo.org)

A \$15 fee will be charged for all refunds. ♦ No refunds after July 1<sup>st</sup> ♦ A \$25 fee will be charged for all returned checks.