

spring 2013

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

# ZOOgram



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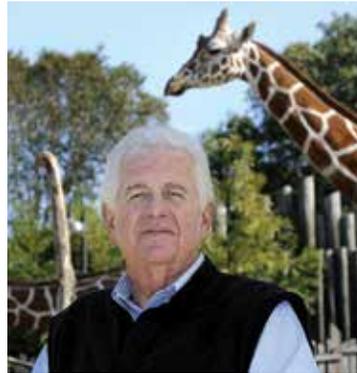
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The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.



# Letter

from the president



The Baltimore Ravens are reigning world champions and winners of Super Bowl XLVII! There has been plenty of rejoicing all through the city, including at the Zoo where we take pride in a special relationship with the Ravens organization. With "purple fever" running rampant in Baltimore as Super Bowl Sunday approached, everyone and their brother seemed to be making predictions and wagers, and we could do no less.

The week prior to the big game, I made a bet with my counterpart at the San Francisco Zoo. You know who won that bet. I am pleased to note that for one month after the

game, the San Francisco Zoo renamed its rhino exhibit, "The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore Rhino Exhibit." In residence there is a young rhino named "Boone," whose namesake is a 49ers linebacker.

We'd like to think that we channeled positive energy to the Ravens as they got ready for the Super Bowl. Throughout the Zoo, we had animals putting their own spin on papier mache footballs decorated with the 49ers logo that were created for them as enrichment. The chimpanzee troop made a Super Bowl prediction by ripping down a banner with the 49ers logo on it. And Ravens mascots Rise and Conquer, who reside at the Zoo year-round, represented their team on *The Today Show* live from the Inner Harbor on the Friday prior to the game.

We hope you enjoyed the Super Bowl hoop-la as much as we did, and now we're betting that, like us, you're looking forward to getting outside this spring. Come to the Zoo and you'll be in good company. Kesi, our new giraffe, has settled into her new home and is beginning to explore the outdoor yard under the guidance of Angel. Badu, our new lioness, has made herself right at home on exhibit and frequently comes right up to the window to survey her visitors.

Spring is in the air, and with it comes another year of exciting animal viewing, special events, member mornings and hopefully, perfect Zoo weather. Thank you for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you here this season.

Don Hutchinson, *President/CEO*

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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
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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.

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from the Zoo

# NEWS

This spring look for Badu, the Zoo's new two-year-old lioness, on the prowl outdoors. She arrived here last summer from the Racine Zoo in Racine, Wisconsin. She has been getting to know the other lions gradually. "Lions can be very aggressive so we are taking the introduction of Badu to both Cuma and Hassan very slowly," explains Mike McClure, General Curator. "Badu is very comfortable in the exhibit on her own, and we will continue with animal introductions behind the scenes with a goal of having all three lions together as a pride in a few months."



Also new to the Zoo's *African Journey* savannah is Kesi the giraffe. She arrived at the Zoo in mid-October from the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo in Fort Wayne, Indiana. "She is a very sweet, young giraffe," says McClure, General Curator. "She stands about 11 feet tall and weighs around 1,000 pounds." She is getting used to her new home and to her new companions, Angel and Caesar. Her arrival at the Zoo and Badu the lioness' were the result of recommendations from the Giraffe and Lion Species Survival Plans (SSPs) coordinated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

With generous support from Bank of America, the Zoo launched a new program in early spring aimed at high school students interested in careers in the non-profit field. In February, participants in the Teen Leaders Program began waking up early (a testament to their commitment!) to spend Saturdays at the Zoo. Featured staff members are talking with them about their work, its importance to the Zoo, and how they trained for their careers. Through activities and service projects, teens are experiencing some of the work for themselves. They also are learning how to write a résumé and prepare for a job interview and will have the opportunity to compete for a paid summer work experience at the Zoo.

## Honoring one of our own

On a sunny afternoon in January, Zoo trustees, staff, volunteers, and guests gathered to honor Dr. Mike Cranfield, the 2012 recipient of the Michael D. Hankin Award for Conservation. Named for former Chairman of the Zoo's Board of Trustees Mike Hankin, the award recognizes individuals who epitomize a legacy of conservation, volunteerism, and philanthropy. It was given this year to "one of our own, a person who has had a commitment to this institution for over 30 years," remarked Don Hutchinson, Zoo President and CEO.

Dr. Mike, as he is known, came to the Zoo from his native Canada in 1982 to become Senior Veterinarian and eventual Director of Animal Health, Research, and Conservation. Over the course of his tenure, in addition to clinical duties, he and his colleagues pursued research on avian malaria in penguins, parasitic diseases in snakes, *in vitro* fertilization in lion-tailed macaques, and captive breeding of endangered Panamanian golden frogs. In partnership with entities such as the National Institutes of Health and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Dr. Mike also involved the Zoo in some of its most significant and ongoing conservation work with native species, including black bears, bog turtles, Eastern box turtles, and birds of prey.

"One of my proudest moments is when President Clinton released a bald eagle that we rehabbed here at the Zoo to mark the downlisting [of that species] from endangered to threatened. That was a real thrill," recalled Dr. Mike.

For the past 15 years, Dr. Mike has led the Mountain Gorilla Veterinary Project (MGVP), initially while on staff at the Zoo and now full time. Mr. Hutchinson described MGVP – a.k.a. Gorilla Doctors – as "the ultimate species survival program and the most important commitment that we have made as a zoo community in our history." Headquartered at the Zoo for many years and now run out of UC Davis' School of Veterinary Medicine, it provides health care and lifesaving medical procedures to endangered mountain gorillas living in the mountains of Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic

Republic of the Congo (DRC). Under Dr. Mike's leadership, it has expanded its scope to include health and welfare programs for local people. It serves as a model not only for wildlife medicine but for building sustainable partnerships with local people and cultivating respect and protection of wildlife.

Ever humble, Dr. Mike accepted the Hankin Award with appreciation but insisted that it reflects "upon the work of so many people." He proceeded to recognize those people and to offer his unique, often humorous, and ever insightful perspective on the Zoo's proud traditions of animal care, treatment, research, and conservation.

"I was pretty lucky that there were no jobs in Canada and I got to come here," Dr. Mike concluded.

"I hope that all of you have the same wonderful, proud feeling as I do to work at The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore."

# TOP SECRET

your next visit

Time to shake off winter and embrace spring at the Zoo! You'll enjoy trees in bloom, lions on the prowl, prairie dogs popping, and bunnies hopping. Participate in an on-grounds program or animal encounter any day that you visit, and be sure to mark your calendar for our special spring events: bunnies, breakfasts, and brew.

Before your next visit, please check the Zoo's website – [www.MarylandZoo.org](http://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.

**Animal Greeters:** Animal Ambassadors in Schaefer Plaza welcome you to the Zoo.

**Kid Zone:** Brush, pet, or just visit the goats.

**Creature Encounters:** Experience wildlife up close with live animals and hands-on activities at the Creature Encounters learning center near the tram stop.

**Education Stations:** More hands-on discovery of animal artifacts at special learning posts throughout the Zoo.

**Penguin Feeding:** Watch keepers feeding the penguins at Rock Island. A Zoo educator often will be there to share information about the Zoo's colony and penguins in the wild.

**Keeper Chats:** Talk with keepers about the animals in their care. Feel free to ask questions!

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

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

**Camel Rides:** Visit the camels, back again this year, 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! \$

*\$: fee to participate*

# special events

spring / 13 7

## Brew at the Zoo!

Don't miss out on Baltimore's best outdoor festival (if we do say so ourselves). Beer, wine, food, music, and springtime weather – guaranteed fun for the whole family. Join us to toast the Zoo, and have a great time doing it!

Tickets are required and include unlimited beer and wine samplings, a complimentary tasting glass, access to food and artisan vendors, live music, and admission to the Zoo. VIP packages also are available.

**Dates: May 25 & 26**

**Hours: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

**Prices: \$25-\$100**

## Breakfasts with the Animals

Spring is a great time to visit the Zoo and an even better time to sign up for one of our ever popular Breakfasts with the Animals. Start your day at the Zoo early with a scrumptious meal, conversation with keepers, and private viewing of the animals, which also may include a feeding or enrichment activity. It's a VIP experience worth waking up for!

Breakfasts are on Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. Space is limited and reservations are required. Admission to the Zoo is included, valid same day only. For further details, go to [www.MarylandZoo.org](http://www.MarylandZoo.org).

Ticket prices are \$55 for members, \$65 for non-members, and FREE for children under 2 (although ticket still required).

**Dates:**

**April 13: Breakfast with the Giraffes**

**April 27: Breakfast with Penguins**

**May 11: Breakfast with the Polar Bears**

**June 8: Breakfast with the Elephants**

**June 22: Breakfast with the Chimps**

**June 29: Breakfast in Africa**

## Breakfast with the Bunny

Hop on over to the Mansion House porch to enjoy a delicious breakfast, visit with Animal Ambassadors (as well as the season's biggest bunny!), and dive into a holiday arts and crafts project. Call early, as this event will SELL OUT. Ticket price includes admission to the Zoo, valid same day only.

**Date: Saturday March 30**

**Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.**

**Prices: from \$15-\$35**



## Mary Sue Candies Bunny BonanZOO

Celebrate a favorite pastime of spring at the Zoo: egg hunting! Bring your basket to Waterfowl Lake where there will be games, crafts, food, and live entertainment. Children can redeem their found eggs for Mary Sue chocolate eggs.

**Dates: March 29-31**

**Hours: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

\*Some activities may require a small fee.

## on-grounds programs

This spring, enjoy our short, fun, and free on-grounds education programs. Look for the green Maryland Zoo canopies! Each week will have its own educational theme and a great offering of games, activities, and conversation. For more information, visit [marylandzoo.org/publicprograms](http://marylandzoo.org/publicprograms).

**Tot Days:** Hands-on activities geared to our youngest visitors, offered throughout the month of March.

**Monday – Friday, month of March, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Spring Animal Adventures:** Games and activities clue school-aged visitors into adaptations, behaviors, and ecological and survival needs of animals. 15-20 minutes per activity. Varying locations, announced daily at Creature Encounters.

**Monday – Friday, April – June 14, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Wilderness Puppet Theatre:** Fun puppet shows demonstrate how animals interact with their environments, including at the Zoo. Varying locations, announced daily at Creature Encounters.

**Tuesday – Friday, April – June 14, 11:30 – 11:50 a.m.**



life in a  
**compost  
nest**

Of all the reptiles that you might encounter in the equatorial rainforests of central and west Africa, don't expect to get too close to a slender-snouted crocodile. As crocodiles go, this species is particularly shy, secretive, and solitary. If you see one basking on a branch overhanging the river (a behavior peculiar to this type of crocodile), look for it to slip quickly and quietly away.

*By Sarah Evans, Zoogram Editor*

**F**ew people ever get close to a slender-snouted crocodile, which makes the opportunity presented at the Zoo all the more special. Next time you visit, take an extra-long look at Captain Crook and Tick Tock, the pair of slender-snouts ruling the African River exhibit in the Chimpanzee Forest. Savor the moment.

#### **The Zoo's slender-snouts**

Both of the Zoo's crocodiles were born in the wild and brought to the United States as juveniles in the early 1970s. They were privately kept for several years until their owners could no longer care for them properly. A private organization with expertise in crocodiles took over and eventually placed them on long-term loan with the Zoo in 1993.

You can tell Captain Crook and Tick Tock apart by size and coloring. Captain Crook, the male, is three feet longer and darker. He measures about ten feet and has a namesake crooked snout. It developed while he was privately kept and resulted from either injury or poor diet. Tick Tock is comfortable around Captain Crook despite his imposing size. It is human company that makes her skittish. At the slightest hint of intrusion, she goes underwater and parks herself beneath the waterfall in her exhibit.



### Eggs in the water, eggs on land

Because they are wild-born animals that have never reproduced, Captain Crook and Tick Tock are considered genetically valuable. Their offspring would do much to grow, diversify, and strengthen the small population of slender-snouted crocodiles living in AZA institutions. Breeding pairs are few, and this pairing is recommended by the Species Survival Plan for the species. Everyone involved in the lives of these two crocodiles would like to see them produce offspring. The challenge is in making it happen.

For many years, Tick Tock's egg-laying habits stumped the Zoo's herpetology team. She would dependably lay, but always in the water. This was baffling because in the wild, female slender-snouted crocodiles deposit their eggs in large nests onshore. They build them by scraping together huge mounds of wet vegetation. As the vegetation decays, it heats up like a compost pile and warms the eggs. A female will guard her nest while the eggs incubate. When she hears chirping, she will break open the nest and help the newly hatched crocodiles to the water.

With all this careful care of the nest encoded instinctively into a female slender-snout's behavior, why would Tick Tock lay eggs in water? Temperature might explain it.

In the wild, slender-snout eggs incubate at approximately 90 degrees. About five years ago when the herpetology team began investigating Tick Tock's breeding and nesting behaviors closely, they discovered that the water inside the African River exhibit was often warmer than the land. To Tick Tock, the water seemed a better choice, or so her keepers speculated.

To remedy this situation, Exhibit Specialist Earl Wildt built a faux mud bank wall near the water's edge that could retain an enormous amount of mulch and other nesting material. Keepers also installed heating pads in various places beneath the mulch. Tick Tock was given tremendous choice in temperature and materials to build a first-rate nest.

A few months later and for the first time ever, Tick Tock laid eggs on land. She scattered and accidentally crushed them but still, it was progress. This was in 2008. She scattered eggs again on land the following year and then, in 2010, went one step further. She built a beautiful nest and clutched 4 eggs. She took the year off in 2011 – no eggs, no nest – but made up for it last year by building a nest, clutching 8 eggs, and guarding them. Anyone who dared enter the exhibit was met by a hissing, snapping crocodile. "It was tremendous to see her come onto land and show all these behaviors," recalls Kevin Barrett, who has worked with the crocs for years. "We're seeing the small steps pay off."

Meanwhile, Captain Crook continues to do his part. When the rainy season starts (induced by temperature and humidity adjustments in the exhibit), he shows interest in mating. When Tick Tock lays eggs, he wisely keeps his distance (as do keepers). All these years later, Tick Tock may be warming to her would-be mate. In times past, he would circle her amorously in the water and nudge her from below with his snout and she would promptly sink like a stone to the bottom of the pool. Not long ago, though, she was observed floating cooperatively for him at the water's surface.

### The end game

All signs seem to be pointing in the right direction. The crocs have responded well to environmental and husbandry modifications and chances of successfully breeding them have never been better. We will see what 2013 brings. Meanwhile, regardless of the end result, the Zoo's herpetology team has come a long way in caring and providing for a particularly rare and mysterious species. This is its own thrill and reward: understanding what makes Tick Tock tick.



**"She always surprises us,"**

says Barrett, but here's hoping that 2013 brings forth a feisty female crocodile and a clutch of fertile eggs.



# earth day

On Monday, April 22, more than 1 billion people around the world will celebrate Earth Day. From China to Egypt, India to England, and Brazil to the USA, kids just like you will be speaking up for their planet and doing something to make it a better place to live.

## What will you do on Earth Day?

Check out our top five "Earth Day Ideas" and choose one that you like! For more ideas and information, visit [www.earthday.org/2013](http://www.earthday.org/2013).

## earth day ideas

1. Visit a plant nursery with your family. Buy a seedling and plant a tree. If you can't plant a tree, plant flowers or vegetables.
2. Hit the "off" switch. For one day (and maybe for an hour or two after dark), turn off everything in your house that uses electricity except the refrigerator. No lights, no television, no computer screens! Write down your experiences going "energy free." Was it easy or hard? Was it frustrating or fun?
3. Take a hike or a bike ride with your family and enjoy being outside! Try to leave your car parked for the day.
4. Pick up trash in your neighborhood. Estimate in advance how much trash you will collect and see how close you come to your estimate.
5. Shop at a thrift store. Vintage is in. So is recycling. Your next favorite pair of jeans is out there waiting for you!



## pine cone bird feeder

Earth Day is a perfect time to celebrate every living thing. So how about doing something nice for the birds in your backyard? Treat them to a pine cone bird feeder.

### Here's what you need to get started:

- Pine cone
- Paper plate
- Butter knife
- Smooth peanut butter
- Birdseed
- Ribbon or yarn
- Scissors

### Here's what you need to do:

1. Cut a long length of yarn or ribbon to hang the bird feeder.
2. Tie one end of the ribbon in a knot around the pine cone near the top (about 3 sections down).
3. Tie a large loop knot in the other end of the ribbon.
4. Spread peanut butter all over the pinecone.
5. Pour birdseed on the plate.
6. Roll the pine cone in the birdseed and sprinkle more over the top until the pine cone is fully covered.
7. Hang your feeder on a tree and watch for birds!

## from farm to table

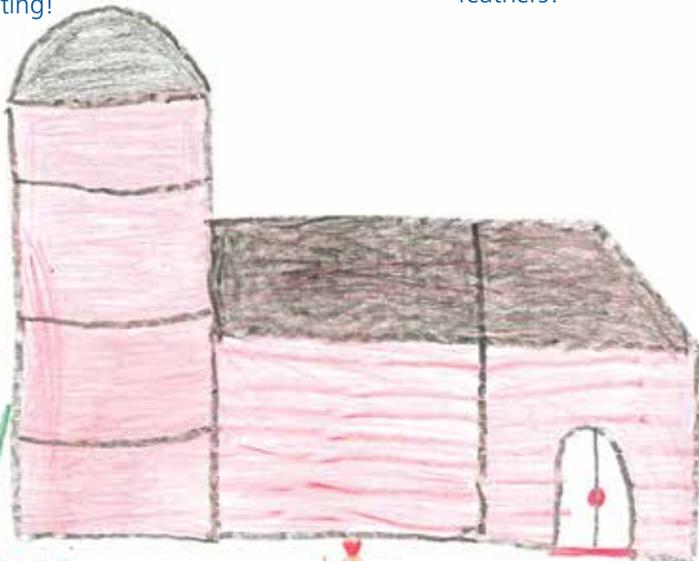
Do you know where your food comes from? Take this short quiz to test your knowledge. Then, how about celebrating Earth Day with a visit to a local farm or farmer's market? Sample something good and fresh to eat and talk to the farmers about what life on a farm is like.

To find a farm or farmer's market near you, use the locator provided on the Maryland's Best website, [www.marylandsbest.net](http://www.marylandsbest.net). Check out the videos of Maryland farmers, too. Very interesting!

- a. Name three foods that can be made from milk.
- b. How much milk does the average cow produce in one day?
- c. How many eggs does a hen lay each day?
- d. What is a crop?
- e. What is the best season of the year to grow strawberries?
- f. Name five crops grown in the state of Maryland.
- g. What can be made from goose feathers?



Artwork: Sydney Sohl, age 8, Perryville Elementary School



Answers: a. butter, cheese, yogurt, ice cream; b. approximately 10 gallons; c. one every 1-2 days, on average; d. a plant grown for food; e. summer; f. corn, hay, soybeans, tobacco, watermelon, strawberries; g. pillows, comforters, coats



"You always have the challenge of trying to figure out what the animal is going to do."

Steve Linda

# blending function. and aesthetic



By Sarah Evans

When creating zoo exhibits, a designer must satisfy three radically different constituencies: animals, staff, and visitors. Animals use the elements in their environment as they see fit, not necessarily as people prescribe. Zoo professionals bring behind-the-scenes concerns to the table. They care about accessing exhibit space safely, maintaining it adequately, and providing well for the animals, all while also setting the scene for a memorable and meaningful visitor experience. Visitors know an exceptional exhibit when they see it.

"It is rare to find talented individuals who can do all sides of the exhibit equation well and masterfully," says General Curator Mike McClure. The Zoo is fortunate to have two such individuals on staff. Both belong to the small and extremely talented Exhibits Team. "Steve (Linda) and Earl (Wildt) bring a sense of function and aesthetic that is uniquely suited to the zoo environment," notes McClure. "They are equal parts artisan and construction-expert and whether their tool is a hand trowel for concrete or a tractor for spreading a ton of sand, the end result is always unique and impressive."

### Disappear the borders

Steve Linda moved to Baltimore more than 40 years ago to pursue a fine arts education at the Maryland Institute College of Arts (MICA). He trained there as a sculptor. After graduating in 1971, he "promptly went into the

world of manual labor" and gravitated to residential landscaping. Plants brought him to the Zoo in 1989 as a newly hired horticulturist but something else caught his sculptor's eye. "When I first came here and saw the artificial rock work and the Giant Tree in *Maryland Wilderness*, I thought that was truly inspirational. I thought, 'Wow, yeah, I want to do that sort of thing.'"

Ironically, Steve does very little in the way of artificial realism. The sculptor melded with the landscaper long ago, and to this day he uses mainly organic materials in his exhibit design work. Look carefully and you will find his naturalistic aesthetic represented in the African Aviary exhibit, the Tortoise exhibit, and the Arctic Fox exhibit, to name a few. Often you will see Steve extend a tree limb through the mesh of an enclosure or plant shrubs that seem to pass from inside to outside. He does this intentionally to "disappear the borders" and disabuse people's sense of being on the outside looking in.

He is also careful to choose only rocks, logs, and other elements that can be accepted as part of the natural landscape. The overall effect is subtle but immersive. "People know when something looks natural even if they don't know why," he explains. "Half the time I don't know why either but I have an intuition about it. It takes a lot of scheming to make something look natural. The whole idea is to contrive mightily to appear uncontrived."

“Steve and Earl are masters at what they do. They greatly enhance the environment for guests and animals in subtle but impactful ways.”

General Curator Mike McClure



### Knowledge of design and how to build it

Earl Wildt knows exactly what Steve means and has been tricking the eye for about as many years. Like Steve, he has worked in zoos for more than three decades and appreciates exceptional concrete rock work when he sees it. He should, because this has become his self-taught specialty. You wouldn't know it, but Earl created the huge rock that the lions lounge on, the “dirt” wall alongside the prairie dog visitor pathway, and a mature “tree” in the red-ruffed lemur exhibit – all out of concrete! He attributes his exceptional mimicry skills to “years of watching and picking things up.”

If Earl could be described in one phrase, it would be “Yes, I can do that, I've done it before.” Build a faux dirt retaining wall? Sure, he's done it before. Create a lion hot rock? Sure, he's done concrete rocks before. Raise the walls around the polar bear yard? Sure, just keep the bears inside. “The kind of work that I've done in the past taught me how to troubleshoot and solve problems,” says Earl. “And that's pretty much what I do. I can problem solve and figure things out.”

He can also draw upon skills and experience that most of us lack. Before taking his first zoo job, Earl completed stints as a longshoreman, welder, steel fabricator, heavy machine operator, and night foreman at a trucking company. He poured hot metal in an aluminum foundry, shifted weights in a cast iron foundry, and ran huge cranes, cherry pickers, and forklifts. At the Cincinnati Zoo, where he was employed for 23 years, he worked in maintenance and mastered techniques of exhibit design and fabrication along the way.

### Independent talents working in concert

Almost any day of the year, you will find Steve and Earl outside at the Zoo, digging, pounding, carving, and creating. They are often alone, absorbed in their own projects, but sometimes their artistry overlaps. The best example of this is the red-ruffed lemur exhibit. Inside there are two trees. One is a real catalpa that Steve brought in. The other is made of concrete and has three heated “apartments” for the lemurs. (The top one even has a skylight!) The two trees complement each other, blending organic and man-made elements seamlessly to create a naturalistic environment that appeals to animals, staff, and visitors. This is the genius of Steve and Earl, two independent talents working in concert.

## A new ZOOMobile van courtesy of Howard County residents

Every week of the year, the Zoo's Outreach team is on the road, traveling throughout Maryland as well as to neighboring states and the District of Columbia to educate and entertain diverse audiences with popular programs featuring Animal Ambassadors. Staff and animals travel these many thousands of miles in a small fleet of ZOOMobile vans, the workhorses of the Outreach operation.

Having dependable transportation makes it possible for the Zoo's Outreach team to visit more places and maintain a schedule that works for more schools, daycare centers, senior centers, and other interested audiences. High mileage eventually takes its toll, and having multiple vans in operation means an extended work life for each. Needless to say, the Zoo was thrilled when Howard County Executive Ken Ulman and the citizens of Howard County funded a new 2012 Dodge Grand Caravan minivan to ensure safe transportation for animals, staff, and volunteers.

Since January 2012, the Howard County-donated ZOOMobile has gone on more than 250 outings, covering more than 12,000 miles! It is one of two minivans that, along with a larger cargo van, are critical to Outreach operations. The Howard County minivan is especially well loved by staff because it offers the additional benefit of flexible seating, making it possible to shift between extra cargo space for animals and supplies and extra seating for a third person, which some programs require.

Of the 838 ZOOMobile programs delivered to 521 unique facilities in 2012 (reaching a total audience of 41,774 people), 77 programs were delivered in Howard County. Nearly half were delivered using the new Dodge minivan. In 2013, the Outreach team will deliver ZOOMobile programs to underserved children at Title I schools in Howard County and every effort will be made to take the Howard County van on those trips.

Thank you to County Executive Ken Ulman and the citizens of Howard County!



Schools will know the van by text on the doors acknowledging Howard County's generosity.

## Hot Diggity Dog!

This year, there's something brand new to bite into at the Zoo's Whistle Stop Café. Wrapped inside every bun will be a delicious dog from the good folks at Esskay. Thanks to a great new partnership facilitated by CBS Radio, Esskay is now the official provider of hot dogs here at the Zoo and, frankly (pun intended), we couldn't be more thrilled.

Esskay joins the Zoo's already robust lineup of quality concession options. This nationally recognized brand brings extra flavor and trusted taste to every bite, which we know you and your family will enjoy. As if that weren't enough to go wild about, we are also glad to count Esskay among the growing list of sponsors helping to support the Zoo's mission of wildlife conservation and education.

So what's on the menu at the Zoo this season? Something new. Something tasty. Something from Esskay. How does that sound? We think it sounds pretty darn delicious. Serve ours with ketchup and onions, please. This is a partnership we're going to relish.



# your Zoo is in excellent hands

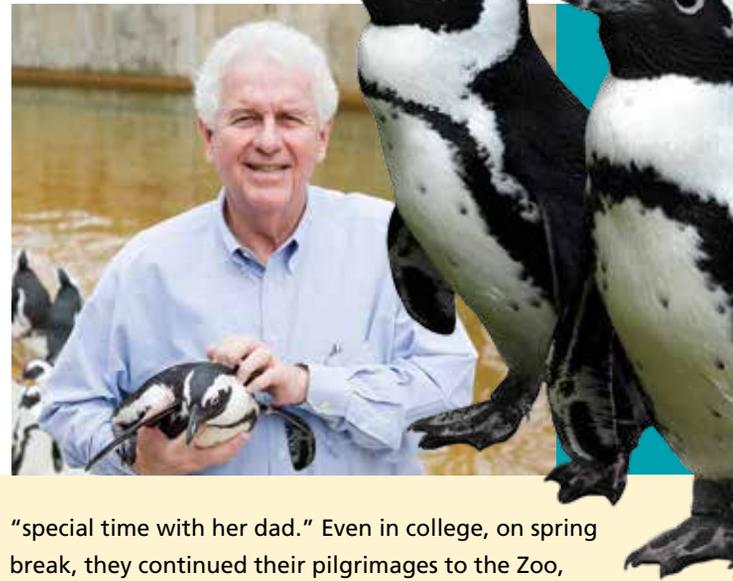
On Thursday, October 11, 2012, *Baltimore SmartCEO* magazine recognized Maryland Zoo President and CEO Don Hutchinson at its 2012 Circle of Excellence Awards. Don was proclaimed the winner in the Turnaround category for his extraordinary work at the Zoo.

When Don came on board in 2008, The Maryland Zoo faced many financial challenges and its Association of Zoos and Aquariums reaccreditation was in doubt. A Baltimore native with a lifelong appreciation of zoos who served on this zoo's Board of Trustees in the nineties, Don took to the job like a penguin to water.

From the start, Don inspired confidence among staff and trustees alike and expressed strong conviction about what needed to be done. In his first year on the job, he brought on a new management team, retired all debt, achieved reaccreditation by the AZA, and managed the Zoo's finances to finish the fiscal year in the black for the first time since 2004. His passion for this institution and faith in those who work here have always been palpable, and under his leadership, the Zoo has continued to strengthen and thrive. Last fiscal year, attendance grew to over 400,000 for the first time since 2004, private donations increased by 30%, and individual membership revenues topped \$1 million for the first time in many years.

The Circle of Excellence Committee views Don as a distinguished leader in his field of business who has achieved remarkable success. Craig Burris, president and founder of *Baltimore SmartCEO* magazine says, "We are proud to recognize Don for his achievements and excellence. He has set the bar high and is an admirable role model for the Baltimore community."

No one could deserve this award more than Don. We are proud to share this good news with all of you!



## New Board Chair Ed Brake



Ed Brake, the Zoo's new Board Chair, was introduced to the Zoo in a unique way: by his boss. Ed moved to Baltimore from Pennsylvania in 1982 to join the accounting firm of Ellin & Tucker, Chartered. At the time, one of the firm's founders, Edward Tucker, was serving as Chairman of the Zoo's Board of Trustees. Tucker embraced the Zoo and instilled in the members of his firm the idea that it

is one of Baltimore's most treasured institutions and one that we all should support.

For Brake, a lifelong animal lover, this was not a hard sell. The Zoo was quickly becoming a favorite place in his newly adopted city. Ed's daughter, Heather, had something to do with this. Any time she could cajole her father into taking her to the Zoo, she considered it

"special time with her dad." Even in college, on spring break, they continued their pilgrimages to the Zoo, proving that you never outgrow this place.

In the spirit of his former boss, Ed embraced the Zoo and continues to support the institution however he can. His firm, which he now runs as managing partner, remains a generous contributor, financially and otherwise. He personally backed the effort to bring two new elephants to the Zoo in 2007, inspired in part by his wife. She shares a name (and an inspiring presence, no doubt) with Dolly, one of the Zoo's longest resident elephants.

Ed accepted the role of Chair of the Maryland Zoological Society for two reasons. From a personal perspective, he treasures the Zoo for the opportunities it provides young people in the Baltimore region. From a professional point of view, he values the Zoo as a cultural and regional asset. He wants to see that asset developed and preserved.

"There aren't too many times where you are lucky enough to have an institution in a region that is one of the oldest of its kind," he notes. "It is an institution that needs to be valued."

# THE MARYLAND ZOO

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## don't feed the Mini



### Feeling wild? Feeling lucky?

Then make tracks to the Zoo and try to rein in a new Mini Cooper! She's a beauty and her engine really purrs...

Mini of Baltimore County, located on Reisterstown Road in Owings Mills, has generously donated a brand new car to the Zoo to be raffled off to one lucky ticket holder! Our little Mini will be on view in Schaefer Plaza from March through October. Tickets can be purchased on the spot when you visit. A drawing will be held and the winner announced on October 19, 2013 at our annual Oktobearfest celebration.

The Zoo is grateful for this exciting new partnership with Mini of Baltimore County and we thank our friends at CBS Radio for making it possible.