

BRANDYWINE

ZOO NEWS



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On the Cover

The Andean Condor is a South American bird with a wide wingspan (up to 10 ft) and long lifespan of 70 years. The male has a wattle on the neck and a red comb on the crown of his head. Unlike most birds, the male is larger than the female. Our Condor pair, Gryphus and Chavin, were hatched in 1979 at the Bronx Zoo and in 1986 at the LA Zoo, respectively.

Andean condors are a vital part of the ecosystem as they help remove dead and decaying animals and in turn, are reducing disease spread.

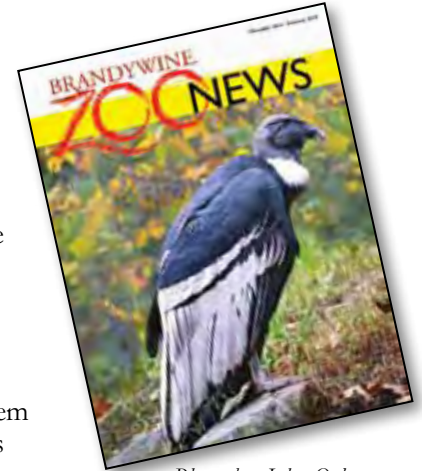


Photo by: John Otley

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

December 8 & 9 • 9:00-10:00AM

Celebrate the holidays by enjoying a pancake, egg, & sausage breakfast with Santa! Share your holiday wishes, bring your camera to take **photos with Santa and some animal friends**, and enjoy a few **up-close animal encounters** all before the zoo opens.

Breakfast is provided by Janssen's Market.
All participants ages 18 months and up must pay program fee.
Pre-registration required. Space is very limited for this event, so please register early.

Members: \$19 | Non-members: \$22

WATCH ANIMALS GET THEIR BREAKFAST

From the Desk of the Zoo Director

By Brint Spencer, Zoo Director



The summer visitor season is winding down which means the zoo staff is gearing up for the planning and development of next year. The new masterplan has been completed and the zoo has a road map of where we are going in the future. The pathway to that big picture is a bit more convoluted. The zoo

has a very small footprint and all new construction will have ripple effects through the rest of the facility. Both major and minor changes will be occurring as we start moving forward.

The first major change that will be made involves the otter exhibit. This exhibit is old and the filtration system is antiquated and undersized leaving us with water clarity that is not what we would like it to be. Last year the zoo hired a life support consultant who assessed our system and the conclusion was that the cost to retro fit the system to the standard we wanted was too high. Since we have a new otter exhibit in the master plan with exciting interactives and a larger pool size for the otters, we have decided to close down the otter exhibit this fall and move our otter to another facility. Once a new exhibit is built, we will once again bring back this popular species.

The first major exhibit we will undertake with the new master plan is the conversion of the current llama exhibit to a Madagascar exhibit with three species of lemur and radiated tortoises. This project will extend into the current goat yard and we will lose that contact area. We are going to take this opportunity and move the goat contact area into the current otter exhibit footprint. This will allow us to expand our popular contact area, add some new breeds of goats and add climbing structures for them to use. Goats have been domesticated for thousands of years to provide milk, meat and fiber. Having breeds reflecting this will make the exhibit more educational while retaining and enhancing the fun interaction that visitors have enjoyed for years.

We will also be making improvements to our honey bee exhibit to make this area more fun and educational. Pollinators are vital to our survival and we want to emphasize this message while allowing children to have a more interactive experience.

Over the winter we will be working on some other surprises— new species and new exhibit modifications. Be sure to follow the zoo's Facebook page and website to get glimpses of some of the exciting things to expect when you visit next spring.

MINI CAMPS

Monday January 21:

MLK Day Camp: Enrichment Engineers
– ages 5-13

Monday February 18:

Winter Day Camp: Enrichment Engineers
– ages 5-13

Join us for a fun day in zoo camp
as we spend the day making
enrichment for our zoo animals.

Campers must be potty trained and
come dressed for the weather,
as well as bring a bag lunch and water bottle.

BrandywineZoo.org/learn/camps

A tremendous thank you to our sponsors, members, volunteers, staff, patrons, restaurants and brewers that supported our **Brew at the Zoo** on September 21. Without their contributions, this fundraising event could not be possible. Brew at the Zoo, sponsored by **DuPont and Bellefonte Brewing Co**, was a tremendous success with great food, fun and friends!



BREW AT THE ZOO



**Thanks to our event sponsors:
Bellefonte Brewing Co. and DuPont**

Special thanks to all the Sponsors that help make this event possible:

3rd Wave Brewing
Alliance Highway Safety
Animal Behavior & Conservation Connections
Argilla Brewing Co.
Bangkok House
Bellefonte Brewing Co.
Big Fish Events
Breakthru Beverage Delaware
Brick Works Brewing & Eats
Chelsea Tavern
Crooked Hammock Brewery
DelPez Mexican GastroPub
Dogfish Head
Ernest & Scott Taproom

Kid Shelleen's Charcoal House & Saloon
Liquid Alchemy Beverages
Midnight Oil Brewing Co
Mispillion River Brewing
NKS Distributing
Standard Distributing
Stitch House Brewery
Ulysses American Gastropub

And to our Silent Auction Donors who donated a wide variety of unique and clever items:

Adventure Aquarium
Amy Hughes
Arlene & Doug Reppa
Atlantic Tomorrow's Office
Barb Rosen
BBC Tavern and Grill
Bobbie Chelucci
Brandywine Zoo AAZK
Carl Roberts
Chanticleer Garden
Cheesecake Factory

Delaware Art Museum
Delaware Children's Museum
Delaware Museum of Natural History
Diana DeBenedictis
El Diablo Burritos
Firebirds Wood Fired Grill – Wilmington
Franklin Institute
GiveSmart
Go Ape!
Greg Elis
Hagley Museum
Hotel DuPont
Jayne Harwell
Jennifer Lynch
Linda M. Gray
Leonard Hook
Longwood Gardens
Main Event
Matilda's Off Market Salon
Megan McGlinchey
Michael Milligan
Michael T. Allen
Mt. Cuba Center
Painting with a Twist
Patricia Smith and John Alfred

Philadelphia Eagles
Philadelphia Flyers
Philadelphia Museum of Art
Philadelphia Phillies
Pizza by Elizabeths
QVC
Richard Rothwell
Rockwood Museum
Skinny Barre
Tom & Carole Webber
Total Wine
Vickie Innes
William S. Montgomery
Wilmington Blue Rocks
Wilmington & Western Railroad
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

Special thanks to our Zoo volunteers, Jim Smigie and Andras Szekely, as well as Bank of America volunteers, for helping make this event a success!

**Save the Date!
September 27, 2019**



Volunteers and Interns

by Danielle Levredge, Volunteer Manager



New, new, new!

In April of 2018, the Brandywine Zoo recruited a new Volunteer Manager who would be solely dedicated to the zoo, its internship and volunteer program(s). Due to the tightened parameters of focus, we're delighted to venture back to Brandywine Zoo's roots and revitalize our Docent Program starting in Spring 2019. Docents are highly trained and tested volunteers that will educate the public on the animals in our collection, current environmental issues and positive interactions with ecosystems. In addition to Docents, we continue to host corporate, youth and school groups (up to 15 people) for landscaping and special event needs on a monthly basis.

In 2018, our individual volunteers (as well as interns) performed over 5,000 hours of service and assisted with dozens of events and projects. It's a new day for Brandywine Zoo's community and programmatic impact, take some time to make a difference with us!



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Kim De Leon

Since: Summer 2017

What you do:

- 1.) Traveling Zoo: assist zoo staff to take animals to various schools, events, and the local children's hospital.
- 2.) Urban Wildlife Monitoring Program: 4 times a year we place motion-activated trail cameras along a designated line throughout northern Delaware to see what type of wildlife is in the area.
- 3.) DE Kestrel Partnership: to monitor several kestrel nesting boxes throughout the breeding season to see if any kestrels are using them.

Why you do it:

I started volunteering for the zoo shortly after I gave birth to twins. My background is in conservation biology and environmental education, so it was a way for me to continue working with nature, wildlife, and science on my own schedule. I get to have the best of both worlds: being a full-time mom devoted to my family while still nurturing my own passions and personal growth. I'm so thankful for the amazing opportunities Brandywine Zoo has given me!

1

APPLY VIA VOLGISTICS

14+ can complete the DE State Park online Volunteer Application

2

VETTING

18+ are subject to passing a background check; <18, parents/guardians must sign consent forms

3

VOLUNTEERMARK

All our positions and shift times available: volunteermark.com/brandywine-zoo

Brandywine Zoo Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers Update

By: Katlyn Muse, President of Brandywine Zoo AAZK Chapter

This year is flying by and BZAAZK has been busy with guest speakers, fundraisers, and conferences.

To finish off the 2018 year we had 3 wonderful guest speakers:

Dr. Erica Miller, DVM gave us insight into how birds come in contact with toxic agents, how birds are treated after exposure, and how it can be avoided in the future.

Dr. Jason Davis, PhD discussed his research combining technology and ecology. Dr. Davis and his students are designing bird feeders and nest boxes with cameras that can, using genetic algorithms and machine learning, differentiate species and sexes of birds. This information can help with bird species counts, migration patterns, and much more.

Leah Newman, an Animal Behavior College certified dog trainer and the Brandywine Zoo's training coordinator, donated her time and knowledge of training to some enthusiastic dogs and their owners. Leah taught us how to use positive reinforcement and operant conditioning to train basic obedience behaviors to our furry best friends!

In August, our **Tango PLUS for Tamarins** event was a great success. Along with bringing back Tango, amazing silent auction items, and great food (donated by Trader Joes and Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza) this year we also introduced country line dancing, lawn games, and a new venue, the Figure-Eight Barn at Bellevue State Park. The event raised over \$1,300 with



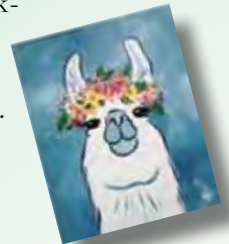
Dr. Miller's presentation

proceeds going to **Save the Golden Lion Tamarins**, an organization which helps lion tamarin conservation in Brazil.

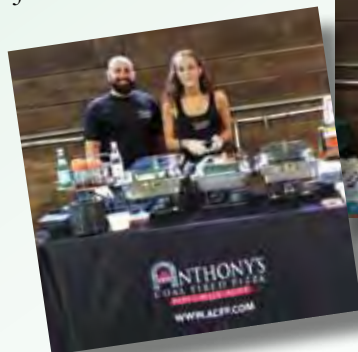
BZAAZK would like to thank everyone for their continued support, donations, and attendance at our events and fundraisers. Thanks to your generosity, our keepers are able to attend work-

shops and conferences to expand their knowledge and continue to deliver top of the line animal care.

Our upcoming Painting with A Purpose charity event, benefiting BZAAZK, will be held on Thursday, December 13 at 6PM. Help send our keepers to workshops and conferences so we can continue to deliver top of the line care for the animals! This is a public event. Go to www.paintingwithatwist.com/studio/wilmington-de/event/1684895 to register in advance.



We are planning our calendars for 2019, so like our Facebook page (facebook.com/BZAAZK) to keep up to date with all of our upcoming events and for more information



Katlyn Muse at AAZK Conference in Denver, CO at the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo



Boo at the Zoo

By Emily Culkin, Program Animal Encounter

Thank you to everyone who came out to Boo at the Zoo 2018! This event continues to grow and we thank you all for continuing to enjoy our community trick-or-treating event. With beautiful autumn weather on both nights, we had a record-breaking year for attendance. Thanks to our booth vendors and volunteers for coming out and having fun with us. As always, we could not run this event without the amazing support of our community businesses. We are always looking for new sponsors and vendors for this event. If you are interested in participating next year, please visit www.brandywinezoo.org/booaathezoo for more information. We hope to see everyone next year as we continue to grow this incredible event.

A special thank you to our Jack-o'-Lantern Level Sponsors (\$500+):





Grrreat items in the Gift Shop

By Melanie Flynn, Visitor Services Manager

The Zootique has great gifts for all the animal lovers in your life. From a wide array of plush animals to toys and keepsakes, we have a variety of unique items for all ages.

Our top 5 recommendations:

- Handmade sequin **ornaments**. We have beautiful ornaments that would look lovely hanging anywhere. Choose from some of your favorite animals like the red panda, river otter, bald eagle and more.
- The sequin trend continues into **plush**. Our sequin snakes have been especially popular! We have them in a variety of colors and sizes, ranging from 26" to 102".
- Animal themed **books**, ranging from classics like "Rainbow Fish" to fun books with finger puppets for younger children.
- **Membership** to the Brandywine Zoo! This is truly a gift to enjoy all year long. Memberships start at \$40 and gives the recipient an entire year of unlimited visits. Plus by being a member, you can get free or discounted admission to over 150 other zoos and aquariums throughout the country. Members also get free or discounted tickets to special events throughout the year like Boo at the Zoo and Happy NOON Year's Eve.
- **ADOPT** a Brandywine Zoo animal. This is a perfect gift for the zoo lover in your life. You can choose which animal you would like to "adopt" at different price points. Packages range from \$25-\$250. All adoptions come with a certificate, fact sheet and online recognition. While this is a ceremonial adoption, you don't actually get to take the animal home, your money goes to supporting our education and conservation mission. Plus, we have a special **Holiday Adopt** package which includes an adorable plush red panda!



ZOOTIQUE SALE

To make your gift giving even better, the Zootique will be having its annual holiday sale starting Friday, November 23rd. Most items are on sale for 20% off and members get an additional 10% discount. The gift shop is open daily in November, then open Friday, Saturday and Sunday in December.

Adopt a RED PANDA for the holidays

through **December 16**

A perfect stocking stuffer.

Celebrate this holiday by adopting a red panda for someone special*. Only **\$65** and you will receive:

- Certificate of adoption
- Fact sheet about the animal with a photo of the red panda
- Two one-time-use admission passes to the zoo

plus

- An adorable plush replica of the red panda.



* To assure delivery of ADOPT packages by December 24th, orders to be sent by mail must be made by Dec. 16th; orders to be picked up at Zootique must be made by the 22nd.

By participating in the ADOPT program, you are helping the Delaware Zoological Society support the Brandywine Zoo's missions of education and conservation.



302-571-7747, Ext.215
brandywinezoo.org

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

Go a little wild!

Delaware Zoological Society Executive Director's Letter

Dear Members, Supporters,
and Friends,

We have had an exciting fall season with great events like September's Brew at the Zoo and October's Boo at the Zoo. Both events were great successes. Hopefully, you joined us for one or both. I want to send out special thanks to one of our newest DZS Board Members, Mike Milligan, for his help securing our sponsorship from Bellefonte Brewing. Don't forget to put both on your calendars for Fall 2019. We look forward to seeing you at Brew, Boo, and many of our other events.

I was fortunate to be able to moderate a session at September's Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Annual Conference in Seattle. I developed a session on "Building a Fundraising Program from the Ground Up" with my colleagues from the Akron Zoo, El Paso Zoological Society, Henry



Vilas Zoological Society, and Reid Park Zoo. As we are trying to build our own fundraising program, it was a great opportunity to learn from other organizations that started out as small as we are and have been able to grow their efforts over the last 20 years. The feedback from the session attendees was excellent and helped us make connections with more organizations that are working to build and grow.

On a final note, I would like to introduce our new Board President, Arlene Reppa. Arlene spent many years as a Zoo volunteer and joined the Board in 2013. I look forward to working closely with her in her new role.

Best regards,
Mike



Plan for tomorrow. Ensure the future today.

The Eagle Legacy Circle

Create your lasting gift for the Brandywine Zoo and the Delaware Zoological Society.

Protect the future of the Brandywine Zoo through a gift that will endure and help us soar.

Learn about the many options for making a bequest to the Zoo through the Delaware Zoological Society.

Contact us today at **302-571-7788**, ext. 206.

Delaware Zoological Society
supporting the BRANDYWINE ZOO

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

THINK GLOBAL ACT LOCAL

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
OF ZOOS &
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.

Printed on recycled paper 

**Starting January,
the Zoo is open
Wednesday to
Sunday from
10am to 4pm
through February.
Gift Shop open
weekends only
in December,
closed January and
February.**

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S.
Postage Paid
Wilmington, DE
Permit No. 601



HAPPY NOON YEAR'S EVE

December 31

*Celebrate the
New Year Zoo-style
by ringing in the New Year
at NOON!*

We'll have games, crafts,
and of course a
sparkling cider to drink
as the clock strikes 12
(Noon that is!)

**Program takes place outside in
the zoo so dress for the weather!**

We will begin charging admission at 10am.
Members: Free | Non-members: \$5/person.

BRANDYWINE
ZOO
Go a little wild!

Zoo Camp Open House Sunday, Feb 3 • 1-2:30PM

The early bird gets the worm, so be one of the first to sign up for our popular spring and summer zoo camps and receive a discount on this day only! Register for camps and receive \$5 off holiday or summer mini-camps and a \$10 off each week of full day camp. Open House takes place in the Education Building.

Intern Open House: Summer Zoo Internships for High School and College Students ages 14+ Sunday, Feb 10 • 1-2:30PM

Join us to find out about more about the Zoo's unique summer internship program for Zoo Camp and other internships! For more information please visit our website and look under volunteer opportunities.

Give a Gift that will last all year!

A Zoo membership includes: Free admission, guest passes, discounts on camps & programs and in our gift shop!

Free or discounted admission to other AZA zoos nationwide, too!

**Call or join online today.
BrandywineZoo.org
302-571-7747 Ext 215**