

SUMMER 2023

Zoo Review

VIRGINIAZOO.ORG

WELCOME BACK

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Reopening

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Do you have any questions or ideas for the next issue of the Virginia Zoo Review? We'd love to hear from you. Email info@virginiazoo.org.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Zoo Members

Welcome to summer at the Zoo. You may have noticed that we have had an ambitious start to 2023 enhancing various areas of the Zoo grounds and landscape. For starters, the entire Asia: Trail of the Tiger boardwalk was replaced with a composite material that is more seasonably durable and supports handrail and facility features that improve animal viewing. I hope that you agree that the updated colors, graphics, and photo opportunities make for a more engaging experience along these habitats.

And there is more to come. Work on the new vulture aviary and Turtle Oasis is nearing completion and the tropical conservatory facelift continues. And watch closely, the development of baby siamang, Lovejoy is thrilling. His story is like no other, one that our animal care team has dedicated much time, technology, and love to see that he blossoms into a strapping lesser ape.

Spring and summer have already brought Zoo members exciting events and experiences. Bike Night and Zoo Grooves were opportunities to enjoy spectacular spring weather among Zoo animal residents and spectacular pollinator gardens. I appreciate all the demanding work that our events, operations, education, animal care, and horticulture teams have put into keeping the Zoo fascinating in so many ways - where else can you see people, plants, exotic animals, bees, butterflies, and more happily sharing a green space? As we continue to share animal and project stories of success, challenges, and achievements, I want to say that I am always grateful to you our members for your support of the Zoo and your care for wildlife.

See you at the Zoo,

Greg Bockheim

Executive Director, Virginia Zoo

NOTES & UPDATES

The World of Reptiles has a new **prehensile tailed skinks**. This skink hatched in February and can be seen on exhibit today.

Our **red pandas** are now back on exhibit on our Trail of the Tiger. Bo and Natasha can be seen together today!

Joining our aviary on the Trail of the Tiger are the new **Chinese hwameis**. These birds can be seen with others along the trail.

After an SSP recommendation, a new female **rhinoceros hornbill**, named Phoenix, has joined our Trail of the Tiger. Come see her today!

The **siamangs** have now returned to their island on the Asia trail. You can spot these lesser apes swinging, snacking, and 'singing'.

Two of three new species will be joining Turtle Oasis - the **spotted turtle** and the **wood turtle**. Flip to page 15 to learn more about this conservation project!

COMING SOON! A new home is coming for our **cinereous vultures**, Eve and John Denver. This exhibit will be next to our pollinator garden.

A new climbing structure was built for Chai, the **Asiatic black bear** or **moon bear**. Enrichment like this helps stimulate problem solving skills.

FROM THE TRAIL



THE WAIT IS OVER

After almost 7 months of construction, the Virginia Zoo's Trail of the Tiger is open for guests to see their favorite animals again! This \$2 Million project provided much needed safety updates, while also improving the guest experience and overall aesthetic of this section of the Zoo. The damaged wood planks of the previous boardwalk were replaced by durable and heat-resistant composite material that has a lifespan of 20 years. LED lights have also been added throughout to illuminate the trail during after-hour events.

Throughout the project, the welfare of the animal residents in the 5.5 acres of the Trail of the Tiger, has been our top priority. Prior to the start of construction, contractors were trained on welfare and safety expectations working around the exhibits. The Asia Keeper team closely monitored all animals on the trail for any signs of stress related to the construction and continued to update leadership of any concerns so that adjustments could be made if necessary.

During construction, the Zoo offered discounted admission across the board. With the Trail's reopening and the arrival of summer, pre-construction rates will go back into effect. Discounts for military, first responders, teachers, etc. will once again be available.

The reopening of the trail will allow for guests to view some long-hidden residents including red panda, binturong, rhinoceros hornbill, cassowary, and saurus cranes just to name a few! We are thrilled to welcome all of the Trail of the Tiger residents back to their homes with the opportunity for better viewing and an overall improved guest experience!

LOVEJOY UPDATE

STORY BY DR. LAUREN NOVAK // PHOTOS BY KIRSTIN PENDLETON AND CAREY JACOBS

In April, keepers noted that Lovejoy appeared to be weaning from mom, Malana, earlier than expected and was displaying some possible developmental delays regarding the use of his limbs. Siamangs typically spend the first three to four months of their life in direct contact with mom while nursing, though they may continue nursing until about two years of age. Keepers and veterinary staff consulted with many species experts including the siamang Species Survival Plan (SSP) regarding their observations and became concerned that Lovejoy was not getting the quantity of nutrients that his body required and was not meeting his developmental milestones. This can happen for many reasons in human care, as there are so many aspects that contribute to infants hitting these milestones. The Zoo's animal care team made the difficult decision to hand-rear Lovejoy to allow for close medical and nutritional monitoring with the aim for him to increase in his growth and strength.

Diet, sunlight, and active socialization are critical components of healthy siamang development. As such, Lovejoy received plenty of nutritional foods, formula, supplements, and a great deal of time spent outdoors and in close contact with staff. He had a big enclosure with ropes, baskets, and hammocks at multiple levels to encourage building strength through climbing and exploring. They found that he loves playing in boxes and under blanket "forts" built by his care team. Once Lovejoy started his treatments, staff saw him grow rapidly in his strength and mobility. He is a great eater and does his own physical therapy though climbing and swinging in his enclosure. He has become a very active and confident young siamang.

At Lovejoy's one month recheck examination, the veterinary team saw great improvement in his radiographs and his blood work. This, compounded with his increased strength and mobility, indicated to veterinary staff that Lovejoy was ready for reintroduction to his family. The Virginia Zoo veterinary team and consulting specialists are impressed by Lovejoy's progress. They are optimistic that, with continued routine veterinary medications and monitoring, he will continue to make great strides in his recovery.



Lovejoy reunited with mom, Malana, and dad, Bali



Siamang island



10 THINGS...

Finish the year strong 10 Virginia Zoo To-Dos in 2023

STORY BY KIRSTIN PENDLETON // PHOTOS BY ZOO STAFF

1. BECOME A MEMBER

Make the fun last all year long with a membership to the Virginia Zoo. With a variety of perks and fun for the whole family, a membership to the Zoo allows you to visit all year without paying admission prices, as well as receiving special rates for our events. Scan the QR code below to learn more and get your membership today!



2. PLAY IN THE FOUNTAINS

Our fountains are on in the plaza! Bring your swimsuits and water shoes to splash around with us in the plaza at your next visit. The fountains will be on everyday from now until Labor Day.



3. RIDE OUR NEW ELECTRIC TRAIN

Take a spin on our new electric train! After some repairs, our train will be back up and running this summer and we are going electric. Learn all about our exciting new train on page 16.

4. SCHEDULE A BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

Be sure to schedule one of our new behind the scenes tours. Join us for new group tours of our two-toed sloth and our animal ambassadors. These tours can be scheduled same day on our website. Also available are our private behind the scene tours of Aldabra Tortoise, Bison, Masai Giraffe, Moon Bear, White Rhino, or World of Reptiles. **Schedule private tours at least 2 weeks before desired date to ensure availability and processing payment**



5. JOIN US FOR OUR NEW EVENTS

Take part in the new fun with our added events. Including Teddy Bear Clinic in August, Roar & Pour in September, and Adult Night: Zoo Boo Edition in October. Check out more info and get your tickets on our website!



6. TRY MINIMELTS ICE CREAM

Get your sweet treat fix this summer with our new partner, MiniMelts! Enjoy many delicious ice cream favorites scooped fresh at our brand new sales kiosk in Africa. Additionally, prepackaged cups with popular flavors can be found at the Xaxaba restaurant in Africa, the Beastro cafe in the Farm, and the Stroller Shack by the Gift Shop. Vending machines are also available in various areas throughout our grounds to grab a snack during your journey through the Zoo.



7. TAG THE ZOO ON SOCIAL

We want to see your visit! Tag us in your posts about your visit on Facebook, Instagram, or TikTok. Show us all your smiling photos or a video of your favorite animal. Don't forget to also use #virginiazoo to share your moments. Follow our accounts below.



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8. VOLUNTEER WITH US

Spend your time here by becoming a part of our Zoo Crew. Volunteering at the Virginia Zoo gives you the unique opportunity to gain professional development and inside knowledge of the Zoo while also taking part in fun social events and conservation activities. Visit our website for more info!

9. ENGAGE WITH STAFF

Swing by our expanded education programs this summer available to all guests. Learn about our animals with Keeper & Educator Chats or find out about our gardens and plants with all new Plant Chats. These programs provide educational opportunities for guests of all ages and will definitely help the whole family learn a thing or two! Daily encounters and show times can be found at the Zoo front entrance.



10. PURCHASE A SOUVENIR CUP

Stop by our Africa restaurant or the Beastro cafe to purchase our new souvenir cups and popcorn bucket. These cups feature amazing photos of our animals in a new fun design. Bring your cup with you for every visit to get discounted refills all year!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

One of Angie's current projects in World of Reptiles, the reticulated python exhibit.



Highlighting Two of The Zoo's Long Time Volunteers

STORY + PHOTOS BY KIRSTIN PENDLETON

After retiring to Norfolk as Veterans, Bob and Angie VanDyke decided to visit the Virginia Zoo. Now, 15 years later, they have been a dedicated part of our Zoo Crew and together have given over 13,000 volunteer hours to the Zoo so far and continue to serve in a number of different roles!

During Angie's first volunteer shift in 2008, she worked in what is now the rhino barn. At the time, the Zoo was home to elephants, where Angie helped keeper staff with husbandry. When she went home, she told Bob, "I shoveled hundreds of pounds of elephant poop today, it was awesome!" From that day on, the two of them were committed to volunteering at the Zoo.

Over their time here, the VanDykes have built amazing connections with our staff and volunteers, become experts on our animals, and provided exceptional support in renovating many exhibits in the World of Reptiles with Angie's artistic talent.

Over the last 5 years, Angie has helped construct habitats for almost all our amphibians and scaly friends. These amazing structures and sculptures have been on display since World of Reptiles opened in 2018. Besides working on exhibits, Angie brought her passion for the arts to the Zoo in other ways, too! From collecting snake and lizard sheds for homemade jewelry to other artistic projects, Angie's projects are given to our keepers as tokens from their favorite animals.

Throughout Asia: Trail of the Tiger, Bob can be found along the trail chatting with guests about our orangutans, tapirs, or tigers. Bob is well known among staff and volunteers for having extensive knowledge and stories, as well as a few classic jokes to keep guests smiling. He loves to share his knowledge about our animals by answering any questions guests have. If he doesn't know the answer, he will go out of his way to find it and help guests learn!

"These are the people we want to spend our time with," Bob said when asked about why he and Angie volunteer. The Virginia Zoo couldn't be more grateful and proud of all our volunteers for the valuable work they put in and enthusiastic personalities they bring to the Zoo each day. Be sure to find Bob on the trail and see what Angie is building in World of Reptiles today!



Bob trail hosting on our Asia: Trail of the Tiger at the orangutan exhibit.

Interested in volunteering at the Virginia Zoo? Follow the QR code below to learn more and sign up today!



EDUCATION



Beat "Summer Learning Loss"

Learn Lots This Summer with the Virginia Zoo and our Community Partners!

STORY BY MICHELLE LEWIS // PHOTOS BY ZOO STAFF



Temperatures are rising, the days are growing longer, and the children are growing restless; by the time this Zoo Review hits your mailbox, summer will be in full swing! Looking for activities that are both fun and educational to occupy your children (or yourself or even your parents)? The Virginia Zoo is partnering with the City of Norfolk's Believe in Learning initiative to bring you "Summer of Learning: All Together Norfolk" a city-wide celebration of learning for all ages. From June 16 to August 5, more than 100 community groups and organizations, including the Virginia Zoo, are offering fun learning events and activities for all ages, all together. To see what other organizations are offering, follow the initiative on Facebook and Instagram @believeinlearningnfk and tag them and the Zoo if you're posting about your Summer of Learning experiences!

As part of the Summer of Learning initiative,

the Zoo will be providing at least 4 different scheduled activities daily starting in June and running through Labor Day weekend. All daily activities are free with admission, and there is something for guests of all ages to enjoy. There will be a variety of chats presented by Zoo staff, animal encounters at the Zoo Live! Stage, and our popular toddler programs: Wild Tykes, Little Buds, and Zoo Tales. The schedule of events will be posted on signage onsite daily and can also be found on the Zoo's website by visiting the "Plan Your Day" tab.

Additionally, the Zoo is partnering with several community organizations to bring new learning opportunities to Zoo grounds and out into our community. Starting June 16 through August 14, 2023, the Zoo will be one of the stops along ODU MathFest's Math is Everywhere scavenger hunt aimed at 3rd-8th grade students. Students can also

enter to win a free tablet. Scan the QR code below to check out their website for more information.

In July, the Zoo is hitting the road in a partnership with Slover Library and Clever Communities in Action to promote literacy. The Zoo's popular story time program for toddlers, Zoo Tales, will occur at 10:30am on Wednesdays in July at Slover Library. This program includes one to two stories and an animal presentation. Stop by to see us and check out a new book while you're there!

Scan here to visit ODU MathFest's website!



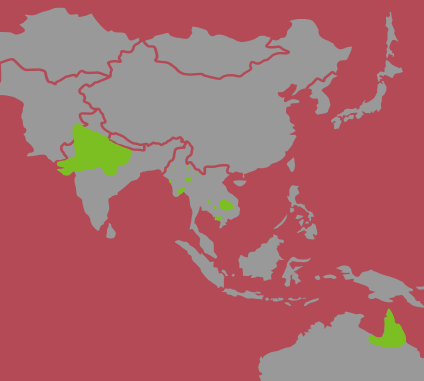
CREATURE FEATURE

Sarus Crane Fun Facts!

1 ~ Sarus cranes mate for life and are considered a symbol of marital bliss in many Asian cultures

2 ~ When mating, sarus cranes will perform an elaborate dance that strengthens the pair's bond over time

3 ~ It is estimated that there are less than 22,000 cranes left in the world



Crane populations in the wild



Sarus Cranes



The Call Heard 'Round The Zoo

STORY BY MICHELLE LEWIS & JILL STROTHER // PHOTOS BY KIRSTIN PENDLETON

Have you ever been at the Zoo and heard piercing calls that you didn't know what they were? You were most likely hearing the Sarus cranes. These striking birds have some of the best vocal abilities in the animal kingdom and are particularly known for their loud trumpeting calls that can carry for several miles. Our male, Ichabod, hatched in July 2011 and our female, Sally, in October 2012 at other institutions before coming to the Virginia Zoo on an SSP (Species Survival Plan) breeding recommendation. The two have been together ever since, as Sarus cranes mate for life, and although they have yet to lay an egg successfully, we remain hopeful!

Sarus cranes are the tallest species of crane often reaching heights of well over 5 feet. They are also very territorial, and Ichabod and Sally are no exception. The pair are known for following staff and contractors around when they get near their habitat, often letting out a loud territorial call that can startle the unsuspecting passerby. When visiting the Zoo, it is not uncommon to hear them sounding the alarm on passing guests to notify everyone of their presence. Ichabod and Sally have permanently moved to Asia: Trail of the Tiger to share a habitat with Tasik, the binturong. As both species occupy different parts of the habitat (Tasik tends to be arboreal - staying up in the trees and along the walkway through the trees, while the cranes stay down on the ground), sharing space is not an issue for this trio. Come visit Sally and Ichabod today!

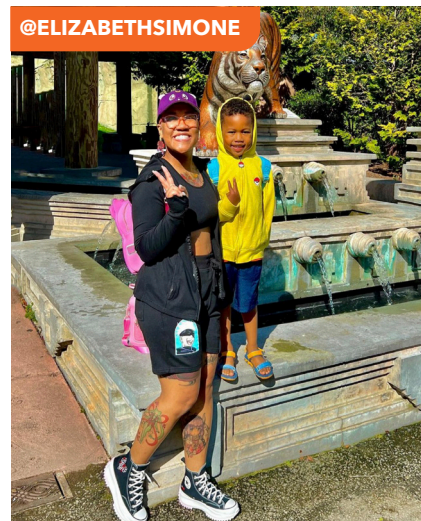
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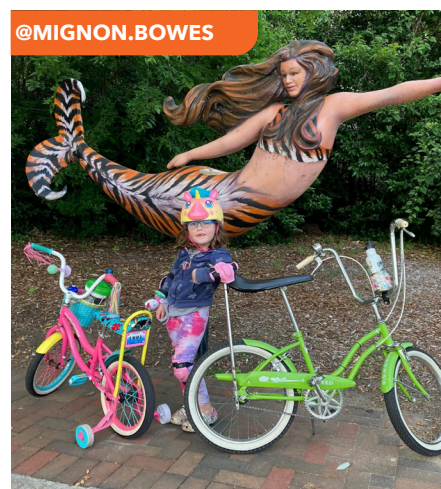
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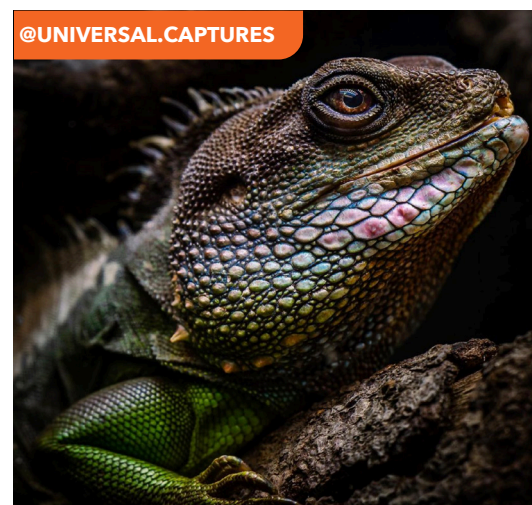
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Where Are The Animals?

Learn about our quarantine process and what goes on behind the scenes

STORY BY DANIELLE PAINTER // PHOTOS BY VET STAFF AND KEEPERS

Hi everyone! My name is Danielle, and I am one of the Licensed Veterinary Technicians at the Virginia Zoo, but I also function as the Zoo's Quarantine Coordinator. We often get asked "How do you get new animals at the Zoo?" and "What happens when the animals arrive at the Zoo?" so I am here to give you an inside look into the acquisition process!

The term "quarantine" sounds alarming, but it is a routine procedure for every new animal that we bring into the Zoo, as well as an important element to the preventative medicine program. Transporting animals and bringing them into a new home can be a stressful time for them, so it is important to bring them into a controlled environment away from other animals so that they can be closely monitored for any signs of illness during their transition. Also, we keep them separate from other animals to ensure that they are healthy before introducing them to their new habitat.

Did you know?

As an AZA accredited Zoo, most of our animals come to us based on a Species Survival Plan (SSP for short). This means our animals are brought to us from other facilities, typically due to breeding recommendations.



Quarantine animals are most often housed in the quarantine rooms at the Animal Wellness Campus. There are six rooms that are all a little different to suit birds, reptiles, small mammals, carnivores, hoof stock, and aquatic animals. There are a few exceptions where the animals are too large to move in and out of the Animal Wellness Campus (think giraffe, rhino, tapir, etc.), so in these rare cases, the animal will quarantine in their new home, but in a separate designated stall away from other animals. Before an animal may be released from quarantine, they must complete the quarantine period and designated medical testing, both determined by the Veterinarian based on their medical history and prior home(s). For example, if we acquire a rescued and rehabilitated hawk, he will have a 90-day quarantine period since he was a wild animal and therefore has been potentially exposed to diseases. This is different than acquiring a tapir from an AZA-accredited zoo because this animal has been in a controlled environment with healthcare and not likely exposed to diseases.



Ambassador animal, Chonk the skunk, in quarantine



Danielle feeding Chonk in his new home

My job as the quarantine coordinator is to plan when and where new animals will quarantine, ensure their medical testing is getting completed, and coordinate shipments with our registrar. My coworker, Leah, and I also provide daily care for the quarantined animals. This includes feeding, cleaning their enclosures, providing enrichment, training, and closely monitoring their food intake, body weight, fecal and urine output, and overall health of the animals. They are often shy when they first come into quarantine since everything is new to them, so I enjoy building trust with them and seeing them gain confidence throughout their stay with us. It is fun getting to know each individual and finding their unique quirks.

Once they have completed their quarantine period and have been cleared by the Veterinarian, the animal then moves into their new home, and the Animal Care staff spares no effort to ensure that the animal transitions smoothly and adjusts comfortably to their new surroundings. They will get to explore their new home, begin to form bonds with their new caretakers, and start the process of meeting their new exhibit-mate(s)! Ambassador animals have a slightly different experience because they do not go on exhibit, but instead go out on education programs. Chonk the striped skunk began his training to become an ambassador animal while he was in quarantine. He was very shy when he first arrived, but his confidence has grown, so you may see him in an educational program here at the zoo when he completes his training! It is very rewarding to transfer the animals to their new space and visit them, knowing that I played a role in them being happy and healthy in their new home.



Chonk participating in our education programs

HORTICULTURE



Two Norfolk Botanical Garden staff members with browse donations

What’s Growing On? Browse Edition

STORY BY MARY BETH WALTMAN // PHOTO BY ALI KELSO

A huge part of enriching our animals lives here at the Zoo is browse. Browse is a term used for natural plant material that an animal is provided for consumption or enrichment. Browse has many benefits to animals and is becoming more widely used in zoos. In 2022, the Virginia Zoo partnered with **Norfolk Botanical Garden** for 4 donation of browse material throughout the year that was either fed to our animals out fresh or processed in a “browse party” to be stored for later use. These browse parties consist of adult volunteers, Zoo Crew volunteers, our Conservation Youth Team, and some of our staff that remove the nutrient rich leaves and stems off of the large woody branches. The leaves are then stored in ziploc bags and refrigerated until it is time to be used. This year we have again partnered with the Norfolk Botanical Gardens to accept browse donations for our animals and we have found new ways to store our browse, allowing it to last even longer in refrigeration!

If you would like to learn more about browse or our browse party process, please scan this QR code.



Pruning Party!

STORY + PHOTOS BY ALI KELSO

Regular and best pruning practices can encourage longevity and vigorous growth in your garden. Pruning can help prevent issues like fungus and unwanted pests early and you can avoid introducing chemical fungicides and pesticides into your local ecosystems. This will help protect pollinators and other wildlife.

Our horticulture staff participated in a “pruning party” with Chad Peevy, Assistant Director of Grounds and Landscapes at Old Dominion University. This training allowed our staff to receive professional development while also empowering them to teach and spread pruning best practices.



What’s in Bloom in July?

- Milkweeds in pollinator garden
- Echinacea along the North American Trail
- Lavendar near Emu habitat
- Yarrow throughout the Zoo
- Elephant statue at entrance features bright tropical annuals, rex beegonias, senna alata, and castor plants

Plant Chats

Starting Tuesdays in June Horticultural technician Harald Ellorin, Curator of Horticulture, Ali Kelso, and other educators will talk all about the beautiful and bountiful gardens and plants at the Virginia Zoo! Learn everything from flowers and fruits to bugs and browse.

Topics change daily and specific locations are posted on signage at the front of the Zoo each Tuesday.



TURTLE TIME

TURTLE OASIS

Repurposing for local turtle species

STORY BY MICHELLE LEWIS // PHOTOS BY ZOO STAFF AND KEEPERS

The Zoo’s newest exhibit, Turtle Oasis, is slated to open later this summer. As part of the North American Freshwater Turtle SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) program through AZA, Turtle Oasis will be a space where the Zoo will assist state and federal wildlife programs with housing confiscated turtles that cannot be re-released into the wild. Not all turtles in the exhibit will be confiscations, but many of them are and more may be added throughout the years. Turtles may be confiscated by officials for a number of reasons, including being a part of the illegal pet trade. If it is unclear where the turtles came from, they are unable to be released so as not to introduce possible disease into wild populations. Therefore, it is important to have spaces like Turtle Oasis to care for and keep these animals.

Our commitment to taking action to save the world’s wildlife and their ecosystems shows in this new guest-accessible habitat. This exhibit makes use of space at the Zoo that was no longer being used for its original purpose. Many older Hampton Roads residents may recall that this space was originally the sea lion pool (as seen below) installed in 1955. Instead of demolishing this area to make way for something shiny and new, it was decided that this area should be “upcycled” to preserve the past while foraging ahead into the future. Thanks to Easton Outdoors and our horticulture team, the space has been extensively rejuvenated and is ready to welcome local turtles of all shapes and sizes.



Alligator snapping turtle: the largest freshwater turtle species weighing as much as 175 pounds



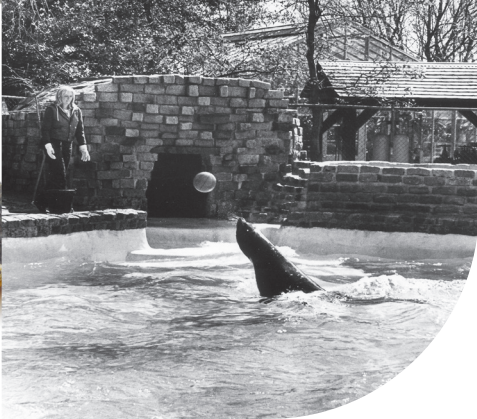
Executive Director, Greg Bockheim, in the empty sea lion pool before construction



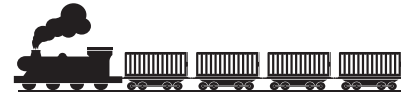
Sea lion pool in the 1980s



Bog turtles: compared to the Alligator snapping turtle these are the smallest freshwater turtle species at 4.5 inches. See bog turtles on exhibit in World of Reptiles!



ALL ABOARD!



A New Electric Train Makes Its Way to The Zoo

STORY BY BILL ZAZYNSKI // PHOTOS BY ZOO STAFF



▲ Norfolk Southern Express

The new electric train replaces the Zoo's black gasoline-powered model that originally debuted in 2008.



▲ The Goode Family Train Station

The train travels on the half-mile track at five mph, providing a five-minute ride. When entering the station, the locomotive stops at the same place on the tracks every cycle. The "parking spot" is a charging station where the train recharges for about three to four minutes during passenger off-loading and on-loading. This will keep the train running all day. The train recharges to 100% battery capacity overnight in its garage, like what you see at EV public charging stations.

After a series of significant operational issues of the Virginia Zoo's train over the last few years, the Zoo made a thoughtful decision to purchase a new C.P. Huntington Train by Chance Rides Inc. that will be unveiled in July.

The new train will have an engine that runs on lithium-ion batteries. The train also represents the application of a modern technology that allows for micro-cycling, which not only is a first for Chance Rides Inc. but for Lithionics Battery, maker of the batteries used in the train. The green technology's use in the train - and its operation and promotional benefits - has the Zoo team very excited!



▲ Pieces for the new train being spray painted Zoo green

The electric train is a groundbreaking new technology for amusement rides for parks and zoos. There are three 24-volt lithium-ion batteries in a series powering the train. Each battery is about the size of carry-on luggage and weighs seventy-five pounds. Together, they are producing 11.5 kilowatts of energy. The train also has a cellular link that allows Zoo staff to log in and look at what the train mechanisms are doing anytime.

The Zoo also partnered with **Norfolk Coating Services**, which specializes in marine preservation and industrial coating in the Mid-Atlantic and across the Southeast.



▲ Animal print train canopies

Norfolk Coating's leadership team took on the project and provided gift-in-kind donation of labor and materials to sandblast and re-paint to cars to a new color to match the new train engine. The car canopies will be graphic wrapped with some of our favorite recognizable animals in our Zoo population. The Zoo will be scheduling a grand opening day to celebrate our train's arrival where members will receive an email containing complementary train tickets. After, we will resume ride ticket purchasing at \$3.00 per rider (children under 2 ride for free) for a fun and informative journey around the Zoo. We hope you are excited to see the train running again as much we are!

▼ Base for the new electric train



THANK YOU!

Add your name to the list, virginiazoo.org/support-the-zoo

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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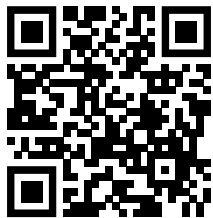
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Janet Thompson
Goody Tyler III
Bob & Angie VanDyke
Scott & Debbi Waitzer
Elise Walthall
Christina & Lee Westnedge
Mrs. Judith Williams
Clay & Robin Winn
Dr. Ann Marie Woyma & LCDR Timothy Woyma

NEW ZOOPARENTS

Every animal at the Virginia Zoo is available for adoption, starting at \$25. Proceeds benefit various Zoo programs, including the Act For Wildlife Fund. Scan the QR code below for more information.



ALDABRA TORTOISE

Brantley T. Nichols

CHEETAH

Sienna Jarm

GIRAFFE

Aurora & Elyssa
Reba Walls
Benjamin & Graham
Blake Goodson
R & M Warner
Isabella Ward
Finley Deafenbaugh
Jenny Crabtree

LION

Ellyn Dye
R. Warner

MEERKAT

Mason Palmer
Alice Abernathy

MELLER'S CHAMELEON

Nathan Wisz

OTTER

Noah Byrd
Melanie Radkins

RED PANDA

Kylah Habersham
Melissa Steadman

RED RIVER HOG

Holly Fridley

RHINO

M. Warner

SIAMESE CROCODILE

Collin Walling
Jeffrey Thornton

SKUNK

Christopher Jones
Wyatt Sharp
Klan Keys

SLOTH

Brandon Wyckoff
Elizabeth A. Stacks

TIGER

Raleigh Nelson
Emberley Fridley
Kami Hill

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Carol White
Ken & Gwen Wiley
Jim & Jude Williams
Clay & Robin Winn
Dr. Ann Marie Woyma & LCDR Timothy Woyma
Xyz Dumpsters

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\$100-\$499

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Become a Corporate Partner and reach the Zoo's members, visitors and tourists in a way traditional advertising cannot: by incorporating your message into their lifestyle. For more information, visit virginiazoo.org/become-corporate-partner

A NEW GENERATION OF ZOO



◀ Colin Cox volunteering in high school



GenZoo event

Fundraising Highlight

STORY BY MARY KATE FOWLER // PHOTOS BY ZOO STAFF

As part of a strategic planning process several years ago, the Virginia Zoo decided that it was important to embrace the idea of a young professional's group to aid our mission. And so "Gen Zoo" was born! Members are invited to connect with the Zoo and their peers in a meaningful way by participating in quarterly encounters with animals & staff, social events, and/or volunteer opportunities. GenZoo members work to advocate for and increase awareness of the Zoo's program and conservation efforts within their Hampton Roads communities.

One such member is Mr. Colin

Cox, an International Corporate and CFIUS Attorney at Haynes and Boone, LLP based out of Miami and Dallas. Colin's connection and willingness to get involved is one that we are partial to. He used to work as a keeper aide at the Virginia Zoo, spending every Sunday morning for 8 years with his "String 6" Zoo Crew gang. His fondest memories from both high school and undergrad were those Sundays spent with three special White rhinos (Alfred, Jesse, and Rufus), a gentle zebra (April), two fun-loving, rescued Siberian tigers (Shera, Shaka), and a playful African lion (Mramba).

In his own words, Colin remarked: "The Zoo played a very important role in the most formative years of my life as a high schooler and young adult. When I left Hampton Roads to pursue my career practicing law, I promised my friends at the Zoo, the animals whom I had grown to love, and myself that no matter where I landed, I would remain a strong ally and advocate for the Zoo and for conservation generally."

Are you a mid-career young professional looking to get involved, or know someone who is? Reach out to Angela Benard at angela.benard@norfolk.gov.

DONOR HIGHLIGHT

Where does your donation to the Zoo go?

Zoo Fund: your generosity creates experiences that bond families, inspire students, and spark a lifelong appreciation for the animals we all love

Act For Wildlife is the Virginia Zoo's conservation fund which supports local and global conservation efforts for threatened species.

Keeper Fund: gifts to this fund help the Zoo purchase and build enrichment that is crucial to the mental and physical health of animals on our care.

Horticulture Fund: when you give to the Zoo's Horticulture fund, you support projects that make the zoo grounds beautiful and feed the animals.

Scan the QR code below to make your donation today!





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2023 Event Lineup

We're excited to welcome everyone to the Zoo with a happening lineup that attracts new audiences and spreads the Zoo's mission. Check out the full lineup at virginiazoo.org/events.

MEMBER NIGHT

August 3 •
5 - 8 pm

NEW! TEDDY BEAR CLINIC

August 12 •
9:30 am - 2pm

Presented by Optima Health with
sponsor Townebank



NEW! ROAR & POUR

September 2 •
5 - 9 pm

ZOOGROOVES

September 22 •
5:30 - 9 pm

ZOOVIES

September 29 & October 6 •
6:30 - 9 pm

Sponsored by Ameet Habib and
Wolcott Rivers Gates

Wolcott Rivers Gates
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ADULT NIGHT: ZOOBOO EDITION

Oct 20 •
5 - 8 pm

ZOOBOO

October 21-22 •
9 am - 5 pm

