



## SAVE THE DATE! GET READY TO SOAR! FIFTH ANNUAL BEARDSLEY GALA ANNOUNCES SKYHUNTERS IN FLIGHT KEYNOTE ENTERTAINMENT AND RETURN OF VIP HOUR

BRIDGEPORT, CT – July 17, 2024 –Animal lovers, board members, and Zoo supporters unite for the fifth Annual Beardsley Gala to raise funds for Connecticut's Beardsley Zoo. A passionate group of animal and conservation enthusiasts from the region have come together to organize this event that showcases the pillars of the Zoo: conservation, education, research and guest experience.

The elegant and feathery affair will raise money to support the Zoo's mission of acquainting a diverse public to the delicate balance that exists between living things and their environment. The event will be hosted on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at the Inn at Longshore in Westport featuring signature cocktails, a seated dinner, silent and live auctions, and animal encounters at the beautiful venue on the water.



This year's Gala includes an exclusive VIP Hour beginning an hour before the event at 5:00 pm with just fifty tickets available for an up close and personal viewing of SkyHunters in Flight with Master Falconer Brian Bradley. VIP Hour provides guests with early entrance, exclusive animal encounters, and unique photo opportunities. To reserve VIP Tickets while still available visit [www.beardsleyzoo.org/gala](http://www.beardsleyzoo.org/gala).

The keynote for the evening is a soaring experience with SkyHunters in Flight, showcasing breathtaking raptors. Master Falconer Brian Bradley is among the nation's premiere wildlife presenters. Brian has presented at the historic Wave Hill Estate in Riverdale New York as well as alongside Wildlife conversation legend, Jim Fowler, of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom. Attendees will see owls, hawks, and falcons from around the world, and learn how these beautiful birds play an important role in our environment.

"The Gala is a celebration of the Zoo's wildlife conservation achievements, inspiring supporters who are dedicated to protecting the natural world," said Zoo Director Gregg Dancho. "This year, we're thrilled to have 'SkyHunters in Flight' join us and share with our supporters the exciting next chapter of the Zoo."

For tickets, tables, and sponsorship to the fifth annual Beardsley Gala, hosted at the Inn at Longshore in Westport on October 19, 2024, at 6:00 p, please visit [www.beardsleyzoo.org/gala](http://www.beardsleyzoo.org/gala).

Sponsorships are still available along with unique opportunities for corporations and individuals to contribute. Interested supporters can contact Ashley Volkens at 203-394-5522, or at [avolkens@beardsleyzoo.org](mailto:avolkens@beardsleyzoo.org). More information can be found on the Zoo [Website event page here](#).

Appreciation to Committee members: Bernadette Baldino, Patty Cartwright, Lisa Croce Jackson, Dean DeBiase, Jennifer DiBlanda, Judi Cardello, Meghan Glynn, Nadine Green, Lisa DeGoursey, Jennifer Jump, Claudette Kunkes, James Mase, Teresa Nakouzi, and Ashley Olson.

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