

BRANDYWINE

ZOO NEWS



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

On the Cover:

J-Law is our 7 years and 11 months old sloth. She enjoys naptime in her hammock and warm water mists. More about J-Law on page 5.



Our Little Free Library needs books!

If you have books relating to animals or storybooks with animal characters, we would love your book donation.

Please email Education@brandywinezoo.org to organize drop off.

Our library and readers thank you!



Docent Leader honored at DNREC ceremony

By Lauren Barczak

Our wonderful Brandywine Zoo Docent Leader, Ruth Williams, was recognized this week at the 2023 DNREC Volunteers of the Year awards ceremony as the Conservation/Education volunteer of the year!

Ruth's enthusiasm and commitment to educational programs and events has been an immense asset to our zoo team. Thank you for your hard work, Ruth!

Full news article can be found here:

<https://news.delaware.gov/2023/04/21/dnrec-honors-volunteers-of-the-year-on-the-green-in-dover/>



DELAWARE STATE PARKS

BRANDYWINE ZOO
SIP & STROLL
HAPPY HOUR

June 22 • July 20
August 17 • September 21

5PM-7PM

BRANDYWINE ZOO

Tickets: <https://brandywinezoo.org/events/sip-stroll/>



Delaware Zoological Society Executive Director Message

I'm sure as adults we all have asked ourselves: "where did the time go?". I know every parent and grandparent has had this thought, especially as it relates to our children's development. Well, lately I've been asking myself that question a lot.

I joined the Delaware Zoological Society as its Executive Director in May of 2020 (in many ways it seems like it was yesterday). Covid was in full force. We were not able to open. We were not sure what we would have to do to be able to open. We were not sure if people would be comfortable going out in public. And, I had an awful lot to learn (coming from the private sector—a marketing and advertising guy from the world of banking), as I was now asked to lead a non-profit organization through a very difficult and unprecedented time in its history.

But we had two important things going for us:

1. An exceptionally dedicated staff who knew what they were doing and were very determined to figure it all out;
2. A membership base that was just as dedicated to the organization as the staff.

Turns out, that's all we needed.



Mark Shafer

So, this note is a simple "thank you".

Thank you to the wonderful people I get to work with every day. Your hard work and dedication help to make this such a special place.

And a very special thank you to all of you, our loyal members. We absolutely could not function without your support. I know we ask a lot of you. And come through you do, time and time again. We are so appreciative.

I hope we see you all at this year's Members Night on August 23rd. It's always a fun time and it's our turn to give back to you.



New at the Zoo

By Amy Haddock, Assistant Curator/ Registrar

The Brandywine Zoo welcomed a Hoffman's two-toed sloth on April 20, 2023. Her name is Jennifer Lawrence and will be known as J-Law here at Brandywine. She is 7 years and 11 months old. This species on average lives 15-20 years, but can live over 30 years in managed care. J-Law can be feisty and lets it be known when she doesn't appreciate what is going on. She enjoys naptime in her hammock and warm water mists.

All sloths are built for life in the treetops. They spend nearly all of their time hanging from branches with a powerful grip aided by their long claws. Sloths even sleep in trees, and they sleep a lot. Sloths are extremely slow-moving animals. Their slow speed, along with their nocturnal lifestyle, makes them very hard to notice. J-Law's exhibit will be the South America exhibit.

Because of their unique metabolic activity, sloths are restricted to the constant warm temperatures of tropical forests. Under pressure from an alarming rate of deforestation in the world's tropics, sloths and other tropical forest species numbers are at risk.

Because of their fruit diet, sloths are very important propagators of tropical plants. Several species of plants germinate only after they have passed through the sloths' digestive system.

The Hoffman's two-toed sloth is the 19th species at the Brandywine Zoo that belongs to a Species Survival Plan. The SSP Program has long been a symbol of AZA's collective commitment to species. SSP's are led by expert

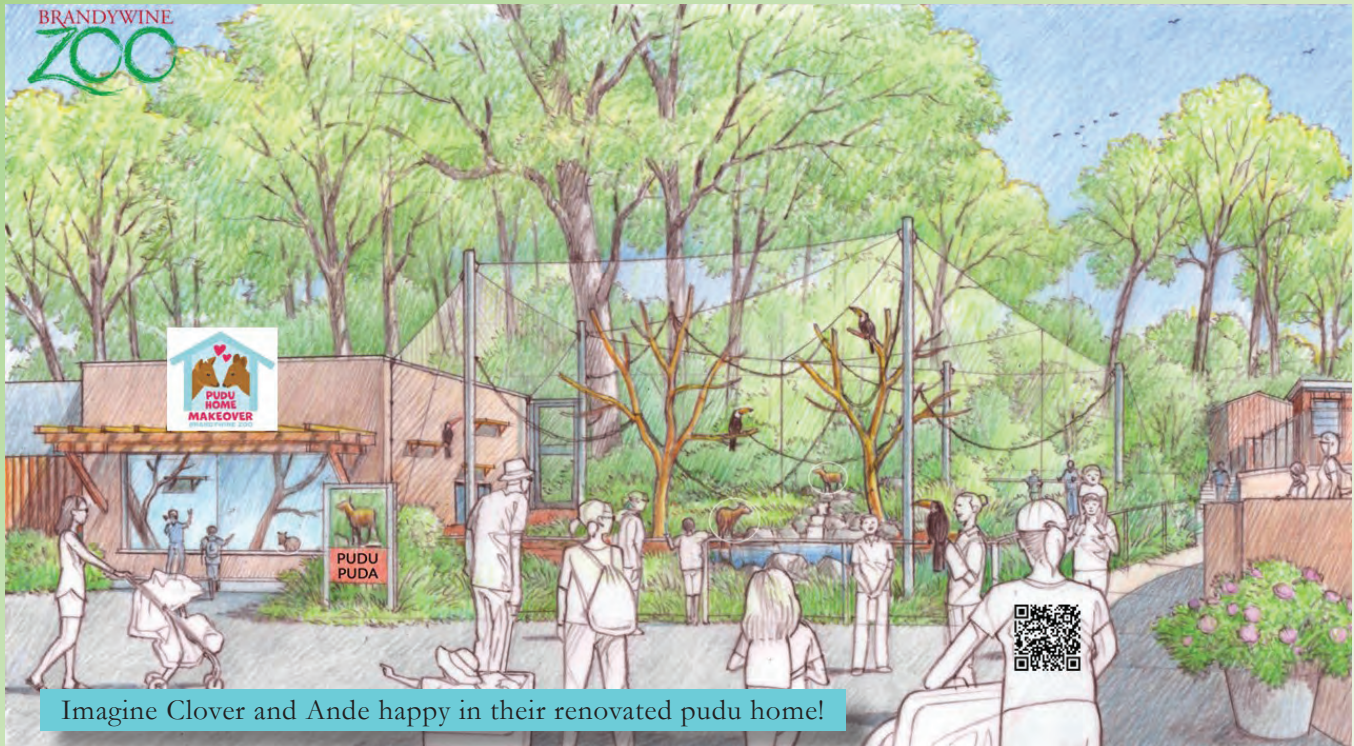
advisors who cooperatively work together to maximize genetic diversity. The Brandywine Zoo staff is proud to be a member of this program and to bring in yet another species belonging to it.



www.brandywinezoo.org

Pudu Home Makeover Fundraising Underway

By Karen Galanaugh



Imagine Clover and Ande happy in their renovated pudu home!

Donations Wanted to Build New Habitat for Small Deer Family, Toucans, and Tortoises.

It's time for a pudu home makeover at the Brandywine Zoo. The Delaware Zoological Society (DZS) is raising funds to update the habitat for the two tiny deer (pudu) at the Brandywine Zoo. The Pudu Home Makeover fundraising goal is \$340,000.

“We want to transform the current pudu habitat into a beautiful multi-level place to live,” says Mark Shafer, Executive Director of DZS.

As readers know, DZS is the not-for-profit fundraising member organization that supports the Our Zoo Re-imagined transformation of the 118-year-old Brandywine Zoo.

The habitat will have indoor and outdoor space, a wading pool, and multi-level vegetation. The modern makeover design will enable the pudu to spend time outdoors and go inside while still being viewed by zoo visitors. It will have an area behind the scenes for special pudu care too. Joining the pudu in this makeover habitat will be their toucan and tortoise companions. Professional designers estimate the makeover will

cost \$340,000. DZS must raise this amount to make it happen and is counting on the community to help. Sponsorship is welcome and individual and family donations will be appreciated. See the zoo's website to learn more and contribute to the construction fund for Pudu Home Makeover.

Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent the law allows. Donations of \$50 or more are eligible for a pudu home makeover sign with the contributor's name on it to be placed on the zoo grounds as an acknowledgement.



We can make this happen! Donate today.

Supporters are encouraged to make their own crowdfunding page that can be easily customized with a message to send to friends and go to the donate page to learn how easy it is.

The Brandywine Zoo's southern pudu are named Clover and Ande. They are the second smallest deer in the world at 14-17 inches (35-43cm) at shoulder height. There are fewer than 10,000 southern pudu left in the wild in Argentina and Chile, and these numbers are rapidly decreasing because of habitat destruction, being hunted for food by humans, and killed by loose dogs. There are about 200 pudu in zoos around the world.

Pudu Home Makeover Fundraising Underway

By Karen Galanaugh



Southern pudu, Clover and Ande have bonded and it is hoped they produce offspring.

Zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), such as the Brandywine Zoo, are focused on maintaining a healthy population of pudu in zoos by utilizing the Species Protection Program (SSP). The SSP pairs genetically optimal animals, in hopes for offspring to add to the population. Both Ande and Clover were born in AZA zoos in the United States. The SSP program recommended the pairing and assigned them to both to the Brandywine Zoo.

For more than 118 years, the Brandywine Zoo has been a landmark in Wilmington and a beloved destination for generations of Delawareans. Our jewel is undergoing significant changes chartered by the Zoo's Master Plan that re-imagines the Zoo with a balanced project approach between infrastructure, guest services, and modern animal habitats. As the plan unfolds, there will be both public and behind-the-scenes changes made with the help of public donations and contributions from government, businesses, and foundation sources.



Exciting times are before us. Please visit the website to learn how you can make this Pudu Home Makeover Happen.

<https://brandywinezoo.org/pudu-home-makeover/>



WATCH the brief Before and After transformation video.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eLtnTIMhWU>

The season is off to a great start! Thank you to our wonderful guests and amazing vendors!

Clues at the Zoo!!!



Earth Day!!!



Sip & Stroll!!!



Update from the Zoo Director

By Brint Spencer, Zoo Director

The summer season is kicking into high gear and things at the zoo are moving along at the same pace. I'd like to take a moment to look back and then look forward.

The past couple of years have presented numerous challenges for all of us, but there were also some high points. Recently, at a delayed awards ceremony, the Brandywine Zoo's zoo keeper and education teams were awarded the 2021 Delaware Recreation & Park Society Outstanding Organization Award for their work during the Covid pandemic. The keepers maintained the same level of excellence in animal care they always have, and the education staff learned new technology so they could remotely provide the quality education programs our guests have come to expect.



operational policies and procedures followed by a 2-day inspection by three outside zoo professionals. The outcome was a unanimous vote by the accreditation commission to reaccredit the zoo. The zoo has maintained its accreditation since 1986.

We are looking forward to an exciting summer. Our Sip & Stroll events continue to draw crowds as guests enjoy the zoo in the cool of the evening. We have a couple of new animal species that will be joining us this summer. Two are species that have been here before and the third is a new species for the zoo. Follow us on

social media and the zoo's website as we reveal clues to who our new residents are.

See you at the Zoo!



The Zoo staff was also awarded the 2022 Team Award by the DNREC Division of Parks and Recreation for their work getting the zoo reaccredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The

Brandywine Zoo is the only AZA accredited animal facility in the state of Delaware. The accreditation process included the submission of a 4" binder documenting zoo



**WEDNESDAY
JULY 5
AND
SEPT. 13
5-7PM**



Family
Fun Night
at the *Brandywine Zoo*

<https://brandywinezoo.org/family-fun-night/>

Help provide enrichment to our animals

Enrichment is an integral part of the job for our zoo keepers and it is one of the many ways they keep the animals healthy and stimulated, both mentally and physically.

Training and enrichment also enhance zoo visitor experiences by allowing visitors to observe the animals' natural behaviors and hear about the work that goes into daily care for each animal.

Learn more and donate here: brandywinezoo.org/support/enrichment-wish-list



**CONCERT
FOR
CONSERVATION**



**BRANDYWINE
ZOO**

**BELLEFONTE BREWERY BRANDYWINE
JULY 8TH | 8PM | LIVE MUSIC BY
FAMILY CIRCUS**

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR TICKET INFO



 **A BOWLING FOR RHINOS BENEFIT
PRESENTED BY
THE BRANDYWINE ZOO AAZK CHAPTER** 



PRIDE DAY

**BRANDYWINE
ZOO**

Saturday, June 24, 10am-3:30pm

<https://brandywinezoo.org/event/pride-day/>

Delaware Zoological Society

1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802



Delaware Zoological Society
supporting the BRANDYWINE ZOO



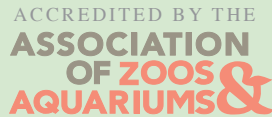
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The Brandywine Zoo is managed by the Delaware Division of Parks and Recreation with the support of the Delaware Zoological Society.

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



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



Upcoming Events & Programs

Sensory Hour June 17, July 8, August 12

Sip & Stroll June 22, July 20,
August 17, September 21

Pride Day June 24

Family Fun Night July 5, September 13

Concert for Conservation July 8
(at Bellefonte Brewing Co)

Member Party August 23

Little Nature Explorers Ongoing Sessions

Story Time at the Zoo Thursdays (June – August)



For More Information, visit www.brandywinezoo.org