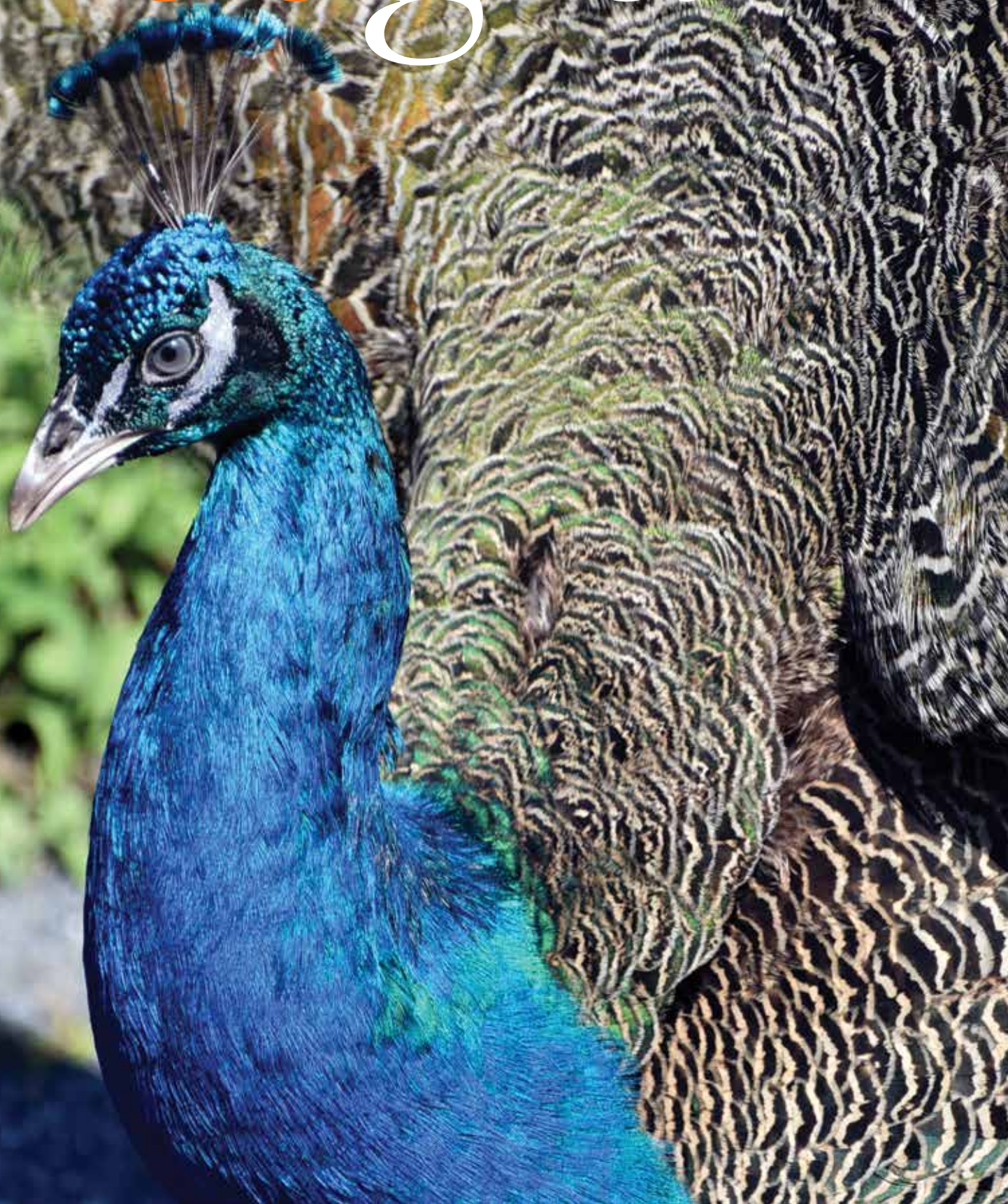


fall/winter 2015

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

# ZOOgram



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# letter from the president

What a year it's been! At this time in 2014, we were eagerly anticipating the opening of *Penguin Coast*. Everyone had great expectations for the exhibit, from keepers keen to work in their new space to educators waiting to teach guests about penguins and cormorants to those of us nervously wondering what you all would think of this new venture bringing penguins "closer than ever" to you.

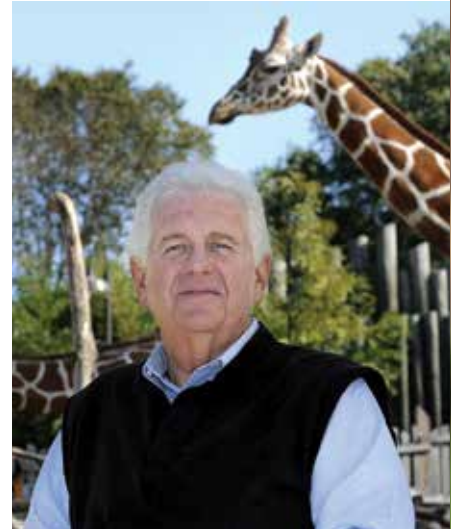
The penguins have surprised us all! They adapted well to *Penguin Coast* – the colony produced six chicks last year when we thought that perhaps the move might interrupt breeding season. They are very curious about all the faces at the BGE Underwater Viewing window and swim through the channel to the delight of all. And they even wandered about in the snow, chasing the falling flakes. It's truly been fascinating to watch them thrive in their new surroundings year-round now.

Our fiscal year ended on June 30, and up until late April we expected to break some attendance records for the year. It was, in every way, our best spring in more than a decade. Sadly, the rioting on April 27 and subsequent fallout quickly ended that goal for us. However, I am grateful to our staff who didn't miss a beat – the Zoo remained open for business and while there were days when staff outnumbered guests on grounds, our commitment to the Zoo and the animals in our care never wavered.

This summer brought fantastic weather and with it some fun animal news, including the arrival of Meller's chameleons and two lovely cheetah sisters that now grace the cheetah yard across from the gazelle and kudu.

Looking forward, it's another busy fall! This is one of my favorite times of the year to stroll around the Zoo and take in the natural beauty of the season. I hope to see you here, too.

Don Hutchinson  
President/CEO



## Contact the Zoo

www.MarylandZoo.org for information and reservations

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(410) 396-7102

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(443) 552-5276

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Adopt an Animal  
(443) 552-5280

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Group Sales  
(443) 552-5277

Visitor Services  
(443) 552-5256

Gift Shop  
(443) 552-5315

Rentals  
(443) 552-5277

Administrative offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Zoo is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily during the months of March through December and Friday-Monday during the months of January and February. The Zoo is closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.



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Peacock

Since mid-summer, a few spectacular chameleons have been navigating their treetop haven in the small yard just before you reach rhinos. These are Meller's chameleons, a species new to the Zoo and native to eastern Africa. They are the largest found on the mainland continent. They are also known as "giant one-horned chameleons" because of their size and the small horn that protrudes from their snouts. Watch them closely and you may see them shifting color, from pale green and yellow to shades of gray.



**The fast cats are back!** (No disrespect to lions and leopards, but we mean cheetahs.) The Zoo is now home to a new pair of cheetahs. They are sisters that arrived late this summer from the San Diego Wildlife Safari Park. They come to the Zoo at the recommendation of the AZA's Cheetah Species Survival Plan (SSP). Cheetahs are the world's fastest land mammal and the most endangered cat species in Africa.

**Two baby sitatunga were recently born at the Zoo.**

This species of African antelope is uniquely adapted to survive in semi-aquatic swamps, marshes, and floodplains. Both calves are male and born about 2 months apart, on April 27 and June 28. These births result from recommendations from the Sitatunga Population Management Plan (PMP) coordinated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).



# NEWS

from the Zoo



**When you enter the Great Tree, move slowly.** Take your time, pause at each window, and appreciate an amazing assortment of snakes native to Maryland. The eastern hognose snake is a newcomer to the group. You'll recognize it by its slightly upturned snout. If threatened, this snake will inflate its neck and raise its head off the ground like a cobra. It also may hiss and lunge, but if intimidation fails, it resorts to trickery: it flips over and plays dead!



## Not just for kids

Whether you want to attend a talk, create a painting, or dance the afternoon away, the Zoo is the place to do it. Date night? Look no further. We've got you covered.

Adults are finding plenty to do at the Zoo these days and are embracing every opportunity. One of our most popular new offerings, *Where the Wild Things Art*, is an after-hours painting workshop with a cocktail twist led by guest artists from Painted Palette Baltimore. Participants can spend the evening with friends, fellow artists, and favorite Animal Ambassadors and leave with a work of art that's uniquely their own. To help get creative juices flowing, the event includes one free drink and a cash bar open for the duration.

If art is not your thing and you'd prefer to stroll through the Zoo while sipping a beverage, then a *Sip and Stroll* is just right for you. Join a small group on a tour through a specific part of the Zoo led by one of our senior Education staff members. Sign up for a nature walk, learn about the Zoo's conservation work, or take a closer look at our collection.

As summer gives way to fall, maybe you're feeling more zip in your step. Maybe you want to zoom rather than stroll. If so, be sure to sign up for ZooZoom, a perennial fall favorite. Choose the 8K road race or the 1K Family Fun Run and step lightly through the Zoo with a throng of others.

Last but not least, let's dust off our leidenhosen and get ready for OktobearFest, the Zoo's homegrown German beer festival. Sample more than 30 seasonal brews, enjoy live music, and whet your taste buds with German-inspired food and fare from local vendors and artisans.

**Oktobearfest is a fun celebration of the fall season so mark your calendars now for October 17 at the Zoo!**

# Polka

your next visit

This fall, we invite you to camp out under the stars, wake up for an early morning run, visit the animals, and dance the polka. All at the Zoo! Just not all in one day... Join in the fun and enjoy a beautiful time of year here.

The Zoo will keep regular visiting hours though the end of December. During the months of January and February, we will be open to guests Friday through Monday. Please visit [www.MarylandZoo.org](http://www.MarylandZoo.org) for updates on programs and exhibits and for other timely announcements.



## daily activities

Please check the Zoo information board in Schaefer Plaza for timely updates on the day's activities.

**Goat Corral:** Brush, pet, or just visit the goats.

**Creature Encounters:** Experience wildlife up close with live animals and hands-on activities at the Zoo's education center.

**Education Stations:** Stop by to test your knowledge and enjoy more hands-on learning activities.

**Penguin Feeding:** Twice daily at *Penguin Coast*, a Zoo educator shares information about black-footed penguins and takes questions while keepers feed the birds.

**Keeper Chats:** Keepers talk about the animals in their care and answer your questions.

**Jones Falls Zephyr:** All aboard the Zoo's train! Open daily, weather permitting. \$

**Carousel:** Choose your animal and take a spin on our beautiful vintage carousel. \$

**Giraffe Feeding Station:** Get up close and personal with a giraffe. \$

**Animal Training Demonstrations:** Watch and learn as staff work with select Animal Ambassadors.

*\$: fee to participate*

# special events

fall/winter 15 7

## Wild About Penguins Day

Visit the Zoo's penguins and spend the day learning about this remarkable species. There will be special activities planned at Creature Encounters and at the Penguin Education Center, plus feedings, keeper chats, and animal enrichment throughout the day. No tuxedos required!

**Date: October 10**

**Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

## ZOOBOOO!

Celebrate Halloween early at our annual spooktacular event presented by Capital Funding Group. Feel free to dress up and join in the fun all weekend long, including costume contests, carnival games, crafts, live entertainment, and FREE trick-or-treating!

**Dates: October 23-25**

**Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

## Zoo Zoom

Your chance to run wild! This popular 8K fundraiser race winds its way through Druid Hill Park and the Zoo. If you're not "wild" about running, sign up for the one-mile family fun run instead, open to all ages.

For further details or to register, please visit [www.marylandzoo.org](http://www.marylandzoo.org). Sign up early because this race will sell out!

**Date: November 22**

**Hours: 8 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

## Breakfast With Santa And Friends

Join us for holiday cheer and celebration. Have a delicious breakfast, create seasonal crafts, visit with penguins, and listen for jingle bells because here comes Santa!

Ticket prices are \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members, \$18 for children 2-12 years of age, and FREE for children under 2 (but tickets still required).

**Dates: December 5 @ Penguin Coast Education Center;  
December 13 & 19 @ Mansion House Porch**

## Sex at the Zoo

Make it a memorable Valentine's Day. Bring your beloved to the Zoo for an adults-only lecture on the mating habits of animals at the Zoo and in the wild. It's a birds-and-the-bees presentation you won't soon forget! A cocktail reception features an open bar, heavy hors d'oeuvres, decadent desserts, and live music from the Jazz Caravan. To purchase tickets, please visit [www.marylandzoo.org](http://www.marylandzoo.org).

**Date: February 13**

**Hours: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.**

# OKTO BEAR FEST



Do you dance the polka? Do you drink beer? Do you love the fall? Then mark your calendar for OktoBEARfest, the Zoo's homegrown version of a German beer festival. Sample local and national brews, try some Oktoberfest-inspired foods, and listen to live music at Waterfowl Lake. Lederhosen appreciated but not required.

Purchase tickets online at [www.marylandzoo.org](http://www.marylandzoo.org). Admission to the Zoo is included, same day only.

**Date: October 17**

**Hours: 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

**Prices: \$15-65**

## on-grounds programs

Please visit the Zoo's website to learn more about any of our public programs, to get a list of upcoming dates, and to sign up.

**Animal Adventures:** Stop by an education station anytime you visit the Zoo and participate in short, fun, and FREE Animal Adventure activities. Always a good time, and always a good dose of hands-on education.

**Family Overnight Campouts:** Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Zoo after dark, learn about the nocturnal ways of animals, make friends around the campfire, and sleep in a tent with your family! (@ Waterfowl Lake in Sept., @ Penguin Education Center in Oct./Nov.)

**Animal Craft Safaris:** Make an animal-related craft to take home and find out how the turtle cracked its shell, why the toad has warts, and other fascinating things about the natural world.

**Wild About Animals Days:** Join in education activities focused on a particular species. This fall, we're going to be wild about rhinos, penguins, and polar bears.

# harvesting bugs and leaves

By Sarah Evans, Zoogram Editor

In the dry northwestern forests of Madagascar, Coquerel's sifaka spend their days leaping through trees in search of flowers, fruit, bark, and leaves. They eat mainly leaves, though, because these lemurs are *obligate folivores*. They require leaves in large quantity to satisfy their delicate digestive systems.

This is as true of the Coquerel's sifaka at the Zoo as it is of those in the wild, and not just any leaves will do. At the recommendation of the Duke Lemur Center, whose protocols the Zoo follows for all of its lemurs, the sifaka are fed winged sumac. "We have to be very careful with their diet, and this particular plant does really well for them," explains Julie Grove, who once managed the lemurs, chimpanzees, and other primates at the Zoo and is now a specialist in animal behavior and training.

The sifaka are one of more than 200 species of exotic wildlife at the Zoo, each adapted to its own ecological niche on our vast and extremely biodiverse planet. Meeting the specific dietary needs of each species sometimes requires Zoo staff to go to extraordinary lengths, which they do with great professionalism and a healthy dose of wry humor.



## In Search of Sumac

To acquire a year's supply of sumac for a growing family of sifaka, a small but dedicated group of Zoo staff travels once a year to the Adkins Arboretum on Maryland's eastern shore. There, with permission from the arboretum, they wade through poison ivy, ticks, and other natural impediments to harvest two truckloads of winged sumac.

Grove and Cristina Lauri, Operations Manager at the Zoo, Carey Riccardione, Mammal Collection & Conservation Manager, and Area Managers Claire MacNamara and Amy Demchak are all sumac-collecting veterans. They meet at the Zoo at 5 a.m., get to the arboretum by 7, and try to finish cutting by midday. Before heading deep into the forest, they put on protective suits that cover them from head to toe. Only the hearty survive on this team! "We've got it down," says Lauri. "We go in and we work hard."

"Yes," jokes Grove, "because we want those trucks filled by noon!"





They have cause to be efficient. It's suffocatingly hot out there! When the team returns from the forest, they peel off their protective suits, wash up, and eat a well-deserved lunch. Then they return to the Zoo to spend several more hours wrapping, weighing, and storing each bundle of cuttings. This year, the team harvested 363 pounds of sumac, subdivided into 206 bundles, which by precise calculation will feed the sifaka for 366 days.

So is it gratifying to see the sifaka contentedly eating their sumac?

"Not on that day," deadpans Grove. And then she laughs.

### For the good of the frogs

Kevin Barrett, who manages the Zoo's reptile and amphibian collection, cultivates colonies of microscopic bugs in his office. He does this on behalf of many hundreds of Panamanian golden frogs. Since 1999, the Zoo has been breeding this endangered species in captivity more successfully than any other zoo or aquarium in the world. "We have learned that feeding the frogs well when they're tiny is key to survival," says Barrett.

The problem is that golden frog morphlets are so tiny, they need really tiny food. They are too small even to swallow pinhead crickets. Instead, they feast on springtails, crustaceans resembling grains of sand that live in moist soil. About five years ago, Barrett realized that the Zoo's self-replenishing supply of springtails was vulnerable to mite

infestation. Omnipresent and benign in most animal areas, mites can wipe out springtail colonies by attacking the eggs. Barrett moved dozens of jars half-filled with soil and springtails to his office to protect them. He and the Zoo received special dispensation from the AZA to do so, and thus far the springtails have been ideal officemates. "We've developed a protocol that works really well for us," says Barrett, who has shared his solution with other AZA institutions.

### An essential insect

To satisfy frogs, turtles, lizards, and birds at the Zoo, Barrett also dabbles in crickets. Each week, the Zoo receives more than 40,000 live crickets that keepers unpack, sort, feed, and then feed out to a large percentage of the Zoo's animals. Knowing what and when to feed the crickets is enormously important in order to maximize their nutritional value. Receiving good stock is also important. Barrett orders pinheads, extra smalls, smalls, and other assorted sizes from a vendor in Minnesota aptly named The Bug Company.

"To be honest, I hate them," admits Kisaiah Brown, the UPS driver who delivers the crickets twice weekly to the Zoo. "They're back there and they've got my whole truck stinking." When told how important they are to animal nutrition at the Zoo, though, Brown becomes more pensive, only to be interrupted by Senior Animal Technician Bill Walters.

For more than 30 years, Walters has helped to procure interesting food items for the Zoo's animals. Meeting the UPS truck is his most straightforward task. "You've got some mealworms right there, I see," he says to Brown. "Do you have earthworms for me today, too?"

"Quit asking me, Bill," ribs Brown. "I deliver boxes. That's all."



go

You're going to learn so much in school this year. You'll master new reading, writing, and math skills. You might build a robot or study Ancient Egypt. Maybe you'll also learn about the natural world and ways to make it a better place. Let's start now and test your eco-friendliness!

1. To combat pollution and reduce fossil fuel usage, you could:
  - a) Walk to school.
  - b) Bike to school.
  - c) Share a ride to school.
  - d) All of the above.
2. To reduce waste and help save trees, you could:
  - a) Recycle used homework sheets as scrap paper.
  - b) Throw old homework sheets away.
  - c) Buy books instead of borrowing them from the library.
  - d) Only write on one side of the paper in your notebooks.
3. To save electricity, you could:
  - a) Turn off lights and electronics when they are not in use.
  - b) Play outside after school.
  - c) Play video games and watch television after school.
  - d) Some of the above.
4. To be an eco-friendly leader, you could:
  - a) Start your own Green Club at school.
  - b) Take on a special project in your school's Green Club.
  - c) Model green behavior for your family and friends.
  - d) All of the above.



Answer Key:  
1d; 2a; 3d; 4d

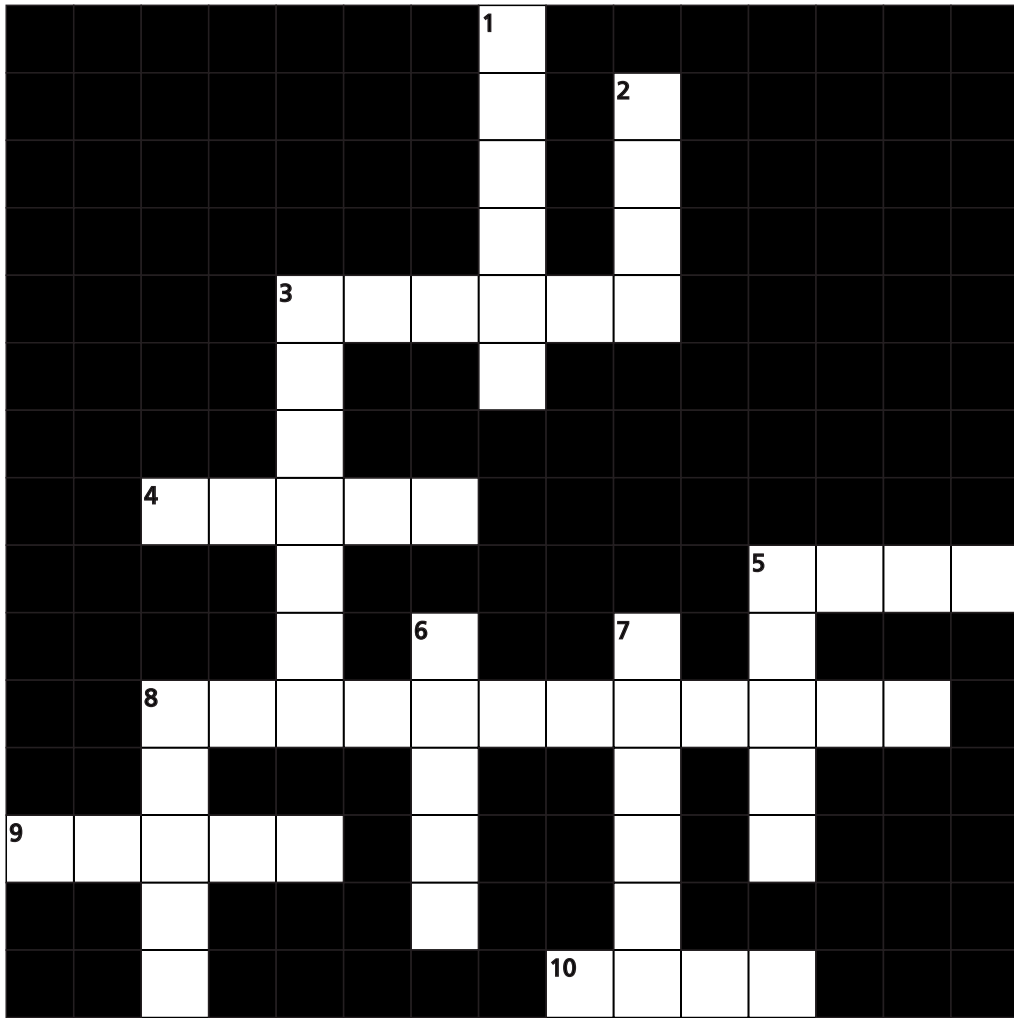
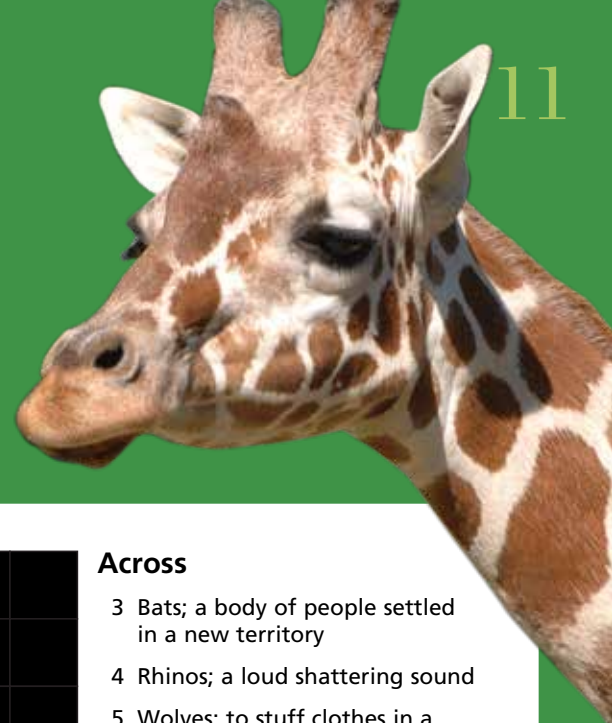
## Eco-Friendly Pencil Jars

It's the start of a new school year and your desk needs organizing. How are you going to contain all of those loose pencils, crayons, and other supplies? Try recycling used cans and bottles to make your own desk containers. Here's how:

1. Look in your recycling bin for a nice can or bottle.  
Let an adult check for sharp edges!
2. Wash and dry it thoroughly.
3. Gather decorating supplies from around your house.  
Scrap paper, glue, markers, paints, pipe cleaners, pom-poms, felt, ribbon, wrapping paper, colored duct tape, string, yarn, old clothing, buttons, bottle caps, tissue paper, and soda can tabs all work well.
4. Design and decorate (this is the fun part).
5. Let your container dry overnight and then give it a new home on your desk.



# green!



**Across**

- 3 Bats; a body of people settled in a new territory
- 4 Rhinos; a loud shattering sound
- 5 Wolves; to stuff clothes in a suitcase
- 8 Alligators; a religious assembly
- 9 Bears; a slow, lazy person
- 10 Snakes; something that birds make

**Down**

- 1 Fish; where children go to learn
- 2 Ants; a large, organized group of soldiers
- 3 Camels; a long line of cars traveling together
- 5 Lions; satisfaction in one's accomplishments
- 6 Chimpanzees; a group of Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts
- 7 Hyenas; a witch's laugh
- 8 Gnats; something in the sky

**A Parliament of Owls and Other Names**

It's back-to-school season so it's quiz season! How well do you know your animal group names? If you need a hint, check the word bank.



- Word Bank
- Pride
- Army
- Sloth
- Caravan
- Nest
- Troop
- Colony
- School
- Crash
- Park
- Congregation
- Cackle
- Cloud



## painting with flamingos

### and other stories of art at the Zoo

By Sarah Evans

MICA-trained muralist Bob Merrell paints on his own and by hand. He is used to being outdoors, defying weather and heights, and integrating his art into the architectural features of a building. He has gone to significant extremes over the years to get his work done so when asked to paint three murals at the Zoo – two at the Oasis refreshment area and one in the Flamingo exhibit – he accepted the challenge. The task seemed straightforward enough.

Except for the flamingos.

“That was new,” recalls Merrell. “I’d never painted with flamingos before. They were great, though, very quiet and easy to be around. They would just stand behind me all day and watch me paint.” As Merrell transformed the side of a building into foliage and rockwork, one flamingo kept particularly close watch. It was genuinely interested in the artist at work! The same was true over at Oasis, where curious visitors watched Merrell create a lush landscape inhabited by West African birds (a Fischer’s turaco and bare-headed rockfowl, to be precise).

Merrell’s paintings dot the local landscape from Canton to Kent Island to Ocean City. His work invokes the rich tradition of sign painting that was once the dominant form of advertising in Baltimore and elsewhere. The Cloud Mattress sign painted on an old downtown exterior, the Mill No. 1 sign stretching 40 feet up a smokestack along the Jones Falls, and the O’s birds and other baseball insignia decorating the brickwork of Camden Yards were all done by Merrell. He has helped transform the Zoo, too, and can now add “works well with flamingos” to his resumé.



### Bending Metal to Feathered Form

Brandon Zell, for his part, works well with metal. A commercial diver, welder, and mechanical engineer, he is a man of many trades and talents. He has worked on oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico, entertainment attractions at Disney World, and everything in between. "I don't know about artist so much," he insists, "I don't have any particular training for it." But the Zoo's new Polar Bear Gate proves otherwise.

This gate marks the entrance into the Zoo from the shuttle stop and its creation coincided with the opening of *Penguin Coast*. The gate itself is concealed by a façade of thin steel tubes, bent and welded to create the illusion of tall grass rippling on a savannah. It is topped by two sculptures of West African crowned cranes, utterly realistic though fashioned out of steel and metal scraps. The look is signature Zell, who also designs and builds custom motorcycles in his spare time.

Zell crafted the facade in his home workshop in Carroll County. Each section weighs about 800 pounds and slots cleanly between posts so that the entire structure can be disassembled and reassembled as needed. "I knew if I spent a little more time designing and building it," he said, "the installation would be a lot easier in the long run."



Zell thinks as both an artist and engineer and has been doing so for years. He learned to blend artistry and mechanical engineering while at Universal Studios, where he did underwater repairs on amusement rides. "I worked *Jurassic Park* and *Jaws*, and if we had to do a repair," he explains, "it couldn't look like a hydraulic cylinder, it had to fit into the existing scenery."

These days, in addition to working his day job, Zell is creating a new sculpture for the Penguin Education Center. He doesn't want to reveal too much, but let's just say he's getting very good at transforming liquid aluminum into a life-like seabird.



### Painting to make memories

A third artist at the Zoo has tried her hand at more than a dozen species.

"My husband jokes that my art is the most photographed in the world," says JJ Galloway, and he may be right because she is the artist behind the Zoo's animal head pokes. Thousands of families stop for photos each year and many share them with Galloway. "I've seen so many kids grow up in those boards," she laughs.

When designing a head poke, Galloway puts the photo-op experience front and center. She positions the animals in ways that will allow kids to have fun posing. She balances a sense of fun with a sense of responsibility. Working closely from photographs, she tries very hard to represent the animals with integrity and accuracy.

Galloway, who is also an artist in residence at the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C., has a special attachment to the head pokes. "I always knew I wanted to be an artist," she confides, but an early career in marketing and communications brought her to the Zoo as Director of Public Relations. While on staff, she gained a unique perspective and appreciation for the animals and for the institution. "The Zoo is still such a special place to me," she says, "and a very important place in our city. It's really nice to still be able to make a contribution."

Her contribution and those of numerous other artists dating back centuries have been formative. Art is an integral part of the Zoo's unique look and feel and subtly influences how visitors may view wildlife, when experienced through the eyes of an artist. Consider that for yourself the next time you visit.

## Embassy Mews

The Mews is a private and secluded space for some of the most public birds at the Zoo. Our feathered Animal Ambassadors travel on ZOOMobile programs, impress Zoo visitors at Creature Encounters, and even appear on the sidelines of NFL football games as official Baltimore Ravens mascots. When they are not out and about, they are at the Mews, stretching their wings in comfort.

The word “mew” is from the Old French word *muer*, meaning to molt. It refers to a place where birds, especially hawks, were once housed while molting. Here at the Zoo, the Mews accommodates hawks, owls, and ravens year-round and tropical birds such as parrots, toucans, and kookaburras during the warmer months. Each species is given access to its own indoor and outdoor space so that each bird can choose where to rest when not on official Zoo business.

As inviting as the Mews has always been to its bird residents, its buildings were getting old and were in need of updating. After reviewing building plans and schematics, an anonymous donor and true friend to the Zoo agreed to fund a full reconstruction.

The brand new Mews, which was recently completed, consists of three large buildings that provide indoor housing for the birds, along with twelve outdoor mesh-covered flight cages. The outdoor living quarters are connected to the indoor ones, allowing birds to venture back and forth freely.

The entire complex was outfitted with updated electrical service and improved heating, ventilation, and lighting throughout. New plumbing was also installed to prevent outdoor hydrants from freezing during the winter so that keepers can clean yards and provide fresh drinking water to the birds easily and without interruption. The outdoor area even includes new exercise pens for Animal Ambassador rabbits, porcupine, and skunk.



The new Mews is a welcome improvement over its former self, providing tremendous space and excellent resources for staff to meet the needs of all the birds. We are extremely grateful to our donor for making this possible.

Behind the scenes, out of public view, the new Mews will be a worthy home to some of the most fascinating and beloved birds at the Zoo for many years to come.

## A Place to Sit and Rest



Walking around the Zoo, you can begin to guess which families are just starting their tour of the sights and sounds and which families are finishing up. Let's just say there can be a significant drop-off in energy as a tour nears its end, accompanied by a desperate need to sit down and take a breather. Some members of a family may vocalize this need more strongly than others, but everyone is happy to rest on a bench in the shade when the opportunity arises.

Mindful of the needs of its guests, the Zoo recently decided to install more benches on grounds. We even appointed a committee to survey the scene, talk to guests, and identify the best locations for new benches. If you've noticed more benches along the Zoo's pathways and if you've enjoyed a few moments relaxing on one, rest assured that we noticed, too!



On some benches you'll find a small brass plaque honoring a beloved family member or a special memory. These are our *commemorative benches*, and for each family that has adopted one, they offer a quiet moment of reflection or joy and a chance to remember. The Romoser family has a commemorative bench located just beyond Chimp Forest, for example, where they always stop to remember their Aunt Ernie while waving to the passing train. "She was such a giving person," remembers her niece, Jackie. "I'm so happy this bench will continue her legacy by giving weary guests a place to rest."

You can create your own special place at the Zoo, a place that you can return to time and again. If you would like to learn more about our Commemorative Bench program or other naming opportunities at the Zoo, please feel free to contact Michelle Boyle at (443) 552-5290 or [michelle.boyle@marylandzoo.org](mailto:michelle.boyle@marylandzoo.org).

# THE MARYLAND ZOO

IN BALTIMORE

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**December 1, 2015**

In partnership with #GIVINGTUESDAY

## Giving Tuesday, aka Giving ZOOday

We have a day for giving thanks. We have two days for getting deals. Now, we have #GivingTuesday, a global day dedicated to giving back. On Tuesday, December 1, 2015, charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world will come together for one common purpose: to celebrate generosity and to give.

Giving ZOOday is about the impact the community has on accredited zoos and aquariums. It's also about how these institutions enrich the communities they live in by engaging their visitors to be stewards of the environment and save species from extinction while mentoring their staff and volunteers to give back in their own communities to a wide range of causes.

Watch your email and our Facebook page for updates on how you can be part of this one-day social media blitz offering unique raffles and prizes exclusive to Giving ZOOday.