

RSVP NEWS

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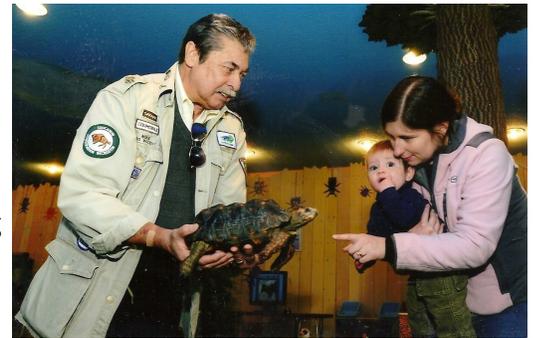
RSVP Advisory Council

- Joan Bartholomew
- Tonalee Batchelor
- Myndi Block
- Kokila Chheda
- Mary Dickerson
- Jim Duffey
- Robert Flumerfeldt
- Gerald Gadra
- Richard J. Gehring
- Rose Marie Hall
(Chairperson)
- Michele Margaris
- Brenda O'Neill
- Scott Laughlin
- Maureen Pantera
- Michael Petrinec
(Vice Chairperson)
- Susan Siegel
- Elizabeth Triggs
- Rosemary White

In Loving Memory

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to our friend and fellow volunteer, Michael Petrinec. Mike was Co-Chair of the RSVP Advisory Council which he served on for 13 years. In that time, he missed only 3-4 meetings! He was extremely dedicated to RSVP and volunteerism as a whole.

Mike was that special volunteer who not only took on a “front line” role by giving tours and workshops, but who also generously accepted the invitation to take on a leadership role to guide and strengthen the organizations to which he was so dedicated – the Buffalo Zoo, Beaver Meadow, the Marilla Historical Society, and of course, RSVP. Each of these organizations received the invaluable gifts of Mike’s absolute commitment to excellence, his organizational skills and management experience derived from his long career at Ford, as well as his tendency to carefully consider all sides of any issue on the table, and weigh all the options before making a final decision.



Mike strongly believed that one person could make a huge difference in the lives of others and he was a great example of that. He inspired so many children and others through his volunteer work to appreciate and respect the Earth as well as to be voice for those who don’t have one. The environment, conservation and environmental education were not just a passion for him, but a way of life. A self-taught naturalist since childhood, Mike referred to his volunteer work at the Buffalo Zoo and Beaver Meadow Audubon Center as a privilege. In an interview for the Southtowns Citizen of the Week nomination Mike said, “I don’t say that I retired from my career as a manager at Ford, I say that I graduated. I was promoted to volunteering.”

Mike began his volunteer “career” only one year after a serious accident in 1993 that resulted in a broken back, crushed hip and pelvis, and a serious head injury. After a year recovering and re-learning how to walk, he wanted to find something to bring meaning back into his life, and found it at as a volunteer at the Zoo. Maureen Pantera, Volunteer Director at the Buffalo Zoo, shares; “Mike Petrinec was a Buffalo Zoo Docent since 1994, for 22 years. With his love for animals and nature, he excelled in teaching and nourishing the minds of young children of all ages.

In Loving Memory, cont.:

In 2002, Mike received the Buffalo Zoo's "Volunteer of the Year Award" and in 2005, the esteemed "Cecilia Evans Taylor Award", for volunteers who have gone above and beyond for over 10 years. He enjoyed giving tours, participating in scout badges, and going with our outreach programs to schools and nursing homes. He did it all! He will be missed by all his friends from the whole Docent Organization and Buffalo Zoo."

His passion for the environment was also evident in his work at Beaver Meadow Audubon Society. Mike led hundreds of tours for thousands of people at the two sites. He especially enjoyed the tours for school groups, and thought it was important for re-connecting children with the natural world. Mike once said, "Children today spend most of their leisure time indoors on the computer or watching TV. Being in nature is foreign to them. At first, they are afraid wild animals will come out of the woods and hurt them." Mike would point out animals around them, such as pond life, insects, rabbits and squirrels, and when the children realized they weren't in danger, they start having fun and their natural curiosity came through. Mike liked to include "fun facts" about animals or plants. He said, "I don't like to focus on negatives like global warming or loss of rainforest. I hope I help them to develop a love of nature because what they love, they will protect. They realize that Earth---not just their house----is their home."

Not only did he touch the lives of children but, all whom he worked with as well. Fellow Beaver Meadow volunteer Gerald Thurn says, "Mike was a great mentor to myself as a new volunteer and I believe others as well. During the 2014 volunteers' potluck luncheon, Mike made a seat available to me and offered many warm words of encouragement, concerning opportunities at Beaver Meadow. He also spoke of future board member opportunities to serve the organization. Mike I believe, may have served two terms as President of the Board and was truly dedicated to the organization he loved. I will miss Mike and the fellowship he offered to the many volunteers like myself."

Loren Smith, Executive Director, at Beaver Meadow Audubon Society also shares; "Here is a great picture of Mike and (with) Cindy Petrinec from the Buffalo Audubon Homestead Festival. It encapsulates so much of what he did - Audubon, the Marilla Historical Society (an exhibitor at this event), RSVP (many volunteers connected to RSVP through Mike) and most importantly - family. Mike was an inspiration to everyone at Audubon through his thoughtless dedication to our mission and the communities we served. We'll miss his humor and his wisdom, and aspire to fill the shoes that he left."

Mike saw volunteering as an opportunity to continue learning and sharing his knowledge with others. What he enjoyed most about volunteering was being in the midst of the never-ending stream of new ideas and findings about science and the natural world. "Most of what I have learned, I learned from the keepers at the Zoo, the naturalists at the Center, and the other docents. It's truly been a privilege!" And it was truly a privilege to know and serve with Mike.



Special Opportunities



Veterans Stand Down | Wednesday, June 29th at Coca Cola Field

The Veterans Stand Downs are national events providing supplies and services to homeless Veterans, such as food, shelter, clothing, health screenings and VA Social Security benefits counseling. Veterans can also receive referrals to other assistance such as health care, housing solutions, employment, substance use treatment and mental health counseling.

Ride For Roswell | June 24th & 25th



Pre-Ride Help Needed:

Saturday, June 18th

UB North Campus - Route Guide Bag Stuffing – Stuffing bags with Route Guide supplies.

10am-12:30pm

Friday, June 24th 2016

Rich Products – Subway Sandwich Assembly – Making subs at Rich Products, downtown.

9:00am-12:30pm

Thursday, June 23rd, 2016

UB North Campus – T-Shirt Bag Stuffing – Inside check-in area assisting with bag stuffing and distribution.

8:00am-12:00pm or 12:00pm-4:00pm

Days of Ride Help Needed:

Friday, June 24th, 2016

UB North Campus - Parking & Traffic – Checking parking tags, directing traffic, ensuring a steady flow on campus.

4:00pm-8:00pm

Ride for Roswell cont.,Saturday, June 25th 2016**UB North Campus** – Bus Stop Greeter – Ushering people onto the shuttle back to Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

2:00pm-4:30pm

UB North Campus – Bus Stop Rider – Ride the bus transporting people & bikes back to Roswell Park Cancer Institute.

10:00am-2:00pm

UB North Campus – BYO Tent Loader – Load gator carts with tents and coolers.

5:00am-9:00am

UB North Campus – BYO Tent Unloader – Unload gator carts at the Bring Your Own tent area.

5:00am-9:00am

Taste of Buffalo | July 9th & 10th**The TASTE OF BUFFALO is one of the biggest events of the summer --- and it is also an opportunity to help RSVP.**

We are in need of at least 40 volunteers, or 3 teams per shift . Volunteers are needed to clean small shade tents, which are dining areas with 5 cocktail tables in each. All cleaning supplies will be provided and the tables will have a kwik cover on them, making it easy to wipe clean. There will also be a garbage tote and recycling bin at each location. Each team will cover about 3-tents. Walking from tent to tent will be required; however you will be mostly in the shade. Most of the shift will be spent on your feet, but we hope chairs can be made available if desired. All volunteers will receive a \$5 food voucher as a 'thank you!' and RSVP will receive a stipend to be used towards this years Tribute Day on Sept. 1st at the Buffalo Zoo!!

The details of parking, registration location and event map have not been handed down yet from the TOB organizers but, as soon as they become available I will be certain to let you know. We greatly appreciate your help!!

Shifts needed to fill:

July 9th July 10th

11a- 2p 11a- 2p

2p -5p 2p -5p

5p-7p

