

BRANDYWINE

ZOO NEWS

Conservation Efforts at the Brandywine Zoo



BRANDYWINE ZOO



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

On the Cover

The Brandywine Zoo supports various National, International, as well as local conservation efforts. You can read about some of these exciting partnerships in this issue of the Zoo News, plus ways that you can help and support conservation too!



Volunteer award

Please join us in congratulating our teen volunteer, Cheyenne McGowan, who received the 2017 Governor's Youth Volunteer Service Award for Environmental Education. Cheyenne received a nomination for her outstanding volunteer service to the Brandywine Zoo's Education Department over the last year, and we are so proud of her for winning this prestigious award! Congratulations, Cheyenne!

BOO AT THE ZOO

Friday, October 20: 5 PM-7 PM
 Saturday, October 21: 5 PM-7 PM

Trick-or-Treat at the Brandywine Zoo!

Celebrate Halloween with this merry, not scary, event. Kids trick or treat through the zoo in their Halloween costumes!

Fee: \$5 per person ages 3 and up.
 Children under 3 are FREE.
 DZS members: FREE.
 No guest passes accepted.

BRANDYWINE ZOO
 Go a little wild!

Welcome our New Zoo Director

By Jennifer Lynch; Marketing & Special Events Manager

Brint Spencer, our new Zoo Director, has come full circle at the Brandywine Zoo. He began his zoo career at Brandywine, as a seasonal zoo keeper in 1974. After graduating from the University Of Delaware, he accepted a zoo keeper position at the Minnesota Zoological Gardens and was responsible for native animals, eventually becoming a Zoologist Assistant and provided care for reptiles and mammals in the South East Asian Tropics Exhibit. Brint continued exploring different zoos across the country becoming a curator at Beardsley Zoo, John Ball Zoo and Philadelphia Zoo. Most recently, he was General Curator and then Zoo Director at Turtle Back Zoo in New Jersey where he managed the operational responsibilities of an expanding facility which included exhibit design, budget and staffing.

The Brandywine Zoo can use his experience as we begin our next chapter. Brint was drawn back to this area due to his love of culture and history of the Brandywine Valley. The Zoo is one of the oldest in the country and sits in historic Brandywine Park which was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, considered to be the father of landscape architecture. Many of the green spaces that define cities across the country (like New York's Central Park) were influenced by Olmsted.



Brint, a history buff, is a charter member of the Bartlett Society, the international zoo history organization. Brint likes the design elements of working on our master plan, taking into account our climate, topography and size.

One of his goals is to update the mission statement to make it more cohesive with the goals of the AZA and include more conservation language. We need to remind people of what they can do to help in conservation. For instance, purchasing choices such as buying items with sustainable palm oil in their products can help minimize deforestation.

On the personal side, Brint is a self-proclaimed reptile man getting his first snake at age 11 (an Eastern Milk Snake). He currently has three corn snakes, two turtles and two cats but his favorite mam-

mal is a wolverine. Brint also loves reading and perusing book stores. He highly recommends Carl Hiaasen's *Native Tongue* as a laugh out loud entertaining book for "zoo" people.

Brint is excited to be part of the transformation of the Zoo and see what the future holds. The Zoo has lots of potential, an unpolished gem that can bring some light into Wilmington. He cares about the Zoo, its' animals, keepers and staff, as well as the message that our visitors and members receive. Please welcome Brint to our Zoo family!



An avid zoo history buff, Brint has collections of zoo staff patches and postcards in his office.

A Zoo Keeper's Life

By: Mandy Fischer, Assistant Curator

Have you ever been sneezed on by a llama? Created a painting with a sloth? Fed mouse guts to an owl? Picked the nose of a porcupine? If you are a zoo keeper, you know that any of these things could be a regular occurrence in your work day. We often get asked 'how can I get a job like that?' Here's the down and dirty of life as a zoo keeper.

Zoo keeping is a unique field. Zoo keepers are an even more unique bunch. Generally they all start with the same basic passion for animals and the wild world. As they hone their skills over time, they turn into these amazing professionals capable of changing the future of the planet. Whether it's through a new management strategy to encourage breeding of an endangered species or introducing a visitor to an animal they never knew existed during a keeper chat, zoo keepers all over the world work tirelessly every day with the same goal in mind: conservation of species.

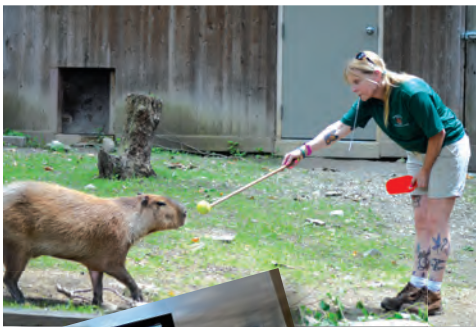
The field of zoo keeping has changed dramatically over the past few decades. It is no longer good enough to just

'love animals' or be really good with a rake and a shovel! Zoo keepers must combine their knowledge of animal behavior with their knowledge

of natural history to create an environment that will promote the best welfare for the species in their care. They are on the front lines of animal management and must work closely with curators and veterinarians as well as maintenance staff and visitors. They are the first ones to alert



veterinarians of potential health problems, they design exhibit components specific to the needs of the species they care for, they create feeding strategies that address behavioral needs of the animals, they utilize positive reinforcement and operant conditioning to work with the animals in a low stress way. Some of the additional duties our zoo keepers may have in any given day could include: making diets for all of the animals, unclogging a drain, repairing a fence, counseling an intern on college courses to take, designing a presentation for a professional national conference, dismantling the branches of an exhibit and installing new ones, weeding, spreading mulch, unloading a hay delivery. The list goes on and on. Zoo keepers are on site 7 days a week, 365 days a year. They don't get holidays and weekends off. They often miss Christmas morning, weddings and birthday parties. If an animal requires medical observation or treatments round the clock, the keepers are there for that 1am feeding or medication. They show up in blizzards and thunder-





storms. They've been known to sleep overnight at the zoo during severe weather to ensure the animals are cared for. The needs of the zoo and the animals always come first. If the animals are the heart of the zoo, the zoo keepers are responsible for keeping that heart beating.

Still interested in dedicating your life to zoo animals? If you ask 10 different zoo keepers how they got started in their career you will surely get 10 different answers. But here are a few of the basics:

- Complete a 4 year college degree in some form of biology, animal science or environmental science. No one school is really better than another. There are zoo keeper specific programs out there, but they don't necessarily give you a leg up on the competition. Do your research to find the best fitting school for you. Many zoo keepers have advanced degrees as well.
- Practical experience is a must. Interning and volunteering at vet clinics, animal shelters, wildlife rehab facilities and AZA accredited zoos and aquariums are the best ways to get that experience. Look at www.aza.org for a great place to find internship openings.
- Be prepared to pack your bags and move. Keeper jobs are highly competitive. Zoos and aquariums have very high standards for the experience they are looking for in their keeper candidates. Depending on the nature of the position, they usually have dozens of qualified candidates from all over the country, so they can afford to be choosy. Do not expect to intern at your local zoo in high school or college and immediately be hired on as a keeper when you graduate. It can happen, but is extremely rare.



Our zoo keepers belong to the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK). This national organization is celebrating its 50th anniversary of connecting animal keepers all over the country in professionalism and excellence in animal management. Please visit www.aazk.org for more information about zoo keeping as a career.

Zoo keepers must possess numerous qualities, but the most important ones that we look for are maturity, intelligence, innovation, ability to work as a team, a strong work ethic and passion for animal management. We are extremely proud of the staff we have here at the Brandywine Zoo because they all possess these qualities and much more. It's a career, it's a passion, it's a calling.

Please join us this summer when we celebrate National Zoo Keeper Week July 16-22! Sign up for Lunch with a Keeper on July 22 or July 23. Follow us on social media. Check out our special keeper events on our website. Stop in and say 'thank you' to a zoo keeper!



SAFE Initiative

By: Brint Spencer, Zoo Director

In 2015, the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) unveiled an unprecedented conservation initiative called SAFE, **S**aving **A**nimals **F**rom **E**xtinguishment. SAFE combines the collective education, conservation, capacity building and public engagement resources of all 233 AZA accredited facilities to help animals in the wild.

Each year over 181 million people visit AZA zoos to enjoy and learn about wildlife. That is more people than attend all NFL, MLB, NHL and NBA sporting events combined. This attendance gives AZA zoos a larger platform to address critical conservation issues than any other conservation organization. AZA facilities also spend \$160 million annually to support conservation programs.

The SAFE program focuses these resources onto ten specific animal conservation programs to achieve stronger results. The species initially selected for inclusion in the SAFE program include African penguin, Asian elephant, black rhino, cheetah, gorilla, sea turtles, sharks & rays, vaquita, western pond turtle and whooping crane. AZA facilities are working with scientists, governmental and non-governmental agencies to develop policies and strategies to save these animals in the wild. These plans can then be conveyed to the millions of zoo visitors raising awareness of the efforts. Each of these species has its own unique challenges and will need equally unique solutions. Two examples showing these challenges and unique conservation strategies include the vaquita and the African penguin.



The vaquita is the world's smallest species of porpoise, weighing approximately 120 pounds. It is only found in the northern part of the Gulf of California. In 1997 the world population was estimated at only 567 animals. By 2016 that number crashed to 30 animals remaining. The greatest threat to these animals is drowning in illegal gill nets used for fishing in the gulf. In April of this year, AZA committed \$1 million to an emergency rescue plan along with \$3 million from the government of Mexico. The vaquita conservation plan is looking at a number of options, including temporarily removing the remaining vaquita while eliminating the gill nets and educating the native population about their local treasure.

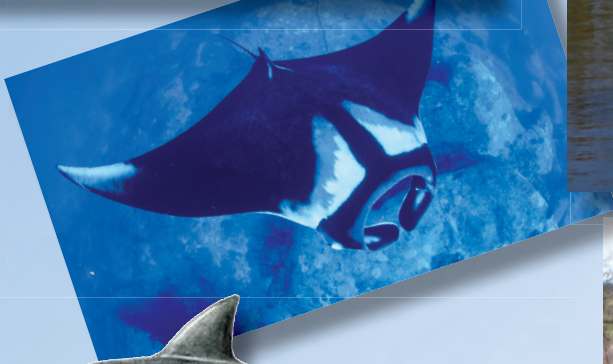
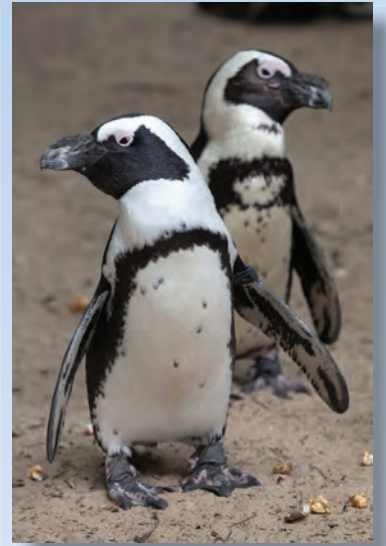


The African penguin faces a number of challenges both on land and in the water. On land, penguin eggs have been harvested for food and their guano (dried feces) has been collected for fertilizer. The penguin guano stabilizes the soil allowing penguins to dig the burrows to lay their eggs. In the water, major oil spills have impacted the birds and nesting beaches. The populations of fish they feed on have declined and shifted eastward possibly as a result of over fishing and climate change. On May 17th, AZA announced an exciting Kickstarter Campaign encouraging people to contribute to the purchase of artificial nesting burrows for the penguins. The goal of \$150,000 to purchase 1,500 locally produced burrows was reached in June.



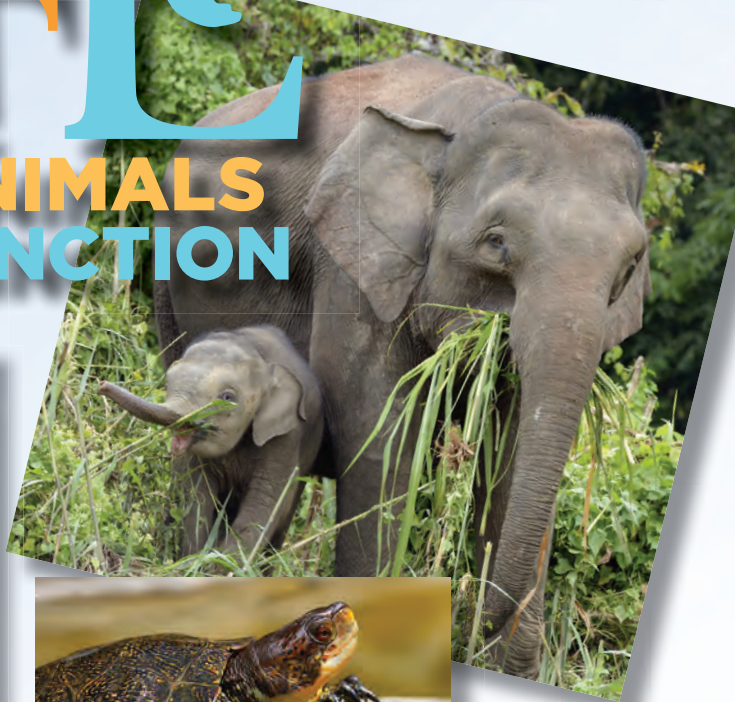
One of the two artificial nest designs that will be tested in the penguin colonies.

You can get involved and follow these programs by looking for the SAFE logo on www.brandywinezoo.org or the AZA website www.aza.org or Facebook pages for both organizations.



SAFE[®]

SAVING ANIMALS
FROM EXTINCTION



STAR WARS DAY



Earth Day

PARTY FOR THE PLANET



Scout Day



Brandywine Zoo is a new Seafood Watch Partner!

What is Seafood Watch?

The Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program helps consumers and businesses choose seafood that's fished or farmed in ways that protect sea life and habitats, now and for future generations. Their recommendations indicate which seafood items are "Best Choices" or "Good Alternatives," and which ones you should "Avoid" while raising public awareness about sustainable seafood issues through their consumer guides, website, mobile apps and outreach efforts.

What is "sustainable" seafood?

This is seafood from sources, whether fished or farmed that can maintain or increase production without jeopardizing the structure and function of affected ecosystems.

Making the best choices might not be as easy as you think so Seafood Watch has made it a little easier with some simple tools.

- Seafood Guides that tell you which seafood is green, yellow and red. Green being the best choice for sustainability.
- The Seafood Watch App, download it to your smart phone and find out where the most sustainable seafood is sold and/or served. Giving you the power to make the best choices for yourself and the planet.
- Seafood Watch website which can answer FAQ's: www.seafoodwatch.org

Brandywine Zoo is proud to be a partner in this all important endeavor to keep our oceans and our planet healthy and sustainable.

Monterey Bay Aquarium® Seafood Watch®		The Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch program creates science-based recommendations that help consumers and businesses make ocean-friendly seafood choices. Carry this guide with you and share it with others to help spread the word.	
BEST CHOICES	GOOD ALTERNATIVES	AVOID	
<p>Arctic Char (farmed) Barramundi (US & Vietnam farmed) Bass (US hook and line, farmed) Catfish (US) Clams, Mussels & Oysters Cod: Pacific (AK) Crab: King, Snow & Tanner (AK) Crab: Stone (US) Crawfish (US farmed) Lionfish (US) Mahi Mahi (US handline) Mullet: Striped (US) Pompano (US) Rockfish (AK, CA, OR & WA) Salmon (AK & New Zealand) Sardines: Pacific (Canada & US) Shrimp (US farmed & AK) Snapper: Mutton (US diver and handline) Sturgeon (US farmed) Tilapia (Canada, Ecuador & US) Tuna: Albacore (troll, pole and line) Tuna: Skipjack (Pacific troll, pole and line) Wahoo (US Atlantic) Wreckfish</p>	<p>Branzino (Mediterranean farmed) Conch (Belize, Nicaragua & US) Crab: Dungeness (Canada & US) Crawfish (LA wild) Groupers: Black & Red (US) Lobster (Bahamas & US) Mahi Mahi (Ecuador & US longline) Monkfish (US) Octopus (Portugal & Spain pot, trap) Scallops: Sea (wild) Shrimp (Canada & US wild, Ecuador & Honduras farmed) Skate: Winter (US) Snapper (US) Squid (Chile, Mexico, Peru & US) Swordfish (US) Tilapia (China, Indonesia, Mexico & Taiwan) Tuna: Albacore (US longline) Tuna: Skipjack (free school, imported troll, pole and line, and US longline) Tuna: Yellowfin (free school, HI longline, and Pacific & Indian Ocean troll, pole and line) Wahoo (HI)</p>	<p>Conch (imported) Crab (Asia & Russia) Crawfish (China) Lobster: Spiny (Belize, Brazil, Honduras & Nicaragua) Mahi Mahi (imported) Octopus: Common (Portugal & Spain trawl, Mexico) Orange Roughy Pompano (imported) Salmon: Atlantic (farmed) Sardines: Atlantic (Mediterranean) Sharks Shrimp (imported) Snapper (Brazil) Squid (China, India & Thailand) Swordfish (imported longline) Tuna: Albacore (except troll, pole and line, and US longline) Tuna: Bluefin Tuna: Skipjack (imported purse seine) Tuna: Yellowfin (Atlantic troll, pole and line)</p>	<p>Many seafood items appear in more than one column. Please be sure to check them all.</p> <p>Best Choices Buy first, they're well managed and caught or farmed responsibly.</p> <p>Good Alternatives Buy, but be aware there are concerns with how they're caught or farmed.</p> <p>Avoid Take a pass on these for now, they're overfished or caught or farmed in ways that harm other marine life or the environment.</p> <p>This guide includes some of our recommendations for popular seafood. For the full list, visit us online or download our app.</p>

Brandywine Zoo becomes an official NWF® "Certified Wildlife Habitat"

Interested in making your garden or yard a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation® Providing the four components of habitat - food, water, cover, and places to raise young - will create a wildlife-friendly garden. How you manage your garden is

critically important too. Maintaining your landscape in a sustainable, environmentally-friendly way ensures that the soil, air, and water that native wildlife

rely upon stay clean and healthy. Here is a sample of what you need to get certified, but for a complete list, check out the website www.nwf.org to see if your yard or garden meets the criteria.

Some elements you need to have:

Food – Seeds from a plant, Berries, Nectar, Foliage/Twigs or Bird feeder.

Water – Birdbath, Stream, Pond or Puddling Area.

Cover – Wooded area, Rock Pile or Wall, Evergreens, Log Pile.

Places to Raise Young – Mature trees, Nesting Box, Burrow, Water-Garden/Pond.

Sustainable Practices – Organic practices, water conservation

Soil and water conservation ex. Capture rain water from roof

Controlling Exotic Species ex. Remove non-native plants and animals

Organic Practices ex. Compost



Rats come to the Zoo!

By Julie Corson, Program Animal Keeper

Meet the newest additions to our Education team: Gustav and Sven!

This winter, the Zoo welcomed two new additions to our Program Animal collection! Domestic rats make incredible education animals. Rats are incredibly intelligent animals that unfortunately have a bad reputation for being “gross.” Funny enough, while it’s true that rodents like rats and mice can carry diseases that are harmful to people, domestic rats are actually very tidy and fastidious animals. They groom themselves multiple times a day and prefer to keep themselves clean using a bowl of fresh water.



They learn new behaviors very quickly and are very nimble and dexterous. While Gustav and Sven are only just beginning their training, we have some big plans for future programs. We hope these ambassadors will demonstrate, for you, some of their amazing natural behaviors and skills - such as their ability to

jump, climb, and manipulate objects.

The first behavior the boys will be learning is targeting. Targeting is an early anchor behavior for most of our animals here at the Zoo, as it is used as a foundation for future trained behaviors. For this behavior, a target (in this case, a “target stick” with a colored ball on the end) is presented to the animal, the animal is asked to “touch” the target with a body part, usually a nose or paw, and they then are rewarded. This behavior is great to move animals around voluntarily in a positive setting, and we’ll be using it to show some fun behaviors for programs soon. We’ve only just begun their training, though, but Gustav and Sven are picking up their training behavior very quickly.

We are so excited to have Gustav and Sven join our Education team and can’t wait to introduce them to you!

A colorful advertisement for a birthday party at the zoo. The text reads: "Your BIRTHDAY PARTY at the Zoo". Below this, it says "Have a wild birthday at the Zoo" and "Enjoy a pizza party & private animal encounter then visit the zoo at your leisure." It also says "Make your party ZOOPER!". At the bottom, it provides contact information: "Call or email for more info. birthdays@brandywinezoo.org". The Brandywine Zoo logo is featured, along with the slogan "Go a little wild!". The advertisement also includes the phone number "302-571-7747 Ext 215" and the hours "Open Every Day: 10AM - 4 PM Brandywine Park, Wilmington, DE". A small note at the bottom states: "The Brandywine Zoo is managed by the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation with the support of the Delaware Zoological Society." The background of the ad shows a woman and a child celebrating a birthday with a cake.

A yellow starburst graphic containing the text: "Animal Enrichment Workshops", "July 23 & Aug. 27", "10:30AM-12:30PM", and "Register Online!".

Shear Comfort

By: Laura Hovis, Lead Animal Keeper

Llamas are domesticated camelids that are native to areas of high altitude in the South American Andes. This region has a relatively cool climate with low humidity. Because of this, llamas that live in areas that have hot and humid summers benefit from being shorn.

Currently, the Brandywine Zoo is home to three geriatric llama siblings. Dino, the only male, is 21 years old. His two sisters are Dolly, 23 years old and Andi, 20 years old. The llamas typically get shorn once every spring. This keeps them from overheating during Delaware's hot summer months. The Brandywine Zoo brings in a professional shearer and the whole process takes less than one hour to complete all three llamas. During the process, they are lightly restrained by their trainers at their neck and body to prevent them from running away or potentially being injured if they move while being worked on. The Brandywine Zoo's llamas are part of a training program and are desensitized to being surrounded by people and remain calm throughout the shearing process. The shearer uses hand and electric shears to remove their wool which causes no harm or pain to the animals. About an inch of fiber is left on the llamas to protect them from sunburn, poor weather and insect bites. After all three llamas are finished they are rewarded for remaining calm with some of their favorite treats!

By the following winter, their coats will have grown in long enough to keep them warm during the cold winter days.

After shearing, keepers and veterinary staff can more easily visually assess their body conditions. Although the llamas are trained to get on a scale to be weighed regularly, body condition score gives more information about what kind of weight they carry. Having too much fat or being too thin can indicate signs of nutritional deficiencies or other health problems. The ability to easily observe each llama's body condition provides very valuable information about the best ways to care for them.

The wool that is collected from shearing is frozen for a minimum of 30 days to ensure that it is clean and can then be used for enriching some of the other animals that reside at the zoo. Animals like the Andean Condors and Bobcat enjoy interacting with the wool!

Shearing the llamas is an example of how keepers work to ensure the health and welfare of one species while using the results of this valuable and necessary procedure to enrich the lives of other animals at the zoo. The interdependence of life at the zoo is designed to mirror what occurs among species in the wild.



BZAAZK Happenings

By: Sharon Smith, Lead Animal Keeper

Every year BZAAZK hosts their Bowling for Rhinos fundraiser, an evening of bowling, great people, a silent auction, 50/50 raffle, and a lot of fun. We hosted our 4th annual event in May at the Pleasant Hill Bowling Alley in Newport, DE. Our silent auction had over 28 items donated from local businesses, including Newark Natural Food Co-op, El Diablo, The Brandywine Zoo, and Greenhill Carwash. Other items donated by local artisans, and past zoo employees included rope mats, water color paintings and a wood burning project. We raised over \$2,000 this year!

All monies raised at this event go directly to:

- LEWA (LWC), in Kenya
- Unjung Kulon National Park, in Jaqva
- Indonesia and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP)
- Way Kambas, in Sumatra
- Action for Cheetahs, in Kenya

Actual BFR money is used to fence in these areas, purchase planes and land rover vehicles to help curtain poaching, purchase trip cameras for censusing, and salaries for anti-poaching security guards. For more information on Bowling for Rhinos, or how you can help rhinos and rhino conservation, visit: www.aazk.org or www.facebook.com/bzaazk. As always, thank you to everyone who attended, donated and helped make this years' Bowling for Rhinos event a huge success.



Zoo Keepers: more than feeding animals

By: Sharon Smith, Lead Animal Keeper

Zoo keepers give 100% to their jobs and the animals in their care, constantly bettering themselves through conferences, networking and schooling to help grow and stay informed on the best animal care practices. Keepers are professionals dedicated to their careers and gaining more knowledge and experience, in order to improve the care of the animals they work with. Being a zoo keeper is an awesome job that involves joy, sometimes sadness, educational opportunities, great achievements, challenges, friendships, and rewards. It also allows us to share our passion and help educate visitors on a daily basis.

Zoo keepers are passionate people that strive to help save the planet, and all of its inhabitants. Working with a huge variety of endangered animals, keepers are quick to help educate anyone who will listen about these issues and suggest ways that people can help. Through research projects, volunteering, or just plain hard work, keepers have been able to spearhead numerous conservation efforts. Here are just a few of the great things that keepers have helped with:

Bowling for Rhinos was started by a few keepers who wanted to help rhinos in the wild. Since 1990, over 6 million dollars has been raised by zoo keepers from over 80 zoos around the globe. For more information on bowling for rhinos and how you can help, visit: www.aazk.org.



In 2012, Lauren Augustine, a zoo keeper from the Discovery Center (RDC), Smithsonian National Zoological

Park established a grass-roots initiative called "Chopsticks For Salamanders" that promotes forest stewardship and provides funding for salamander conservation, research and outreach. For more information, visit www.chopsticksforsalamanders.org.

In 2013, the keepers at Brandywine Zoo, through their AAZK Chapter (BZAAZK), wanted to raise awareness and help the Golden Lion Tamarin conservation efforts in Brazil. They decided to create an event called **Tango for Tamarins**. This year, BZAAZK is hosting its 4th Tango for Tamarins on September 30. To date, over \$5,000 has been donated to Save The Golden Lion Tamarin (SGLT), an organization that started in 2005 by a small group of passionate U.S.-based professionals that provide technical and financial support to help save these creatures in perpetuity.

These are just a few examples of the passion and dedication to animal welfare and conservation that keepers are committed to. And it's not just globally, we have raised money to help Delaware Wild Lands, too. They have been around since 1961 and played a pivotal role in the acquisition and regulatory protection of 30,000 acres of land, including Delaware's coastal areas and Great Cypress Swamp.

We look forward to your continued support.

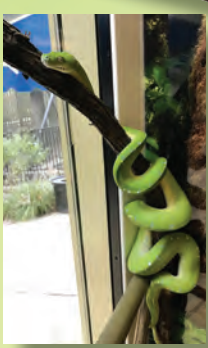
Kid's Corner

WORD SEARCH

X S V D A N C M O N K E Y I S
 X W A C S F Z X B K P D E E I
 B I S B U R R O W I N G O W L
 O F C A P Y B A R A J M M E T
 B T Y H H S K D H B H L A J S
 C F O B A L D E A G L E C R E
 A O Z A B F Z V E E F B A H R
 T X T X N R P S F Q H P W E V
 Z L T C V R R E D P A N D A A
 S A N D H I L L C R A N E Q L
 V T I U L L A M A G R K O W G
 N A D A D I I S A F E I T J O
 R X A M M V W Z F J W S T U A
 M R D P O R C U P I N E E A T
 S A N D E A N C O N D O R R J

Sandhill Crane	Burrowing Owl	Andean Condor	Bald Eagle
Capybara	Porcupine	Red Panda	Monkey
Serval	Llama	Macaw	Swift Fox
Bobcat	Otter	Goat	Rhea

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Zipperity Zoo Days!

Sat., Sep. 9
10AM 4:30PM
Sun., Sep. 10
10AM 3:30PM

No pets
allowed
in the
zoo



The Zoo will have a special rate of **\$1 ADMISSION!**
 Zoo Members with cards and youth under 3: FREE

Visit the Zoo during a special weekend of the Brandywine Festival of the Arts! Enjoy some special activities and artwork created by our animal artists.

BRANDYWINE ZOO
Go a little wild!



Thank you
Caffé Gelato
 RESTAURANT
 + CATERING

for your support and catering our membership party!

Delaware Zoological Society Executive Director's Letter



Dear Members, Supporters & Friends,

Summer is upon us at the Brandywine Zoo. It has been such a pleasure over the last few months to welcome Brint Spencer as the new Zoo Director. Brint's years of experience, coupled with his passion for conservation, are some of the many reasons I am excited that he has joined our team.

In my letter, I try to highlight some of our conservation projects. Not only does the Brandywine Zoo and Delaware Zoological Society support conservation at home, but we support field conservation projects around the world.

Over the last few years, we have built a conservation partnership with Paso Pacifico, which studies and conserves the Pacific Coastal Forest in Nicaragua. Previously, I wrote about a project that we funded for Paso Pacifico, which involved setting camera traps in the rainforest canopy to identify arboreal species traveling along these forest corridors.

Central America has tremendous species diversity. A spine of mountains travels from the North American Rockies to the Andes in South America and divides the tropical forests on each side of the mountain range. As a result, you find different species on the Pacific and Caribbean sides of Central America.

When I reached out to Paso Pacifico in the Fall of 2016 to see which of their projects needed support, they sent me a proposal about Scarlet Macaws. The Scarlet Macaw of Northern Mesamerica (*Ara macao cyanoptera*) is found in only one Pacific slope forest reserve, Cosigüina Volcano Nature Reserve in northern Nicaragua. We funded staff to search for suitable forest habitat and nesting sites in the Reserve. In April, our colleagues at Paso Pacifico sent me the photo below of a Scarlet Macaw nest that they discovered. Paso was working with the Nicaraguan army to protect this nest from poachers, which would steal the chicks for the pet trade.



The Brandywine Zoo is not only a place that houses animals, but partners with the Delaware Zoological Society as organizations committed to conservation of species in their native habitats and the education of our community about the plight of the world's biodiversity. With your continued support, we can accomplish these two lofty goals.

Best regards,

Mike



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.

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
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AQUARIUMS**

Please let us know when you move; don't miss special invitations and Zoo News. Email to memberships@brandywinezoo.org or call 302-571-7788 Ext. 215.

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Friday, Sept. 22: 5:30 PM—9 PM

**BREW
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\$60/person at the door. (\$25/designated driver)

The Zoo will be closed at 1:00 pm to prepare for this event.

Rain or Shine. Call or buy tickets online...

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Brandywine Zoo Upcoming Events

July

Stuffed Animal Vet Clinic

Sat., July 8, 10:00-12:00pm

Family Fun Night

Wed., July 12, 6:00-8:00pm

Zoo Keeper Appreciation Week July 16-22

Lunch with a Keeper

Sat. July 22 & 23, 12:30-1:30pm

August

Breakfast with the Beasts

Sat., Aug. 5, 8:45-10:00am

Family Fun Night

Thurs., Aug. 10, 6:00-8:00pm

September

International Culture Awareness Weekend

Sat. Sept. 2 -

Mon., Sept. 4 - 10:00am-3:30pm

Zippity Zoo Days

Sat., Sept. 9, 10:00am-4:30pm &

Sun., Sept. 10, 10:00am-3:30pm

International Red Panda Day

Sat., Sept. 16, 10:00am-1:00pm

Brew at the Zoo

Fri., Sept. 22, 5:30-9:00pm Ages 21+

Tango for Tamarins

Sat., Sept. 30 - 6:30pm

October

Boo at the Zoo

Fri., Oct. 20 & Sat., Oct. 21, 5:00-7:00pm