

summer 2013

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

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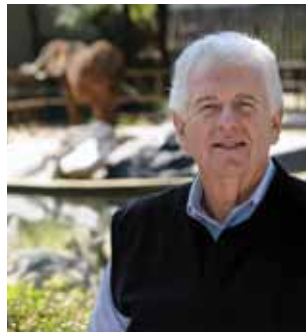
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The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.



Letter from the president



As the Zoo embarks on construction of the new penguin exhibit, several people have asked me about the Main Valley and prospects for reopening that area to Zoo visitors.

The Main Valley is the oldest section of the Zoo, dating to the 1880s. Visitors traveled through it to reach the center of the Zoo, and along its pathway are historic structures such as the Crane Barn, the old Elephant House, the Round Cage, and other wrought-iron or grotto-like exhibits.

Many years ago, with the Zoo facing significant financial challenges, my predecessors realized that exhibits in the Main Valley required major improvements in order to deliver quality animal care. The decision was made to close the Main Valley. Many animals were relocated to other member institutions of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Those that remained, including the prairie dogs and flamingos, could be well cared for in their existing areas. The prairie dogs have since moved to *Prairie Dog Town* at the front of the Zoo, and we hope eventually to move the flamingos back into public view.

We have had many conversations about reopening the Main Valley to the public, and we are interested. However, just reopening the area as a pedestrian thruway would cost approximately \$4 million. This would allow us to upgrade the pathway to meet current standards under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and to upgrade underground infrastructure for delivery of water, sewer, and power to the area.

For a price tag of approximately \$10 million, we could accomplish all of the above and also renovate exhibit areas, bringing them into compliance with USDA and AZA standards. The Main Valley would be transformed into a premier location for animals once again and a beautifully landscaped pathway through the Zoo.

For now, we are focused on building an extraordinary new penguin exhibit and making improvements to the elephant area that will keep us in accord with recently updated standards for elephant care as required by the AZA. The Main Valley will continue to be in our sights for the future. We, too, would love to see it reopened to the public.

Don Hutchinson, *President/CEO*

Contact the Zoo

www.MarylandZoo.org for information and reservations

General Information	(410) 396-7102	Human Resources	(443) 552-5310
Events	(443) 552-5276	Volunteers	(443) 552-5266
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Development	(443) 552-5290	Gift Shop	(443) 552-5315
Education	(443) 552-5300	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.

Countdowns



4 News from the Zoo

The colobus family is growing and Samson is on the mend.

5 Firefly Season

A young elephant encounters fireflies for the first time.

6 Plan Your Next Visit

Take advantage of many ways to make summer Zoo visits special.

8 Lemurs Leap Outdoors

The Zoo expands its outdoor lemur exhibit.

10 Kids Pages

See animals in the summer stars.

12 Into the Woods

Zoo vets travel to western Maryland to assist in black bear study.

14 Development

Enter the Zoo's *Drive Me Wild* raffle to win a Mini Cooper!

On the Cover

Red-ruffed lemur



from the Zoo

NEWS

In the early morning hours of March 19, Keri the colobus monkey gave birth to her second offspring nearly one year after the birth of Gonzo, her first. Keri is a proven mother and is taking great care of this baby, too, which appears to be thriving. She gets help from Hera, the other adult female, and Gonzo, pictured here with his baby brother. Gonzo is very curious about his sibling and frequently bounces in to check things out and make his presence known. Meanwhile, Bisi, the sire of both offspring, likes to lounge nearby, watching his growing family from a comfortable distance. Check out the whole colobus family (along with the porcupine, hyrax, and guenons) next time you visit the *Chimpanzee Forest*!

Also new to the Zoo is Maximilian, a male Coquerel's sifaka born on March 30. He is the third son born to the Zoo's breeding pair, Anastasia and Gratian, in the past two years. Like his brothers, Max resembled a tiny gremlin at birth but has morphed into a miniature version of his family members. Read more about the Zoo's sifaka family in this issue on pp. 8-9.



How can you know what it's like for an elephant to mash up its plant food using only four giant molars? Take a corn cob (which resembles a miniature version of an elephant tooth) and crush some Cheerios with it. Now you know. In fact, now you have a feel for it, which is even better than just knowing because for a fleeting moment, you were that elephant, weren't you? Every day at the Zoo, you can learn about animals in fun and memorable ways by participating in our free, drop-in educational programs. Just look for the green Maryland Zoo canopy!

Enter the Zoo's *Drive Me Wild* raffle for your chance to win a brand new Mini Cooper HT! Stop by the Zoo's Main Gate or Membership Cottage any time between now and October 19 to buy your ticket(s)! No Zoo entry is required to purchase. Each raffle ticket costs \$25 and also enters you to win a special Behind-the-Scenes Zoo tour or a free annual family membership. All proceeds will directly support the Zoo.

As Samson bounces back from his recent infection with elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus (EEHV), he and Zoo staff continue to receive encouraging notes and well wishes from people young and old all over Baltimore. We are touched by the outpouring of sympathy and concern and want to assure everyone that Samson is doing remarkably well. "Samson's activity level is back to normal most days now," says Mike McClure, the Zoo's general curator and elephant program manager. "We know from other elephant experts that he will have up and down days, as one might expect from any patient recovering from a potentially fatal disease. But we are very optimistic that he will recover fully in the long term."

Firefly season

In summer, as dusk gives way to darkness, out come the fireflies. Also known as lightning bugs, these small winged beetles are the living embodiment of Tinkerbell, minus the shimmering green fairy outfits.

About 2,000 species of firefly are found in tropical and temperate environments like ours. Many live in marshes or moist, wooded areas where food for larvae is plentiful. On summer nights, you may see fireflies glowing over lawns and fields. They use bioluminescence to attract each other. This is a fancy way of saying that they can light up their abdomens. They produce a "cold light" with no infrared or ultraviolet frequencies. Their chemically produced light flickers pale yellow or green. As quickly as the light comes, it goes.



The following is a true story.

When Samson the elephant was very young, he spent a summer night outdoors at the Zoo with his mother, Felix. As dusk settled over the Elephant Yard, fireflies appeared. To Samson's amazement, the air surrounding him was suddenly aglow with tiny bursts of light. Each time a firefly lit up its abdomen, Samson threw out his ears and charged the twinkle. Each time, the twinkle vanished and Samson pulled up short, befuddled, only to have the twinkle appear again a few feet away. Eventually, Samson gave up the charge and calmly settled into the remainder of the light show.

To catch a firefly, you must be quick on your feet and with your hands. The little beetles do not fly very fast so if you are careful, you can cup one in your hands, watch it glow, and then let it go. The tip of an elephant's trunk is very nimble and can pick up tiny objects. Perhaps by now Samson also has learned to cup a firefly!

Jump

your next visit

You've heard of the dog days of summer? Let's just change that to the animal days of summer and have you join us here at the Zoo! Every day is a great day to spend with our animals, and each day promises its own unique adventure. Come for a visit, have a great time, and jump in a swimming pool to cool off later (just like the polar bears!)

Before your next visit, please check our website, www.MarylandZoo.org, for the latest information on programs, exhibits, and events.

daily activities

Please check your Zoo map, given upon entry, for daily schedule and times.

Kid Zone: 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.

Animal Adventure Education Stations: Enjoy more hands-on activities at special learning posts throughout the Zoo. Look for the green canopy!

Penguin Feeding: Keepers feed the penguins at Rock Island twice daily. Zoo educators are often there to talk about the Zoo's colony and penguins in the wild. Feel free to ask questions!

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

Camel Rides: Visit the camels, back again this summer in *African Journey*. \$

Jones Falls Zephyr: Take a ride on the Zoo's train. Open daily, weather permitting. \$

Carousel: Your chance to ride a cheetah, zebra, giraffe, or other favorite animal! \$

Giraffe Feeding Station: Offer a leafy snack to a giraffe. \$

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

\$: fee to participate



special events

summer/13 7

Breakfasts with the Animals

Rise and shine at the Zoo! What better or more memorable way to start your day than alongside your favorite animals? Enjoy a hot, catered breakfast and then visit with keepers and participate in a feeding or an animal enrichment activity.

All breakfasts are held from 8:30 to 10 a.m. Space is limited and reservations are required. Admission to the Zoo is included, valid same day only. For further details or to purchase tickets, go to www.MarylandZoo.org.

Ticket prices are \$55 for members, \$65 for non-members, and FREE for children under 2.

Dates:

June 8 & July 20: Breakfast with the Elephants

July 29 & August 24: Breakfast at the African Watering Hole

July 5 & 6, September 7: Breakfast with the Penguins

August 2 & 3: Breakfast with the Giraffes

Red, White & Zoo

We have an unforgettable 4th of July planned for you at the Zoo. Spend the day enjoying special red, white & blue animal enrichment activities. As the animals sample colorful and creative enrichment treats, keepers and Zoo educators will explain what enrichment is and answer your questions.

Date: July 4

Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

International Bat Day

Did you know that a single Little Brown Bat can eat 600 mosquitoes in one hour? That's helpful, don't you think? This species of bat is one of ten native to Maryland. All are active at dusk and at night, eating insects that might otherwise bite or bother us. Celebrate International Bat Day at the Zoo and get to know and love bats.

Date: August 24

Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Amphibian and Reptile Awareness Day

Spend a day at the Zoo giving your full attention to those that hop, slither, and walk (but with shells on their backs!) Take part in various keeper chats and observe enrichment activities designed especially for the Zoo's reptiles and amphibians.

Date: July 13

Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



Primate Awareness Day

What's the difference between an ape & a monkey? Learn the answer to this question and many more during our Primate Awareness Day. Get involved in education activities at Creature Encounters and animal enrichment activities taking place in the *Chimpanzee Forest* throughout the day.

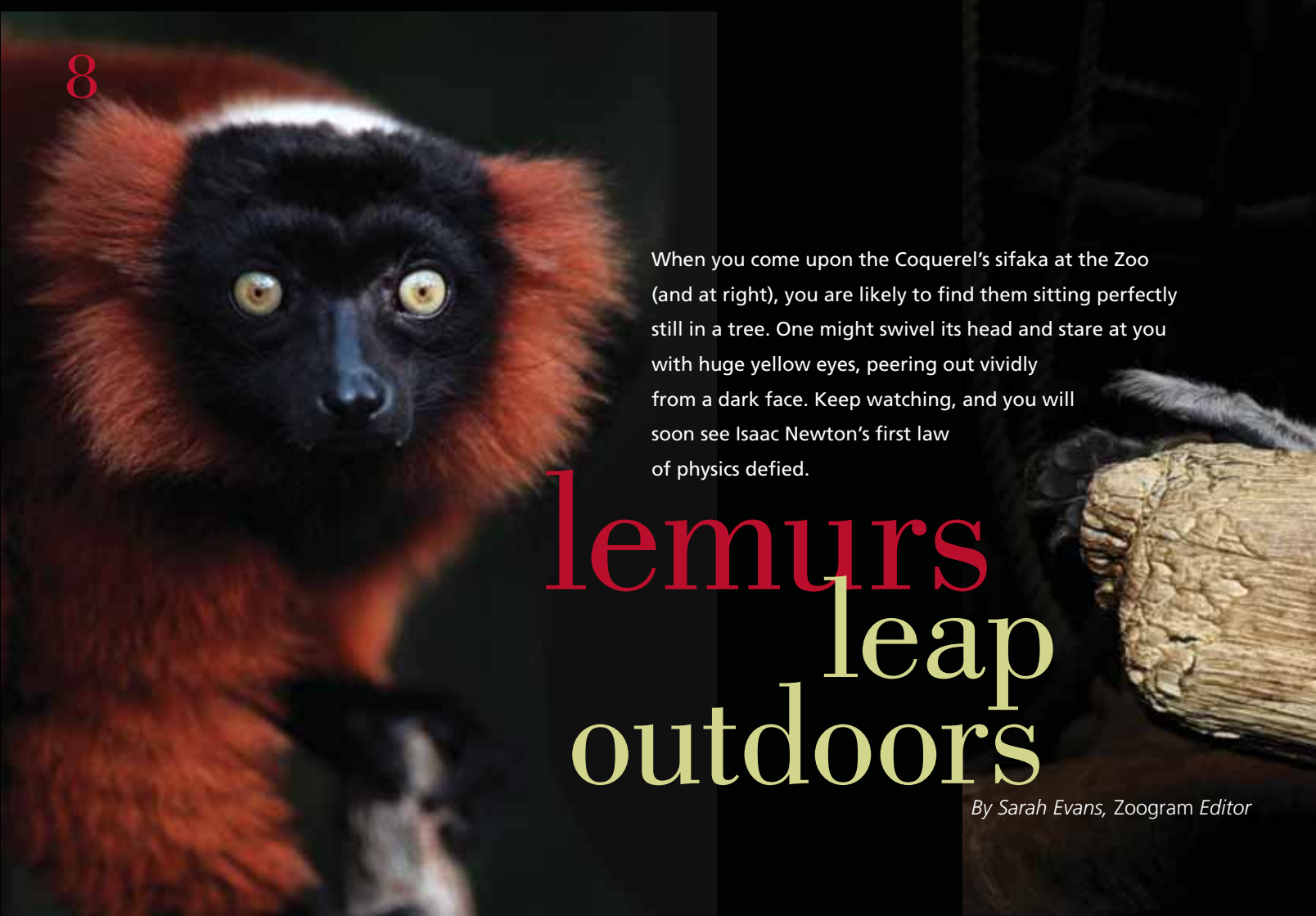
Date: August 18

Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

on-grounds programs

Mash food like an elephant, fish like a penguin, or dance like a skunk on guard! Next time you visit the Zoo, keep your eyes open for a green Maryland Zoo canopy. Stop by and spend a few minutes immersed in the world of one of your favorite animals. You'll be glad you did, and you'll absorb some interesting animal facts. Our drop-in educational programs are FREE, fun, and led by Zoo educators and volunteers. Activities may include puppet shows, story times, hands-on activities, and what-life-is-like games.

Join us as we explore a different Animal Adventure theme each week throughout the summer!



When you come upon the Coquerel's sifaka at the Zoo (and at right), you are likely to find them sitting perfectly still in a tree. One might swivel its head and stare at you with huge yellow eyes, peering out vividly from a dark face. Keep watching, and you will soon see Isaac Newton's first law of physics defied.

lemurs leap outdoors

By Sarah Evans, Zoogram Editor

According to Newton, an object at rest tends to stay at rest and an object in motion tends to stay in motion unless acted upon by an unbalanced force. In other words, objects tend to keep doing what they are doing and resist change. Well, this may be true of most objects in the universe but not sifaka. For them, the decision to move or to rest seems less about inertia and more about whimsy, and is made easily and without resistance.

A Coquerel's sifaka will spring directly forward or sideways from a seated crouch and will continue to spring in a flurry of acrobatic energy from branch to branch until, all of a sudden, it stops. In the wild, such spectacular locomotion is highly functional. Coquerel's sifaka are leaf eaters that spend much of their time in trees, moving from one feeding spot to another. With their long and powerful back legs, they can propel themselves more than 20 feet in a single leap!

Red-ruffed lemurs, which you also can see at the Zoo, are related to Coquerel's sifaka. Both are species of lemur. Like their cousins, red-ruffed lemurs are capable of impressive leaps and may launch themselves through the air to get from one branch to another. However, you are more likely to see them moving along a branch and through a tree on all fours.

If you are lucky, you also may see them hanging upside down by their back feet and reaching out with their front feet to grab something to eat. This is one of their signature moves in their native rainforest habitat.

Seeing lemurs at the Zoo

Until recently, the red-ruffed lemurs and the Coquerel's sifaka at the Zoo could not check each other out, nor could you as a Zoo visitor easily compare and contrast the two species. You could see the sifaka inside *Chimpanzee Forest* and visit the red-ruffed along the outdoor path behind the Giraffe House, but you could not observe both species in close proximity.

Now you can! The Zoo has expanded its outdoor lemur exhibit – located behind the Giraffe House – to include more space for its lemurs.

Being outside during the warmer months will offer exciting new experiences to all of the lemurs. Keepers will watch them closely to be sure that each responds well to the new location, changing weather, and enriching new smells, sights, and sounds. Visitors can observe the lemurs outdoors while also learning more about Madagascar, their native land.



Come to the Zoo this summer and see all of our amazing lemurs in action!

Endangered in Madagascar

The stunningly beautiful island nation of Madagascar, situated off the east coast of Africa, is known for its biodiversity. An astonishing 5% of the world's plants and animals are found in Madagascar and more than 90% of these species are endemic, meaning that they exist nowhere else in the wild. This includes all known species of lemur.

On the island, Coquerel's sifaka and red-ruffed lemurs do not cross paths. Sifaka inhabit mixed deciduous, evergreen, and brush-and-scrub forest in northwestern Madagascar. Red-ruffeds live in remote rainforests on the northeastern side of the island. Both species are endangered, due mainly to habitat loss.

In their rainforest habitat, red-ruffed lemurs spend much of their time feeding on fruit and flowers in the crowns of tall trees. When mature rainforest trees are chopped down, these lemurs are displaced permanently. The current population of red-ruffeds is declining and will continue to decline until habitat conditions improve.

Coquerel's sifaka are equally pressured by habitat loss. Even in officially protected areas, forest is lost each year as local people cut down trees for fuel and timber and set intentional

fires to encourage the growth of new grass for livestock. Across the island, residents are doing what they need to do to survive, and regulations to protect wildlife and preserve forest habitat are not adequately enforced. As the area and quality of habitat available to Coquerel's sifaka continues to decline, so too does their population, which is estimated to have dropped by 50% in the past 30 years.

Committed to conservation

The Zoo exhibits these two species so that visitors can have the distinct pleasure of seeing lemurs, admiring their beauty and behaviors, and learning more about them and where they come from. The Zoo also participates in AZA Species Survival Plan programs for both species. By supporting *in situ* conservation work in Madagascar and through careful captive breeding efforts at the Zoo, we are working to conserve these species and to grow their North American populations.

Since April 2011, the breeding pair of Coquerel's sifaka at the Zoo has produced three healthy offspring. The youngest, Maximilian, was born on March 30. There are only 50 Coquerel's sifaka in the United States, residing in eight accredited institutions. The Zoo is one of them, and this tiny new baby represents 2% of the total captive population in the country.



starry night

Summer is a great time to sleep out under the stars. Some of the animals at the Zoo think so, too, and may stay out when the weather is warm. If you could prowl around the Zoo after dark, you might spy a lion, cheetah, rhino, or zebra enjoying the night air. Let's give them their privacy, though. How about you pitch a tent in your backyard instead? Even in your own backyard, you'll have plenty of animal company!

who is watching you?

It's always exciting to camp out. You get to chase fireflies, play flashlight tag, crawl into your sleeping bag, and whisper in the dark way past bedtime. Once you get tired, close your eyes and let the sounds of a summer night surround you.

If you listen closely, you may hear a few birds known for their nocturnal ways. Listen for the call of a nighthawk, the song of a mockingbird, or the hooting of great-horned, screech, or barred owls. To hear the calls ahead of time so that you know what you're listening for, visit www.allaboutbirds.org, an excellent website maintained by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

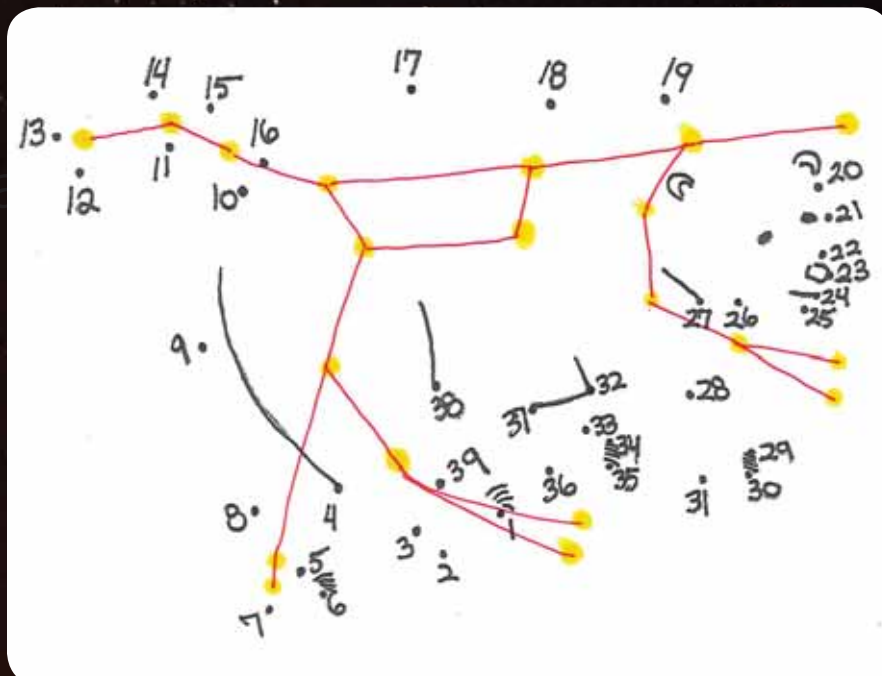
Hoot like an owl yourself and you may hear a squeak in reply. That might be a flying squirrel! Many other mammals around here also are active at night, including red fox, deer, and raccoon. Take a flashlight, poke your head out of your tent flap, and scan for reflective eyes. Who is looking back at you?



search the stars

Lie on your back and look up. You'll find animals in the night sky. During the summer, in the northern hemisphere, you can search out a swan in flight, a lion named Leo, a giant bear, a swimming dolphin, and a goat named Capricorn. To get to know your night sky, we recommend an old-fashioned star chart or www.stellarium.org. Download easy-to-use software for free and turn your home computer into a personalized planetarium!

Complete the connect-the-dot activity below and bring animal shape to a real constellation of stars. The yellow dots indicate stars that you actually can see in the summer sky. The red lines connecting the yellow dots outline the simple shape of a great animal that you might imagine in the stars. What animal is it? Hint: The name of the constellation is Ursa Major.



black bears

Into the woods with

By Sarah Evans

The story of American black bears in western Maryland is a story of decline, renewal, and careful management of the sometimes conflicting needs of two species.

Black bears once lived all across Maryland. Starting in the 18th century, though, they began to lose their foothold in many parts of the state as settlers cleared land for agriculture and other purposes. By the mid-20th century, black bears survived only in the mountains of Maryland's westernmost counties. Sightings became increasingly rare and by 1972, a once prevalent native species was endangered.

The few remaining black bears were clinging to survival, but the western forest in which they lived would prove to be their salvation. Much of it was second growth that was maturing. Over the next decade as the forest thickened, habitat conditions for black bears steadily improved. With each passing year, the state's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) fielded increased reports of bear sightings. The population was rebounding and by 1985, black bears were off the endangered species list.

Since then, DNR has carefully managed black bears in western Maryland to minimize conflict with people and to guarantee that existing habitat can support the bears. DNR educates residents about how best to peacefully coexist with black bears, responds immediately to reports of human-bear conflict, and investigates

cases of bear damage. The agency also keeps track of black bear births, deaths, and general health in order to know how the population is faring.

DNR has been monitoring black bear reproduction since 1986 through its Black Bear Project. Every spring, DNR biologists and DNR veterinarian, Dr. Cindy Driscoll, visit dens in western Maryland where females and cubs are slumbering. They find the dens – and the bear families inside – by tracking radio-collared females. Upon reaching a den, the team anesthetizes the female, examines her, and takes biological samples for further study. They also count the cubs, weigh and examine them, and ear tag them for future identification. The bear family is then gently positioned back in the den where the female will wake up with her cubs – and with no biologists in sight!

For over a decade, The Maryland Zoo has assisted DNR in its Black Bear Project. Zoo veterinarians accompany the DNR team into the field to oversee the administration of anesthesia and assist as needed. “[The Zoo vets] are enormously valuable in that they work with large animals all the time, including bears,” says Harry Spiker, Director of the Black Bear Project. “My comfort level is always a lot higher when the Zoo vets are along.”





This past March, the Zoo's two veterinarians and veterinary intern – Drs. Ellen Bronson, Allison Wack, and Jennifer Hausmann– participated in the annual black bear census. Back at the Zoo, Dr. Allison and Zoo Education Manager Peter Martin, who accompanied her to western Maryland, talked about their experience.

Dr. Allison, how many years have you helped with this project, and what do you get out of it?

This was my sixth year on the project, and every year it's a thrill for me to see the bears in the wild. Seeing them in their native habitat never gets old.

Have you found over the years that the bears are in pretty good shape?

Yes, they are generally in very good health. They are thriving out there in western Maryland and are also showing good offspring production. We usually see two to four cubs per sow. Litter size can vary in response to that year's acorn harvest, which I find interesting. Acorns are a major food source for the bears.

Peter, why were you asked to hold a cub?

We were keeping the cubs warm while they were separated from their mother. It was a reasonably cold day so I tucked my cub inside my jacket.



Dr. Cindy Driscoll, Maryland State Fish and Wildlife Veterinarian, and Dr. Allison Wack, the Zoo's Associate Veterinarian

And how would you describe a cub up close?

They were about the size and weight of a house cat but with bigger heads. They were fully furred and had well-developed claws. My cub was really calm.

Can you describe what the den looked like?

The entrance was very nondescript – just a small hole under a fallen tree. I wasn't surprised by the size, though, because when I was living in Alaska, I had come upon a black bear den whose entrance wasn't much bigger.

Dr. Allison, to sum it up, why is this an important project for the Zoo to be part of?

It's a great example of the collaborative work and relationship that we've had with DNR for many years. We get to use our skills in the field, and it's a great experience for our veterinary interns to have. Mostly, though, we're able to support an important wildlife management program, work side by side with our colleagues from DNR, and contribute to the conservation of a flagship native species. It's very rewarding to see the bears doing so well.



Feeling wild? Feeling lucky? Want to own a road-ready animal that thrives in a highway habitat? Then make tracks to the Zoo, and try to rein in a new Mini Cooper! She's a beauty, and her engine really purrs.

DRIVE ME WILD!

It's your chance to win a species all its own, thanks to Mini of Baltimore County. Enter the Zoo's *Drive Me Wild* raffle and you could win a 10-year anniversary edition, 2012, fully-equipped MINI Cooper Hardtop with a chrome-lined interior and sports seats. This special edition MINI comes with automatic rain and headlight sensors, dynamic stability control, six airbags with side protection, and ABS latest generation four sensor anti-lock brakes. Also featured is a Bluetooth and USB/iPod Adapter hook-up.

Raffle tickets are \$25 each and must be purchased in person at the Zoo's Main Gate or Member Cottage (no Zoo entry is required to purchase). Each raffle ticket also enters you for the chance to win a special Behind-the-Scenes Zoo tour or a free annual family membership. All proceeds go directly to support the Zoo, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization committed to excellence in animal care, education, conservation, and species survival.

The raffle is open until October 19, 2013, and the winner will be chosen in a random drawing at the Zoo's annual OktoBEARfest celebration. You don't have to be present to win.

Purchase your ticket today for your chance to get behind the wheel of this exceptional vehicle built for road survival with all the creature comforts a driver could want.

For complete contest rules, visit our website at www.MarylandZoo.org.

Thanks to our friends at CBS Radio for making this possible!

Raffle is open only to legal U.S. residents 18 years or older with valid driver's license. Winners will be determined in a random drawing to be held at The Maryland Zoo's annual OktoBEARfest event on October 19, 2013, at 3 p.m. Winners need not be present to win. The winner of the donated vehicle shall be responsible for all taxes, license, title and registration fees and any other costs, including, without limitation, any travel or transportation costs associated with winning the donated vehicle. Raffle ticket purchase is not tax-deductible.



Create a legacy – remember The Maryland Zoo in your will or trust.

It's Never Too Early to Create Your Legacy – at The Maryland Zoo!

History is the story of people and their legacies.
How do you want to be remembered?

While you'll be remembered for your kindnesses and accomplishments throughout your lifetime, you can also ensure that one day you'll be remembered with admiration and gratitude by leaving a bequest to The Maryland Zoo. Years from now, your bequest will help secure the future of the animals and the Zoo you love so much.

You are invited to become a Founding Member of our prestigious Legacy Society, which recognizes the select group of people whose love of animals and the natural world has led them to choose The Maryland Zoo to receive a bequest in their will.

The generosity and foresight of such wonderful friends allows the Zoo to prepare better for its future and to secure the long tradition of excellence in animal care, species preservation, education, and conservation for which it is known.

Once you've named The Maryland Zoo in your will, please let us know so we can include you on our distinguished roster of Founding Members of the Legacy Society. If you have questions, Anne Finney would be happy to talk to you confidentially. You can reach her at (443) 552-5290 or at Anne.Finney@MarylandZoo.org.



Acts of inspiration in support of the Zoo

The Zoo and its animals are here to inspire. We seek to engage people with the wonders of the living world and to inspire people to join with us in the active support and conservation of wildlife and wild places. Oftentimes, it is our youngest visitors who inspire us.

They send us thank you notes and drawings of favorite Zoo animals. They send the animals birthday cards and get-well cards. They rejoice at being here. And they often remind us, through their acts of kindness and support, that they care and that change happens one step at a time.

Brooke Thompson is a remarkable girl who recently celebrated her ninth birthday in a very special way. In lieu of gifts, she asked friends and family to donate to the Zoo. She raised over one hundred dollars to help care for the animals. Thank you, Brooke, for your generosity and thoughtfulness!

Elise Guth, a very capable six-year-old, also wanted to show her support for the Zoo. She created her own animal-themed coloring book and sold copies to friends and family. She even set up a table at the Zoo to help promote her project! She donated all of the money that she raised to the Zoo to help care for the animals. Thank you, Elise, for your generous gift and for acting on such a good idea!

Over the years, young people have raised money and supported the Zoo in enterprising ways, from washing cars and shoveling snow to sending us birthday and mitzvah gifts. In the early 1920s, Baltimore school children even donated their pennies and helped convince City officials to purchase the Zoo's first elephant!

We hope you'll be as inspired as we are by our young supporters. If you or a group you work with is interested in fundraising for the Zoo or making a donation, please contact us at development@marylandzoo.org or (443) 552-5293. You can also choose to give online at www.MarylandZoo.org.



Thank you Zoo supporters of all ages!

THE MARYLAND ZOO

IN BALTIMORE

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member notes



Annual Members Picnic

We'd like to thank you for being a Zoo member by hosting a fun and festive all-American picnic for you at Waterfowl Lake. Grab a blanket, invite your friends and family, and enjoy a relaxing afternoon in one of the most beautiful spots in Baltimore. Log on to www.MarylandZoo.org or call (443) 552-5281 to get more information and purchase tickets.

Date: August 17

Hours: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Price: \$15/person

Member Mornings

Visit on Member Mornings this summer to take advantage of a special perk of Zoo membership! As a member, you are invited to enter at 9:30 a.m. and experience the Zoo when it's just you and the animals. Enjoy a quiet stroll, ride the Jones Falls Zephyr for FREE, and participate in special Member Morning keeper chats and visits with Animal Ambassadors. Please visit www.MarylandZoo.org for a complete list of dates and activities.

Upcoming Member Mornings:

Sunday, June 23

Friday, July 12

Saturday, July 27

Monday, August 12

Sunday, August 25

Tuesday, September 10

Saturday, September 28