

BRANDYWINE NEWS

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

On the Cover

Zhanna, our Amur Tiger, relaxing and enjoying some enrichment on a sunny Fall day.

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





Fee: \$5/person for ages 3+, advanced tickets available online. DZS members free.

(Program fees will begin charging at Admission Gates starting at 10:00am) Go a little with!

www.brandywinezoo.org

Notes from the Director's Desk

By Gene Peacock, Zoo Director



This edition of *Notes from the Director* brings some exciting news for me personally. By the time this is published, I will have stepped down from my position as Zoo Director and moved on to a position at another institution in Corpus Christi, Texas.

As I look back

on the last three

and half years, I see we have done some truly amazing things at our little zoo. My tenure here started off with trees falling on the commissary and then the monkey house that first summer, and a dryer fire in our hospital. Our amazing team worked through all of that, persevered and will continue to keep the zoo going in the right direction.

I am proud to list a few of our achievements: zoo staff was honored to receive the Governor's Award of Excellence for all of their hard work and dedication in the aftermath of the monkey house collapse. Several staff members were honored with Awards from Delaware State Parks for outstanding service. We began partnering with the San Diego Zoo Global Academy to offer the most up-to-date training available online for our entire zoo staff, as well as volunteers. Attendance has increased over the past

Congratulations on your retirement Patty!



After 16 years managing the gift shop and snack bar, Patty Tiano retired this summer. Thank you for your hard work and dedication Patty. Best wishes to you!

few years and our zoo society has grown with the hiring of their first Executive Director. Fundraising efforts and special events have helped open the zoo to entirely new audiences. We finished the ADA accessible Eagle Ridge that allows for viewing of the eagles and otters. We have added a few new animals over the past few years like two Bald Eagles that came to us in 2015, a Kestrel, Great Horned Owl and some very cool reptiles *including* their new exhibits

by the administration building. Finally, the two Red Panda divas, Merri and Gansu came in 2014 and have been a hit since day one.

Our educational programs have also grown over the past few years by offering more camps and special educational opportunities than ever before. The Zoo hosts events like Brew at the Zoo, Family Fun Nights, and Star Wars Day, plus multiple after hours private party rentals throughout the year.

Our staff has grown, our attendance is up, and we were accredited by the AZA for another five years this year. So yes, it is bittersweet, but it's time for

my family to move on to the next chapter and leave knowing the Brandywine Zoo is in good hands and will do just fine.



We are pleased to announce the addition of Melanie Flynn as the new Visitor Services Manager. Melanie has over ten years of customer service and managerial experience. She has always had a passion for conservation and animals and is thrilled to bring her skills and interests to the Brandywine Zoo.

Melanie has a BA from Temple University in Environmental Studies. She has lived and worked in Philadelphia before moving to Delaware in 2016. She spent the last few years as a Visitor Services Supervisor at the Morris Arboretum. There she helped to increase visitation and customer service, as well as managed the rental and retail departments.

Melanie is excited to be part of this dedicated team. She is hoping to bring new energy and new ideas to the Visitor Services department.

Stop by Zootique and welcome Melanie to the Zoo!

Otter Keeper Workshop

By Mary Peebles, Animal Keeper

Professional Development courses offered by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) provide Animal Care Professionals opportunities for continuing their education through a variety of workshops that specialize in different aspects of our field. I was very fortunate to have been chosen by the Brandywine Zoo to attend this year's Otter Keeper Workshop in Buffalo, NY. The Rochester Seneca Park Zoo and Buffalo Zoo were hosts to over 20 Animal Care Professionals who came to learn more about otter behavior, conservation, training, diet, enrichment, medical needs, and environment including otter pool filtration systems. It was the perfect community for sharing ideas, problem solving, and learning about North American River Otter conservation projects that are being done here in the United States such as the River Otter Ecology Project and the New York River Otter Project.

Due to the knowledge gained by this workshop, I am able to share with my fellow Animal Care staff ways of improving the management of our two male North

American River Otters, Timber and Clarke. Since my return, the Brandywine Zoo team has come together to redesign the pool filtration system to improve water quality, modify otter diets to better



reflect natural behaviors, and restructure the training and enrichment program to encourage our otters' learning and curiosity. Papers presented to the Brandywine Zoo Veterinarian from this workshop will assist in better medical management of our otters, from routine vaccinations to full physical examinations. All of these changes will enable the Brandywine Zoo team to maintain and exceed the high AZA standards of care for North American River Otters.

This trip would not have been possible without the support of the Delaware Zoological Society, as well as the Delaware Department of Parks and Recreation, who recognize the importance of providing their Animal Care staff with continuing educational opportunities. Our North American River Otters will be on exhibit all winter long so you *otter* come out and visit Timber and Clarke!





BZAAZK Happenings

By Sharon Smith, Animal Keeper

5

BZAAZK would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who helped and participated with our 2016 Tango for Tamarins event on August 27th. It was a beautiful evening for dancing under the stars and fundraising. We would also like to extend a huge thank you to all the vendors who donated their time or services including Trader Joes, Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza, Heavy Seas Beer, and Franks Wines, plus all the great people who donated services or goods for the silent auction. This year's event raised almost \$2,000! BZAAZK will be donating \$1,500 to Save the Golden Lion Tamarin, and putting \$500 in our professional development fund. Last years' donation to **SGLT**, went to purchasing radio collars to track golden lion tamarins in the Brazil forest. We are excited to be partnered with this organization to help make changes for the future of this species. Planning has already begun for next years' event.

Our Yankee Candle Fundraiser will run through the end of 2016.

Visit: www.yankeecandlefundraising.com and enter our Group number 990089281 to log on. You can shop for hundreds of great items from Yankee Candle, all from the comfort of your own home plus items will be shipped directly to you.

Looking for some great Holiday gifts for friends and family? At the upcoming Breakfast with Santa, we will be setting up a station to sell unique animal art and ornaments on December 10 & 11.



or follow us on Instagram @BrandywineZooaazk.





Boo at the Zoo

By Emily Krueger, Program Animal Coordinator



AZA Accreditation

By Lynn Klein, General Curator

What does it mean to be an AZA (American Association of Zoos and Aquariums) member? It means you are part of a very elite club. Out of 2,400 Zoos, Aquariums and Animal Exhibiters in the United States, only 232 are accredited! As an AZA accredited institution, the Brandywine Zoo is one of the leaders in animal care, conservation, education, science and recreation.

Interesting AZA facts:

- In the USA, you can find accredited zoos in 47 out of 50 states.
- AZA has been in existence for 100 years
- 750,000 animals and 6,000 different species are cared for by AZA professionals. Of those 6,000 species, 1,000 are endangered and 450 have active SSP's (Species Survival Plans).
- AZA zoos and aquariums provide 176,000 jobs and are visited by **186,000,000 people** per year.
- Contribute 160 million dollars to conservation.

How does a zoo or an aquarium get to be accredited? First and foremost it takes a lot of hard work! For a zoo that has never been accredited, AZA will assign a "Mentor Zoo" to assist with the process. You then need to be sure that your facilities, protocols, finances, conservation efforts and educational programs are up to or exceed industry and AZA standards. Your finances must reflect that your institution is solvent for at least the next five years. Our zoo has been accredited since 1986, but still has to go through a re-accreditation process every five years. This process is a long and challenging one, with standards that are constantly being raised. Zoo employees feel good knowing that they work for an organization that puts the care of their animals uppermost in its thoughts and actions. It also helps visitors and zoo supporters know that their money is being used not only to provide for our animals at the zoo, but to fund conservation efforts in the wild. Animals are also easier to move between AZA facilities. This helps with captive breeding recommendations and a healthier captive population. One of the best results from this can be reintroduction into the wild.



takes 6 to 12 months to prepare the accreditation application. The application starts at 28 pages, but by completion has grown to almost 600 pages. It is filled with updated staff resumes and protocols for veterinary care, program animal usage, acquisition and disposition, animal training, animal enrichment, and financials, just to name a few. The application is reviewed by a team of inspectors that are chosen from a qualified list of AZA members. There is at least one veterinarian and one member of a zoo's management team (usually different zoos) who conduct the inspection. The actual on-site inspection lasts for 2-5 days depending on the size of the zoo. Afterwards, the inspectors discuss with the management team areas that do not meet industry standards and what needs to be done in order to comply. Zoos are given 2 -3 months to fix any and all problems and submit evidence (photographic and written) to the AZA board.

At the annual conference in September, all zoos that are up for accreditation must appear before the board and "defend" their progress. After which the board will confer and deliver their decision. We were delighted to receive our accreditation award (31 straight years!) and have already begun preparing for the next. You can help by continuing to visit the zoo, renewing your membership, enjoying our wonderful events, programs and fascinating animals. You can feel good knowing that you are supporting your local zoo, as well as helping conservation efforts in the wild!



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WINTER SCHEDULE

The Zoo is CLOSED
Mondays and Tuesdays
from November
through February.

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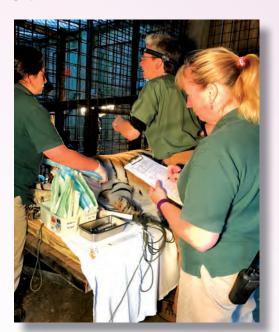
Zhanna Gets a Physical

By Lynn Klein, General Curator

It is standard operating procedure for all the animals at the Brandywine Zoo to receive an annual physical from our staff veterinarian, Dr. Erica Miller, DVM. Zhanna, our eight year old Amur tiger (Panthera Tigris altaica) is no exception. Or is she?

In fact, Zhanna is an exception. Zhanna's physical is scheduled every other year. This is due in part to the fact that she is a large, dangerous predator and also because she has always been in such great health. There are certain ways her care takers can assess her health on a day to day basis. Zhanna has an amazing team of trainers who have taught her certain behaviors that aid us in taking great care of her. Some of the behaviors that Zhanna will do for us when asked are; open mouth (allows us to see her teeth, inside of her mouth and throat), scale (so we can get accurate weights on a routine basis, listen (we can listen to her heart with a stethoscope) and hand injection (she will position herself and hold still for a voluntary injection of her vaccines or medicine should she require any.) All of these behaviors are done on a voluntary basis when her trainers request her to do them. She is always rewarded for cooperation and good behavior. Any uncooperative behavior is ignored. Trainers and keeper staff never go in the enclosure with her. She is a tiger and therefore a carnivore as well as a predator. Staff cares for her safely on the other side of her enclosure or when she has been shifted into one of her dens.

However, when Zhanna is sedated for her physical and our veterinarian determines



that she is safely asleep enough for us to examine her; we do everything that we can to ensure she stays in great health. There are times when we have two veterinarians working on some of our animals. In Zhanna's case, we have four veterinarians! This way we know she is being carefully monitored the entire time. She is intubated and monitored on gas anesthesia during the course of the procedure. Her ears, eyes, teeth and nose are thoroughly examined. We draw blood that is tested for any abnormalities. The veterinarians palpate her bones, muscle and organs. We collect urine and that is also tested. Radiograph equipment is available in case we need it. Nails are examined and trimmed if needed. The pads of her feet are checked for any adverse wear. We check her coat and her skin. Simply put she is examined from the tip of her nose to the tip of her tail!

I am very happy to report that the exam and all the tests that were run confirmed that she is an exceptionally healthy tiger!

I want to extend my deep appreciation

to the team of veterinarians,



Something Old, Something New

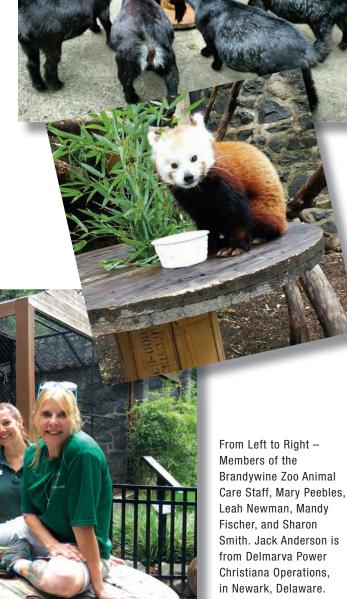
By Sharon Smith, Animal Keeper

Don't think the animals at the Brandywine Zoo are just "lion" around...they keep themselves busy climbing ropes, crawling up branches and trees, and bouncing on old fire hoses. A few of the zoo residents now have a new "play time" addition to their cages - old cable reels supplied by Delmarva Power.

Jack Anderson, Christiana District Operations and Vince Jacono, External Affairs recently delivered three wooden cable reels to the Brandywine Zoo's Animal Care Staff.

"As a non-profit organization, we truly appreciate any support provided by individuals and corporations to help improve our facility," said Sharon Smith, Senior Zoo Keeper. "Enrichment is something we give to all of the animals on a daily basis. We pair enrichment items to the appropriate animal to help elicit their natural behaviors, and to keep them stimulated both mentally and physically throughout their lives. Our animals like to have fun and they love to have an audience. These cable reels are easy to roll around and they allow the animals to exercise, play and have fun, which contributes to their overall health and well-being. One of the qualities of being a zoo keeper is being able to think outside the box to come up with new and exciting enrichment ideas." Being able to

reach out to the community for help and having a corporation such as Delmarva Power respond has been incredible. We are so grateful for all that they have donated.



Brew at the Zoo and Wine, too!

By Jennifer Lynch, Marketing & Special Events Manager

We celebrated our 5th annual **Brew at the Zoo** and wine, too! event on September 30th raising almost \$30,000 for the Zoo. The drizzle that occurred during the day couldn't dampen the spirit of our event or Brew patrons!

This year, we added some saucy chicken from Churrascaria Saudades Brazilian Steakhouse and tasty cupcakes from Sweet Josephine's. Returning crowd favorites included Ulysses' tiger striped brownies, Kid Shelleen's quesadillas, Chelsea Tavern's sliders, Sante Fe's chicken wings and Bangkok House's pad thai. Let's thank **Dr. Stanley Goloskov DDS**, Christine Randolph and C. James Pacini from **Morgan Stanley and Weymouth**, **Swayze and Carroon Insurance** for being first time sponsors of the event.

Each year, we strive to improve the visitor's experience to make for an enjoyable evening with the animals while tasting a variety of beer, wine and light fare provided by our fabulous sponsors. Preparing for the event takes a lot of time, organization, and team work. The Zoo closes at 1pm in order for the preparation to begin. Staff and

volunteers help with arranging the tables, lights, silent auction area and cleaning the zoo grounds days before the official event. A special task force of volunteers from Bank of America helped immensely setting up the beverage stations, tables and so much more.

Our appreciation goes to all of the silent auction donors that included: Philadelphia Flyers and Eagles tickets, a Limited edition print from William Montgomery, wine baskets, Animal Artwork, a close encounter with our sloth, DisneyWorld park passes, 99 bottles of beer in a wheelbarrow and more! For the first time, we offered a close encounter package with our sloth, as well as with our capybara for the silent auction. After a contentious battle of bidding for the sloth encounter, a special thank you goes to "Andrew", who only asked for a hug after he bought the sloth encounter for the eventual winner.

Be sure to thank the sponsors for their Brew participation the next time you visit their establishments.



The 5th annual "Brew at the Zoo and wine, too!" event drew almost 600 attendees and raised almost \$30,000 for the Zoo.

Thanks to our event sponsors: Dr. Stanley Goloskov DDS and Morgan Stanley, Weymouth, Swayze & Corroon Insurance Inc.

Special thanks go to all the Restaurants and Beverage Sponsors that help make this event possible:

Argilla Brewing Co. Bangkok House Breakthru Beverage Delaware Chelsea Tavern Churrascaria Saudades Brazilian Steakhouse Ernest & Scott Taproom Dogfish Head Kid Shelleen's Charcoal House & Saloon Liquid Alchemy Beverages Mispillion River Brewing NKS Distributing Penns Woods Winery Samuel Adams Sante Fe Mexican Grill and Bar Standard Distributing Sweet Josephine's Ulysses American Gastropub



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

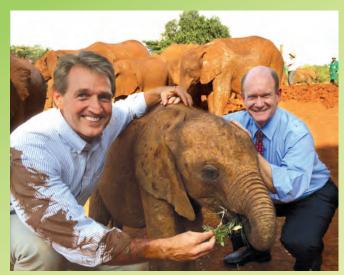
Amy Colbourn Amy Hughes Arlene & Doug Reppa BBC Tavern and Grill Brandywine Zoo AAZK Carla A. K. Jarosz Churrascaria Saudades Brazilian Steakhouse Daniel F. Scholl Dean Krammes Deanna Peacock Delaware Children's Museum Delaware State Parks Diana DeBenedictis Fabrizio Salon & Spa Go Ape! Greenhill Car Wash Harley-Davidson J. Gregory Ellis James Dawson

Jayne Harwell Kevin Brandt **Kramer Portraits** Linda M. Gray Megan McGlinchey Michael T. Allen Rep. John Carney Richard Rothwell Robert Grove Sandi Kojro Sante Fe Restaurant Senator Chris Coons Senator Tom Carper Shift Salon Susan Moran Tom & Carole Webber Walt Disney World William S. Montgomery Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library



Fighting Global Wildlife Trafficking from Here at Home in Delaware

By Rob Vernon, SVP External Affairs at AZA with additional comments from Jennifer Lynch



On October 7th, President Obama signed into law the Eliminate, Neutralize, and Disrupt (END) Wildlife Trafficking Act submitted by U.S. Sens. Chris Coons (D-DE) and Jeff Flake (R-AZ). The law, for which Congress came together in a rare bipartisan effort to pass, will strengthen efforts around the world to protect animals from poaching and the illegal trade of wildlife, also known as wildlife trafficking. It allows for harsher penalties for wildlife trafficking crimes, provides

in the wild and pushes the countries where trafficking is most prevalent to join the U.S. in the fight to protect wildlife.

support for the rangers fighting poachers

The enactment of this law – which has truly global implications – couldn't have come soon enough. Biologists report that the diversity of life on our planet is falling to unsafe levels. Many believe we are in the midst of a so-called "sixth extinction" – a loss of

global biodiversity at a scale unseen since the extinction of the dinosaurs. The conservation community is rallying together to promote laws, like the END Wildlife Trafficking Act, and advocate on the ground to protect species' precious and fragile existence.

What many do not realize is that zoos and aquariums are on the frontlines of many of these conservation efforts. The educational value of zoos is clear: more than 180 million people visit facilities accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) each year, where they learn directly from experts about the birds, insects, fish, amphibians and mammals that make up animal life on earth. Here at the Brandywine Zoo, more than 80,000 visitors pass through each year. More importantly, these zoo and aquarium visitors see firsthand how critical it is for each of us to play our role in keeping these animals safe.

Zoos and aquariums don't just teach, they also take action. In 2015 alone, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums provided more than \$186 million for wildlife conservation field programs

for more than 775
species across the globe
– many of them the
same species the END
Wildlife Trafficking
Act seeks to
protect. And as
governments
and organizations all over
the world
take action to
preserve large
spaces for

animals to



thrive, many of these reserves seek zoos' and aquariums' guidance and expertise.

While AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums work arm-in-arm with other conservation groups around the world to make the wild safer for animals, the truth is that the most vulnerable species can't wait for these reforms and programs to take hold. That is why it is so critical that zoos and aquariums provide a safe space for rescued wild animals that cannot be rehabilitated or would otherwise die. They also offer homes for the many animals confiscated from the wildlife trade.

As a result, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums are saving many animals from disappearing from our world forever. In fact, AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums have already brought 25 different animal species – including the California condor, the Arabian oryx and the Kihansi spray toad – back from the brink of extinction.

The people behind zoos and aquariums – from the biologists to the habitat designers to the veterinarians – provide quality, compassionate care for each animal while working to assure a diverse population of animals around the world for generations to come.

In our work at the Zoo, we not only provide the best care possible for Amur tigers, but we share our support with organizations like the Tiger Conservation Campaign (TCC). The funds that we provide to the TCC help support their anti-poaching efforts in the Russian Far East and tiger-human conflict mitigation programs.

AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums are needed now more than ever to drive global conservation efforts, protect endangered species, and care for hundreds of thousands of animals. While zoos and aquariums protect some of our world's most endangered animals, they are also fostering a love for wildlife and a sense of responsibility among the public, especially our youngest citizens. This way, zoos and aquariums not only protect the animals that need their help today – they help to assure that people will help protect all the other species that share our planet for generations to come.

Delaware Zoological Society Executive Director's Letter



Dear Members, Supporters & Friends,

As we head toward the end of another year at the Brandywine Zoo, we reflect on the past year and look forward to the upcoming one. This is the time for the Delaware Zoological Society's (DZS) Annual Fund, which helps sustain us through the winter months and gives us the ability to invest in our education programs and conservation

partners. Also, it helps us invest in the zoo to better the lives of the animals in the zoo's care.

People often ask me, "What appeals to you about working at the zoo?" For me, I am driven by the notion that the animals in the zoo's care can serve as ambassadors for their cousins in the wild and that we should use some of the funds that come into the organization to fund conservation projects in the field. Every year, DZS contributes to different conservation programs around the world. We try to link the programs that we support with the zoo's collection. For the last few years, we have supported anti-poaching patrols in the Russian Far East to protect Amur tigers and the release of captive born Andean condors in Colombia.





In 2015, we added a new partner, Paso Pacifico, to our repertoire. Paso Pacifico works in the Pacific Slope Forests of Nicaragua. They study the local wildlife and educate the local population about the importance of protecting the unique species found in this part of the world. This area of Nicaragua contains several species that we have in our collection, like Prehensile-tailed porcupines and Hoffman's Two-Toed Sloth. We funded two arboreal camera traps and climbing equipment, which allowed Paso Pacifico to monitor which animals are using those sections of the forest. (You can see some photos from the camera traps in the space below my letter.) In 2016, a strong El Niño weather effect caused a major drought in Nicaragua. The team from Paso Pacifico observed a major die-off of the howler monkeys in the area and the arboreal camera traps gave them the ability to see what areas were affected hardest by the die-off.

With you support, we are able to fund projects like this one and we hope that you will continue to support not only our conservation projects, but also development at the zoo and our education programs.

Best regards,

Mike





Delaware Zoological Society

1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802



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.

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS C 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.

Printed on recycled paper



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





BREAKFASI WITH SANTA

Saturday December 10 9-10AM or Sunday December 11 9-10AM

Celebrate the holidays by enjoying a pancake breakfast with Santa. Share your holiday wishes with Santa and bring your camera to take photos. Make decorations and enjoy a few up-close animal encounters, all before the zoo opens. Space is very limited for this event, so please register early. Breakfast is provided by Janssen's Market and Shoprite.

Fee: Members: \$15/adult, \$12/child. Non-Members: \$18/adult, \$15/child Pre-registration required. All participants ages 18 months and up must pay program fee.



ILK AND COOKIES WITH SANTA

Saturday December 10 10:30-11:15AM or 11:15AM-12:00PM

Don your reindeer ears, bring your wish list and snap a pic with Santa! Don't forget your camera!

Fee: \$10/DZS member, \$13/non-member. All participants ages 18 months and up must pay program fee.

