



Bulletin

East Memphis Rotary Club

Nina Gourley, President

February 16, 2023
Photographer: Bill Pickens
2022-2023
Our 34th Year

www.rotaryclubofmemphiseast.org

Meeting 12:00 Noon

Shady Grove Event Center, 5530 Shady Grove, Memphis, TN 38120

Upcoming Meetings

February 22, 2023

Matt Thompson
Memphis Zoo

March 1, 2023

Stephen Green
Agape Memphis

March 8, 2023

Kel Kearns
Blue Oval Plant Manager

March 15, 2023

Lydia Fisher
Miss TN Volunteer

March 22, 2023

Rory Thomas
Memphis Medical District
Collaborative

March 29, 2023

Jana Cardona
Leadership & Talent
Development



Speaker Sponsor

February 22, 2023

Matt Thompson, President & CEO Memphis Zoo



Matt Thompson is President and CEO of the Memphis Zoo. With more than 25 years of experience serving the Memphis Zoo, Matt has served in many roles, first as a Zookeeper, then working his way up to Executive Vice President and now CEO. Matt's educational background and his passion for animals has been apparent in the successful development and implementation of the Zoo's long-term goals and growth. His love for Memphis and the Zoo is evident in his everyday interactions with staff and animals. At the same time, his dedication to staff development has brought a level of engagement and dedication to the employees and peers.

Matt has both a passion for and extensive knowledge of animal programs. At the Zoo, he leads more than 350 employees and 150 volunteers and oversees the care and management of more than 3,500 animals representing more than 500 species. The Zoo's animal inhabitants reside in one-of-a-kind exhibits, such as Once Upon A Farm, The Commercial Appeal Cat Country, Primate Canyon, Animals of the Night, Northwest Passage, Teton Trek, CHINA - home to giant pandas YaYa and LeLe. A highlight of Matt's career was going to China in 2003 to escort the pandas to Memphis. In addition, he is interested in animal behavior, husbandry, and the business and operational side of zoos and aquariums. Consistently ranked as one of the nation's top zoos, the Memphis Zoo proudly showcases a diverse animal collection and a talented team of professionals dedicated to the Zoo's mission of "Creating Adventure and Saving Wildlife."

When not working at the Zoo, Matt enjoys spending time with his family, DIY projects, and working outdoors.

Last Week Mardi Gras Was in Memphis

New Orleans has nothing on Mardi Gras Memphis Style! The RCME Social Committee again pulled off a most successful event last Thursday evening. A great crowd got caught up in Mardi Gras with all the festive decorations and food consisting of dirty rice, gumbo, jambalaya, shrimp, bread pudding and other tasty and spicy food. A highlight of the party and a surprise was a visit by our Assistant District Governor Dave Rylander and president of the Collierville Club Susan Ewing. They had with them a check for \$6,000 made out to our RCME Foundation to be used for educational purposes as recognition for our support of the Balloon Festival held each year in Collierville. Dave Rylander noted the hours of support by our members who have served each year as volunteers.



Dave Rylander and Susan Ewing presented President Nina Gourley a check for \$6,000.

What a way to start a party!



Marie and Ed Roberson came dressed for the occasion and were ready to party Mardi Gras style.



Leslie Schreiber was proud to show husband, Bob, she found the baby in the King cake.

