

# Zoo Review

SUMMER 2019 • THE VIRGINIA ZOO • 3500 GRANBY ST., NORFOLK, VA 23504 • VIRGINIAZOO.ORG



WHAT IS SSP AND WHY DOES IT MATTER **PAGES 4 & 5**

UNLEASH YOUR INNER KID AT ADULT CAMP **PAGE 11**

10 FACTS ABOUT NATURE PLAY **PAGES 14 & 15**





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**THE ANIMAL WELLNESS** Campus now has a behind the scenes tour! Once a month the tour is offered to individuals, up to 10 people. Visit the surgery room, see the tools of the trade and more. Visit [virginiazoo.org/behind-scenes-adventures](http://virginiazoo.org/behind-scenes-adventures) for more info!

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Do you have any questions or ideas for the next issue of the Virginia Zoo Review? Contact us. We love your feedback.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

GREG AT THE ANNUAL ZOO TO DO GALA, WHICH RAISED MORE THAN \$40,000.



Dear Zoo Friends,

There are so many great things happening at the Zoo right now! This spring and summer's Zoo babies are a thrill to watch grow. This year's larger baby births include Zelda, the Hartmann's mountain zebra, Kylie, the Masai giraffe, Stompers, the African-crested porcupine and there are so many reptile hatchlings and births – frilled dragons, Meller's chameleons, emerald tree boas, several species of dart frogs (froglets) and more! Plus, new animal residents include two female red river hogs recommended for breeding with our male, "Oboi," so stay tuned to hear more about how these pairings work out.

Additionally, I'm sure you've had the opportunity to explore and play in the newly opened "Run Wild! Nature Discovery Zone." Studies have shown that nature play is a vital component of childhood learning and development and is linked to cognitive, social, emotional and physical development. Playing in this natural setting is an excellent way to connect with the environment. Watch for the occasional additions to this area as the seasons change.

This summer marks the one-year anniversary of the new World of Reptiles (and friends). More than 25,000+ additional people have visited the Zoo to see this exciting new facility with its diverse array of animal residents. From the Reptile Nursery to the Frog Conservation Lab, the monkey training corridor (now with daily Keeper-led training sessions) to the window into the world of the Reptile Keepers, I hope you have had a "defining moment" experience in this new complex of amazing animal habitats and learned more about them and the exceptional and unique care they require to thrive.

Have a great summer! I'll see you at the Zoo.

*Greg*

Executive Director, Virginia Zoo

NOTES & UPDATES

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO



**CHEETAH GIRLS**  
Charo and Lima, a foster-mother & daughter duo who came from the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas have replaced Chester and Rico. Read about them on **pages 6 & 7**.



**EGYPTIAN TORTOISES**  
In the World of Reptiles, you'll find these compact-sized-tortoises. Critically endangered, the pair is most active in the morning and late afternoon.



**VICTORIA CROWNED PIGEON**  
This mohawked beauty took social media by storm and was featured in international news stories. The chick is growing bigger every day and can be seen in the Asia Aviary.



**MEXICAN RED KNEE TARANTULA**  
Not all spiders spin webs – tarantulas, such as this one, hunt for prey and kill them with a venomous bite. This spider can be found in the World of Reptiles.



**BONGO BOY**  
The latest to join the herd, Boomer was born in early April to mom Betty and dad Bob. His birth helps contribute to his species' critically endangered population.



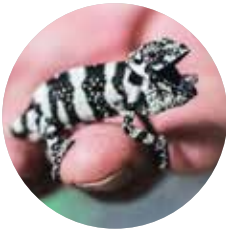
**PORCUPETTE**  
In March, an African-crested porcupine was born, who Keepers named Stompers for her adorable movements. She's the younger sister to program animal ambassador, Chompers.



**RED RIVER HOGS**  
Oboi has two new members in his sounder, or group, Mrembo and Tikiti. The Red river hog females from the San Diego Safari Park are now on exhibit in the Africa – Okavango Delta.



**GOATS**  
Back again for more brushes and scratches this summer are the Nigerian dwarf goats. This year's troop includes 11 adults and 8 kids, including favorites from past years.



**MELLER'S CHAMELEONS**  
X chameleons hatched in May in the World of Reptiles nursery. While the babies are born in grayscale, their vibrant yellow-green color will emerge as they get older.



**EMERALD TREE BOAS**  
Two babies were born on exhibit. This species is viviparous, giving live birth instead of laying eggs. The snakelets can be seen in the World of Reptiles nursery.



**ZEBRA FILLY**  
It's a girl for five-time-mom Abby. Zelda earned her name through a voting contest in which Zoo fans picked from Keeper-suggested names. Mom, Zelda and the others are all on exhibit.



**GIRAFFE BABY**  
'Kylie' the name chosen by the Zoo To Do Silent Auction Winner, was born to mom, Imara, and dad, Billy, on May 20. The female calf weighed in at 170 pounds and stands 5'11" tall.

VOLUNTEER NEWS

We are thrilled to welcome our new Volunteer Coordinator. From Maine originally, Kate Reichert got her start managing school and docent programs at the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve after attending Bowdoin College. She earned a Master of Arts in Teaching degree from The George Washington University's Museum Education Program, with a passion for interpretive education and training at zoos and aquariums to promote conservation and stewardship of

the natural world. She is a National Association for Interpretation Certified Interpretive Guide and Trainer and comes from Mystic Aquarium in Connecticut where she worked in education and guest services.

Kate is a big fan of all critters land and sea, but has a particular fondness for birds, reptiles and plankton. She's eager to get to know the whole Zoo Crew team and help all volunteers find meaningful ways to get involved at the Zoo.





# The Plan for Species Survival

There are currently more than 500 SSP programs and the Virginia Zoo currently works with over 80. But what does that mean?

STORY BY TAYLOR MARTIN // PHOTOS BY KEARSTEN WALDEN

Conservation at the Virginia Zoo consists of many things. We raise funds and donate to various conservation organizations to support animals and their habitats in the wild. We host events and representatives from conservation organizations educating guests on the importance of the species found at the Zoo and across the world. Our staff participate in field work to learn more about how to save species under human care. Then there's the work we do every single day to protect species from extinction - the Species Survival Plan.

If you're familiar with zoo terminology, the words Species Survival Plan® may sound familiar. This program, or SSP for short, is one of the most important reasons that zoological facilities like the Virginia Zoo exist. SSPs are controlled by our accrediting organization, the Association for Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

The purpose of these plans is to oversee the population management of select species within AZA member institutions and to enhance conservation of these species in the wild. Each SSP program coordinates the individual activities of participating member institutions through a variety of species conservation, research, husbandry, management and educational initiatives. The program manages the breeding of a select species or sub-species by collaborating with the AZA Population Management Center, Reproductive Management Center, Program Leaders and Institutional Representatives from each participating institution, such as the Virginia Zoo, to develop a SSP Breeding and Transfer Plan.

SSPs are determined by and work under the supervision of Taxon Advisory Groups, or TAGs. Each species has its own TAG and a Studbook Keeper who maintain the AZA Regional Studbook. They document the pedigree and entire demographic history of each animal within a managed population among AZA zoos, aquariums and other similar organizations. These collective histories are known as the population's genetic and demographic identity and are valuable tools to track and manage each individual in the SSP population. Once the pedigree and compatibility of individual animals within a species are assessed, breeding pairs are recommended and transfer plans are made.

There are currently more than 500 SSP programs under the AZA

and the Virginia Zoo currently works with over 80. Some species you may recognize that currently have an SSP are the red pandas and African lions, but there are many less obvious species with an SSP. Victoria crowned pigeons have an SSP, which has proven to be successful with the recent hatching of another chick in March. The Panamanian golden frogs, which can be found in the Frog Lab in the World of Reptiles, also have an SSP. This poisonous frog species is extinct in the wild, so the SSP's purpose is to breed individuals in the hope of reintroducing them to the wild.

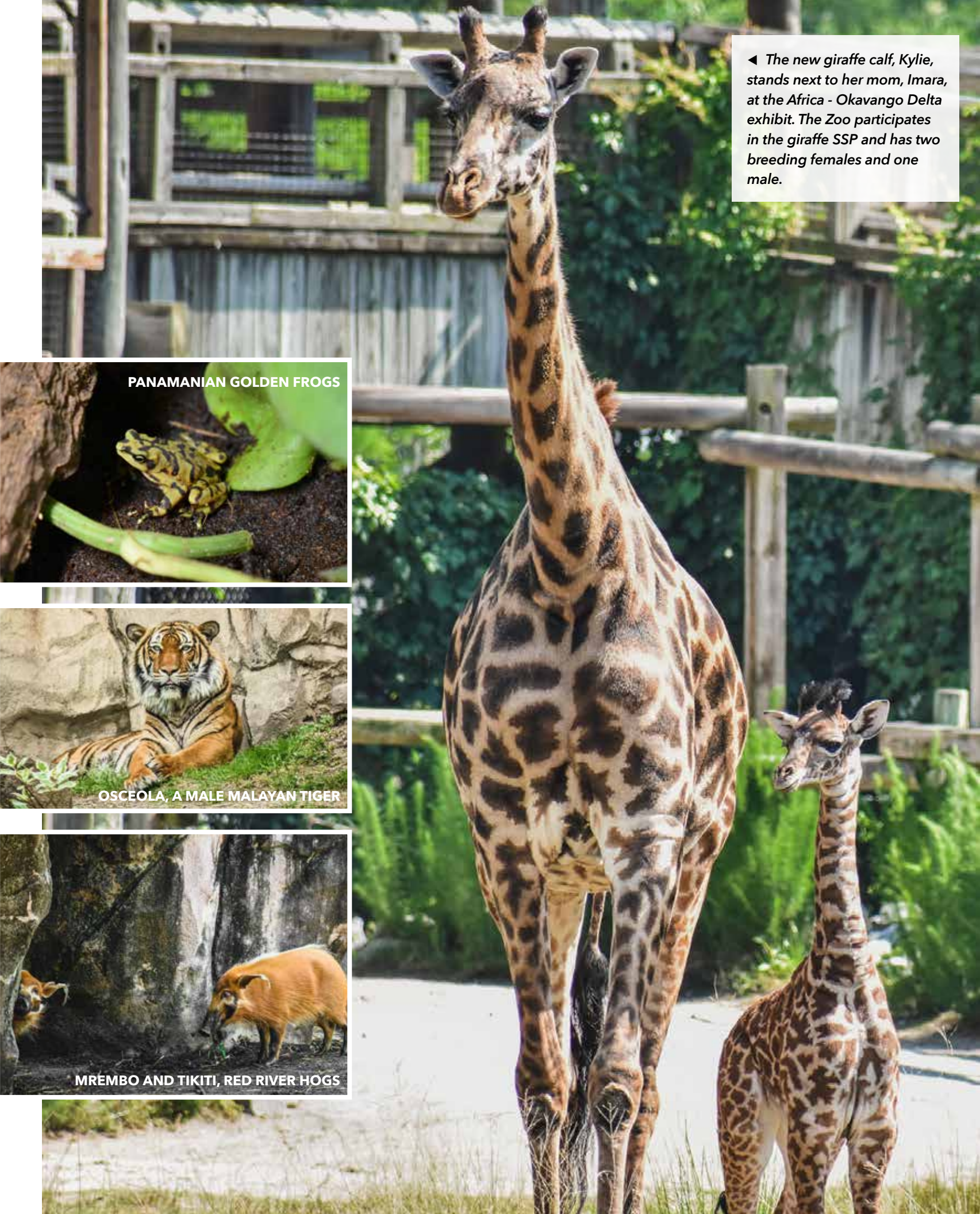
Bog turtles are the smallest species of turtle in North America and are critically endangered due to habitat loss and the pet trade. The Virginia Zoo is one of the largest producers of these tiny turtles thanks to our participation in the SSP.

Another of our biggest achievements, thanks to the SSP, is the birth of the first ever orangutan baby in Virginia Zoo history. Our Keepers worked daily with the Orangutan TAG and Studbook Keeper from the day staff discovered Dara was pregnant through Sofie's birth.

Lead Zoo Keepers from all areas of the Virginia Zoo stay in constant contact with representatives for each SSP for the animals under their care. They also get to vote for committee members for SSPs and TAGs and even have a voice in choosing candidate programs for new SSPs, like the potential for a bison SSP, is currently just getting started as a candidate program.

SSPs are the reason your favorite animals may leave the Zoo once they are mature and why the Zoo receives new species or individuals. Just recently, Bee the binturong left the Zoo to potentially breed at another AZA-accredited facility. The Zoo also welcomed two female red river hogs, Mrembo and Tikiti, who were recommended to breed with our male, Oboi. Our two Malayan tiger "cubs" will also eventually be recommended to breed by the tiger SSP, which means they may leave the Zoo to help rebuild their species' population.

It is also because of SSPs that the Virginia Zoo and more than 150 other AZA-accredited institutions have been able to help species from going extinct.



◀ The new giraffe calf, Kylie, stands next to her mom, Imara, at the Africa - Okavango Delta exhibit. The Zoo participates in the giraffe SSP and has two breeding females and one male.



PANAMANIAN GOLDEN FROGS



OSCEOLA, A MALE MALAYAN TIGER



MREMBO AND TIKITI, RED RIVER HOGS



## KEEPER NOTES



# The Puurfect Match

Charo and Lima - the Zoo's new cheetah duo have a unique (and adorable) story to share.

### COLLABORATIVE STORY EFFORTS // PHOTOS BY KEARSTEN WALDEN

In March, the Zoo said goodbye to its beloved male cheetah brothers, Chester and Rico, who had lived at the Zoo for nearly three years. The boys departed for the Wildlife Safari in Oregon as part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Cheetah Species Survival Program (SSP) for breeding. In their place, two female cheetahs, Charo and Lima, arrived from the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas.

The pair have a unique type of relationship as females are typically solitary and rarely live in groups with other females. Their story begins in May 2017, when Charo gave birth to a litter of three male cubs. Around the same time in Missouri, on May 16, Lima was born, but her biological mother was unable to care for her. Keepers reacted quickly to transport Lima from St. Louis to Texas to be placed with Charo thanks to a cross-fostering program for cheetahs. The hopes were Lima would be accepted and cared for by Charo, who was a first-time mother. The transition was a success and the two have been bonded since.

Since arriving at the Zoo, Keepers have had their work cut out for them. Initially when the cheetahs arrived, the Keepers really worked on building a relationship with Charo and Lima and began building a bond with them by offering food when the pair were calm and receptive. Over time, the cheetahs have become more comfortable with and interested in their Keepers, allowing for training opportunities. The Keepers are

currently working with the girls on target training, as well as sitting and laying down behaviors. Both Charo and Lima are curious about new items that are placed in their yard and are responsive to their diet. They are attentive and willing to participate in training sessions with the Keepers several times a week. Training helps to give the cheetahs mental and physical exercise and can allow them to participate in routine exams and vet visits.

When the girls first arrived, Keepers also had to become familiar with the cheetahs' individual, and feisty personalities and appearance. At seven years old, Charo is the larger and sleeker of the two. She has more white on the tip of her tail and Keepers say she tends to be more outgoing and confident. Lima is still growing and has a rounder face and furry appearance. Keepers say she is more timid and tends to look to Charo for support in new situations.

Since acclimating to their exhibit, they enjoy spending their time exploring the exhibit together and investigating enrichment items, such as new scents, toys or scattered meat that the Keepers provide to help encourage natural behaviors and entice foraging. The pair can often be found sitting on the rocks in the exhibit and peering into the giraffe yard. Grooming and taking cat naps together is also a common pastime for the girls. Charo and Lima can be found on exhibit daily in the Africa - Okavango Delta.



### ADULT CAMP

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## DON'T MISS WHEN THE ZOO COMES

# ALIVE AFTER 5

### ZOOGROOVES

JUNE 28 • JULY 26

### MEMBER NIGHT

JUNE 13 • JULY 18 • AUG 15

### ADULT NIGHT

JULY 11 • AUG 8

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Name: Zola  
 Sex: Female  
 Species: African Lion  
 Age: (almost) 15 years old  
 Weight: 148 kg (326 lb)  
 Reason for Visit: routine  
 checkup



# No Hard Fillings

You never know what a regular dental exam will reveal about your health.

STORY BY DR. COLLEEN CLABBERS // PHOTOS BY KEARSTEN WALDEN



It started off as a regular day at the Zoo for both Zola the lion and vet staff. Keepers began a voluntarily training session with Zola, is trained for various behaviors that help Zoo Keepers provide her with the best possible care. The behavior Keepers were asking for - receiving a fake injection - was displayed by the big cat, only this time the injection was real! Zola was under anesthesia in no time, without realizing a difference in her regular training. But why was she anesthetized? It was time for her routine trip to the Animal Wellness Campus for a check up by Dr. Colleen.

During Zola's visit, Dr. Colleen conducted a full exam. She started off with a thorough physical exam, which each animal at the Zoo receives once every two to three years. This check-up includes routine bloodwork, a urine analysis and an abdominal ultrasound to check each vital organ's condition. Radiographs of her chest and abdomen were also captured before moving on to assess Zola's mouth.

During her dental exam, Dr. Colleen, with the help of Dr. Colleen Fox from the Center of Veterinary Expertise, made sure to check

on the condition of Zola's root canal, which she received in 2015. At that time, Keepers noticed a broken tooth with exposed pulp cavity, which is where the nerves and blood supply are located. She was anesthetized and the pulp cavity was patched and repaired. At her most recent visit, the doctors used a special dental radiography unit to get images of the tooth roots to better assess the tooth's health and determined the area previous root canal site still looked healthy and that no further action was needed. Zola's teeth were then cleaned and polished.

After having her large chompers cleaned, Dr. Colleen gave Zola her Rabies and distemper vaccinations. Veterinary technicians also placed an IV catheter into her back leg so that Zola could receive intravenous fluids during the procedure.

Overall, Dr. Colleen has determined that Zola is in good health. Zola is back on exhibit in the Africa-Okavango Delta with Mramba and Emery, where they can be found taking cat naps or interacting with enrichment from Keepers. She continues to voluntarily train with her Keepers and shouldn't be receiving any real injections any time soon.

**MEET ZOLA** Zola is the Zoo's female African lion. She lives in the Africa - Okavango Delta with her mate, Mramba and male cub, Emery. Zola was born at the North Carolina Zoo, in Asheboro, NC, on July 17, 2004 and arrived at the Virginia Zoo a year later on July 14, 2005. She is very food motivated, and her favorite type of enrichment from her Keepers typically includes a tasty snack or two, but she most enjoys a rack of ribs.





BY THE NUMBERS

You're probably familiar with the more than 700 animals at the Virginia Zoo, but did you know there are also more than 30,000 pollinators that live on Zoo grounds? They may not be the most exotic Zoo residents, but they are equally as interesting and important as all of the other fauna found here.



**THIRTY THOUSAND**  
Estimated number of bees in the Zoo's colony

**26 YEARS**  
the Zoo has had bees on grounds. The original apiary was located in Flora Point.



**95%**

of bees are female

**BEES HAVE:**  
6 legs, 4 wings, 5 eyes

**1 SPECIES**

of bee can be found at the Zoo: European honey bee. More than XX species exist.



**80%** of crops in Virginia are pollinated by bees



**1/2** teaspoon of honey is made in a bee's lifetime

**\$0** Cost for a beekeeper to remove a swarm from your property



**12-20 MPH**

The speed a bee can fly, depending on what they're doing

**6 WEEKS**

average lifespan of a worker bee

**ONE**

queen bee who can be located by the orange dot on her abdomen

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EDUCATION



Space is limited and registration is required. Visit [virginiazoo.org/education](http://virginiazoo.org/education) for more info and to register. We'll see you at Safari Camp!

# Unleash Your Inner Kid at Adult Camp

STORY BY KYLIE WASH

Imagine it—it's the first day of Safari Camp and your little camper is eager to get to the Zoo! They're loaded up with their sunscreen, tennis shoes and sunnies, and they are ready for an adventure. At the end of the day, you pick them up in their cool new Safari Camp t-shirt and they tell you everything. They hiked all over the Zoo with a trail guide who told them all about their favorite animals. They came face-to-face with animal ambassadors like armadillos, porcupines and parrots. And they ventured behind the scenes to meet our animals up close and chat with our Zoo Keepers. That's when it hits you. The feeling starts to sink in. Jealousy.

Okay, okay—yes, it's awesome that the kiddos have these once-in-a-lifetime experiences with us at Safari Camp. But who says the kids should have all the fun? Be a kid again and explore the Zoo with us like never before! Journey behind the scenes with our Zoo staff, meet our charismatic animal ambassadors, and learn all about our animals and conservation efforts directly from our Zoo Keepers and Educators. This year we're offering two exciting Adult Camp

experiences: Monkey Business and ZOOvivors! **MONKEY BUSINESS** Interested in animal training, conservation research, and citizen science? While learning the ins and outs of animal training and research, you will get an inside look at how the Virginia Zoo contributes to conservation projects around the world. Learn the basics of animal training techniques from our zoo keepers and explore how zoos and aquariums support animals in the wild.

**ZOOVIVORS** Looking for adventure and willing to put your survivor skills to the test? Explore what it takes for animals to survive in some of the most forbidding habitats on Earth, pick up the basics of tracking wild animals, find out how animals adapt to human impacts, and learn a little wilderness survival of your own. So lace up those tennis shoes, load up on sunscreen and get ready to rock a Safari Camp t-shirt! Sessions of each camp are offered in July and August, but the adventure doesn't have to end so soon— attend back-to-back Adult Camp programs at a discounted rate! Explore the Zoo for two days exploring animal training, conservation, and wildlife survival strategies.

**TIMES** Adult Camp runs from 9:30 am to 3 pm each day offered  
**DATES**  
**ZOOvivors** Friday, July 12 or Saturday, August 17  
**Monkey Business** Saturday, July 13 or Friday, August 16  
**COST:**  
**One Day Camp** \$80/members and \$100/non-members  
**Both Adult Camps** \$125/members and \$180/non-members



# Saki Monkeys

*Pithecia pithecia*



1

White-faced saki monkeys are native to savanna and marsh forests of South American countries such as Brazil, Guyana, Suriname and Venezuela.

2

Despite their name, only males have white faces, females are mostly brown-gray in color. They weigh up to five pounds and grow 12-16" in body length with the same length in a bushy tail.

3

Saki monkeys are mainly frugivorous, meaning they mostly eat fruit. At the Zoo, they are fed a mix of produce, greens, nuts, and enjoy peanut butter, crackers and bugs as special enrichment.

4

Lionel and Jackie, the Zoo's pair, live in the World of Reptiles Conservatory. Zoo visitors can see the pair interacting with Keepers during training sessions.

5

They are nicknamed "flying monkeys" due to their ability to rapidly leap between branches. They spend most of their time in trees, but occasionally descend to the ground to forage for food.

6

Saki monkeys are not currently threatened with extinction, but the species' population is declining due to hunting, habitat loss and the illegal pet trade. Their pelts have also been used to make clothing and hats.

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# Run Wild! Nature Discovery Zone

Yet another reason to get out and play at the Virginia Zoo. A new nature playground created to incorporate learning and development.

STORY BY TAYLOR MARTIN // PHOTOS BY KEARSTEN WALDEN

## 01 UNEARTH AND ENJOY

New at the Zoo is the Run Wild! Nature Discovery Zone. Become one with nature at this shaded one-acre outdoor playground located next to the old chimp cage near the Flora Point gardens.

## 02 SCIENCE OF RISK

Nature play encourages children to interact with their environment and learn to take risks. Appropriate risk-taking is vital for childhood development and Run Wild offers the opportunity for children to develop risk assessment skills through play - be it balancing on logs or climbing on rocks. Additionally, spending time in nature helps children develop empathy for their environment and supports physical, social, creative, and cognitive development.



## 04 LOCALLY SOURCED

Most of the play structures are sourced directly from Zoo grounds! The stump jump is made from fallen trees behind exhibits in Asia and along pathways. A portion of the willow was gathered behind-the-scenes to construct the tunnel and our Horticulture Department also harvested bamboo to give to the animals while creating a unique maze for guests to journey through.

## 05 CAN YOU DIG IT

Dig through the sandboxes and hone your senses at the sensory tables, all hand-built by Conservation Youth Team member and Eagle Scout Kieran Achee and his Boy Scout Troop. Activities at these interactive stations include a play kitchen complete with a sink and dishes. Children can also nurture their senses by feeling, rolling, pushing or tugging at the various objects found at the knot tying station.



## 06 EDUCATION STATION

The Conservation Cabin is the education hub where a variety of free programs will be available for children and families connecting guests to the natural world. Guests can join our educators for story time and pop-up play stations and can even encounter our animals. Check the sign on the cabin porch for more information.

## 07 NATURE CALLS

The Discovery Zone has all you need to keep going. Use an eco-friendly reusable bottle at the new water station and hydrate for more playtime. For your convenience, new bathrooms donated by the City of Norfolk have been installed adjacent to the play area.



## 08 CREATION OF RECREATION

Dozens of volunteers and Zoo staff worked hard to build the area. May's Family Volunteer Day saw more than 90 volunteers who helped kick off the construction of the project. Other businesses and community organizations have also donated their time to bring the area to life by spreading mulch and sand, and placing the stumps and boulders. 30 volunteers personalized the stepping stones leading to the bamboo maze.



STAFF, DONORS AND CITY OFFICIALS CUT THE RIBBON AT MEMBER NIGHT ON JUNE 13.



## 09 PROJECT PHILANTHROPISTS

This project has been made possible by our generous donors including local Rotary Clubs, Wells Fargo and Target.

## 10 PRINCIPAL PLAYERS

This play area officially opened on Member Night on June 13 and is waiting for you to come discover how to get down and dirty. Activate your imagination and start your adventure in the wild today.



THE LOCAL ROTARY GROUPS HELPED TO FUND THE AREA WITH A \$25,000 GRANT EARLIER THIS YEAR. HERE THEY HELP SPREAD MULCH AT FAMILY VOLUNTEER DAY.

## 03 SET IN MOTION

Children can use their imagination and their natural surroundings to play and explore. Use your instincts as you trek through the bamboo maze, creep through the 20-foot willow tunnel, challenge yourself at the stump jump and conquer the boulders.





# More Events, More Fun!

This year the Zoo comes Alive After 5 with a jam-packed and fun-filled event schedule that's sure to please moms, dads, grandparents, children of all ages and even those kids home from school for the summer! Each event offers something different than the last, so we promise it'll be worth your while to bring your herd to the Zoo for all of these fantastic feats.

## ZOO GROOVES

**JUNE 28** The Deloreans, will be bringing their eclectic 80s music to the Event Field to kick off the season of ZooGrooves.

**JULY 26** Kick back with our local country boys, Buckshot, for some rockin' tunes for the second ZooGrooves of the season.

As always, blankets and lawn chairs are welcome, summer fare and local brews will be available. Asia - Trail of the Tiger, the ZooFarm and the World of Reptiles exhibits will be open. *Gates 5:30 pm, Music at 6 pm. Members \$4 each, Non-members \$15.*

## MEMBER NIGHT

Our first Member Night, held June 13th, saw the opening of our Run Wild! Nature Discovery Zone, along with live music and animal ambassadors. But don't worry, two more are in store for this summer.

**JULY 18** Members can receive private tours from our Education Staff. Learning interesting facts about our animals and exhibits.

**AUGUST 15** At this extra-special Member Night, attendees get to meet a cheetah ambassador up close from the Columbus Zoo. A lively presentation by Mary Wykstra from Action For Cheetahs in Kenya will begin promptly at 6 pm at the ZooLive! Stage.

Member Night offers special food and Gift Shop discounts as well as \$1 Train Rides, a bounce house and all exhibits are open. *5:30 - 7:30 pm. Free for Members - Members only.*

## ADULT NIGHT

**JULY 11 AND AUGUST 8** For these wildly popular 21+ events, our motto is "Adulthood is hard, be a kid again at the Zoo!" On these nights, grown ups get the chance to visit the Zoo after hours - with no kids in sight. All animal exhibits stay open late, animal ambassadors will be out and about, plus enjoy a variety of your favorite yard games and music. Whether a date night or some time with friends, leave the kids at home and let your inner child roam free! *5:30 - 8 pm. Members \$5 each, Non-members \$15.*

**TICKETS FOR EVENTS** are all available - and encouraged - to be purchased in advance: [virginiazoo.org/events](http://virginiazoo.org/events)



# Choo Choo to Make a Difference

The Zoo's most loved attraction is due for a little TLC. Here's how you can help!

After more than a million rides and the 11 years since it opened, the ZooTrain is in need of some enhancements. Just as is the case with commercial rail lines, the Zoo Train rail bed is regularly maintained and is now due for track bed maintenance. A new service spur will allow individual cars to be removed for service and lessen wear and tear on the engine.

In total, \$150,000 will need to be raised to support the train campaign that began in June and will conclude in November when the train will shut down for the winter season and repairs will begin.

To help the campaign, Norfolk Southern Foundation (NSF) has issued a matching grant to the Virginia Zoo to raise \$40,000 to support maintenance and upgrades to the much beloved Zoo Train, to which they will match with an additional \$40,000. The

initial gift of \$200,000 from NSF more than 10 years ago was instrumental in bringing this attraction to the Virginia Zoo and the Zoo is grateful for the support that NSF has provided over the years.

## How can you help to keep the ZooTrain riding smoothly?

- Ride the train the next time you're at the Zoo. The admission from every train ride will support the campaign.
- Have your loved one ride the train daily by purchasing a train seat in their name for just \$250.
- Mark a milestone with a brick at the Beazley Station for \$125.
- Make a general donation to the train fund, any amount over \$25 qualifies you to receive a commemorative train keychain.

**LEARN MORE AND MAKE YOUR DONATION TODAY AT [VIRGINIAZOO.ORG/TRAINFUND](http://VIRGINIAZOO.ORG/TRAINFUND)**



In 2008, the Zoo Train, The Norfolk Southern Express, opened with the help of several generous donors. The train is a 1/3 scale model of a C.P. Huntington steam engine with four coaches that can accommodate more than 80 passengers - adults and children. The permanent track is 3/4 of a mile long. Rides are just \$2 and have helped fund exhibits like the Australia Walkabout and other exciting projects around the Zoo.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE VIRGINIA ZOO!  
ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST, VIRGINIAZOO.ORG/DONATE

**CURRENT LEADERSHIP SOCIETY** Leadership Society members support the Zoo's daily commitment to animal care, enrichment programming, wildlife conservation, education and research initiatives across our community and beyond.

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NEW ZOOPARENTS

Every animal at the Virginia Zoo is available for adoption, starting at \$25. Proceeds help feed and care for animals.

ZOOPARENT	ANIMAL	ZOOPARENT	ANIMAL
Ainworthy Vets of America AIM	African Crested Porcupine	Sherwood Lakes	Sloth
Ainworthy Vets of America AIM	Cassowary	Mr. Lowman's Fourth Grade Class	Red Panda
Ainworthy Vets of America AIM	Red Panda		
Daniel Allen	Lion	Kerri Lucas	Giraffe
Scott Anglin	Sloth	Celeste Nash	Sloth
Alyssa Babcock	Giraffe	Jennifer Piegzik	Moon Bear
Karina & Anika Balsley	Orangutan	Erin Powell	Otter
Catherine Byrum	Tapir	Matthew Sara	Moon Bear
Stephanie Cook	Giraffe	Laura Schaffer	Orangutan
Kennon Daniels	Poison Dart Frog	Barbara Segida	Sloth
Joshua De La Rosa	Poison Dart Frog	Dave Sharpe	Sloth
Evan Gemmill	Moon Bear	Ms. Suttle's Fourth Grade Class	Cheetah
Raegan Gibson	Red Panda	Mrs. Tatum's Fourth Grade Class	Siamese Crocodile
Mike Gregory	Otter	Nataly Taylor	Red Panda
Catherine Grunow	Giraffe	Khiem Truong	Sloth
Betsy Guzik	Gibbon	Carissa Tweedt	Sloth
Shannon Hardwick	Sloth	Emma Wehr	Sloth
Mia Hinson	Orangutan	Julie Wilhelm	Gardens
Simon Holm	Fennec Fox	Ms. Wilson's Fourth Grade Class	Tiger
Mrs. Kiefner's Kindergarten Class	Red River Hog	Rose and Michael Yankoski	Moon Bear
Alex Krock	Lion	Elizebeth Ziebell	Otter

ZOO TO DO WRAP

Every animal at the Virginia Zoo is available for adoption, starting at \$25. Proceeds help feed and care for animals.

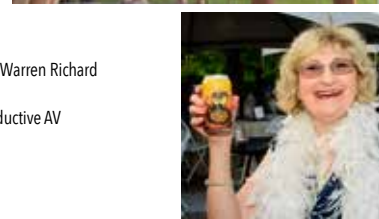


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For more information, visit [virginiazoo.org/become-corporate-partner](http://virginiazoo.org/become-corporate-partner)

DONOR HIGHLIGHT



Pat Moore and Gabe Christensen  
Virginia Zoo Members & Corporate Sponsors

STORY BY ANGELA BENARD // PHOTO BY KEARSTEN WALDEN

Investing in the community is at the heart of what MMC Benefits is as a business. Since their opening in 2004, partners **Patrick Moore (above, left)** and **Gabriel Christensen (above, right)** have provided support to the small business community of Norfolk, both personally and professionally. "We care about people," said Gabe during our recent interview, "we take care of the employers who take care of people."

Active in local philanthropy for many years, the partners have held positions of leadership with the Ghent Business Association, Heart of Ghent 10K, the Mike Cavish Golf Tournament, Sunrise Rotary, and the Kiwanis Club of Norfolk. Their commitment to service is evident through their constant hard work and devotion to the causes they support. "Money needs to float down" is a phrase a wise friend once shared with Gabe. Collectively, they have helped raise more than \$1.5 million for local organizations like ForKids, LGBT Life Center, Ronald McDonald House and, of course, the Virginia Zoo.

Pat's memories of the Virginia Zoo date back to

the 1960s when his father, a Marine, moved to Norfolk from Queens, NY. Over the years, Pat and his family have been regular visitors to the Zoo. He has memories of the iron chimpanzee cages and the old conservatory for tropical plants that was located near where the Australia Yard is today. The Zoo has undergone many changes and long-time Norfolk residents, like Pat, have seen most of it. An attraction, once visited by Pat with his mother, then with his daughter and now his grandchildren, the Zoo remains one of his favorite places to visit.

When asked why they support the Zoo, Pat and Gabe both said that they like to practice what they preach. MMC Benefits is all about connecting people with the benefits they need to stay healthy.

Children and families having access to safe outdoor spaces like Virginia Zoo helps people stay healthy too. The Virginia Zoo is grateful to have such wonderful Corporate Partners like MMC Benefits, and such great friends in Pat Moore and Gabe Christensen.

BECOME A CORPORATE PARTNER!

Sponsorship enables you to reach the Virginia Zoo's fans by incorporating your message into their lifestyle. Your partnership with the Zoo creates heightened brand awareness and image, tying your brand to a positive family experience while demonstrating your social responsibility and community involvement.

Visit [virginiazoo.org/corporate-partners/](http://virginiazoo.org/corporate-partners/)





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TO SEE MORE  
INFO ABOUT OUR  
GREAT LINEUP  
OF EVENTS!

## Upcoming Events

### **ZooGrooves: Deloreans**

June 28 • 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Members: \$4 | Non-members: \$10

### **July Membership Swap - MOCA**

Free admission with valid Zoo membership card

### **Adults Only Zoo Night**

July 11 • 5:30 – 8 pm

Members: \$5 | Non-members: \$15

### **Animal Appreciation: World Snake Day\*\***

July 16 • 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

### **Member Night\***

July 18 • 5:30 – 7:30 pm

### **ZooGrooves: Buckshot**

July 26 • 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Members: \$4 | Non-members: \$10

### **EdZOOcation: Int'l Tiger Day\*\***

July 27 • 11 am – 2 pm

### **August Membership Swap - Hermitage Museum & Gardens**

Free admission with valid Zoo membership card

### **August YMCA Workouts**

August 3, 10, 17, 24 • 9:15 – 10 am

Zoo & YMCA-SHR members: Free

Non-members: General admission

### **Senior Wednesdays**

August 7, 14, 21 & 28

Free for seniors ages 62+

### **Adults Only Zoo Night**

August 8 • 5:30 – 8 pm

Members: \$5 | Non-members: \$15

### **Member Night\***

August 15 • 5:30 – 7:30 pm

### **EdZOOcation: World Orangutan Day\*\***

August 17 • 11 am – 2 pm

### **Animal Appreciation: World Goat Day\*\***

August 21 • 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

### **Zoovies: The Jungle Book (2016)**

August 23 • 6 – 9 pm

Members and children under 2: Free

Non-members: \$5

### **September Membership Swap - Children's Museum**

Free admission with valid Zoo membership card \

### **Growl Fest**

September 14 • 6 – 9 pm

Drinking ticket: \$25 | Non-drinking and youth  
ticket: \$10 | Under 2: Free

### **Zoovies: Incredibles 2**

September 20 • 6 – 9 pm

Members and children under 2: Free | Non-  
members: \$5

### **EdZOOcation: World Rhino Day**

September 22 • 11 am – 2 pm

Free with regular Zoo admission

### **World Day of Play**

September 30 • 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

\*Free for Zoo members \*\*Free with regular Zoo admission

