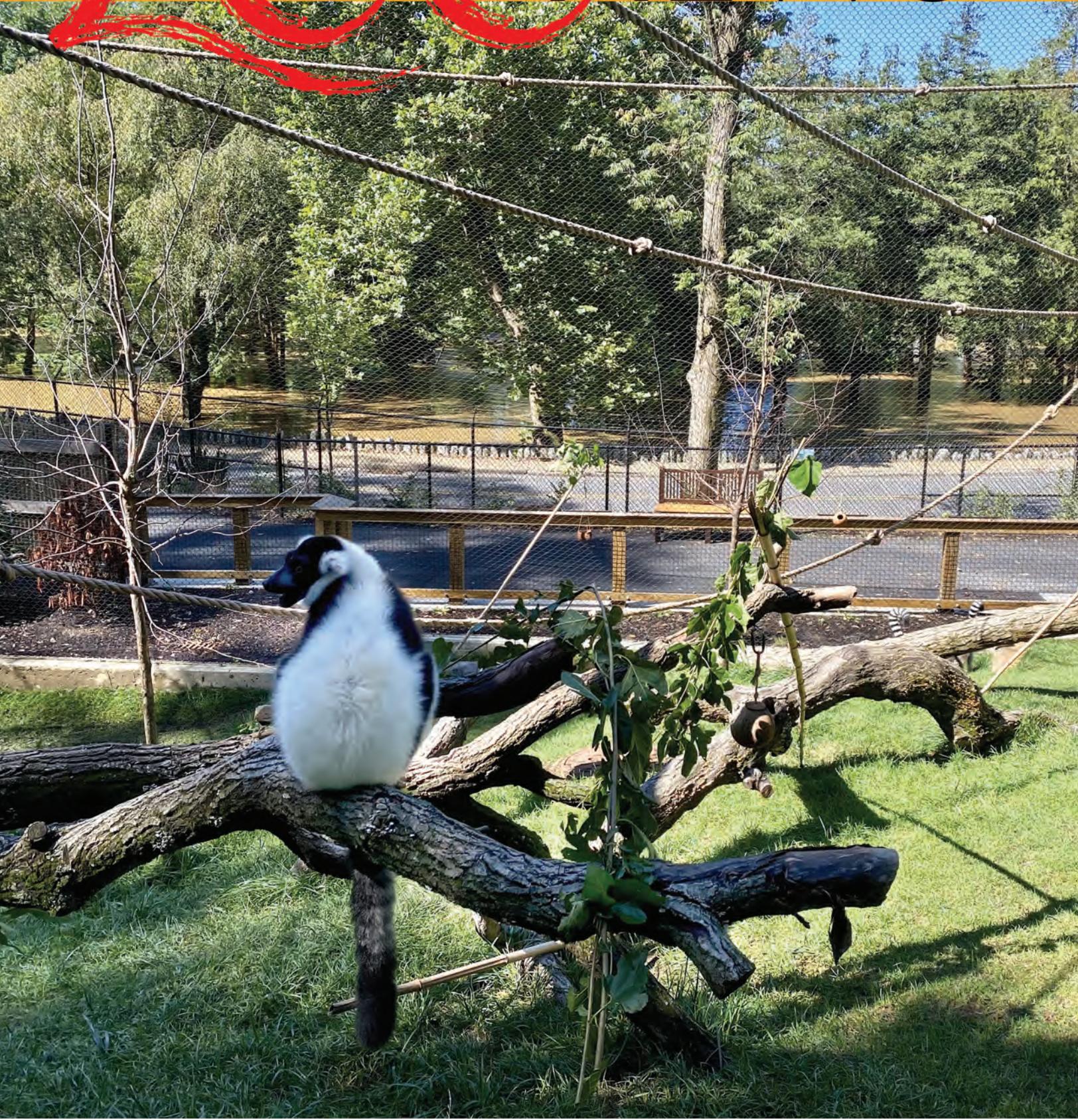


BRANDYWINE

ZOO NEWS



IN THIS ISSUE

Clues at the Zoo.....	2
Thank You for Joining Our Flock	3
Virtual Field Trips are Back	4
Bird Friendly Coffee.....	5
Delaware are Coyotes	6 & 7
Members Night Ice Cream Social.....	8
Lemurs & Lagers Party	9
Thanks - Wins for Rhinos	10
DZS Ex. Director Message.....	11
Wild Weather at the Zoo	12 & 13
BAAZK's Amazon Wishlist	14
Training Geriatric Animals.....	15
Upcoming Events & Programs.....	16

Board of Directors

Arlene Reppa, President
 Serena Wilson-Archie, Vice President
 Gabriel Baldini, Treasurer
 Sarah Cole, Secretary
 Kevin Brandt
 Cameron Fee
 Candice Galvis
 Linda Gray
 Amy Hughes
 Aaron Klein
 Megan McGlinchey
 Michael Milligan
 William S. Montgomery
 Cathy Morris
 Matthew Ritter, (DNREC)
 Richard Rothwell
 Daniel F. Scholl
 Mark Shafer, Executive Director
 Brint Spencer, Zoo Director
 Francie Warther

Support Staff

Melanie Flynn, Visitor Services Manager
 Kate McMonagle, Marketing &
 Special Events Manager
 Shaylyn Harmon
 Membership & Development Coordinator

EDITOR

Kate McMonagle**

PHOTO

CONTRIBUTIONS

Robert Fries

Janey Kramlik*

Rebecca Pilkington*

James Smigie

Robin Sutker*

Jacque Williamson**

WRITERS

Daisy Fiore**

Janey Kramlik*

Abigail McBride**

Rebecca Pilkington*

Mark Shafer**

Robin Sutker*

Jacque Williamson**

DESIGN/PRINTING

Professional Duplicating, Inc

* Delaware State Parks Staff Member

** Delaware Zoological Staff Member

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

On the Cover

The Calm After the Storm
 On an otherwise beautiful fall morning, the lemur habitat overlooks the historic flooding from Brandywine Creek. There was no damage within the Zoo from Hurricane Ida, which passed through overnight September 1 to 2, so keepers were able to maintain mostly normal routines for the animals. For more on the recent Wild Weather at the Zoo, flip to page 12.



Photo and
 commentary by:
 Assistant Curator
 Robin Sutker

BRANDYWINE ZOO

PRESENTS

Clues at the Zoo!

AN ESCAPE ROOM EXPERIENCE

Grab your friends and family and join us after-hours
 for a special escape room style adventure!

OCTOBER 8, 5 PM - 7:30 PM

BEST FOR AGES 15+, \$20 - MEMBERS, \$25 - NON-MEMBERS



Scan Me!



Learn more and register now at BrandywineZoo.org/clues

THANK YOU FOR JOINING OUR FLOCK

The Gary & Karrie
Bartuska Family
Brandon C. Wojcik
Peaches
Diana D.
Susan Thaler Leshem
Laura Sturgeon
Bebe Carnwath
Gina Iorii
The D'Aiuto Family
Rose & Molly Freel
The Farnan 4
Karen Stewart
Betsy Sherretta
Jessica S
Thor Jones
The Rev. Charles Lane
Cowen
Paul R. Fine
Cathy Snow White
Kohlmann Family
Paul Smith Jr
Dr. Nina Dipinto
Jacob Neel
Mr. Pat
Russ Crook

Mair, Cass, Conner
Candice Galvis
Oscar Galvis
Alexis Galvis
Angelina Galvis
Lucas Galvis
Susan Kelliher
Sue and Tom Hodges
Kg's Pr Bird
Brint Spencer
Romen & Chloe
Arlene Reppa
Doug Reppa
Jacob Post
Resa & Dalton
The Shahan Family
Jazz and Domino
Goins
Karen Goins
Kay & Bryan Keenan
Stacy Clark-Sullivan
Lynne Howard
Richard Rothwell
Ciro and Donna Adams
Tom Hughes
Kimberly Augustin



Conner Beck
Raelynn Reed
Coop
Lisa & Austin
Harper & Liam McCans
Alliance Project
Development
Mark Shafer
Celia Shafer
Jackson Shafer

Henry Shafer
Maggie Shafer
Party on Eddie!
Rock on Steve!
The Buckleys
Moeller's and Ayden
Ansel
Eric and Diana Crozier
Tia & Vasken
Araxi & Naquan
Christine & Suzannah
R&S Williams
The Milligan Family
Francie Warther
Rick Warther
Wayne Jaroszewski
The Rychlicki's
The Hahl
Ash, Laura & Will Scache
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth
Robertson
Olivia, Sadie & Lily
Layla & Levon
Cory Marx
Kate & Randy Olson
Bailey Hoopes

T & C Webber Family
Lynn Klein & Roger
McCasin
Landro-McBride Family
Susan Moran
Mom Mom, Pop Pop
and Rhys McVey
Deb & Steve Hall
William Galloway
Andrea & Tom Starr
Natalie and Nolan
Jordan Pinedo
Elizabeth
Jett
Betty Walker
Cathy Walker
Raatul Gupta
Serena Archie
Anthony Archie
Thuron Archie
Dorian Archie
Lucky Zajaczkowski
Luna, Cooper, and Jamey
Michelle
Freya and Willow Messer
Laura & Sam Kirk
Brian Criscuolo



STORYTIME AT THE ZOO

WITH AUTHOR/EDUCATOR

ANNETTE WHIPPLE



Saturday, October 9th @ 1PM*
Amphitheater at the Brandywine Zoo

*RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10TH @ 1PM



302.571.7747
1001 N PARK DRIVE
WILMINGTON, DE 19802



302.235.7665
hockessinbookshelf@verizon.net
www.hockessinbookshelf.com

Virtual Field Trips are Back!

By Daisy Fiore, Assistant Curator of Education

After the great success of last year's virtual field trips the Education Department has decided to continue offering them! These large-scale programs allow us to show the zoo, animal training sessions, and even the insides of animal habitats, to large numbers of school children and members of the public. Last year we featured red panda feedings, serval training, and lemur enrichment during different virtual field trips! Adults and kids alike loved these events, and our feedback was fantastic! At just \$15 per classroom and \$5 for households, these field trips are accessible for every-



one. Last year we reached over 3,000 students learning virtually. Due to the continued need for virtual learning, and the ease and affordability of visiting the Brandywine Zoo virtually, we are excited to offer these programs again!

This fall we will be offering three virtual field trips with different themes. We'll be kicking off the school year with our Anti-Bullying Field Trip on September 17th, where we'll learn how to find common ground and get along. This is a long-standing program teaching kids empathy by helping them understand our less cuddly animals. We'll continue with our World Habitats Day Virtual Field Trip on October 6th. In this trip we'll learn about animal habitats and why everyone needs a safe place to live. We'll finish the semester with our Zoo Virtual Field Trip on November 18th, where we'll learn about animal care and conservation! Join one or all of these virtual field trips, or gift them to a teacher, to get a unique look at the Brandywine Zoo!



VIRTUAL ZOO - Field Trips
PreK - Elementary - Middle - High School

Month	Date	Event
Oct	6	World Habitat Day
Nov	18	Virtual Field Trip
Dec	17	Behind the Scenes Tour
Jan	14	Animals in Winter
Feb	2	Groundhog Day
Feb	11	LOVE of Animals (Valentine's Day)

Scan with your phone

bit.ly/Virtual2021-22

Register \$5/household
\$15/classroom

Bird Friendly Coffee with the Brandywine Zoo

by Jacque Williamson, Curator of Education and Conservation, Brandywine Zoo

The Brandywine Zoo became a program partner with the North American Songbird SAFE program this past spring, 2021. The first initiative we've taken in supporting the program goals was to work on making Bird Friendly® coffee available in Delaware. At the time of our joining the program, there were no coffee roasters selling Bird Friendly certified coffee not only in Delaware, but the closest one to Wilmington was more than 50 miles away!

We began working with the point person for the NAS SAFE program, Kirstin Hill, in preparing materials such as contact letters for roasters, to make sure we were accurately representing the program when we started making contact with roasters. We then began reaching out to coffee roasters in the region to introduce the Bird Friendly program and ask about partnering. Once we had interested roasters, Kirstin joined our virtual meetings with them to help answer any supply-side and program-specific questions (like how the process of actually using Bird Friendly branding works, fees associated with the program that support the continuation of the Bird Friendly program, etc.). During these meetings we would tell the story about Bird Friendly coffee and why it is the gold standard for environmentally friendly coffee certifications, and discuss what a partnership would look like with Brandywine Zoo. We approached roasters with two options- simply beginning to import, roast, and sell Bird Friendly Certified coffee, or, going one step further, roasting a Bird Friendly coffee where proceeds would benefit the Brandywine Zoo's conservation programs.

We're proud to announce that we have our first roaster providing Bird Friendly coffee in Delaware, and we have a partnership with Brandywine Coffee Roasters and Brew Ha Ha cafes in roasting and selling Bird Friendly! Brandywine Coffee Roasters, who supply the coffee for all Brew Ha Ha cafes, eagerly replied to our initial inquires and were very excited to both learn about Bird Friendly coffee and to quickly bring in samples from their supplier to start the process in identifying green Bird Friendly coffee beans. Their roaster profiled the green Bird Friendly beans and were very happy with its flavor profile, enough to place an order for Brandywine



Curator of Education and Conservation Jacque Williamson with Kevin Aquino of Brandywine Coffee Roasters at a tasting station during an evening event at the Brandywine Zoo.



Brandywine Coffee Roasters' artist selected the American kestrel for the bag logo in honor of the Brandywine Zoo's American kestrel nest box monitoring program in Delaware.

Coffee Roasters and Brew Ha Ha cafes, who are now selling Bird Friendly coffee. The bean is a Honduran coffee bean sourced from COMSA (Cafe Organico Marcala, S.A), a collective of coffee farmers committed to organic and Fair Trade coffee farming, in 11lb bags of whole bean coffee. \$2 from every bag sold at Brew Ha Ha cafes, at Brandywine Coffee Roasters, or purchased in the Zootique gift shop will go towards the Brandywine Zoo's conservation programs and \$0.10 from each bag goes directly back to the ongoing

administration of the Bird Friendly program. Since launching the coffee in July, Brandywine Coffee Roasters and Brew Ha Ha have already sold 375 bags, for a total donation of \$750 to our conservation programs for just those two months! Stop by Brew Ha Ha, visit BrandywineCoffeeRoasters.com, or swing through our Zootique to pick up a bag of your own!

Next up, we're partnering with a local artisanal chocolatier, Double Spiral Chocolate (doublespiralchocolate.com), who already use certified organic cacao beans and limited ingredients, including non-centrifugal organic, Fair Trade sugar, to do a chocolate bar with Bird Friendly coffee for the Zoo! Chocolates will be sold at the Brandywine Zoo in our Zootique gift shop and available to their other customers, who are typically gift shops and stores in the region who resell to customers. We're hoping to get Bird Friendly coffee into additional other products, such as using our connections with local breweries to do a beer with Bird Friendly coffee, or possibly into a local ice cream shop to use in their confections. Ultimately, we want to spread the recognition for the Bird Friendly certification so that more consumers ask for and buy it, while also supporting local businesses in our community who want to, in turn, support us back!

So join us in drinking Bird Friendly with your next cup of joe, or maybe even eating it sometime soon! Find out where else to find Bird Friendly coffee in Delaware, or if you're a business interested in providing Bird Friendly coffee to your customers, by visiting BrandywineZoo.org/BirdFriendly/

Delaware are Coyotes?

Community Science and Coyote Immigration

By Abigail McBride, Conservation Research Apprentice

Coyotes, also called the Song Dog, historically absent from Delaware, have been slowly colonizing the state for over a decade as their range expands throughout the eastern United States. Coyotes in Delaware fill a vacant apex carnivore role needed to balance deer and other prey populations, while also influencing small carnivore population guilds (including red foxes, raccoons, opossums, and skunks). Their populations are higher in our neighboring states like Pennsylvania, and the Brandywine Zoo is hoping to explore the relationship between these carnivores and the biodiversity at the places they are, and are not, found.

Learning About Coyotes

The goal of the Zoo's coyote research is to raise public awareness, spread human-coyote coexistence education, and understand the distribution and habitat selection of coyotes in Delaware. There is a lot for us to learn about coyotes and how to live with them as they become established here, and the Brandywine Zoo hopes to understand more about coyote naturalization in Delaware. By understanding their habitat selection and movement habits, we can learn to live



side-by-side with them better. Through the zoo's camera trapping efforts, learning this is possible! Camera trapping is known as a "remote sensing technology" (remote because people don't have to physically be there to collect data) that allows us to detect the presence of more elusive animals such as the coyote. We also hope that by monitoring coyote presence we can better understand their effects on the local ecology.

As predators like coyotes expand their territories in Delaware, inevitably we expect to see increased public awareness, wariness, or even rising levels of potentially negative interactions. By informing Delaware residents with education about coexistence with carnivores like coyotes, we hope to put Delawareans at ease and help them discover ways they can best live alongside these carnivores.

How Many Coyotes Are There in Delaware?

At this time, there are extremely low incidences of coyote-human interactions (mostly sightings and occasional roadkill) but that is something we are trying to find out through this project. Coyotes immigrating into Delaware have been cryptic in nature and seem



to avoid people; there have been reports of coyote in Delaware for over 10 years and still much of the public does not know they are here. Delaware Fish and Wildlife does allow hunting for coyote year-round as long as it's on a landowner's property that has given permission and the coyote is presenting an imminent threat to injuring people, livestock, or domestic animals.

Can't They Be Stopped From Coming Here?

The short answer is not just "no," but we shouldn't for many reasons! Coyotes are the most persecuted native carnivore in North America, with an estimated half-million coyotes (one per minute) hunted every year. Based on the best-available, peer-reviewed research done across several states on eastern coyote establishments, these animals can not be eradicated (more than 100 years of failing to do so have proved this), and it has been shown that hunting coyotes is counterproductive. Their cryptic nature makes it difficult if not impossible to hunt them all, and their adaptable breeding habits actually respond to alpha-pairs being killed with subordinate members re-



producing, resulting in more puppies as a response to indiscriminate hunting pressures. Furthermore, hunting native carnivores that are not causing problems can cause unintended problems. Hunting of coyotes disregards the critical role they play in healthy ecosystems (including free ecosystem services) and creates chaos in family structures of the targeted species, which may result in increased conflicts with livestock, pets, and people.

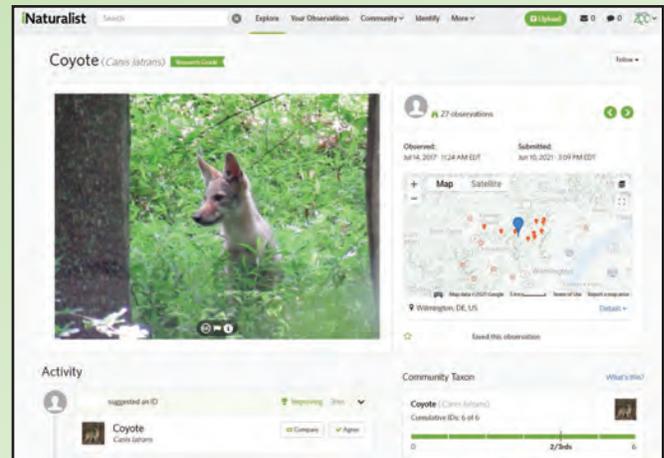
Are Coyotes Helpful?

Coyotes' role in their ecosystem benefits people and other wildlife, including reducing the spread of diseases, consuming carcasses, protecting crops and homes by consuming rodents and pests, increasing biodiversity (for example by controlling smaller carnivores who consume ground-nesting birds), removing sick animals from the landscape. It is important for us to learn to coincide with these beautiful, musical animals which is very possible since many Delawareans have already been peacefully coexisting with them for years without knowing of their existence! We are planning to develop resources about safely hazing coyotes and other behaviors that people can do to minimize the chances of negative interactions with coyotes (such as monitoring outdoor pets, securing trash cans, etc.), but you can find more resources at **ProjectCoyote.org**, **UrbanCoyoteResearch.com**, or **AtlantaCoyoteProject.org**. Through this project, we hope to spread awareness that they are here, and that people have been peacefully coexisting with these carnivores who get a bad rap already for years.



Help Our Research

The zoo's **iNaturalist - Delaware Coyotes** project also serves as a great tool that the public can use to report any coyote sightings or signs. People also have access to where coyotes have been seen throughout the state. For those unfamiliar, iNaturalist is a free platform (app or website) where citizen/community scientists can upload observations such as photos, audio recording, or just a description of your sighting with the location where it was seen. Share your photos with our project today to help us learn more about coyotes in Delaware (or our neighboring states)!



Scan the QR code with the photo app on your phone to go to our project page and join us, or visit <https://bit.ly/DelawareCoyotes-iNaturalist>



References:

Coyote relationships with other animal species. Coyote Relationships with Other Animal Species | Urban Coyote Research. (n.d.). Retrieved September 21, 2021, from <https://urbancoyotereseach.com/coyote-info/coyote-relationships-other-animal-species>.

Henke, S. E., Pence, D. B., & Bryant, F. C. (2002, January 1). *Effect of short-term coyote removal on populations of coyote helminths.* Journal of Wildlife Diseases. Retrieved September 21, 2021, from <https://meridian.allenpress.com/jwd/article/38/1/54/122648/EFFECT-OF-SHORT-TERM-COYOTE-REMOVAL-ON-POPULATIONS>.

Kilgo, J. C., Vukovich, M., Conroy, M. J., Ray, H. S., & Ruth, C. (2016, November 14). *Factors affecting survival of adult female white-tailed deer after coyote establishment in south Carolina.* TWS journals. The Wildlife Society. Retrieved September 21, 2021, from <https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/wsb.708>.

Kilgo, J. C., Shaw, C. E., Vukovich, M., Conroy, M. J., & Ruth, C. (2017, August 29). *Reproductive characteristics of a coyote population before and during exploitation.* TWS journals. The Wildlife Society. Retrieved September 21, 2021, from <https://wildlife.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/jwmg.21329>.

Management & Coexistence. Atlanta Coyote Project. (2016, June 23). Retrieved September 21, 2021, from <https://atlantacoyoteproject.org/coyote-management-co-existence/>.

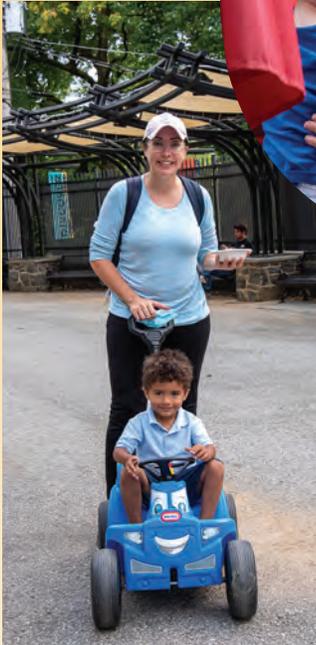
Project Coyote. (n.d.). *Why Killing Coyotes Doesn't Work.* Project Coyote. Retrieved 2021, from http://www.projectcoyote.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/PC_SAB_Coyote-Facts_FINAL_2020_08.pdf.

Members Night Ice Cream Social!

Thank you members! Your membership helps us maintain and improve our zoo, as well as educate visitors about the fascinating creatures that call Brandywine Zoo their home!



ICE CREAM SOCIAL



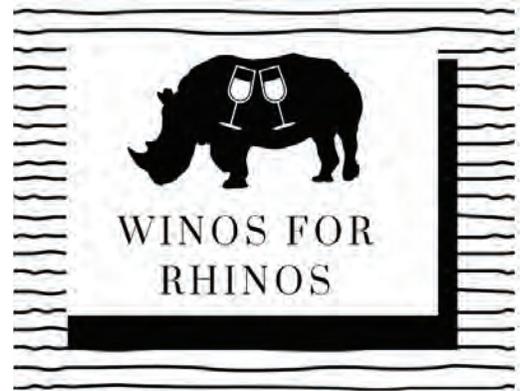
Lemurs & Lagers Party

Thanks to all of our guests and vendors for making this year's fundraiser such a wonderful event!



Thanks for coming to our Winos for Rhinos!

Hosted by Brandywine AAZK



TRICK OR TREAT WITH THE ANIMALS! **BOO!** AT THE **ZOO**

OCT. 22, 23, 24
FROM 10AM - 3PM
AT THE BRANDYWINE ZOO

SPONSORED BY: RENEWAL by ANDERSEN Patterson Schwartz DART Moving Forward FAIRWAY GET TICKETS NOW!

Delaware Zoological Society Executive Director Message

Just hours before the First Annual Lemurs & Lagers Fundraising Party, an impressive group of V.I.P. supporters from the State of Delaware, New Castle County, City of Wilmington, the Board of Directors of the Delaware Zoological Society, and Brandywine Zoo leaders with special honored guests, the Embassy Delegation from the Republic of Madagascar, assembled to celebrate the changes at the zoo including the new Madagascar Habitat, acknowledge contributors, and re-launch the Our Zoo Re-imagined Capital Campaign to fund the next phase of changes guided by the Zoo's Master Plan that re-imagines the Zoo for the future.

The event was moderated by yours truly with remarks by the following dignitaries: Arlene Reppa, President of the Delaware Zoological Society (DZS), Ray Bivens, Director, Delaware State Parks, Brint Spencer, Zoo Director, William Montgomery, DZS Board member, Wilmington Mayor Michael Purzycki, County Executive Matt Meyer, Ms. Amielle Niriniavisoa Marceda, Charge d'Affaires of Madagascar, and Representative Gerald Brandy who read an official tribute issued by the House of Representatives to the Brandywine Zoo for the Madagascar Habitat.

All the guests enjoyed the evening and those who had not been to the zoo in some time expressed joy at seeing it thrive. The Delegates from Madagascar were moved at the sight of lemurs and were grateful for the attention to detail in the educational signage around the habitat and by the presentation of the official flag of the Republic of Madagascar hanging on the Pavilion.



Mark Shafer

The Brandywine Zoo is a true public-private partnership; the care and management of the Zoo's land and animals is managed by Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) as the Brandywine Zoo is a state park; and fundraising and business operations are managed by the Delaware Zoological Society, the Zoo's nonprofit partner.

DNREC funded the first two phases of the Master Plan which includes the Madagascar multi-species habitat, Animal Care Center (under construction at the front of the zoo), as well as other experiential upgrades. Phase 1 is done. Phase 2 is nearly completed. Phase 3, when funded, will result in a guest services area and a dramatic new entryway—expanding the zoo's footprint with a South American Wetlands Habitat featuring Chilean flamingos.

We are calling upon the community to contribute to the Our Zoo Re-Imagined Capital Campaign with a goal of \$5 million to fund Phase 3. Learn more about the plans and how to make a contribution on our web section for Our Zoo Re-Imagined.



Delegate with lemurs



Delegates with Mark and Brint



VIP Group

Photos by Jim Smidgie

Wild Weather at the Zoo

by Assistant Curator Robin Sutker

Each morning, often before leaving the comfort of their beds, animal staff check the conditions for the day. Whether by phone, TV, or radio, the forecast at the Zoo will dictate everyone's plans for the day.

Do I need my rain gear?

How many layers should I bring?

*On a scale of delightful to disgusting,
how humid will it be today?*

The Brandywine Zoo's animals are cared for by a team of dedicated keepers and managers, who have acclimated to the diverse challenges of a four-season job. There are no snow days, no heat advisories spent in air conditioning, and no such thing as a long holiday weekend. The best days are in the 60's, mostly sunny, with minimal humidity (although every keeper has their own favorite weather!), when the animals are most active. But life for the keepers and animals would be far less interesting without, well... weather.

When a storm of any kind is approaching, there is always an uneasy feeling that routines will be altered, and plans may change at any minute. Some animals can sense barometric pressure changes, just like people get head or body aches, but for the most part there is the "calm before." The weather in the days leading up to a storm can seem almost cliché: sunny and bright. It can be cool and crisp in the winter, or hot and humid in the summer.

Wednesday, September 1, 2021: The Prep

In the case of Hurricane Ida, the Zoo already knew it was going to be powerful, based on reports coming out of the Southern United States. Colleagues at the Audubon Nature Institute in Louisiana (which oversees a zoo, aquarium, and other nature-based facilities) communicated that the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina in 2005 were "well served," sustaining minimal damages and loss of life this time around. However, they reiterated the strength of the storm and its damage potential, as Ida made its way to the Northeast. Since the Brandywine Zoo's ability to predict the future isn't fool proof, staff made the decision to prepare for the worst and hope for the best in preparations.

The main goal of storm prep is to ensure the animals and facilities have the best possible chance of making it safely through the storm, while minimizing the risk of escape should there be damage. All the Zoo's animals have dedicated inside areas, where they can be housed after medical procedures, parent offspring bonding, or in case of emergencies. As Delaware was expecting heavy rain with Ida, the biggest risk was saturated soil causing trees to come down, which could potentially damage habitats or cause injuries (to people or animals). As such, most of the birds were moved to less exposed spaces, either within their habitat or in another part of the Zoo. Some birds, includ-



Prep as Hurricane Ida moved into Delaware

ing the sandhill crane, have secure enough habitats to withstand the predicted weather, and were not moved. Mammals, including the bobcat, porcupine, primates, and goats were all secured inside of their dens or barns for the duration of the storm. They all received their favorite reinforcement foods for voluntarily moving inside, which made the process simpler for everyone. The animals had a normal day until about noon and then were safely moved



Moving birds

out of harm's way in less than two hours; just before the first bands of rain reached the Zoo. Staff were then able to finish any remaining prep, including setting up generators and putting umbrellas away, to make it home before the weather worsened.

Thursday, September 2, 2021: The Aftermath

The following morning, staff arrived at a dry Zoo, but a heavily flooded Brandywine Creek. The water in the creek had reached the edges of the adjacent parking lot in past storms, but Hurricane Ida proved historic. Cresting at more than twenty feet and flooding past the picnic tables to the Josephine Fountain, the water seemed to sweep away

everything in its path - expect for a group of ducks that claim the shores of Brandywine Park as their home.

Due to lack of accessible parking, unsafe walking conditions, and a power outage, the Zoo remained closed for the day. The animal's live, however, went back to normal! The Zoo made it through relatively unscathed by the hurricane: a few fallen branches, washout where water channeled... and animals ready to get back to their normal routines. Keepers were easily able to check on animals, habitats, and quickly return everything to status quo. For all of the prep work, the animal staff's hard work paid off - just like Audubon taking lessons from almost two decades ago, the experience of Ida will prepare the Brandywine Zoo for the next severe weather event.

P.S. A positive outcome of Hurricane Ida? Fresh browse and perching! Summer storms can damage or take down large trees within Wilmington State Parks (WSP). Thanks to the partnership of WSP and Zoo staff, any "animal safe" tree is salvaged when possible. Trees like white birch (pictured with WSP Ground Maintenance Supervisor Josh), sycamore, and beech are safe for all animals to ingest, so the leaves (browse) and branches (perching) can be used throughout the Zoo's habitats!



Clean up outside of the Zoo

Brandywine AAZK's Amazon Wishlist

by Janey Kramlik, Lead Keeper/Veterinary Technician

There are a variety of ways to offer support to the Brandywine Zoo and the animals under our care! One way is to send a gift to the animals from their Amazon Wish List. Our Brandywine Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers maintains a wish list specifically for the benefit of animal care

at the Zoo. Items vary in price range so there is something for everyone to gift, such as puzzle feeders, habitat environmental monitors, swings, blankets, toys, scent enrichment, and even gift card options for zoo animal enrichment device companies.

http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/3B5KU9TU7FW04/ref=cm_wl_rlist_go_v



*Thank you
for your
support!*



The Importance of Training Geriatric Animals

by Rebecca Pilkington, Keeper

Training is an important animal keeper skill that can greatly benefit the lives of the animals. The training that takes place in AZA accredited zoos all has a purpose behind it - whether it be a behavior that aids the keeper staff in their day-to-day care of the animals or a behavior that aids veterinary staff with the animal's health. Recently, keepers at the Brandywine Zoo had great success with the serval, Savannah.

Savannah is about 19 years old and has been at the Brandywine Zoo since 2003. Given her age, it is important to obtain bloodwork regularly to monitor her health, especially her kidney and liver values. Keepers and veterinary staff worked together for a couple months to prepare Savannah for a voluntary blood draw from her tail. This is a behavior that was done before, and keeper staff now wanted to incorporate it into Savannah's weekly routine. With training, half the battle is desensitizing the animals to different items that need to be used. Savannah was slowly reintroduced to the sound of clippers, a tourniquet being placed around her tail, alcohol being sprayed on her tail, and being poked with a needle, all while sitting calmly and leaving her tail presented to our veterinary technician or veterinarian.

This experience was made extremely positive for Savannah by giving her favorite treat – raw chicken! The chicken is a very high value item for Savannah, meaning she loves to work in a training session for chicken over something else that may regularly be in her diet (much like I am sure most of us would rather eat a cookie versus broccoli). Trainers and vet staff added new elements slowly into each training session, with the chicken holding her focus.

On August 25, 2021, a successful blood draw was completed! Results showed that her levels have remained stable since 2020. Another huge plus – because routine bloodwork can be obtained voluntarily in this manner, Savannah does not need to go in for an annual exam with anesthesia. Going under anesthesia can put a lot of stress on an animal's body, particularly geriatric individuals. Now, our veterinarian can simply perform a visual exam and bloodwork can be obtained any time! Training is a great asset to keepers and helps make the lives of the animals in their care even better.



Dr. Sam and Keeper Rebecca with the successful blood draw samples



Savannah, the Brandywine Zoo's 19-year-old serval

Scout Days!

.....

OCT 2
NOV 6

Lead your own adventure
on a special self-guided
tour through the zoo!

BRANDYWINE
ZOO

A promotional graphic for 'Scout Days!' featuring a close-up of a serval's face. The text includes the dates 'OCT 2' and 'NOV 6', a description of the activity, and the Brandywine Zoo logo.

brandywinezoo.org/learn/scoutprograms

Upcoming Events & Programs



Scout Day Oct 2
 World Habitat Day Virtual Field Trip..... Oct 6
 Clues at the Zoo: An Escape Experience Oct 8
 Story time at the Zoo with Author/Educator Annette Whipple Oct 9



Boo at the Zoo Oct 22, 23, 24
 Scout Day Nov 6



Make and Take Holiday Gift Workshop: Recycled Book Wreath... Nov 13
 Fall Virtual Field Trip Nov 18
 Make and Take Holiday Gift Workshop: Macramé Wall Art..... Nov 20
 Club Zoo Nov 21, 24



Thanksgiving Break Discovery Booklets – Week of Thanksgiving Break
 Little Nature Explorers: Winter Mini Session
 (Wednesdays)..... Dec 1, 8, 15

Little Nature Explorers: Winter Mini Session
 (Saturdays) Dec 4, 11, 18

Make and Take Holiday Gift Workshop: String Art Dec 4

Santa at the Zoo Dec 11, 12

Behind the Scenes Virtual Field Trip..... Dec 17

Make and Take Holiday Gift Workshop: Cookie Jars Dec 18

Noon Year's Eve Dec 31

Animals in Winter Virtual Field Trip Jan 14, 22

Virtual Science Cubs
 (Wednesdays)..... Feb 2, 9, 16, 23 2022, Mar 2 2022

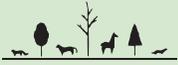
Virtual Science Cubs
 (Saturdays) Feb 5, 12, 19, 26 2022, Mar 5 2022

Winter Discovery Booklets -
 Weekends in December and our New Year's Eve event



Delaware Zoological Society

1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802



Delaware Zoological Society
supporting the BRANDYWINE ZOO



DELAWARE STATE PARKS

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

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

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



BRANDYWINEZOO.ORG/EVENTS

Santa Claus is coming to the zoo!

*Bring your wish list & get your photo
taken with the man himself!*



DECEMBER
11 & 12
10 AM - 12 PM



Ring in the new year with a sparkling cider toast!

Noon Year's Eve

at the Brandywine Zoo
December 31st
11 am - 12:15 pm