

BRANDYWINE

ZOO NEWS

2014  
Year in Review!

*In This  
Issue*

Notes from the Director's Desk  
Delaware Zoological  
Society Local Chapter of AAZK

Kid's Corner - Capybara

New ADOPT Program

Amer. Kestrel Research/Training

Family Program Calendar

Thanks to Our Supporters

## IN THIS ISSUE

Notes from the Director's Desk . . . . . 3  
 Delaware Zoological Society. . . . . 4  
 Local Chapter of AAZK. . . . . 5  
 Kid's Corner - Capybara. . . . . 6  
 New ADOPT Program. . . . . 7  
 Photo Spread . . . . . 8-9  
 Amer. Kestrel Research/Training. . . 10  
 Family Program Calendar. . . . . 11-12  
 Thanks to Our Supporters . . . . . 13  
 Brandywine Zoo: Small but Mighty 14  
 ACT at the Brandywine Zoo . . . . . 15

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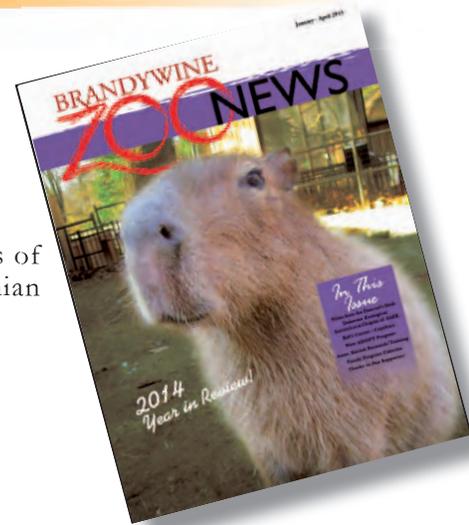
### DESIGN/PRINTING

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## On the Cover

Capybaras are the largest rodents in the world and can weigh over 100 pounds. In the wild, they are excellent swimmers and can be found in marshy and forested parts of tropical South America from the Panamanian border to northern Argentina.



## Bunnycakes Read for the Record



The Brandywine Zoo and the Elsmere Library partnered for the national Read for the Record event in October. Young children across the country had the same book, Bunny Cakes, by Rosemary Wells, read to them. Kudos to our Outreach Program Manager, Matt Halterman who took our Giant Flemish rabbit "Boomer" out to meet the kids at Elsmere.

The Zoo News is a publication of the Delaware Zoological Society.

[www.brandywinezoo.org](http://www.brandywinezoo.org)



# Notes from the Director's Desk

By Gene Peacock, Zoo Director, Delaware State Parks

2014

1. Bald Eagles
2. Red Pandas
3. Tenrecs
4. Cherry Blossom 5K
5. Earth Day
6. Brew at the Zoo
7. Boo at the Zoo
8. Star Wars Day
9. Breakfast with Santa



2014 is behind us and what a year it was for the Brandywine Zoo! Many exciting things happened during the year with exciting new additions to the zoo, fun new special events, and great weather for most of the year. I look back to January and the unveiling of our two new Bald Eagles. The two majestic ladies came to us from other states and were both rehab birds that suffered injuries making them non-releasable. The older female with her majestic white capped head and the younger female who we will get to watch as she matures into a beautiful adult in about four years. They are a great new addition and have garnered much attention since coming to the zoo.

We also have the two latest superstars of the zoo, our twin Red Panda sisters, who made their debut in late June of 2014. The two girls were a huge hit from the day they went out on exhibit. Our member's night in late June offered a special first glimpse of the two and our society members turned out in droves to welcome them! They went on view to the public the very next day and it has not slowed down since. June, July and August were record months for zoo attendance and these two new residents were a large part of that success. The great things about 2014 did not stop there.

We also had new additions to our educational animal collection last year with a pair of Tenrecs and a North American Kestrel. The Tenrecs, which resemble a hedgehog but are unrelated, came to us over the winter. They were in a state of torpor, which is a type of hibernation. As a result of their torpor, they did not make their public debut until the spring of 2014. They have been a hit in our traveling zoo programs as well as birthday parties and programs at the zoo. These two very unique animals are again in torpor for the winter so look for them again next spring! Our Kestrel came to us as a non-releasable rehab bird from the North Carolina Zoo. She has just started making appearances on zoo grounds this fall as she has taken some time to adjust to her surroundings and receive training to be comfortable with the public. Check out more information on our kestrel and statewide conservation projects to save

this species, in Delaware, in this edition of the Zoo News.

Finally, we had an entire slate of exciting events throughout 2014 for our zoo visitors. This started off in March with Star Wars Day to kick off the season. We had almost 1800 people visit the zoo that day in what was a crazy, fun filled time. The 3rd Annual Cherry Blossom 5K had great folks turn out to support the Zoo and Friends of Wilmington State Park even though the rain limited participants. April saw Earth Day celebrations, in May we had huge numbers of students participating in Discovery Tours. During the summer months, people came out to Family Fun Nights and saw the Birds in Action shows. Also, we had our brand new Reptile Show and a full slate of zoo summer camps for kids to enjoy. In June, the Zoo Celebrated World Oceans Day with Pirates of the Brandywine taking over! By fall, zoo visitors could see the new tamarin exhibit taking shape across from the tiger. This means the monkeys will be back in 2015 for all to enjoy! Fall also had the return of events like our Brew at the Zoo, which once again was a huge success! Thank you to all who attended, participated, or donated. Following that was Boo at the Zoo. We scheduled it for two nights but weather limited us to one. Despite that, we had a great turn out with tons of children for trick or treating fun. November saw Star Wars come back to the zoo for a special return appearance. This time we had a sold out breakfast for members in the morning and the public event had close to 900 people on a chilly Saturday. As the holidays approached, Santa came to visit for Breakfast with Santa and the zoo started to get ready for another winter season.



Overall you can see we had a great year at our little zoo. 2014 saw record attendance many months. For the year we had close to 100,000 people that we reached through zoo visits, programming and outreach. I am sure that 2015 will prove to be another exciting year. There will be new surprises for visitors, maybe some new animals (hint) and more exciting events throughout the year. Stay warm and safe over these cold months and see you at the Zoo!

# Delaware Zoological Society Updates

As many of you may already know, I recently resigned my position as Executive Director of the Delaware Zoological Society to become the Court Administrator of the Delaware Supreme Court. I will be forever grateful to the DZS Board of Directors for giving me the opportunity to serve this great organization.

Over the course of the past two years, the Brandywine Zoo has survived a few setbacks only to emerge stronger and even more dedicated to its critical animal conservation and education mission. This is due in large part to the dedication of our Board, volunteers, zoo members, and committed staff.

When you visit the zoo, you'll see lots of improvements. Education programming has been expanded, especially to address the needs of disadvantaged students and to ensure that our program content meets modern standards for science, math and technology education. We have launched new initiatives including birthday parties, zoo rentals, the introduction of XFINITY Wi-Fi throughout the zoo (thank you Comcast!) and the upcoming Eagle Ridge handicap accessibility project. Our animal exhibits have received constant attention and improvement as exemplified by our popular Red Pandas, Bald Eagles and brand new Tamarin enclosure. All of these are designed to enhance the Brandywine Zoo visitor experience.

It has been an honor to have been involved with these positive improvements and to work with such an extraordinary group of people. I will continue to serve as a member of the DZS Board and will do everything I can to help make the Brandywine Zoo's ambitious Rainforest Building and other master plan improvements a reality.

*Bill Montgomery*

With Bill Montgomery's departure, Board Member, Mike Allen, has stepped into the role of Interim Executive Director. Mike is a perfect fit to step into this role. Since 2007, he has served on the board of Delaware Zoological Society, where he has been involved in the Society's marketing and membership committees. In addition to his Bachelor's Degree in Zoology and a Master's of Business Administration, Mike brings years of experience working in zoos and for-profit businesses. Through these wide ranging experiences, he has had the opportunity to grow product lines and brands, develop marketing programs for multiple industries, and conduct behavioral research on giant pandas in China. Mike lives in West Chester, PA with his wife Meredith and their orange tabby, Tasman. The Delaware Zoological Society appreciates Mike's assistance in helping to manage this period of organizational change.

## Board Members Update

by Mike Allen

December always brings the Delaware Zoological Society's annual meeting. The annual meeting is the time when members' terms expire and we elect new members and officers. This year we wish to thank three board members, Larry Gehrke, Ron Mercer, and Dana Griffin, whose terms are coming to an end, for their years of service with the DZS. As hard as it can be to say goodbye to our outgoing members, we are excited to announce our newest members of the Board: Joan Goloskov, Carla A. K. Jarosz, William S. Montgomery, and Daniel F. Scholl. Additionally, we held elections for the Society's officers, who will each serve two-year terms. The results were:

President: Megan McGlinchey

Vice President: Amy J. Colbourn

Treasurer: Mike Allen

Secretary: Susan Moran



Dedicated To Professional Animal Care



October 15, 2014

William S. Montgomery  
Delaware Zoological Society  
1001 North Park Drive  
Wilmington, DE 19802

Mr. Montgomery

On behalf of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, I would like to offer my personal thanks to the Delaware Zoological Society for supporting the keepers of the Brandywine Zoo by sponsoring their membership costs in the Association.

The Delaware Zoological Society and Brandywine Zoo are just one of a small handful of facilities that support their Professional keepers in the form of memberships in the Association. The Delaware Zoological Society is very progressive in the valuation of keepers as the front line emissaries for the Zoo and Society and I only wish we could get more institutions on board with your thinking.

AAZK strives to be the leader in continuing education for animal keepers. As a former keeper, your continuing support of your staff is very much appreciated on a number of levels.

Sincerely

Ed Hansen  
CEO/CFO

American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc.  
8476 E. Speedway Blvd.  
Suite 204  
Tucson, AZ 85710  
520-298-9688 Phone/Fax

[aazk.org](http://aazk.org)

AAZK is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

In 2013, when the keepers at the Brandywine Zoo formed their own local chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), the Delaware Zoological Society stepped forward and paid the individual membership dues for all our keepers. The DZS continued this practice again in 2014, and we thought you might like to see the thank you letter we received from AAZK.

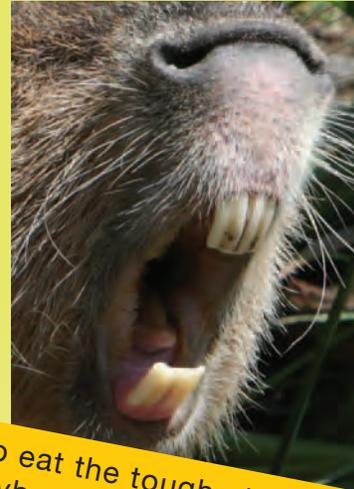


Spotlight On :

# Capybara

Cap-EE-bar-uh

By: Frances Borgers, Zoo Naturalist, Delaware State Parks



To be able to eat the tough plants that they do, capybara have front teeth on both the top and bottom that never stop growing.



## R.O.U.S.

Rodents of Unusual Size!  
Capybaras are the LARGEST rodent in the world!

## At home in the water

With webbed feet, and their eyes, nose, and ears that are at the top of their head, it's easy for a capybara to swim and still watch out for danger.



*Capybaras live in South America, in areas that are very close to water*

## Fast Facts

**Zoo Capybara:** Candace, who is 3 yrs old

**Status:** Least Concern

**Size:** 20-25 @ shoulder

**Weight:** 77-146 lbs.

**Life span:** 4 yrs (wild), 12 years (captivity)

**Diet:** Herbivore -grasses & aquatic plants

**Predators:** anaconda, jaguar, caiman

# New ADOPT Program

Mike Allen, Interim Executive Director, Delaware Zoological Society

The Delaware Zoological Society is excited to relaunch Animals Depend on People Too (ADOPT). If you've been looking for a way to support your favorite animals at the Brandywine Zoo, our ADOPT program is just for you! Previously, the ADOPT program was part of our zoo membership, but we have now made it a completely separate program.

ADOPT packages are available ranging from \$25 to \$250. The new ADOPT program now features fourteen different species exhibited at the Brandywine Zoo. They are:



- African pygmy goat
- Amur tiger
- Andean Condor
- Bald Eagle
- Burrowing owl
- Capybara
- Giant Flemish rabbit
- Golden lion tamarin
- Blue & gold macaw
- Llama
- North American river otter
- Red panda
- Red-billed toucan



While these are our feature animals, you can still ADOPT any of your favorite animals at the zoo. One of the big changes to the ADOPT program is the price of package isn't based on which animal you select, but instead on what benefits you would like to receive. Now, you can ADOPT the Amur tiger OR the giant Flemish rabbit, regardless of your budget.

## \$25 Level

- Personalized certificate of adoption
- Animal fact sheet with photo
- Online recognition for 1 year
- Your personalized certificate of adoption and animal fact sheet will be emailed to you

## \$100 Level

- All benefits of the \$50 level plus:
- Safari Ltd® hand painted animal figure
- Two one-time-use admission passes
- Your name on the ADOPT Recognition Sign



## \$50 Level

- Personalized certificate of adoption
- Animal fact sheet with photo
- Online recognition for 1 year
- One issue of Zoo News



## \$250 Level

- All benefits of the \$100 level plus:
- One year of zoo membership

If you are ready to ADOPT an animal today, visit our ADOPT website [brandywinezoo.org/adopt-animal.html](http://brandywinezoo.org/adopt-animal.html). If you would like to ADOPT an animal that is not on the list, simply email [memberships@brandywinezoo.org](mailto:memberships@brandywinezoo.org), and an adoption representative will be happy to assist you.

## HOLIDAY ADOPT SPECIAL!

For the 2014 Holiday Season, we ran a special ADOPT promotion. For \$65, you could celebrate our newest residents, the red pandas, and receive a certificate of adoption, red panda fact sheet, two one-time admissions passes to the zoo, and an adorable plush red panda. In the future, we may run similar promotions to commemorate new arrivals, births, or special occasions. If you want to find out about these promotions, follow us on social media, like Facebook or Twitter, or periodically visit our website.

## Membership Update

For 2015 the Delaware Zoological Society (DZS) has some exciting, new changes to our membership program:

- Members at the Naturalist level and above will no longer be automatically enrolled in ADOPT, though of course these members are welcome to ADOPT their favorite animal.
- If you are an Individual, Senior, or Household member and you don't want to have to worry about renewing your DZS membership every year, we now offer a two (2) year membership. By purchasing a two year DZS membership, you will save \$5 off the cost of your membership.
- We have added an "Additional Children" option to add up to two additional children who live at your residence for only \$10 per year.

For more details about our membership program or to renew online, go to [BrandywineZoo.org/join](http://BrandywineZoo.org/join)

## 2014 Photo Review!





# CONSERVATION CORNER



## American Kestrel Research in Delaware

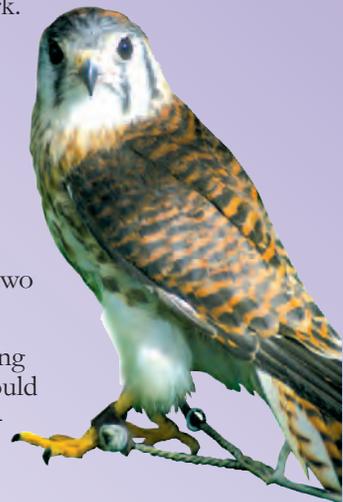
By Jacque Williamson, Curator of Education, Delaware State Parks

In the last issue of Zoo News, we announced our new partnership with The Peregrine Foundation's kestrel program, The American Kestrel Partnership. This community-based conservation program allows participants to put kestrel nest boxes in their yards or fields, monitor them, and report their findings back to the Kestrel Partnership's webpage. The Brandywine Zoo is participating as an AZA member to coordinate both placement of, and research on, kestrel nest boxes throughout the state of Delaware.

In 2015, with the aid of a new American Kestrel Research Apprentice position, we're hoping to build this program by identifying partner organizations, new nest box sites, and developing school curriculum which complements our program and conservation efforts. School groups will be able to help our researcher install and monitor nest boxes on their grounds, or remotely monitor nest boxes via motion-sensored cameras. They'll use STEM principles to analyze data collected, and help

contribute to real conservation field work. Special thanks go to our grant partners, the Wilmington Western Rotary Club and the Fresno Chaffee Zoo, who have provided generous funding to purchase materials and equipment that make this program possible. All of this will be complimented by the addition of our newest program animal, May, a female American kestrel who is approximately two years old.

Schools or individuals interested in getting involved with this nest box program should email Curator of Education, Jacque Williamson, at [Jacque.Williamson@state.de.us](mailto:Jacque.Williamson@state.de.us). More information on our kestrel program can be found on our website at [BrandywineZoo.org/american\\_kestrel\\_monitoring](http://BrandywineZoo.org/american_kestrel_monitoring).



## Training of the Kestrel

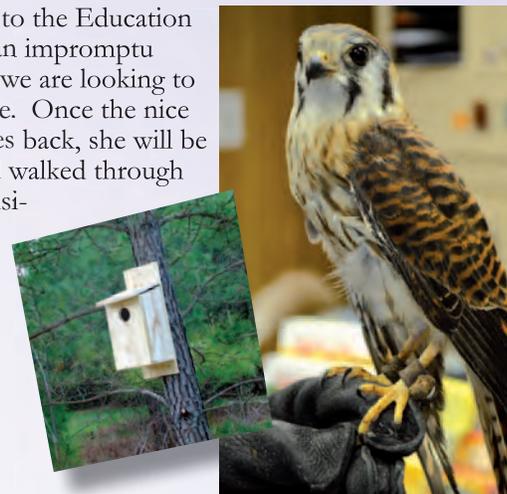
By Sharon Smith, Animal Keeper, Delaware State Parks

May, our Kestrel, arrived here in March of 2014. She came from the North Carolina Zoo Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. After receiving care for a broken wing, she was unable to be released. We decided to start working with her immediately to get her used to being handled so that she could participate in our training/outreach program. Her training team consists of Donna Evernham, Assistant Zoo Curator and Sharon Smith, Senior Animal Keeper. We came up with a training plan, and once she was settled in to her new environment, we began our training.

Since the end goal is to have her sit on our gloved hand to be taken out for programs, we had to figure out the steps that would get us to this end goal. This is where our training plan/proposal comes into play. We think through a step by step process to get to our end goal. We began by just standing in her enclosure with her and feeding her when she sat calmly on her perch. This step didn't take too long, so within a few weeks we moved onto touching her feet/keel area while she was taking food from us. We then moved on to holding our gloved hand near her while she sat on her perch and took food. Once this step was mastered we then began to actually hold her jesses and pick her up. (Jesses are thin straps,

traditionally made from leather, used to tether a bird in falconry. They allow us to keep control of the bird.) For me, this was a huge step as I have never held birds of prey on a gloved hand before. I think I was more nervous than she was. So, once she moved to a spot on the perch where I could hold her jesses I was able to manipulate her to step onto my gloved hand. We work with her on a daily basis, once or twice each day.

She has been to the Education Building for an impromptu program and we are looking to schedule more. Once the nice weather comes back, she will be taken out and walked through the zoo for visitors to see and learn about. So make sure to visit the zoo in the spring and meet our Kestrel May.



JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
	5	6		8	9	10 Meet the Animals! 2-2:30pm
11	12	Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	13	14	15 Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool (10-10:30am)	16 Career & Science Wrkshps 10-11:30am Meet the Animals! 2-2:30pm
18 MLK Day Camp 8:30am-4pm	19	Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	20	21	22	23 Zoo Yoga: OM'ing Otters 9:00-10am Vol. Open House 2:30-3:30pm
25	26	Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	27	28	29	30 Zoo Yoga: OM'ing Otters 9:00-10am Meet the Animals! 2-2:30pm
					30	31 Zoo Yoga: OM'ing Otters 9:00-10am Meet the Animals! 2-2:30pm

FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	3	4	5	6 Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	7 Zoo Camp Open House 11-12:30pm Meet the Animals! 2-2:30pm
8	9 Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	10	11	12 Teacher in Service 9am-12pm Teacher Open House 12-4pm	13	14
15 (President's Day) Winter Day Camp 8:30-4:00pm	16	Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	17	18	19 Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	20 Love of Animals Girl Scout- Daisies & Brownies 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Career & Science Workshops 1:30-3pm
22	23 Zoo Kids Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	24		26	27	28 Meet the Animals! 2-2:30pm Volunteer Open House 2:30-3:30pm

Keep this calendar around as a handy reference!

**Questions?** For a complete listing of our programs and events, visit our website at [www.brandywinezoo.org](http://www.brandywinezoo.org), Calendar of Events. If you have any questions please email our Education Department at [DNREC\\_Parks\\_ZooPrograms@state.de.us](mailto:DNREC_Parks_ZooPrograms@state.de.us).



# ZOO EdZOOcation *Go a Little Wild at the Zoo!*

## MARCH 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	<b>Zoo Kids</b> Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	3	4	5	6
					<b>Zoo Kids</b> Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	<b>Spring Opening!</b> 10am- 3:45pm
						<b>Star Wars Day</b>
8	9	<b>Zoo Kids</b> Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	10	11	12	13
						14
15	16	<b>Zoo Kids</b> Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	17	18	19	20
					<b>Zoo Kids</b> Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	<b>Career &amp; Science Workshops</b> 10:15-11:45am
						21
	23	<b>Zoo Kids</b> Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	24	25	26	27
						<b>Scout Day at the Brandywine Zoo</b> 4:00pm – 6:00pm <b>Vol. Open House</b> 12:30pm-1:30pm
						28
29	30	<b>Zoo Kids</b> Toddlers and Preschool 10-10:30am	31			

**Spring Opening!**  
March 7th & 8th  
10am- 3:45pm

## APRIL 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
						<b>Earth's Endangered</b> (Girl Scout Juniors) 9:30am – 12:30pm
	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<b>Monday – Friday, April 6-10th, Spring Zoo Camp 2015 (Ages 5- 13) 8:30am - 4pm</b>					
						<b>APRIL 18th Open House: Summer Zoo Camp Internships for H.S. &amp; College Students (10-11:30am)</b>
12	13	14	15	16	17	
						<b>Career &amp; Animal Science Workshop:</b> 1:30-3:00pm
	20	21	22	23	24	25
					<b>Earth Day Event for School Groups!</b> Rain Date Monday, 4/27/15 10am- 12:30pm	<b>Earth Day Celebration</b> 10am-3:00pm
26	27		29	30		
			<b>Zoo Camp Open House</b> 5-6:30pm			

April 19th  
4th Annl Friends of Wilm  
Parks & Brandywine Zoo  
Cherry Blossom 5k  
& Kids Run  
9:30am Race Start time

**Questions?** For a complete listing of our programs and events, visit our website at [www.brandywinezoo.org](http://www.brandywinezoo.org), Calendar of Events. If you have any questions please email our Education Department at [DNREC\\_Parks\\_ZooPrograms@state.de.us](mailto:DNREC_Parks_ZooPrograms@state.de.us).

Keep this calendar around as a handy reference!



# Thanks to Our Supporters

As a non-profit organization we rely heavily on the generosity of local businesses and organizations. We would like to recognize the following people and organizations for their continuous donations of time, efforts, and devotion to making our zoo great!

- 501st Legion
- AAZK, Brandywine Zoo Chapter
- Acme, Trolley Square
- Acme, Suburban Plaza
- Acme, Centerville
- Alapocas Run State Park
- AmeriCorps NCCC
- Ameriprise Financial
- Appropos
- Arlene Reppa
- Bank of America: Volunteers & Candy Drive
- BBC Tavern and Grill
- Bellevue State Park
- BJ's, Newark
- Brandywine Creek State Park
- Brew Ha Ha
- Camden Aquarium
- Carl Roberts, Beekeeper
- Cheap original Cool Art (CoCA) Gallery
- Chelsea Tavern
- Chester County Bamboo, LLC
- Chipotle Newark
- The Comic Book Shop
- Deanna Peacock
- Del-One Federal Credit Union
- Delaware 87er's
- Delaware Children's Museum
- Delaware Museum of Natural History
- Delaware Nature Society
- Delaware State Parks
- Delawell
- Diamond Sport & Spine Clinic
- Dottie Simpson & Family
- Einstein Bagels
- Ernest & Scott Taproom
- Philadelphia Flyers
- Fordham & Dominion Brewing
- Garrison Carida
- Ghost Base Rebel Legion
- Giant Foods
- Go Apel
- Grand Slam USA
- Great Clips Family Hair Salon
- Greenhill Carwash
- Hagley Museum
- Harry's Savoy Grill
- Janssen's Market
- Jayne Harwell
- Jim Dawson
- Kappa Delta Pi
- Kid Shelleen's
- Killens Pond State Park
- Layton Preparatory School
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Little Nest Portraits
- Lynn Young, In-home Dog and Therapy Dog Training
- Lucky's Coffee Shop
- Manhattan Bagel
- Mid-Atlantic Ballet
- Mispillion River Brewing
- Molly's old Fashioned Ice Cream
- Newark Natural Food
- New Castle County Police Department
- Panera Bread, Corporate
- Party Business
- Penn Cinema Riverfront and Imax
- Pinot's Palette
- Point Look out Farm Life and Water Preserve Foundation
- Rachael Kozlowski
- Rebecca Tiano
- Rep. John Carney
- Richard Rothwell
- Salon by Dominic
- Sante Fe Mexican Grill and Bar
- Sante Fe Restaurant
- Senator Chris Coons
- Senator Thomas R. Carper
- ShopRite
- Sigma Alpha
- Standard Distributing
- Starbucks, Kirkwood Highway
- Stewart's Brewing Company
- Target, Christiana
- Target, Wilmington
- The Enchanted owl
- Tiger Kicks Martial Arts
- Timothy's Riverfront Grill
- Tri-State Bird Rescue
- Two Stones Pub
- Ulysses American Gastropub
- Union City Grille
- United Distributors
- Urban Promise Academy
- Walgreen's Pharmacy (Concord Pike and Kirkwood Highway)
- Washington Street Ale House
- White Clay Creek State Park
- William S. Montgomery
- Wilmington State Parks
- WJBR
- WSTW
- Yoga

Additional thanks to our event sponsor, Del-One Federal Credit Union, and to all of the other organizations who donated candy, gift cards, or food to make our event a great success!



# Brandywine Zoo: Small but Mighty!

By Gary Priest, Curator - Animal Care Training, San Diego Zoo



Delaware's Brandywine Zoo is nearly 110 years old and has a remarkable pedigree as one of our nation's first zoos. It was designed by Fredrick Law Olmstead, who, notably, also designed New York City's Central Park. While not a big zoo, the animal care staff, with smiles on their faces, confidently assured me that, while small, they are mighty. At least one of the reasons for the keepers' confidence was their collective achievement in the San Diego Zoo Global Academy: 15 animal care staff recently completed all 13 "Fundamentals" online classes.

The Animal Care Training (ACT) professional series of classes was conceived to create relevant content, feature best practices, and provide a progressive career development ladder for animal care staff. The "Fundamentals" classes comprise the first third of the professional development series; the entire series comprises 3 groups of 13 classes each, for a total of 39 classes in all. The "Intermediate" classes (in production now, 2015/2016) focus on subjects of importance to animal care supervisors and area leads. The "Advanced" classes (coming in 2017-2018) will focus on a variety of topics particularly important to animal care managers and curators. This online professional development series is the first of its kind in the world's zoo and aquarium industry.

Brandywine Zoo Director Gene Peacock shared with us that, "Partnering with San Diego Zoo Global for this training was a no-brainer. The online training is available to my staff 24/7, it is affordable, the courses are high quality and feature best practices, and we

now have our very own, 'Brandywine Zoo branded' training site for our employees."

Mark Haddad is an intern at Brandywine and is in the early stages of his career in animal management. Haddad immediately recognized the opportunity presented by the Brandywine Zoo's new online training platform. In addition to the professional development series, the Academy boasts a vast catalogue of online courses and recorded webinars featuring a wide variety of relevant subjects. Haddad noted, "I am so fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. Because I am an intern at Brandywine, these online courses were free to me. I enjoyed the Academy's platform and learned so much interesting and useful information about the management and care of exotic animals!"

The San Diego Zoo Global Academy salutes the staff of Delaware's Brandywine Zoo for their accomplishments. As a group, these folks recognized a great training opportunity when their zoo director presented it to them. As a strategic priority for building staff competencies, the Zoo's leadership didn't have to ask twice. The staff actually began to compete with each other for completing all 13 classes. Small but mighty, indeed!

If you have Academy questions, or questions about this article, please contact Gary Priest, [gpriest@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:gpriest@sandiegozoo.org)

# Animal Care Training (ACT) at the Brandywine Zoo

The San Diego Zoo partnered with several other leading zoological facilities to develop an online learning program for all zoological professionals. San Diego Zoo Global Academy offers animal care, education and guest service departments with a variety of professional learning opportunities. These courses range in content from fundamentals of animal learning to why zoos need special events. The Brandywine Zoo team worked tirelessly to

complete the required courses in time for a special guest visitor. Gary Priest from San Diego Zoo Global visited the Brandywine Zoo in September, 2014. He presented certificates to those Brandywine Zoo team members that had completed 13 specific courses that compile the “13 Fundamentals Animal Care Training”



*“It was a great opportunity to participate in the global academy. As the animal training coordinator here at Brandywine Zoo the classes on operant conditioning and positive reinforcement were very affirming”*  
— Leah Newman, Animal Keeper

*“For keepers starting out it’s excellent to learn the fundamentals of animal keeping and methods used at zoos across the country”*  
— Brian Dawson, Animal Care Apprentice

*“It was great to watch my team so dedicated and passionate about furthering their education to continue to make the Brandywine Zoo a world class facility”*  
— Donna Evernham, Assistant Curator

*“I enjoyed my learning with SDZ Global Academy, the courses helped me feel connected to the larger zoo community. The courses were fun and relevant and gave me great ideas on how to better care for the animals at the Brandywine Zoo”*  
— Meghaan Carter, Animal Keeper

Sunday, April 19th | 9:30 AM

## RUN OR WALK IN THE 4TH ANNUAL CHERRY BLOSSOM 5K

to benefit the Brandywine Zoo & Friends of Wilmington Parks

Plus - the “Fox Run” for Kids (Run/Walk)

8:00 AM Registration just inside Zoo

9:15 AM Start of Kids “Fox Run” Race

9:30 AM Start of 5K Run/Walk

See [races2run.com](http://races2run.com) for details

This is a USATF - certified fast and flat course around Brandywine Park



Open Every Day: 10AM - 4PM  
Brandywine Park, Wilmington, DE  
[brandywinezoo.org](http://brandywinezoo.org)

The Brandywine Zoo is managed as part of the Wilmington State Parks by the Division of Parks and Recreation, with the support of the Delaware Zoological Society



# Delaware Zoological Society

1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802



## Delaware State Parks

*We're saving a place for you*



The Brandywine Zoo is managed by the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation with the support of the Delaware Zoological Society.

For more information about the Division or Delaware State Parks, call (302) 739-9220 or visit our web site at [www.destateparks.com](http://www.destateparks.com).

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity and the diversity of its work force.

ACCREDITED BY THE  
**ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS**

Please let us know when you move; don't miss special invitations and Zoo News. Write to Brandywine Zoo, 1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802 or call 302-571-7788.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 7<sup>TH</sup>

# STAR WARS DAY

BRANDYWINE ZOO  
302-571-7747 EXT 209  
[BRANDYWINEZOO.ORG](http://BRANDYWINEZOO.ORG)

## STAR WARS CHARACTERS WILL INVADE THE ZOO!

March 7, Noon - 3 PM

Authentic costumed characters will walk amongst visitors and you are encouraged to take pictures! Wear your favorite Star Wars costume and bring your camera!

Adults (18-61): \$5  
Seniors (62+): \$4  
Youth (3-17): \$3  
Youth Under 3: Free  
Members: Free

## BREAKFAST WITH THE EMPIRE

March 7, 8:30 AM - 9:45 AM

Join us for an exclusive opportunity before the zoo-wide public photo event! Have breakfast and take photos with some of your favorite characters before it opens to the public at noon. \$20 per person. Pre-registration required. Space is limited.



BRANDYWINE  
**ZOO**  
*Go a little wild!*

**501ST LEGION**