

spring 2016

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

# zoogram



**Maryland Zoological Society, Inc.**

**Chairman**

Hugo J. Warns III

**Immediate Past Chair**

Edwin Brake

**Vice-Chairman**

James D. Witty

**Secretary**

W. Robert Zinkham

**Vice President**

Anne L. Donahue

**Vice President**

Eric G. Orlinsky

**Vice President**

Christopher Pope

**Treasurer**

Edwin Brake

Michael H. Aldrich

John Buckley

Calvin G. Butler, Jr.

Ed Callahan

Chadfield B. Clapsaddle

Richard J. Corcoran, Jr.

Gregory A. Cross

Sandra Levi Gerstung

Joanna D. Golden

Herbert Goldman

Ingrid Harbaugh

Marta D. Harting

Jill H. Kamenetz

Martin S. Lampner

Jennifer E. Lowry

Gabrielle M. Melka

Theodore K. Oswald

John A. Picciotto

Hon. Catherine E. Pugh

Dr. Scott Rifkin

C. Douglas Sawyer III

Jason St. John

Shawn Tarrant

Kenneth L. Thompson

William H. Thrush Jr.

Charles E. Vieth

James K. Wilhelm

**Honorary**

John H. Cluster

Hon. Elijah E. Cummings

Norman C. Frost, Jr.

Elizabeth Grieb

Michael D. Hankin

Stuart S. Janney III

F. Ross Jones

A.B. Krongard

Hon. Catherine O'Malley

Roger G. Powell

Elizabeth K. Schroeder

Edward N. Tucker

**Ex-Officio**

Ernest W. Burkeen

Donald P. Hutchinson

Robin Sabatini

Thomas J. Stosur

**President**

Donald P. Hutchinson

**Zoogram Editor**

Sarah Evans

**Content Editor**

Lori Finkelstein

**Project Manager**

Jane Ballentine

**Zoogram Designer**

Suzanne Glover Design

Vol. 41, #1, Spring 2016

Zoogram is published by

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore.

©2015 The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is managed

by the Maryland Zoological Society, Inc.,

a non-profit 501 (c)(3) corporation. Public

funding for the Zoo is principally provided

by the state of Maryland, Baltimore City,

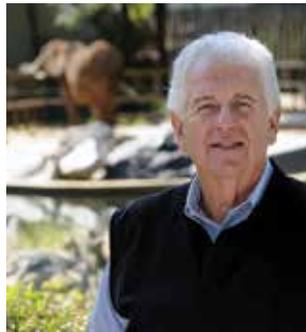
and Baltimore County.

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is accredited

by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.

**ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS**

# letter from the president



This year, we are celebrating our 140th anniversary. The Maryland Zoo was created by an act of the state legislature in 1876. That same year, Ulysses S. Grant was serving as President of the United States and Alexander Graham Bell placed the first telephone call. Johns Hopkins University was founded and Colorado became the 38th state in the Union. The legendary gambler and gunslinger "Wild Bill Hickock" played his last hand of poker and the outlaw Jesse James robbed his last bank.

Times have certainly changed, and the world is a different place in many ways, but not all. We are living in a smart-phone age, but our need to occasionally turn the phone off, step outside, and

connect with nature remains fundamental. And while the world has been transformed by industry, technology, and other forms of development, it is still a planet shaped by natural forces and inhabited by millions of species.

Likewise, while the Zoo has evolved tremendously over the course of its history, our mission to "engage people with the wonder of the living world" and to inspire others to "join in the active support and conservation of wildlife and wild places" remains fundamental. We are celebrating an historic anniversary this year, but we are also looking ahead. We are working for a better future for wildlife through our conservation programs and education initiatives, and we are working for you, our guests, striving to make every visit a positive and memorable one.

In this issue of *Zoogram*, we explore some of our latest conservation success stories with Panamanian golden frogs, sitatunga, and lesser kudu. We also take you inside our Visitor Services Department to introduce you to the folks who are here to make your day at the Zoo better.

We've got a lot of excitement in store for you this year. Come on out and celebrate 140 wild years with us!

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
Membership	(443) 552-5281	Group Sales	(443) 552-5277
Adopt an Animal	(443) 552-5280	Visitor Services	(443) 552-5256
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.

# Countertops



**4 News from the Zoo**

Kudos to our baby kudu and other newborns.

**5 Safe Landing**

A sandhill crane at home at the Zoo.

**6 Plan Your Next Visit**

*Brew at the Zoo* headlines a busy spring season.

**8 Sexing Zoo Animals**

Male or female?

**10 Kids Pages**

Spring is in the air and all around.

**12 Everybody's Got a Story**

Meet the Visitor Services team.

**14 Development**

Zoo recognized for conservation science.

**On the Cover**

Sitatunga calf



During the month of December, the Antelope Barn at the Zoo became more of a nursery, with three new calves born within weeks of each other. Two female sitatunga and one male lesser kudu (above) were born December 7, 18, and 25 and all are doing well. Sitatunga and lesser kudu are both threatened species of African antelope. Sitatunga live in semi-aquatic swamps, marshes, and floodplains in central Africa while lesser kudu inhabit dry, densely thicketed or wooded areas in northeast Africa. These births are the result of recommendations from the AZA's Species Survival Plans for Sitatunga and Lesser Kudu, and the kudu birth is a first for the Zoo.

# NEWS

from the Zoo

At least five fuzzy chicks have hatched in *Penguin Coast* over the past few months and have become the newest members of the Zoo's African penguin colony. As the first full breeding season in the new exhibit winds down, it is encouraging to note that several penguin pairs established territories and guarded eggs on their nests this winter.



Last fall around Halloween time, keepers on the Maryland Wilderness team were prepping the eastern box turtle exhibit for the winter. As they were gently turning over soil, they uncovered a nest containing 5 baby turtles. These were only a few weeks old, having hatched in late summer or early fall. Typically, box turtle hatchlings remain in their underground nests through the winter before emerging the following spring. Rather than upset the natural order of things, the Maryland Wilderness team decided to leave these baby turtles right where they were – but only after building them a predator-proof enclosure to keep them safe. Be sure to look for the baby box turtles on exhibit this spring.

Late last summer, the Zoo took in a female eastern screech owl that is now living in the *Maryland Wilderness Marsh Aviary*. She was one of many animals rescued from a Detroit garage, where she was being kept illegally as a pet. She has adjusted well to life outdoors and around other birds, and you might see her perched in or near her nest box next time you visit. Eastern screech owls are native to Maryland and the eastern U.S. Small and well camouflaged, they are rarely seen but more often heard trilling at night.

# safe landing

**How did the leopard get its spots and why do fish have fins?** Bring your curious mind (and those curious little minds tagging along beside you) to our next *Animal Craft Safari* to find out. Listen to a clever animal story, make an animal craft to take home, and enjoy the rest of your day at the Zoo! Please visit the Zoo's website for details and to pre-register.

Senior Veterinarian Ellen Bronson grew up in Wisconsin. She knows her sandhill cranes and she knows where they are supposed to be, and it's not here, not in Maryland. So imagine her surprise last September when she received a phone call from Dave Brinker, a wildlife ecologist and colleague from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, reporting a sandhill crane walking down the center line of a local highway in Garrett County. She trusted the source implicitly but even so, she jokingly recalls, "I couldn't believe it."

The young crane had been spotted several times over the course of a few weeks in Garrett County, dangerously close to traffic and once in the parking lot of a Home Depot. The time had come to bring it to safety, and Mr. Brinker was calling to borrow a crane crate. The Zoo frequently partners with the Department on wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and fieldwork projects, and was quite willing in this case not only to provide the crate but also to offer a permanent home to this wayward crane, which now resides in the *Maryland Wilderness Marsh Aviary*.

Elegant and graceful in look and mannerism, sandhill cranes are seen by the thousands in central and western North America. They breed and forage in open fields and wetlands and fill the skies in early fall to migrate south for the winter. They thrive in many states, including Wisconsin, but are infrequently seen this far east. The species' native range is spreading eastward, however, from the Great Lakes states. One breeding pair is now nesting in Garrett County.

We will never know much about the early life of the Zoo's sandhill crane, nor will we know why it was behaving so strangely on its own. Cranes are especially prone to imprinting on humans, though, and perhaps this young crane was fed as a chick and lost its innate wariness. If so, its story of confusion and rescue is a cautious reminder not to feed or otherwise foster dependence in wildlife, as "help" can actually result in harm.

Luckily for this beautiful bird, the story ends well; a new species has found a home in Maryland and at the Zoo. Look for the sandhill crane in the Marsh Aviary this spring.



# plan your next visit

As the weather warms this spring, we hope to see you at the Zoo! Have breakfast with the animals, bring the family for an overnight campout, or paint a canvas alongside penguins.

As you plan your next visit, please check the Zoo's website – [www.MarylandZoo.org](http://www.MarylandZoo.org) – for timely updates on events, programs, exhibits, and improvements.

## Special Spring and Summer Hours

### Everyone's a Kid Day

All guests pay a child's admission price of \$13 on the first Tuesday of every month beginning March 1 and ending November 1.

### Early Morning Weekend Hours

From Friday, May 6 through Sunday, September 4, the Zoo will open to guests at 9:30 a.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

### Monthly Evening Hours

The Zoo will stay open until 7 p.m. on the second Saturday of every month beginning in May and ending in September, with \$10 admission for all guests after 4 p.m.

## daily activities

When you visit, please check the Zoo information board in Schaeffer Plaza for daily schedule of on-grounds programs.

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

**Penguin Feeding:** During twice daily feedings at *Penguin Coast*, a Zoo educator shares information about penguins and takes your questions.

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

**Jones Falls Zephyr:** Ride the rails daily, weather permitting. \$

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

**Giraffe Feeding Station:** Meet a doe-eyed leviathan face to face. \$

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

## march

### Zoo Bloom

Welcome the return of spring.

**March 12**  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Bring a date, share a drink, paint yourself a masterpiece.

**March 16**  
5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. \$ R

### Animal Craft Safaris

A creative new way to learn about animals.

**March 17 & 27**  
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center \$ R

### Breakfast with Chimps

The chimps will keep you company over breakfast.

**March 19**  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$ R



### Mary Sue Candies Bunny Bonanzoo

A perennial springtime favorite!

**March 25, 26 & 27**  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Hop on over to the Mansion House Porch for holiday fun.

**March 26**  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$ R

### Zoo Snooze: Overnights at the Zoo

Camp out with the kids!

**March 19-20**  
6 p.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center \$ R

## april

### Breakfast with Penguins

Get the VIP treatment alongside our tuxedo-clad colony.

**April 9**  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$ R

### Breakfast with Giraffes

Make it an unforgettable morning in the company of giraffes.

**April 16**  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$ R

### Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Yes, you are creative, especially at the Zoo!

**April 6 & 20**  
5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Penguin Education Center \$ R

### Animal Craft Safaris

Make an animal-related craft to take home.

**April 14 & 24**  
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center \$ R

### Zoo Snooze: Overnights at the Zoo

Bring the kids and pitch your tent in penguin territory.

**April 16-17**  
6 p.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center \$ R

### Party for the Planet

Celebrate Earth Day with some of its most amazing residents.

**April 23**  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Breakfast with Penguins

They get the fish, you get the eggs and bacon, everyone wins.

**April 24**  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center \$ R

## may

### Breakfasts with Penguins

Morning rituals: coffee, breakfast, penguins.

**May 14 & 22**  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$ R

### Zoo Snooze: Overnights at the Zoo

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Zoo at night.

**May 14-15**  
6 p.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
Waterfowl Lake  
\$ R – Zoo website

### Animal Craft Safari

A story, a craft, a fun way to learn.

**May 19**  
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center \$ R



### BB&T Presents Brew at the Zoo

Raise a glass and dance the afternoon away at this good-time fundraiser for the Zoo.

Advance tickets can be purchased online and include unlimited beer and wine samplings, a complimentary tasting glass, and admission to the Zoo. Purchase your tickets soon – this event will sell out!

**Dates: May 28 & 29**  
**Hours: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.**  
**Prices: \$15-\$69**

## june

### Breakfast with Elephants

Start your day with pachyderm companions at Elephant Overlook.

**June 12**  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$ R

### Animal Craft Safaris

Make something, learn something!

**June 16 & 26**  
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center \$ R

### Breakfast with Chimps

Learn about life in the troop over breakfast and a cup of coffee.

**June 18**  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$ R

### Wild About Giraffes Day

The world's tallest animal deserves a day.

**June 18**  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

A painting workshop with a cocktail twist.

**June 8 & 15**  
5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Penguin Education Center \$ R

### Breakfast with Giraffes

Dine *al fresco* with your favorite ungulates.

**June 25**  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$ R

### Zoo Snooze: Overnights at the Zoo

Sleep under the stars at Waterfowl Lake.

**June 25-26**  
6 p.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
Waterfowl Lake \$ R

**\$: fee to participate**  
**R: reservation required**

# spring calendar





# • the science. of sexing zoo animals

*By Sharon Bowen, Education Manager, and Sarah Evans, Zoogram Editor*

**The most iconic male animals on the planet are probably the peacock and the lion.**

This is a bold statement, to be sure, but it can be backed up by observation. Look at a peacock. There cannot be a more brilliantly ostentatious representative of attention-seeking maleness, not just in the bird world but in the entire world. Look at a lion. He's got size, he's got swagger, but really, the mane says it all.

In many animal species, there are distinct physical differences between males and females, and these differences can be expressed in myriad ways, including size, coloration, and ornamentation. The peacock's tale and the lion's mane are ornaments extraordinaire.

## **Please notice me**

The phenomenon of differentness, known as sexual dimorphism, is driven mainly by the all-important biological need for reproductive success. While sexual dimorphism is scientifically complicated, there seems to be a corollary between dimorphism and male competition. Within species that are highly dimorphic, males tend to compete intensely for access to as many females as possible. Bigger and stronger males win in a fight and handsome males woo the ladies. Thus, over the course of many generations, natural selection favors big, strong, beautiful males.

By contrast, many species show no obvious differences between males and females except upon close inspection of genitalia. Sexual monomorphism is more common among species that are either female-dominant or monogamous. In both scenarios, male competition for females is thought to be more relaxed because either the ladies are picking you or you only need to win over one mate.



### I'll guard my mystery

Even among species that are not strictly monomorphic, it can sometimes be difficult to tell the difference between males and females. Take California kingsnakes, for example. Males and females look virtually identical, although females tend to be slightly larger.

And so it was that one day, Elvis laid an egg.

California kingsnake “Elvis” is an Animal Ambassador at the Zoo and one day he—or rather *she*—laid an egg. This momentous event answered a longstanding question for Zoo staff: Elvis is definitely female.

To know any sooner, Zoo staff would have had to “probe” Elvis—a technique for sexing a snake that involves measuring the internal urogenital tract that ends at the cloaca, or vent. (A female snake has a shorter tract than a male.) Probing a snake is a sensitive procedure that is recommended only when safe and necessary for the animal. It is not safe for young snakes to be probed because they are usually too small. It is also not always necessary to determine a snake’s sex. Such was the case with Elvis, who does not share space with other kingsnakes and is not a candidate for breeding.

### On a need-to-know basis

For most animals at the Zoo, though, it is important to know who is male and who is female for reasons of behavior and breeding. Animal managers strive to establish the most natural groupings possible for all species at the Zoo, and male to female ratio is a key factor. Putting animals together of unknown sex could result in unwanted stress for animals.

As a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), the Zoo also participates in a number of cooperative breeding programs called Species Survival Plans (SSPs). SSPs carefully manage species across all AZA institutions and make breeding recommendations. These



recommendations take into account genetic variability, natural behavior, and the resources available at each zoo or aquarium to house breeding pairs and their offspring. In other words, breeding is carefully considered and managed, and unplanned breeding is carefully avoided. This is why it helps to know who is male and who is female.

### Techniques of the trade

Some animals, like elephants, make it really easy on their human caregivers by displaying their male and female “parts” from a very young age. Other animals guard their mysteries—and their parts—closely. The Zoo’s Coquerel’s sifaka are a case in point. Sifaka are a type of lemur, and lemurs are sexually monomorphic. Zoo staff can be forgiven, therefore, for speculating that “Otto,” born in 2011, was male when close examination later revealed otherwise. Now named “Euphemia,” she has given birth at the Duke Lemur Center to grand-offspring for the Zoo’s sifaka pair, Anna and Gratian.

Lemurs aside, reptiles and many birds tend to be trickier to sex than mammals. Members of the Zoo’s veterinary and animal staff are guided by rules of thumb, years of experience, and sometimes definitive testing. With turtles, for example, keepers look for a curved lower shell, or plastron, as well as thicker, longer tails to identify males—unless it’s a terrapin or snapping turtle. With African penguins, the only way to tell male from female is through a blood test. The Zoo manages the largest and most successful breeding colony of African penguins in North America, and knowing the sex of each bird is critical. This is why every penguin chick hatched at the Zoo has blood drawn for DNA testing.

With such variability among animal species, it is not always easy to tell who is male and who is female. At the Zoo, when it is necessary to know, we find out. Otherwise, a little mystery is fine.

# April showers

## bring May flowers

Some people say they can smell rain coming. They aren't kidding. During thunderstorms, lightning can split oxygen and nitrogen molecules in the atmosphere, resulting in a series of chemical reactions that produce ozone, a gas. The smell of rain coming is the smell of ozone.

The smell that fills the air just after it has rained is called petrichor. Raindrops soak into porous ground, triggering the release of chemicals by soil-dwelling bacteria and oils secreted by plants. The compounds mix to create that pleasant and familiar scent.

Fun Fact: *Petrichor* comes from the Greek words *petra*, meaning "stone," and *ichor*, meaning "the blood of the gods."

**Spring is a great time of year to notice the world around you, and a scavenger hunt is a fun way to do it. Grab a notebook or sketch pad and get outside!**

What kind is it? What does it look like (draw or write)? Where did you find it?

3 different birds

A flower starting to grow

A mammal

Part of an egg

Something smooth

A butterfly on a flower

An animal or insect camouflaging

A reptile

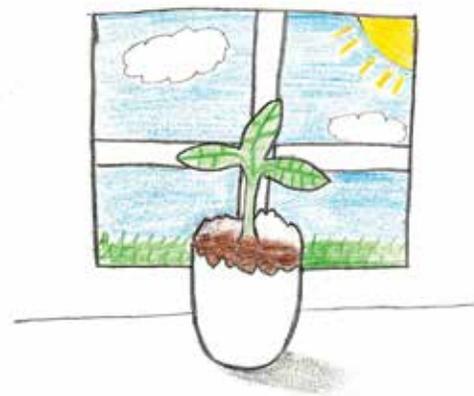
Flowers on a tree

A bird's feather



## plant an

**Spring is the season when the earth springs to life, but don't let the planet have all the fun. Start your own garden! No matter how small your living space, you probably have enough room for kitchen herbs, flower pots, or a garden plot. Try basil, chives, dill, oregano, parsley, peppermint, rosemary, or sage – they all grow well in this part of the country.**



## The Smells of Spring

(at the Zoo, anyway)

In this season of spring when fabulous and familiar smells are once again traveling the air, we decided to conduct a very unofficial Smell Survey at the Zoo. We asked staff to share their favorite and least favorite animal smells. Here is a sample of their responses:

"The outdoorsy smell of elephant manure is my favorite. And when you see the steam rising from the manure pit while the sun is coming up, you are reminded that there is no place quite like the Zoo to work."

**Sheryl Heydt, Curator of Horticulture**

"I LOVE the corn chip smell of leopard's feet. I HATE the fishy smell of penguin vomit." **Jen Sohl, Veterinary Technician**

"The best is the donkey barn right after it's been cleaned. Can't beat a clean hay smell." **Sharon Bowen, Education Manager**

"The worst is red-tailed hawk breath. It's warm and smells like decayed meat. It's disgusting." **Katie Manion, Education Manager**

"Sheep lanolin is somewhat pleasant. Snake musk and lizard poop are pretty bad." – **Peter Martin, Naturalist**

"My favorite is the kinkajou – she always smells fruity and sweet. My least favorite is serval poop. It's seriously the worst to be stuck in the ZOOMobile van with that smell."

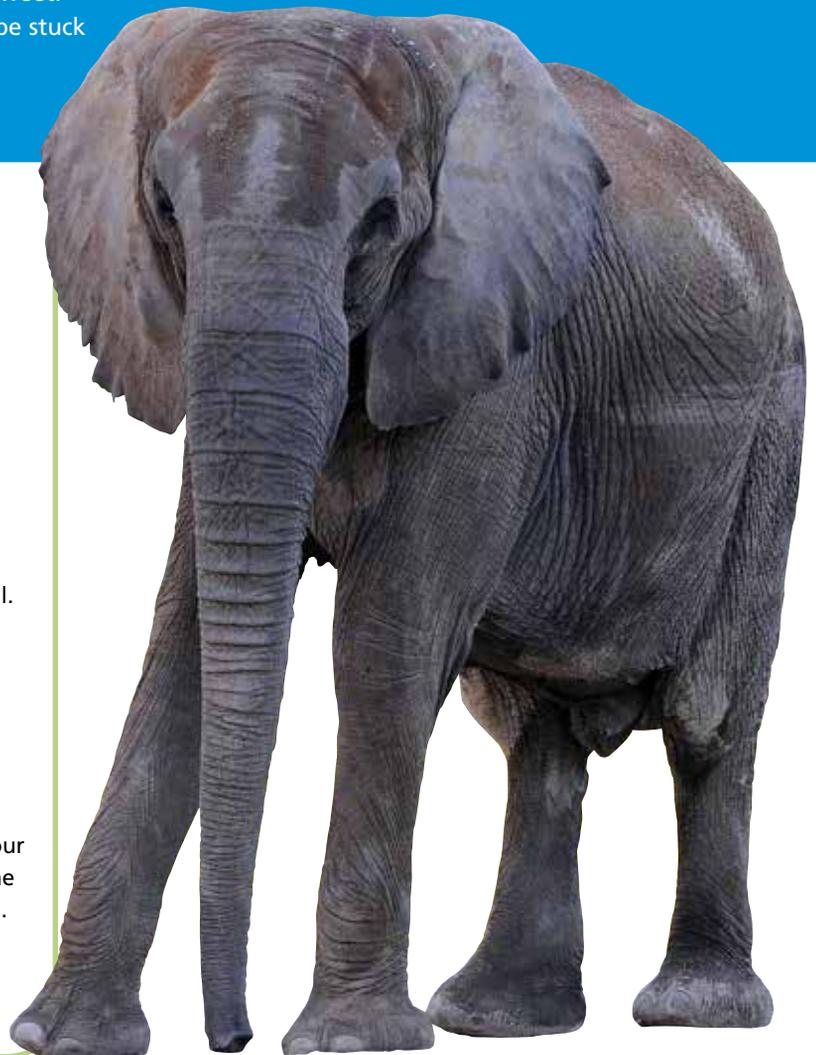
**Kristin Marucci, Outreach Programs Coordinator**

"I love the smell of the Rhino/Zebra Barn. The combination of wood chips and hay and warm poop goes right to my head and makes me so happy to work in a zoo!"

**Kerrie Kovalski, Director of Volunteer Programs**

"I love the smell of camels. Penguins, though – something so cute shouldn't smell so bad."

**Michelle Boyle, Director of Maryland Zoo Funds**



## edible garden

**Follow these simple steps:**

- 1** Gather 6-12 cracked eggshell halves, rinse them, and place them in an egg carton. (You could also use ice cream cones and cut holes in the egg carton to accommodate the cones.)
- 2** Fill each about halfway with planting soil.
- 3** Place a seed in each and cover with another ¼ inch of soil.
- 4** Choose a spot where you can place the egg carton and watch your seeds grow – ideally, a quiet windowsill that receives natural light.
- 5** Check on your seeds daily, keeping the soil moist but not drenched.
- 6** After a few weeks, once the weather has warmed and your seedlings have grown a few inches, you can transplant the eggshells or ice cream cones directly into a pot or garden. Both are biodegradable!



# everybody's got a story

*By Sarah Evans*

You won't find the Zoo's Visitor Services, or "V-Serve," team at the other end of a phone line or buried deep within a website. You'll find them here, every day, waving you into the Zoo's parking lot, greeting you at the front gate, helping you onto the shuttle, driving the train, and tidying up. They are here to serve, and like those in another honorable profession, neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night – well, maybe gloom of night – stays them from their course.

## The Team

They are an impressively eclectic group of college students, neighborhood residents, retirees, and rocket scientists. They have been Sunday school teachers, softball umpires, police sergeants, restaurant workers, candy makers, yard laborers, retailers, and mechanics. They are working second jobs, earning degrees in engineering and environmental science, and going home to care for children, grandchildren, and neighborhood kids. They are busy. And seemingly tireless.

Being on the V-Serve team allows this group of 52 to work year-round at the Zoo on schedules that fit the rest of their lives. Eclecticism helps. "Retirees don't want to work weekends," explains Ken Osterritter, Director of Visitor Services Operations. "They've done their time, they have grandchildren to see. So guess who can work weekends? College students!" The schedules mesh and so do the people. The V-Serve team is an outgoing bunch that has become very tight-knit.

What binds them together is a common interest in people. Every member of the Visitor Services team has his or her own reasons for working at the Zoo, ranging from love of animals to love of cleaning, but to a person – no matter what the other reasons – they enjoy people. They are genuinely committed to a great visitor experience and are always ready to chat or to help.





### The Rail Riders

You might think that visitors come to the Zoo just to see the animals, but apparently this is not always the case. Talk to V-Serve and you will learn that “kids of all ages” come to ride the train and are fascinated “to learn of its connection to the Transcontinental Railroad.” (The Zoo’s locomotive is a scale replica of the original C.P. Huntington train built in 1863 that was used during construction of the western spur of North America’s first transcontinental railroad.)

The carousel and the shuttle are also big draws for those that ride. This crowd tends to be young, enthusiastic, and polite, and V-Serve agents know them well. “Small children always thank me for giving them permission to ride the train or carousel,” says one attendant, “and it’s always adorable.” The shuttle has its own fans. “A little girl always visits with her grandma,” says a regular driver, “and will ride the shuttle with me for an hour and talk with me.”

### The Lost Shoe

Talking with visitors is a privilege that everyone on V-Serve appreciates and remembers. Whether the conversations are fleeting, funny, or occasionally poignant, they make standing on post worthwhile. “A little girl came to me not long ago and said she had just moved from New York and started a new school,” recalls one teammate. “She said she hadn’t made any friends yet and asked if I could be her friend. I said yes and she gave me a leaf. She said, ‘This is our friendship leaf.’ That made my day.”

Helping visitors have a good experience, no matter what that may require, is another aspect of the job that V-Serve staff finds rewarding. One day a lady lost her shoe at the Zoo and a V-Serve staffer took it upon himself to go to a nearby mall to buy her a new pair. “She and her family took pictures with me and really appreciated my deed for

that day,” he remembers, “and I really felt proud.” Another V-Serve teammate was cleaning restrooms one day when some teachers on a field trip stopped to tell him “that the restrooms were better kept than those in any school they’ve been in.” He admits, “That caused me to smile.”

### The Browsing Giraffe

Now, let’s be realistic, not every day is sunshine and roses. When you are running a 24/7 outdoor operation involving hundreds of animals and thousands of guests, things can get messy and sometimes uncomfortable. When the heat rises, the mosquitoes are biting, and the toilets overflow, it helps to have a good sense of humor and a grounded belief that this too shall pass.

V-Serve teammates have both, along with constant reminders – a squawk, a squeal, a roar – of where they are and how awesome that is. “I think all of us are excited to get paid to feed – or watch other people feed – giraffes,” says one teammate. The animals make even the worst of days worthwhile.

The team might also say that this place makes it all worthwhile. The Zoo seems to have that effect on people. In a major city, in a hectic world, it is its own haven, a great place to work and an even better place to be each day.

After all, where else do you get to walk around on your lunch break and visit with lions?



# And the Bean Award goes to...



Those striking black-and-yellow frogs residing in the Chimp Forest are now award-winning frogs!

In late September, the Zoo was recognized by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) with a Significant Achievement

in the Edward H. Bean Award for its Project Golden Frog / Proyecto Rana Dorada program.

*“This award, which highlights the important work aquariums and zoos are doing to help save species in their own communities as well as in the wild, provides well-deserved national recognition for the leadership of The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore team in conservation science,”* said AZA President and CEO Jim Maddy during the awards ceremony held in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The Edward H. Bean Award was established in September 1956, honoring the first director of Chicago’s Brookfield

Zoo and one of the founders of AZA. The Bean Award recognizes propagation or management programs that contribute to the reproductive success of one or more species and/or subspecies. The Maryland Zoo has won this award only once before – in 1996 – for our African Penguin breeding program.

Panamanian golden frogs are among the rarest in the amphibian world and are revered in their native country as a symbol of good luck. The golden frog likeness is an iconic one that appears all over Panama, from its currency to its lottery tickets. The Maryland Zoo was the first to breed these beautiful animals in a zoological setting, and now nearly 50 other AZA-accredited institutions have golden frogs in their collections.

In the late 1990s, concerned biologists convened to form Project Golden Frog/Proyecto Rana Dorada in order to save the highly-susceptible species from the deadly chytrid disease caused by the fungus *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* (Bd). In the intervening years, Project Golden Frog has become a flagship program for global amphibian decline.

## A garden tribute to Carole Sibel

Carole Sibel was a remarkable woman with a remarkable ability to raise money and awareness for organizations that she believed in. She joined the Zoo’s Board of Directors in the late 1980s and went on to serve this institution in leadership roles for more than 30 years. Through her own donations and personal connections, Carole raised more than \$2 million for the Zoo. She was tireless in the effort and devoted countless hours to the task, including key roles in many Zoomerang parties!

When Carole passed away in 2015, the Zoo lost one of its most devoted friends. Her wisdom, her energy, and her manifold contributions will be sorely missed. We will honor her legacy, though, and will always remember her with profound gratitude. As a living tribute to her exemplary service, under direction from Don Hutchinson, the Zoo dedicated a lovely garden to Carole this past fall.

The Carole Sibel Memorial Garden is located near the Meeting Barn in the Farmyard. This seemed like the perfect location, with the Farmyard offering just the right ambience. It’s a place where friends and family can mingle for a bit and where children can connect happily with the animals. The choice proved to be serendipitous, as it was later revealed that Carole herself chose the Farmyard years ago as the designation of her first Capital Campaign gift!

Next time you visit the Farmyard, stop for a moment in the garden beside the Meeting Barn. You’ll find a plaque there honoring “a very generous woman whose impact will be felt for generations to come.” We thank Hanan “Bean” Sibel, Carole’s husband, and the rest of her family for sharing Carole with us for so many years and for allowing us to share her giving spirit with others.

The eventual goal of Project Golden Frog is to re-introduce the frogs into their native Panamanian habitat. This can only be done once scientists have eradicated the fungus from the wild. Meanwhile, however, golden frogs have been legally collected in Panama and sent to AZA-accredited institutions in order to create *ex situ* assurance populations.

The Zoo's long-term work with Panamanian golden frogs is a prime example of conservation in action that is indeed worthy of recognition. Come see these remarkable frogs soon and congratulate them for being an inspiration!



## You're the reason we'll never stop building bridges to the future of health care.

### Connecting you to a lifetime of wellness.

Imagine a health care system built around you and your family. That's LifeBridge Health. Our Sinai, Northwest, and Carroll hospitals offer the latest, revolutionary medicine – in a personalized way that puts our patients at the center of their care.

Plus, our care extends beyond our hospital doors. From health and fitness to hundreds of community physicians, from urgent care to senior care, we are 10,000 people with a singular focus: a healthier you.

To find out how LifeBridge Health can help you, visit [LifeBridgeHealth.org/Future](http://LifeBridgeHealth.org/Future) or call 410-601-WELL (9355).



If everyone who cares about the Zoo were to make a gift, no matter how big or small, together we could accomplish the extraordinary.

The Maryland Zoo relies on donations from friends like you to care for its resident animals, work for wildlife conservation, and promote awareness and respect for all wildlife. We hope that you will support us in our mission.

You can send your gift in the enclosed envelope, donate online at [www.MarylandZoo.org/donate](http://www.MarylandZoo.org/donate), or call Michelle Boyle at 443-552-5293. Thank you!

# THE MARYLAND ZOO

IN BALTIMORE

1876 Mansion House Drive  
Druid Hill Park  
Baltimore, MD 21217-4474  
410-396-7102

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Baltimore, MD  
Permit No. 8779



## Summer is coming!

If your kids are animal lovers, they might enjoy being campers at the Zoo this summer. At Zoo Camp, we visit with animals, explore habitats, hear from Zoo staff about what it's like to work with wildlife, and basically make the Zoo our summer playground for a week! Zoo Camp is open to children entering grades 2-8 in the fall of 2016. Sessions are one week long.

Learn more and register now by going to the Zoo's website, clicking on "Education," and then following the "Summer Camp" tab.

### Zoo Camp Highlights:

- Small-group setting
- Immersive tours of the Zoo
- Interactions with animal experts
- Behind-the-scenes experiences (grades 3-8)
- Rides on the train and carousel (grade 2)
- Up-close visits with Animal Ambassadors
- Feeding giraffes and brushing goats
- Wildlife-themed crafts using recycled materials
- Learning how we can all help protect wildlife and wild places!