

BRANDYWINE

ZOO NEWS



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### EDITOR

Kate McMonagle\*\*

### WRITERS

- Karen Galanaugh  
 Amy Haddock\*  
 Jennifer Klotz\*\*  
 Leah Newman\*  
 Mark Shafer\*\*

### PHOTO

- CONTRIBUTIONS  
 Allyson Coleman\*  
 Robert Fries  
 Amy Haddock\*  
 Meghan Hoopes\*\*  
 Janey Kramlik\*  
 Jennifer Klotz\*\*  
 Leah Newman\*  
 Jim Smigie  
 Carlee Wadding\*

### DESIGN/PRINTING

Professional  
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\* Delaware State Parks Staff Member

\*\* Delaware Zoological Staff Member

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

## On the Cover: COMMON RAVENS

The Brandywine Zoo has two female ravens. **Kanga** and **Dichali** were both acquired from the National Zoo, Washington D.C. on March 13, 2019. They were deemed unreleasable by Montana Fish and Wildlife. Kanga has a silver band on left leg. Dichali has no leg band, one wing “drips” more than the other.



**SPIRITS AT THE ZOO**

Friday, October 28  
 Ages 21+ Only  
 5:30pm-8pm

Enjoy Halloween spirits without the kids!

**Tickets: [brandywinezoo.org/spiritsatthetoo](http://brandywinezoo.org/spiritsatthetoo)**  
 Members: \$5 • Non-members: \$10 • Drink Tickets: \$6

Friday, Oct. 21 • Saturday, Oct. 22  
 Sunday, Oct. 23 • 10am-3pm

**BOO AT THE ZOO**

Sponsored by:  
**Rockford WOODLAWN**  
THE ROCKFORD WOODS AND FISH FARM

**Tickets: [brandywinezoo.org/boooatthetoo](http://brandywinezoo.org/boooatthetoo)**



# Accreditation

By Karen Galanaugh, APR, MSM

We are proud to announce the re-accreditation of the Brandywine Zoo by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). After a detailed review and evaluation process, the Brandywine Zoo was awarded the gold standard of quality—accreditation by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. This is the mark of excellence that assures the public that the Brandywine Zoo meets or exceeds professional standards in animal care, education, visitor services and safety, programming, and conservation.

Every five years, the Brandywine Zoo is reviewed and evaluated by the AZA. The zoo has earned accreditation continuously since 1986 and this re-accreditation is good through 2027.

The AZA has been the primary accrediting body for zoos and aquariums for more than 40 years. U.S. agencies, such as OSHA and the USDA, consider AZA standards as the national standard, and they refer to AZA standards when evaluating institutions.

The process of accreditation includes onsite examinations by the AZA Accreditation Commission that include detailed review processes by the commissioners and analysis of all aspects of the facility's operation, including animal welfare and well-being; veterinary care; keeper training; safety for visitors, staff, and animals; educational programs; conservation efforts; financial stability; risk management; governance; and guest services.

The accreditation was announced at the 2022 National Conference of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums in Baltimore on August 27, and on September 28, the president and CEO of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Dan Ashe, presented the accreditation plaque to Zoo Director, Brint Spencer and the Brandywine Zoo staff at a celebratory ceremony at the zoo with Delaware Zoological Society board members, State, County and City of Wilmington leaders attending, as well as members of the media.

“To put this accreditation in perspective,” declared Dan Ashe, “there are only 238 zoos in the world that achieved AZA standards. So, the Brandywine Zoo is not only the best animal care facility in Delaware, but among the best zoos in the world meeting the gold standard for a modern zoological facility.”



Not all zoos pass the test and meet the standards of the AZA. It's a big deal! It demonstrates that the Brandywine Zoo is committed to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for the visitor, and a better future for all living things. Less than ten percent of animal exhibitors in the United States are accredited. The Brandywine Zoo is the only animal care facility in Delaware to meet the rigorous AZA accreditation standards.

“We are proud of our Brandywine Zoo, a gem in the heart of Wilmington, and all it offers to the local community and those who travel to see the exotic and endangered animals,” said DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin. “I commend our zoo staff and the Delaware Zoological Society for their work to ensure Brandywine Zoo remains a top-notch facility to connect people with and care for its animals.” The Brandywine Zoo is a Delaware State Park.

Some of the benefits of accreditation include eligibility for funding and grants from certain foundations, corporations, and other sources; it

permits participation in Animal Exchange – access to specimens from other AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums for loan and/or breeding; and allows the Brandywine Zoo to participate in the AZA's flagship animal conservation program, the Species Survival Plan. The accreditation allows us to maintain our membership in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and continue our **participation in the AZA Reciprocal Admissions Program. As a member of the Brandywine Zoo/Delaware Zoological Society, you are eligible for free or discounted admission with participating AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums.**

The Brandywine Zoo has changed a bit since its last accreditation. In 2018, DNREC unveiled the 117-year-old zoo's master plan, which includes several upgrades with

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a focus on animal welfare, overall guest experience, and the zoo's mission as a conservation institution.

Phases I and II of the master plan are now complete and include: a) a state-of-the-art Animal Care Center that further strengthens care of animals and provides expanded onsite veterinary capabilities, b) a new multi-species Madagascar Habitat, farmyard with goats,

**The Brandywine Zoo is the only animal care facility in Delaware to meet the rigorous AZA accreditation standards.**

accessibility; and a variety of other behind-the-scenes and public-area facility updates.



Brandywine Zoo staff flank Brint Spencer, Zoo Director (holding plaque) and Dan Ashe, President and CEO of AZA at the September 28 celebration at the zoo.

Andean condor viewing area, Honeybee display with interactive and attractive play elements, and c) increased ADA

Phase III of the zoo master plan includes a dramatic entryway that will include new ticketing and security areas, along with a new multi-species exhibit to house head-turning Chilean Flamingos and other species. The Delaware Zoological Society is engaging and encouraging the community to contribute to the

capital fundraising campaign, Our Zoo Re-Imagined, to make Phase III a reality. The campaign is spearheaded by Mark Shafer, executive director of the Delaware Zoological Society.

We wish to thank all our members, visitors, sponsors, volunteers, and vendors who support the Brandywine Zoo in their own way. We are especially grateful to our excellent staff and leadership for their appreciation of animals and dedication to excellence.



V.I.P.s tour the new Animal Care Center and Janey Kramlik, Lead Keeper/Veterinary Technician, demonstrates the diagnostic equipment.

# Presenting at the AZA conference

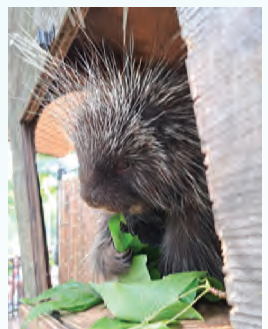
By Leah Newman, Training Coordinator

On September 1, 2022, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to represent the Brandywine Zoo at the AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) Conference in Baltimore, MD alongside my co-worker, Janey Kramlik. Together we presented on how our zoo staff successfully collaborates to train voluntary veterinary behaviors in a majority of the zoo's animals. These voluntary behaviors are trained using positive reinforcement which teaches the animals to actively



participate in their own medical care, receiving rewards for doing so. As the zoo's training coordinator, I work closely with Janey, the zoo's vet tech, to ensure that the keepers and the animals are successfully reaching their training goals for behaviors such as voluntary containment, voluntary hand injection, and voluntary blood draw. We presented with a panel of six other

speakers from a variety of zoos around the country including the San Diego Zoo, the San Francisco Zoo, the Maryland Zoo and the National Zoo. We were selected to join this panel specifically to represent small zoos and show that great work can be accomplished regardless of the size of a facility. While at the conference, we listened to other presenters talk about a variety of interesting and relevant topics such as how to create a culture of safety in your institution and best practices for assessing animal care and welfare. We also made lasting connections and shared ideas with staff from other zoos and aquariums, both large and small. Thank you to the Brandywine Zoo and DNREC for their support and for allowing us to have this opportunity!



# Conservation Leadership Academy is Wrapping Up

By Jen Klotz, Community Engagement Lead

October marks the final month of this new program and what a journey it has been. Important topics like Climate Change, Water Conservation, Plastic Pollution, Indigenous Voices in Conservation and more have been highlighted since February. There have been speakers, activities, field trips, and service-learning projects all to help students understand the importance of our impact on the environment and ways to counter problems. I have also learned and grown on this journey while diving deeper into topics so I can teach them properly. The best part has been watching the students have fun and grow their conservation confidence by “learning new stuff”. They quickly came out of their shells since they were around others with the same passion and interests. I have no doubt these 10 individuals will make a mark with whatever they choose to do in the field. Delaware and the Wilmington area are new to me, so from the beginning I had the challenge of who could help make CLA the best it could be. I am thankful to have made some great connections to people and organizations around us that have led to, or will in the future, rewarding partnerships with the zoo. The Latin American Community Center,

Bellevue Community Center, DE Center for Horticulture, Winterthur, Eco Plastic Products, DE Recycling Center, USDA APHIS, and the University of DE Master Naturalist and Gardener Programs have all helped CLA in some way. Carlos and the folks at Pat’s Pizza and Bistro on Concord Pike kept us fueled with delicious lunches throughout. Once again, Brandywine Zoo staff would like to thank the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) for the great opportunities their grant has provided for us and those attending our new programs. The winter will bring assessment of our first outing with Conservation Leadership Academy and tweaks to make future iterations as impactful.



# Delaware Zoological Society Executive Director Message

Well, we're coming to the close of another great year here at the Brandywine Zoo. We've had a lot to celebrate this year. At the top of the list, of course, is our earning re-certification from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Being recognized in this way is a testament to the hard and caring work performed each day by the keeper staff along with everyone who works here at our beloved zoo. AZA accreditation is the mark of excellence that proves the Brandywine Zoo meets or exceeds professional standards in animal care, education, visitor services, programming, and conservation. We are understandably proud of this achievement. We've earned it before (in fact, we've consistently earned accreditation going all the way back to 1986) but being recognized by the AZA in this manner never gets old. Yea us!



Mark Shafer

Our education staff produced another fine year of programming. Our summer camps were again sold out. We welcomed over 150 campers this year. And from the sounds I heard each morning outside my office, a fun time was had by all. We introduced a new early childhood education series called "little nature explorers" where our youngest guests come to the zoo on Wednesday and Sunday mornings (before we officially open at 10) to learn about and explore the wonders of nature as well enjoy close encounters with many of our ambassador animals. The classes have also been selling out.

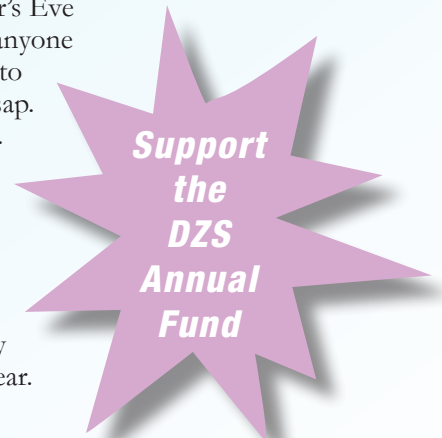
Sip and Strolls, our monthly evening series (5-7pm) were back again by popular demand. Based on the feedback we received from last year's Sip guests, we added more food choices (including food trucks) and introduced live music. We reinstated our very popular Brew at the Zoo, having had to cancel it for 2 years due to Covid, while

moving it from its traditional September date to early June this year. The date change certainly proved successful as we welcomed a record number of guests on a beautiful summer evening.

But we don't rest on our laurels here at the zoo. We have big plans for the Fall including this year's Boo at the Zoo, our merry, not scary, family-oriented daytime Halloween celebration (Oct 21, 22 and 23). More vendors, more decorations, and more candy for the kids (of course, adults are welcome to grab a hand full too). We're adding an adult Halloween event this year: Spirits at the Zoo (October 28th). This will be a nighttime affair and include a costume contest. Local vendors will be on hand selling specialty drinks too.

Of course, we'll close out the year with a visit by Santa on Dec 3 and 4 and then ring in 2023 with a countdown at "midnight" (actually noon), ball drop and cider toast on Saturday December 31st at our traditional Noon Year's Eve celebration. I encourage anyone interested in either event to book your reservations asap. These events will sell-out.

As always, I thank you for your support. We will kick-off our annual fund drive in November. We are so appreciative of all the love and generosity you all show to us each year. It means a great deal.



## SUPPORT THE DZS ANNUAL FUND



### Sensory Hour at the Brandywine Zoo

Time: 9-10am

Join us for Sensory Hour  
on October 8th & November 12th!

[brandywinezoo.org/visit/free-family-experiences](http://brandywinezoo.org/visit/free-family-experiences)



# Meet Amy!

By Amy Haddock, Assistant Curator/Registrar

I have been working at the Brandywine Zoo for 3.5 years. I started as a lead keeper and then added registrar to that. I became Assistant Curator in April of this year and will stay on as the institution's registrar.

Prior to Brandywine I worked in commissary and on the primate team at the Nashville Zoo for 5 years. I worked at Adventure Aquarium for 8 years. I ran the water quality laboratory, scuba dove the exhibits for animal observations and maintenance, was the primary trainer for seals, hippos, and more.

I interned and worked at the Minnesota Zoo with bottlenose dolphins and sea otters. I was on a team that worked 24 hours a day to raise 2 orphaned sea otter pups from Alaska.

I am from South Jersey and have a Bachelor's of Science, in marine biology, from Stockton University.

Zookeepers have to move around a lot in order to gain experience. I moved around but I wanted to come back to the northeast. I like being close to friends and family, I like the pace of the northeast, and I like that I can see my favorite band, Phish, in a lot of cities that are close to each other.

Brandywine Zoo is the place I feel I found my long-term home. The small staff has a family vibe, we look out for each other. I feel I have joined the team at such an exciting time with a lot of opportunities.



## SANTA AT THE BRANDYWINE ZOO



Saturday, Dec. 3 & Sunday, Dec. 4, 10am - 12:30pm

Meet Santa, share your wishes, and remember to bring your camera to get photos at this Winter Wonderland event at the Brandywine Zoo. Enjoy free hot cocoa and fun holiday activities.

Tickets available ONLINE ONLY:  
[brandywinezoo.org/santa](http://brandywinezoo.org/santa)

Rain or shine. Santa will be in the Lemur Pavilion. It's outside, but covered and heated.



Thanks to all who attended our Special Events this summer!  
We hope to see you next year and at our upcoming Fall & Winter Events!

## Clues at the Zoo!!!



## Family Fun Night!!!



# Pride Day!!!



# Sip & Stroll!!!



Thank You!

# Saying No to Plastics

By Jen Klotz, Community Engagement Lead

Twenty-seven team members supported Brandywine Zoo during **Plastic Free July** this year, and we were 1 of 309 teams from 45 countries across the world. How cool! Actions to reduce plastic usage or learn about its impacts included, but weren't limited to, touring a waste management facility, researching bioplastics, planting gardens, switching to shampoo bars, and reusing rubber gloves instead of roller sheets for pet hair removal. An important aspect of PFJ is bringing awareness that

the *production* of plastic is worse than its disposal in many cases. These powerful lessons will certainly stay with us personally, and professionally as they weave into our conservation messaging. For the first time out, our team did well but there's always room for improvement and when it comes to plastic pollution, the more we counteract it the better!



Check out some other impacts by Team BZ!



## Member Spotlight!

[brandywinezoo.org/support/membership/](http://brandywinezoo.org/support/membership/)



We love our members and appreciate all of their support! We couldn't do what we do without them.

In this issue, we're celebrating Gale for going above and beyond her membership.

Gale is a regular at our special events and donates to our Free Little Library often. Thanks to Gale, we have lots of book options for our Storytime program and plenty of books for our guests to enjoy.



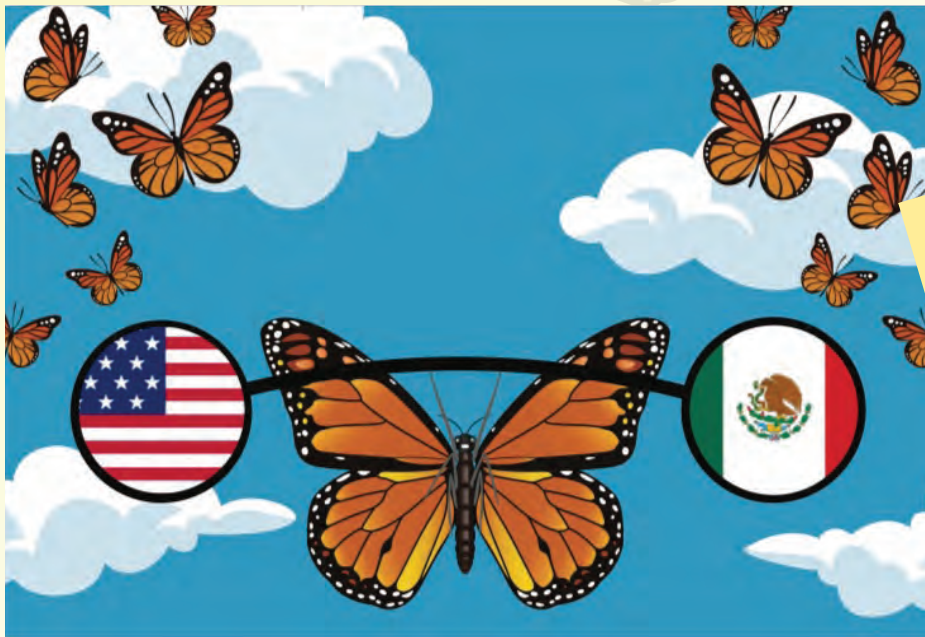
Gale and her husband Joe Francis enjoying ice cream at our Sip & Stroll event

# Flying to the Rescue for Monarch Butterflies

By Jen Klotz, Community Engagement Lead

In July the migratory monarch butterfly was officially declared endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The primary reasons for population decline are habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change. As one of over 100 partners in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums SAFE Monarch program, Brandywine Zoo incorporates actions to help monarch butterflies in several ways. At least annually, we host a native plant sale where milkweed is the primary offering. Other pollinator plants like cardinal flower or black-eyed Susan are included. Proceeds from the sale go to our Conservation Fund which supports programs in the US and around the world. Throughout the zoo we have planted native species and recently finished a large pollinator garden behind our bee exhibit. Guests will be able to see the garden next spring through two viewing windows. More milkweed along with coneflower, aster, Cherokee sedge, goldenrod, phlox, alumroot, beard tongue, green spice, and others will be a feast to bees, butterflies and more! Our first Mighty Monarch Day will be held October 8th. The general admission event celebrates all things monarch butterfly with traditional Mexican dance, chalk

art along the zoo path of their southern migration route, photo ops with Mrs. Delaware wearing a beautiful monarch butterfly costume, and Master Gardeners teaching about this amazing insect. Milkweed seeds from plants at the zoo will also be given away as they are a critical plant for the species. You don't need a big backyard to help pollinators- some hanging or potted plants on a porch or balcony will do the trick. If we all have something, it becomes a habitat highway, connecting to larger areas around us.



## MIGHTY MONARCH DAY

**RESCHEDULED TO: Saturday, October 8, 10am-4pm**

Look out for  
more  
Monarch events  
at the zoo in  
2023!

# Toys for Tots

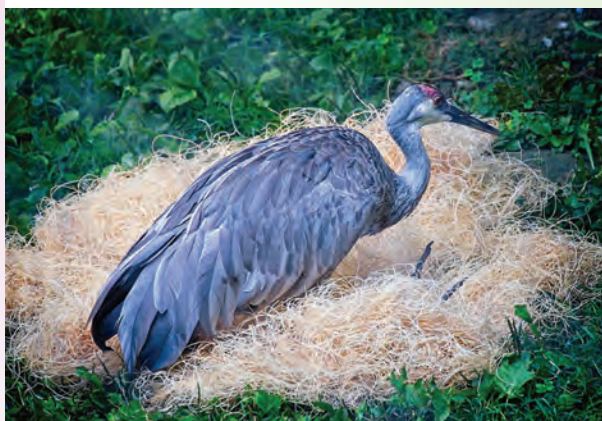
The Brandywine Zoo is proud to participate in Toys for Tots again this year. Together with Delaware State Parks we have collected thousands of toys over the past few years and we want to keep this tradition going. Toys for Tots helps ensure that less fortunate children have a brighter holiday season.

Please drop off a **new, unwrapped** toy to the Zoo before December 12th.



You can also purchase an item right from the gift shop and support the zoo at the same time! The drop box will be available during Santa at the Zoo too!

Toys can be delivered to the Gift Shop any day between 10:00am and 3:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact Visitor Services Manager Melanie Flynn at 302-571-7788 ext. 214.



**Sandhill Cranes** are active during the daytime, sandhill cranes spend most of their time resting, foraging for food, or socializing with other birds, and for three months of each spring, raising their young. Sandhill cranes are famous for their loud trumpeting calls, made possible by elongated tracheas in their throats, which allow them to emit deeper frequencies.

# Summer Camps

Our summer camps were a big success and campers had loads of fun at the zoo. Shout out to **Wilmington Flower Market** for helping to make our summer camps a reality through their generous donation.



*Wilmington Flower Market, Inc.*



# Friends of Delaware State Park Raffle

Enter to win by November 15

<https://fdsp.betterworld.org/campaign-checkout/friends-delaware-state-parks-raf?tickets=28937,1>

Be sure to select Brandywine Zoological Society as the Friends Group you would like your purchase to support!

FRIENDS OF DELAWARE STATE PARKS

## RAFFLE

THREE PRIZES!

THREE WINNERS!

1 for \$5.00

3 for \$10.00

Purchase your tickets by  
Tuesday, November 15, 2022 for  
your chance to win:



1st Prize

### SUN AND FUN PACKAGE

- 1 Week stay at Cape Henlopen Cabin OR a 1 weekend stay in Delaware Seashore State Park Cottage
- Dinner for 2 at Big Chill restaurant
- Tour of historic World War II Fort Miles
- Historic World War II Military Truck Tour of Cape Henlopen
- 1/2 Day kayak rental for 2
- DE State Parks Annual Pass



2nd Prize

### DE STATE PARKS ADVENTURE PACKAGE

- Week stay in Lums Pond Yurt
- Go Ape Tree Top adventure for 2
- 1/2 Day Boat rental for 2
- Blue Rock Climbing for 2 at Wilmington State Parks
- Admission for 4 to the Brandywine Zoo
- DE State Parks Annual Pass



3rd Prize

### FAMILY FUN PACKAGE

- Week stay in Killens Pond Cabin
- Waterpark pass for 4
- 1/2 Day boat rental for 4
- First State Heritage Park program pass for 4
- Round of golf for 4 at Garrisons Lake Golf Course
- DE State Parks Annual Pass

DRAWING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16 • NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.  
OVERNIGHT STAYS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

**TO ENTER**  
VISIT THE LINK BELOW OR  
SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE  
<https://fdsp.betterworld.org/giveaways/friends-delaware-state-parks-raf>



Proceeds Benefit: State Park Friends Organizations  
and Delaware State Parks Endowment at Community Foundation  
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FRIENDS ORGANIZATIONS, GO TO:  
[DESTATEPARKS.COM/GETINVOLVED/JOINFRIENDSGROUP](https://destateparks.com/getinvolved/joinfriendsgroup)



# "ADOPT" a Brandywine Zoo Animal for the Holidays



Looking for a unique gift for the animal lover in your life? This holiday season, you can symbolically adopt a Brandywine Zoo animal on behalf of a friend or family member!  
Adopt levels start at \$25



For \$70, if you adopt an EAGLE or PUDU you will receive the benefits of adoption PLUS your choice of a cuddly eagle or pudu plush AND two guest passes!

ADOPT starting from \$25

[brandywinezoo.org/support/a-d-o-p-t-an-animal/](http://brandywinezoo.org/support/a-d-o-p-t-an-animal/)



# Delaware Zoological Society

1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802



Delaware Zoological Society  
supporting the BRANDYWINE ZOO

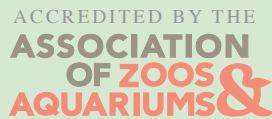


## DELAWARE STATE PARKS



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.



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

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## Upcoming Events & Programs

Mighty Monarch Day ..... Oct 8

Sensory Hour ..... Oct 8 & Nov 12

Boo at the Zoo ..... Oct 21, Oct 22, Oct 23

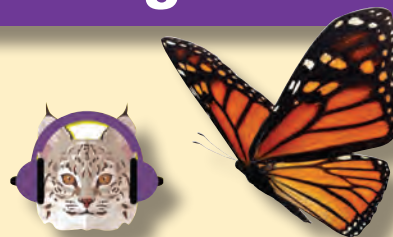
Spirits at the Zoo ..... Oct 28

Scout Night ..... Nov 5

Santa at the Zoo ..... Dec 3 & Dec 4

Noon Year's Eve ..... Dec 31

Little Nature Explorers



For More Information, visit [brandywinezoo.org](http://brandywinezoo.org)