

Contact: Joe Fortunato

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Office: (215) 394-5873

Tel: (215) 852-9030 (cell)

Email: [junglejoe@buckscountyzoo.org](mailto:junglejoe@buckscountyzoo.org)

**Bucks County Zoo & Conservation Society Temporarily Ceases  
Operations & Announces Special Viewing Hours**

*Celebrate the Zoo's Closing by Enjoying Special Viewing Hours  
between September 29<sup>th</sup> and October 9<sup>th</sup>*

September 28, 2011 - 1540-D Campus Drive, Warminster, PA 18974 -The Bucks County Zoo and Conservation Society will be temporarily closing its doors to the public effective October 9, 2011 to regroup and refocus its efforts on constructing a permanent, state-of-the-art, LEED certified facility within the Bucks County area. Special viewing hours will be available between September 29, 2011 and October 1, 2011 and October 7, 2011 through October 9, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on all days.

A wonderful cultural resource and family destination in the greater Philadelphia region, the Zoo has been able to provide an in-depth and up close view of and learning experience about many wild species, benefiting children and their families, seniors and animal enthusiasts alike. *"The Zoo provides a wonderful connection and unique opportunity for children, different than what is experienced at larger more metropolitan zoological parks,"* says Shannon Thompson, local mom and Bucks County Zoo family member. She continues, *"Children also learn important lessons about conservation and the importance of protecting our earth's resources."* Bucks County Executive Director, Joe Fortunato (Jungle Joe) concurs, *"Our children are the next generation with the responsibility to be the protectors of our environment and it is imperative to teach them how*

*to reuse and recycle, otherwise many wild species will become extinct in their own habitats."*

Support for the construction of the Bucks County Zoo is prevalent and tens of thousands of people have patronized the facility since it opened in 2009. Hundreds more community members have not only expressed interest but have stepped up and generously volunteered their time lending professional skills needed in the organization's daily operations as well as in developing long term strategic goals. Mike Marshean, local business owner and chair of the Bucks County Zoo's board states, *"While we are taking a step back we aren't losing sight of our vision to build a zoo in Bucks County which will become a tremendous community resource educating hundreds of thousands of people and creating valuable jobs in our area."*

While the board focuses the next 18 months on its effort to identify land and raise funds to build the Zoo, Jungle Joe is finding new homes for the animals with other ZAA accredited zoos and licensed facilities throughout the United States. It is important to Joe that the special animals that have helped him educate the public both make a happy transition to safe and clean environments in the near future.

Although the Zoo is temporarily ceasing operations, its website and progress reports will still be available by visiting [www.buckscountyzoo.org](http://www.buckscountyzoo.org). Members of the public can continue to make donations which will be held in a secure fund and dedicated towards the building of the new zoo.

The Bucks County Zoo was founded by Joe Fortunato, a former police officer who made a decision to leave law enforcement and dedicate his life to professional wildlife education service that was both

fun and educational. It is the Zoo's focus to enlighten audiences and visitors while teaching respect and appreciation for exotic, unusual and amazing animals. All of the Zoo's programs inspire consciousness and passion for wildlife and the world around us. The Zoo will be housed in Warminster, PA until December 1, 2011. From that day forward, it will exist as a "zoo without walls" until a suitable permanent home can be identified. To learn more about the zoo and its programs please visit [www.buckscountyzoo.org](http://www.buckscountyzoo.org).