Greetings from Circus World.

As you are hearing this report our dedicated staff of six is preparing for the third annual Baraboo’s Big Top Parade which will roll down the streets of downtown Baraboo on Saturday, July 25 at 2:00. We hope many of you can join us or watch it streaming on [www.wrpq.com](http://www.wrpq.com). We just had the pleasure of welcoming our 5 millionth visitor since our opening on July 1, 1959, 10 year old Madison Weier from Pensacola FL.

There’s been a lot of activity at Circus World the past few months. Through generous funding from the State of Wisconsin, our restrooms in the Feld Building have been fully renovated. Receipt of private gifts allowed us to create a new, enlarged, and colorful gift shop in the Feld Building lobby. Combining our gift shops frees up the Camel Barn for future exhibits including the re-installation of the incredible miniature Siemore Circus.

Two new exhibits were created this year and debuted for our summer performance season. Located in the Elephant Barn is a tribute to Peg Coburn who for many years created the magnificent costumes for the Great Circus Parade. Included in the display are many costumes, horse and elephant trappings along with parade photos and Peg’s original design drawings.

Another new exhibit is a circus photo gallery (The Vista Gallery) displaying the work of noted circus photographers. This is a rotating exhibit and this year’s exhibition features the wonderful photos of CFA member Paul Gutheil of Glen Rock NJ.

We continue to expand the resources of the Robert L. Parkinson Library and Research Center. In 2015 we received the Pfening negative collection of over 10,000 negatives representing 18 different photographers and dating from the late 1800’s through the 1960’s. John Polacsek donating a collection of 1,689 route cards representing 88 shows dating from 1899 through 1999.

With the help of our library volunteers we continue to build our online catalog. You are encouraged to visit our website and view some of the 7000 records that are now online.

As has been the tradition of Circus World for well over 50 years we present a full day of circus programming including Kids’s World Circus, Tristin Christ’s Magic Show celebrating its tenth year with us, a circus instrument concert , a slide for life across the Baraboo River, and an elephant encounter. And, this year’s fantastic show under the big top includes Chip Arthur and the Carson-Barnes elephants, the Bertini Family with unicycles and comedy trampoline, Dallas Zoppe and her amazing dogs, America’s Show Camels presented by Ian Garden, Roger the Clown, singing ringmaster David Saloutos and the music of Larry Stout.

Because only 60% of the income needed to operate Circus World comes from admissions and other seasonal operations, our fundraising efforts to raise the remaining funds proceeds all year. Our Circus of the Chefs Gala is our single largest fundraising event of the year and a record $209,000 was raised this year.

We hope that you saw our full page announcements in your last White Tops introducing our newest programs, The Center Ring Society and Adopt a Wagon. There are several levels of support for each program which offer benefits available only to members. Complete details for the Center Ring Society, our Adopt a Wagon program and information on how to join are available on our website, www.circusworldmuseum.org.

While there is so much happening at Circus World it would take a much longer report to go into details so we have chosen to keep this report short.

We greatly appreciate your support and so will the many generations who have yet to discover and become enthralled by the magic of the circus. We look forward to seeing you at Circus World in the future.

As our good friend Jack Ryan wisely stated “May all your days be circus days!”

Scott O’Donnell and the staff of Circus World