

spring 2014

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

zoogram



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Letter from the president



It is spring again in Baltimore and everything at the Zoo is blooming and taking shape: new exhibits, renovated exhibits, trees, grasses, and gardens. This time of year, we look forward to welcoming visitors to a brand new season of fun and discovery.

Meanwhile, we've remained very busy over the winter, despite often frigid temperatures that could send the heartiest souls indoors. Construction workers have braved the cold to continue work on the new penguin exhibit, which is coming right along.

It won't be long now until we're watching penguins navigate the waves, swim underwater, and explore every inch of their new habitat. Penguins have been part of the Maryland Zoo experience for more than 45 years but never have we been able to showcase these remarkable sea birds in the ways that our new exhibit will allow. It's an exciting new era for us at the Zoo and for all of our visitors.

Animal care staff has been busy as always through the winter, taking care of Zoo animals and welcoming new ones into the fold. This has been another successful year for African penguin breeding. The first chick of the season hatched out last September, and many more have followed through the winter months. Two new female giraffe joined our herd last fall, and keepers have been working closely with them through the winter. And behind the scenes with big cats, keepers have been doing a remarkable job rearing three lion cubs!

You can get all the latest animal news in the pages of this *Zoogram*, and I hope you'll also take time to read an interesting profile of our Commissary staff. They are one of many essential and often unheralded teams of dedicated staff here at the Zoo that make this place tick, day in and day out. If you've ever wondered who stocks the pantry for every hungry mouth at the Zoo, now you'll know.

Come spend a day with us at the Zoo this spring. We'll look forward to seeing you!

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.



4 News from the Zoo
Make way for penguin chicks and a new baby colobus.

5 Giraffe Watch
Be on the lookout for two new giraffe this spring.

6 Plan Your Next Visit
Mark your calendar for Breakfasts, Bunny, and Brew.

8 From a Mew to a Roar
The Zoo's lion cubs are growing healthy and strong.

10 Kids Pages
Learn about birds and composting!

12 Feeding the Zoo
Meet the team that stocks the Zoo's pantry.

14 Development
A grant to help us grow, and a penguin colony growing.

On the Cover
Lion cubs

Countenants

NEWS from the Zoo



On December 30, 2013, a new baby was born to “Keri” and “Bisi,” black-and-white colobus monkeys that reside in the Chimpanzee Forest. These experienced parents are rearing an active family, with this baby joining two others born in the past two years. The Zoo cares for six colobus monkeys in all: the family of five plus one other adult female who does her part to help care for the young ones. Catch all the colobus action next time you visit the Zoo!

As the calendar recently turned from 2013 to 2014, African penguins at the Zoo were midway through their breeding season. Seven chicks had hatched to five different pairs, and several more pairs were sitting on eggs, biding their time until parenthood. Parent birds are paired at the breeding recommendation of the AZA’s African Penguin SSP (Species Survival Plan). The Maryland Zoo is among the most experienced and successful institutions in the world when it comes to breeding this endangered species of sea bird, and this year has been no exception.



This February and March, a committed group of Baltimore high school students has been spending Saturday mornings at the Zoo, participating in its second annual Teen Leaders Program. Generously sponsored by The Bank of America

Charitable Foundation, this selective program offers teens from underserved communities a crash course in what it’s like to work in a non-profit organization. Participants are learning from Zoo senior staff about careers in marketing, business, customer service, finance, human resources, and event planning. They also are working together to plan and execute a special event, raising funds and awareness for one of the Zoo’s many conservation projects, with guidance from senior level Zoo staff. Those who complete the program are encouraged to apply for a paid summer work experience at the Zoo, with support from Human Resources managers in developing an appropriate résumé and preparing for a job interview. You can learn more about this and other teen volunteer programs at the Zoo by visiting www.marylandzoo.org/support-the-zoo/volunteer/youth-programs.



giraffe watch

spring 2014 5

Animal photos: Jeffrey F. Bill

In mid-November, staff from the Animal and Horticulture departments teamed up to plant 19 trees in the Zoo's new "browse forest." In a year or two, these trees will provide a renewable supply of browse for Zoo animals. Browse refers to any plant that supplements or augments an animal's diet.

With summer around the corner, it's time to sign your kids up for camp! Check out Zoo Camp, open to 2nd through 8th graders. We've been offering unique, fun, and educational summer experiences to kids for more than 20 years. Our week-long day camps let kids explore the world of animals and their habitats, right here at the Zoo. To learn more or to sign up, please visit www.MarylandZoo.org and click on Edzoocation.

On her first day at the Zoo last October, "Anuli," one of two new female giraffe, lay down. She folded her long legs and settled herself on the ground. It was a remarkable moment. Giraffe do not lie down casually. They strike this vulnerable pose only when very comfortable in their surroundings. And here was Anuli, brand new to the Zoo, only one year old, having just crossed the country from Salt Lake City, Utah. What would make her take such a risk?

Get to know Anuli and you'll chalk it up to her very outgoing personality. Although petite by giraffe standards, Anuli is not shy. She is curious, mischievous, very interested in a bucket of lettuce or a piece of browse, and ready to steal your sunglasses when you're not looking. She comes to the Zoo at the recommendation of the AZA's Species Survival Plan (SSP) for giraffe. She is considered a valuable genetic match for 7-year-old Caesar, and the pair will be introduced to each other when she is old enough to breed.

Meanwhile, "Juma," another one-year-old female who arrived at the Zoo from North Carolina within days of Anuli, would never dream of lying down (at least not while you're watching). She is a very different giraffe with a very different personality. Much larger and lighter in color than Anuli, Juma is also more cautious. She keeps her distance and watches closely. She, too, is recommended by the SSP to breed with Caesar when she is older.

Keep all this in mind when you visit the Zoo this spring, and you'll know which giraffe you are seeing. Caesar will be on his own, living the bachelor's life typical of adult male giraffe. The four females – 17-year-old Angel, 3-year-old Kesi, and the two one-year-olds – will be together. Each giraffe has a unique coat pattern by which you can identify her but personality may also clue you in.

Anuli will definitely visit you at the Giraffe Feeding Station! Juma might need some time.

plan

your next visit

You can finally put those snow shovels away. Like the crocus and daffodils, you deserve to unfurl your petals (well, okay, arms and legs), stretch toward the sun, and enjoy a nice day outdoors. An assortment of amazing animals should be doing the same! Join us at the Zoo any day that suits you and for special springtime happenings: Bunnies, Breakfasts, and Brew.

Before your next visit, please check our website – www.MarylandZoo.org – for timely updates on Zoo programs, exhibits, events, and improvements.

daily activities

When you visit, please check the Zoo information board in Schaefer Plaza for the day's 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: Watch a penguin feeding at Rock Island, twice daily, and hear from Zoo educators about the Zoo's colony and about penguins in the wild.

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 – a.k.a. a giraffe – face to face. \$

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

\$: fee to participate



Brew at the Zoo

Presented by BB&T, this annual festival at Waterfowl Lake features beer, wine, food, music, and fun for the whole family. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year, and a great party too! Please join us in toasting the Zoo and having a rocking good time.

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

Dates: May 24 & 25
Hours: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.
Prices: \$15-\$100

Breakfast with the Animals

Spring weather ushers in a new season of our popular Breakfast with the Animals series, sponsored by Constellation. Enjoy an early morning start at the Zoo with a hearty meal, a conversation with keepers, and private time with the animals. Participate in an animal feeding or enrichment activity. It's a VIP experience worth waking up for!

Breakfasts are 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.

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

Dates:

April 5: Breakfast with the Penguins
May 3: Breakfast with the Penguins
May 10: Breakfast with the Giraffes
June 7: Breakfast with the Elephants
June 21: Breakfast with the Chimps
June 28: Breakfast in Africa

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Hop on over for breakfast with the Easter Bunny on the Mansion House Porch! Gather with your family for a delicious meal, a photo with the Bunny, a visit with Animal Ambassadors, and some arts and crafts time. Then head outside for a fun day at the Zoo!

Date: Saturday, April 19
Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Prices: \$18-\$35

Bunny BonanZoo

Bring your basket and enjoy a springtime tradition at the Zoo sponsored by our friends at Mary Sue Candies. Little ones are invited to gather colorful eggs at Waterfowl Lake. Families also can enjoy games, crafts, food, and live entertainment. You can trade in found eggs for Mary Sue chocolate eggs!

*Some activities may require a small fee.

Dates: April 18-20
Hours: 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.



on-grounds programs

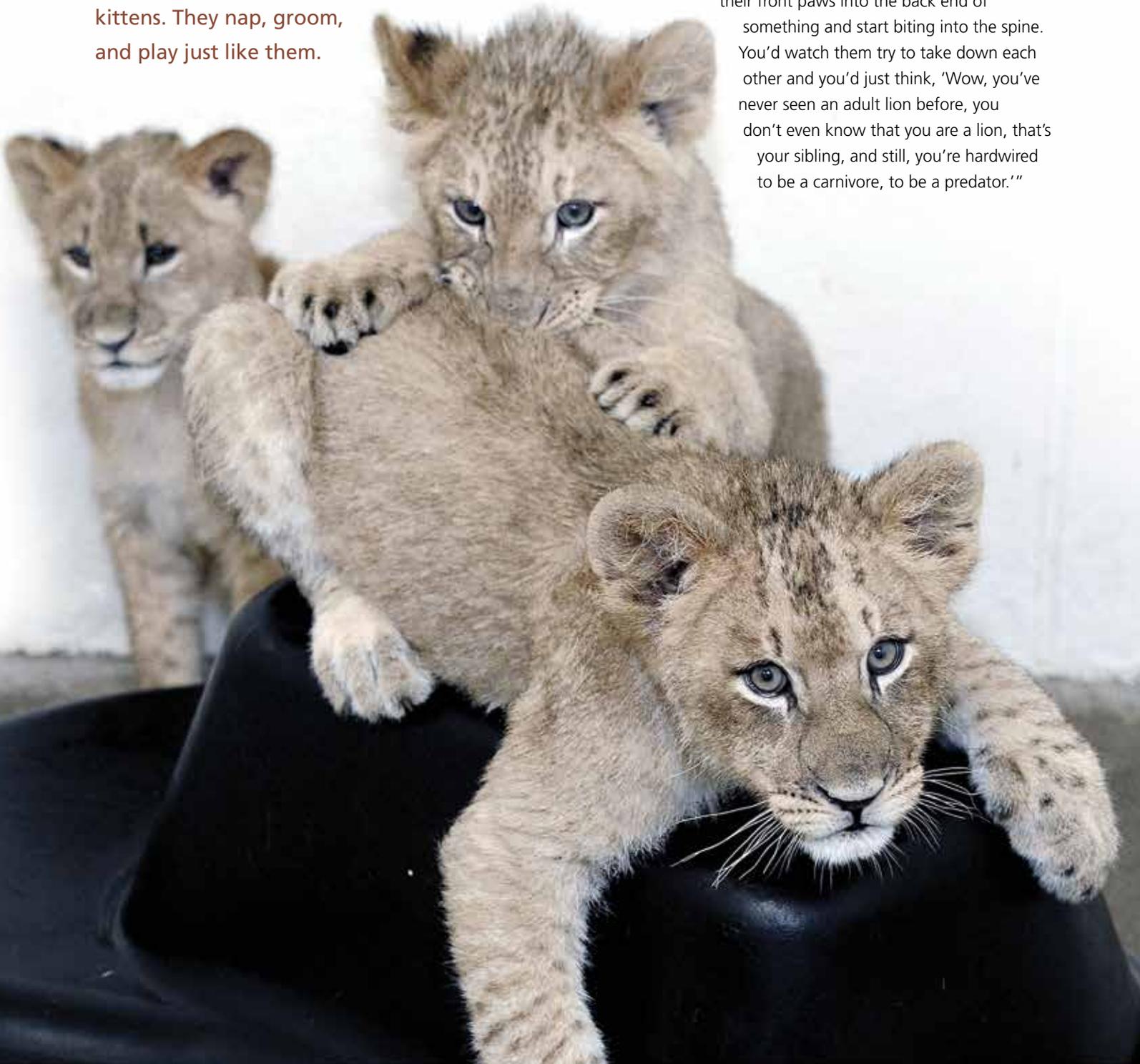
This spring, enjoy your visit to the Zoo even more by participating in a fun, FREE, and very memorable public program. Look for the green canopies on campus! Zoo educators and volunteers will lead you in games, trivia quizzes, puppet shows, and Animal Adventure activities. We also offer early-morning bird and nature walks for adults. To learn more about our offerings, go to the Zoo's website and click on "Edzoocation" and then "Public Programs."

from a mew to a roar

By Sarah Evans, Zoogram Editor

Watch the Zoo's three lion cubs together and you will quickly become putty in their claws, so to speak. They are undeniably adorable and bear a passing resemblance to over-sized domestic kittens. They nap, groom, and play just like them.

Lest you forget, though, these cubs are not kittens. They are lions, and as they grow from about three pounds at birth to over 400 pounds as adults, they will take on all the ferocity that being a lion entails. "This, for me, was the most fascinating thing," recalls Erin Cantwell, a manager in the Zoo's Animal Department who leads the team of keepers caring for the lion cubs. "When they were only a few weeks old, they already had that classic lion instinct about a takedown. They'd hook their front paws into the back end of something and start biting into the spine. You'd watch them try to take down each other and you'd just think, 'Wow, you've never seen an adult lion before, you don't even know that you are a lion, that's your sibling, and still, you're hardwired to be a carnivore, to be a predator.'"



So all that rolling, climbing, and wrestling? It's fun for the cubs, but it is also the process by which they coordinate, control, and develop their muscles. They play with purpose. Instinctively, they are learning to stalk, ambush, grapple, and overpower, mastering the motor patterns that would allow them as adults to catch and kill prey.

The Early Days

Two of the cubs – Luke and Leia, brother and sister – were born here at the Zoo to Badu and Hassan on October 3, 2013. Their birth resulted from a recommendation by the Lion Species Survival Plan (SSP) coordinated by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

Sadly, despite the best efforts of both veterinary and animal staff, Badu the lioness died a few days later from complications of birth. Even while mourning her loss, keepers immediately took over full-time care of her cubs. Carey Ricciardone, Mammal Collection and Conservation Manager, had already developed a hand-rearing protocol to guide keepers. In these early days, she also sought advice from colleagues at other AZA institutions, several of whom had hand reared lion cubs before and many of whom contacted her immediately after Badu's death to offer help and condolences.

In the first two months of life, keepers cared for the cubs as a mother lioness would. They fed them, cleaned up after them, kept them warm, and checked on them often.



They weighed the cubs every day and fed them 15 to 20% of their body weight over 24 hours, spaced out over several feedings. There may have been a few times, Ricciardone admits, when an exhausted keeper closed his or her eyes and took a quick nap while bottle feeding a hungry cub. Caring for newborns of any species is tiring!

Adding Zuri to the Mix

By early December, Luke and Leia were thriving and keepers were beginning to catch up on their own rest. So why not shake things up a bit? Word came that a third lion cub would soon arrive at the Zoo – a female named Zuri who was only a few weeks older than Luke and Leia. The sole survivor of a litter of three, Zuri was rejected by her mother at Zoo Miami. She was being hand-reared by keepers but everyone understood that because lions are social cats, it would be best for her to grow up in the company of other lions. The Maryland Zoo, working in conjunction with Zoo Miami and the AZA, brought her north to meet Luke and Leia.

Needless to say, Zuri was nervous when she first arrived. She tried to let her eager new playmates know by pinning herself in a corner, snarling, and hissing whenever they approached. Luke and Leia refused to take the hint and within a few days, Zuri was one of the mix, fully accepted and accepting of her new companions.

Meanwhile, where were Cuma and Hassan, the Zoo's adult lions, while the cub drama unfolded? Very nearby, in fact, keeping careful watch. "We called it Cub TV," jokes Cantwell. "We would walk into the lion area and find Cuma and Hassan sitting in their den, staring at the cubs, totally transfixed." All of the lions are well aware of each other but for the foreseeable future, the cubs will remain physically separated from the adults. They will take turns with the adults being outdoors.

Sticking together

Lions are the most social of cats and these cubs prove it. They keep each other occupied, are content in each other's company, and have definitely graduated from their hand-rearing days. "For safety reasons and for their own well-being, we are constantly adjusting the way we interact with the cubs," says Ricciardone. "They have come to accept that we are no longer fun. They pay attention when it's training or meal time, but they mostly ignore us otherwise." With claws, teeth, mass, and muscle to consider, the keepers willingly consent to this change in relationship. It is exactly as it should be.

Come to the Zoo this spring and you can see firsthand how the lion cubs are doing. Keep your ears open and listen for a few new roars!

spring arrives

with a chirp and a song

How many **spring birds** can you find?

- BLACKBIRD
- BLUEJAY
- CARDINAL
- HAWK
- ORIOLE
- ROBIN
- SPARROW
- WARBLER
- WOODPECKER
- WREN

When you hear birds singing again first thing in the morning, you'll know that spring has arrived. Listen carefully as the weather warms and you may also hear baby birds chirping. Spring is when many birds pair up, build nests, lay eggs, and welcome their babies into the world. We're excited about the return of spring and hope you are, too! Let's celebrate with some bird-centric activities.

First, complete the word search to remind yourself of birds you may see this spring. Next, get creative and make a video all about African penguins to enter into our contest. We want to see what you create!

And speaking of creating, how about creating something great out of old food scraps? Sound like fun? Check out our composting activity and try your hand at making planting soil this spring.

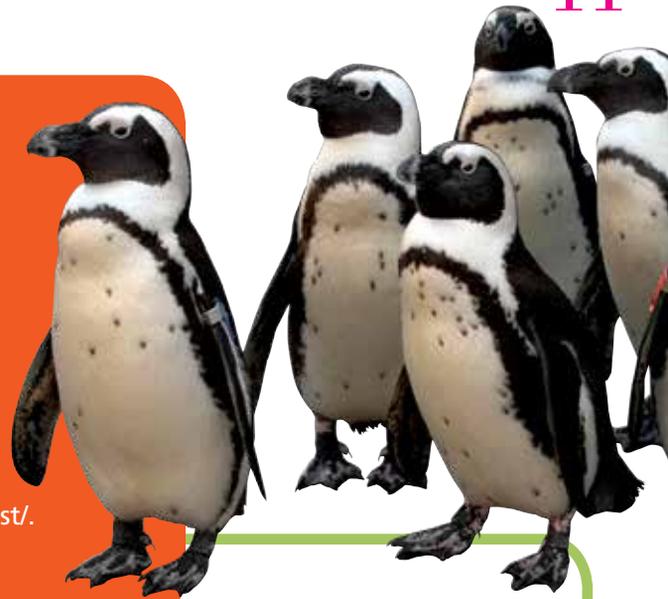
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kids

Do you love penguins? Do you love making videos?

Then how about entering the Zoo's Penguin Video Contest, open to kids in grades K-12. You're invited to make your own video about African penguins and submit it by May 15, 2014. If you're the lucky winner, we'll feature your video in the Zoo's brand new African Penguin exhibit! To learn more and get started, go to <http://www.marylandzoo.org/edzoocation/penguin-video-contest/>.



Penguin photo: Jeffrey F. Bill



from scraps to blooms

When you think spring, do you also think flowers, grass, and plants blooming from the soil? Let us teach you how to make your own rich and fertile soil! It starts with composting, which is a fancy word for recycling plant matter. Composting is fun and easy. Here's a step-by-step guide to get you started.

- 1 First, set up a compost bin. Choose a spot near the back of your yard. Dig a hole in the ground – a “compost pocket” – or use a dark garbage can.
- 2 If you choose a garbage can, make sure it has a secure lid and poke holes in the sides for drainage.
- 3 Now, start layering your compost material. First, add a layer of brown leaves. Then, add a layer of grass clippings. Keep going – brown, green, brown, green – until the bin is about halfway full.
- 4 Next, start collecting fruit and vegetable scraps after family meals. Keep a small container near the kitchen sink for scraps that you will transfer periodically to your backyard bin.
- 5 **DON'T COLLECT** animal or dairy scraps – stinky and not right for composting!
- 6 Every time you add kitchen scraps to your backyard bin, cover them with a layer of leaves so as not to attract flies or other unwanted critters.
- 7 Use a garden fork to turn your compost pile every few weeks, as if you were cooking a delicious compost stew.
- 8 As your pile heats up, it will start to decompose with the help of microorganisms. Within a few months, you'll have some great planting soil.

Have fun, and let's see what you can grow!

feeding the Zoo

Hours before guests come through the gates, before many of the animals have stirred and before keepers start their daily routines, the Zoo Commissary team is hard at work. They move stealthily around the Zoo, unnoticed even by most staff as they crisscross service roads, dropping off boxes of meat and fish, bins of produce, and the occasional tub of marshmallow fluff.

By Sharon Bowen

Stocking the Zoo's Pantry

"If they're doing a good job, they are invisible," says Senior Veterinarian Dr. Ellen Bronson, who oversees the Commissary Team. Many people think of a commissary as a kitchen, but the Zoo Commissary is more like a pantry. The Zoo's veterinarians plan out nutritionally balanced diets for each animal, and the keepers actually prepare the specific daily diets for the animals. But it is the task of the Zoo's three-person Commissary team to keep the enormous pantry stocked.

Stocking a pantry when you have 1,500 mouths to feed is no simple task. The diets of a lion and giraffe are vastly different. Even among the herbivores, hay isn't just hay. Drawing from his encyclopedic knowledge, Commissary Manager Jason Baier explains the differences in nutrition among hay types. "Elephants need hay with the lowest protein possible, [but] giraffes get alfalfa with much higher protein content." The Commissary sends out samples from every hay shipment to be analyzed chemically to ensure that protein and fiber contents are precise. Proper nutrition for each species is the all-important consideration.

Most items that form the main diets of the Zoo's animals—hay, grain, produce, meat, fish—come from specialized vendors. Some items can be picked up in a regular grocery store, though, and that is why the Commissary crew is well known to employees at a nearby Giant supermarket. They stop by regularly to load shopping carts with loaves of bread, various condiments, mini watermelons, Naked Juice, and cereal. "The grocery store people give you looks when you say it's for the Zoo," says team member Keegan Skipper. "It looks like we're having quite a party!"

When asked about the strangest food item provided by the Commissary, Baier, a former supermarket meat manager, rattles off an intriguing list: popcorn, ketchup, BBQ sauce, Vicks Vaporub, molasses, Jello, decaffeinated black tea. Some of these food items fill short-term needs, such as melons that help keepers deliver medication to an elephant. Most are enrichment items that stimulate play, exploration, or other natural behaviors such as foraging. Vicks, for example, keeps the noses of polar bears busy, and marshmallow fluff is an enticing treat for chimps, elephants, and bears. "I just had the pleasure of learning how to scoop lard," adds newest team member Christine Grant with a laugh during a tour of the Commissary's enormous refrigerator and freezer. The big cats will enjoy that lard.



Smooth-Running Operation

The Commissary has recently experienced a rebirth of sorts. When Baier arrived less than three years ago, the main warehouse was set to undergo a major renovation. “They gutted the whole thing,” he says. Out went older, unreliable refrigerator units, and in came a state-of-the-art walk-in freezer and refrigerator. Renovation lasted through the summer months, though, which meant that staff had to work temporarily out of freight trucks that served as refrigerators and freezers. “It was like an ice skating rink,” Baier recalls of the freezer trucks.

The new freezer is set at minus 20° F, “and feels like it!” says Baier. Both freezer and refrigerator are equipped with alarms that alert staff to any change in the set temperature that might cause food to spoil. With annual food bills running around \$350,000, wasted food is not an option.

Organization is critical, and organization is evident everywhere in the Commissary. Make any random inquiry of Baier – from weekly and monthly delivery schedules to numbers of grain types and names of meat vendors—and he can pull out the appropriate tidy binder with carefully logged details. Look around the warehouse and you’ll see color-coded bins that separate meats from produce. Spreadsheets organize and track produce orders.

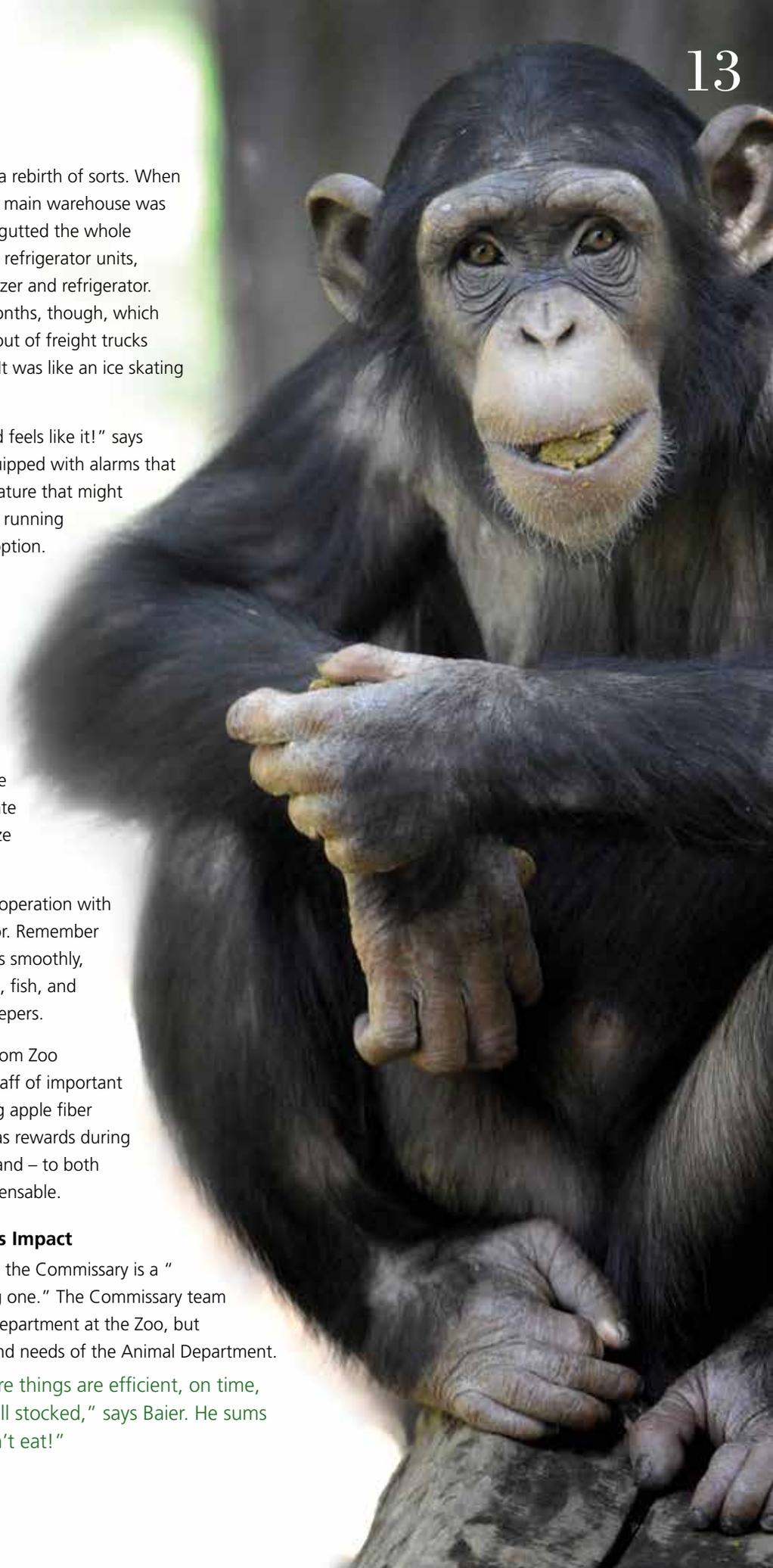
The Commissary is not just a place but an operation with many moving parts and little room for error. Remember the mouths they feed! The operation hums smoothly, managing every incoming delivery of meat, fish, and produce and every outgoing delivery to keepers.

The team gratefully accepts regular help from Zoo volunteers who step in to relieve regular staff of important but time-consuming tasks such as breaking apple fiber biscuits. These are given to the elephants as rewards during training. The task can take hours to fulfill and – to both elephants and elephant keepers – is indispensable.

Small Team, Huge Behind-the-Scenes Impact

Dr. Bronson acknowledges that working in the Commissary is a “hard job, a physical one, and a challenging one.” The Commissary team makes deliveries Zoo-wide, serving every department at the Zoo, but coordinates especially with the schedule and needs of the Animal Department.

“We pride ourselves on making sure things are efficient, on time, nothing is missed, and we are well stocked,” says Baier. He sums up: “Without us, the animals don’t eat!”



What a difference a grant makes!

Anyone who lives in Baltimore knows the name Meyerhoff. It is associated with so many of the places and experiences that enrich our city and make life better for all. Through their philanthropic endeavors, the Meyerhoffs have come to know very well those organizations making a positive difference for Baltimore's citizens, and for more than twenty-five years the family has valued, encouraged, and supported The Maryland Zoo.

Now, thanks to a generous grant from The Joseph and Harvey Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds, the Zoo is taking steps to connect even more closely with the community it serves and to garner support from corporate leaders for all that we do.

The Meyerhoff grant allows us to spearhead a public perception research project that will help us understand what people in the community are looking for from their Zoo. Discovering what people want, need, and believe will help us to make the best decisions for the Zoo's future.

We are also planning a series of private Breakfast with the Animals events, funded by this grant, to bring members of the corporate community and their families to the Zoo to learn first-hand about the good things happening here.

Our guests will see what a great place the Zoo is to visit while learning about its important role in the breeding of endangered animal species and in conservation education. This, we hope, will translate into increased financial support.

Some of the very best things about your Zoo were made possible by The Meyerhoff Charitable Funds over the last twenty-five years, including the construction of the original Children's Zoo and the Maryland Wilderness, which is named for Lyn P. Meyerhoff. This most recent grant is but another instance of the Meyerhoff family's generosity and vision. It will help the Zoo cultivate relationships, secure a strong financial future, and move forward vibrantly. We are extremely grateful for and energized by these opportunities. [Thank you!](#)



All photos: Jeffrey F. Bill

penguins penguins and

Day by day, the Zoo's new penguin exhibit comes closer to completion. When it opens, it will be able to accommodate up to 100 African penguins, making ours the largest African penguin colony in North America. That's about twice as many penguins as the Zoo currently has, so where will the new birds come from?

From our very own colony!

The Maryland Zoo has one of the most successful breeding programs for African penguins in the world. With several breeding pairs already in residence, increasing the size of our colony is well within reach. Each year, the Zoo follows breeding recommendations made by the African Penguin Species Survival Plan (SSP) of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

Every breeding recommendation is designed to improve or maintain the genetic and demographic status of the entire African penguin population while also considering individual institutional needs.

Avian Collection Manager Jen Kottyan attended the SSP master planning session in July 2013. She secured numerous breeding recommendations that will allow the Zoo to grow its colony from within. A few new females also will join the Zoo's colony in order to mate with genetically valuable and eligible males.

So, among other things, what does the new exhibit mean to the most interested party, the penguins themselves? It means plenty of socializing, courtship, and match-making!



Mini Promotion - Major Success!

The Zoo recently partnered with Mini of Baltimore to give away a brand new Mini Cooper. It wasn't long before a flock of raffle tickets quickly flew into the hands of guests and Zoo supporters who raced for the chance to win this truly wild set of wheels. The promotion drove into last fall's Oktobearfest event where our lucky winner was chosen live on stage!

In the end, we're pleased to report the raffle raised a total of \$26,300 to support animal care and conservation at the Zoo. The wildly successful promotion wouldn't have been possible without the generous vehicle donation by Mini of Baltimore and General Manager Alison Cohen. And special thanks to Zoo partners, CBS Radio, for making this exciting giveaway possible.

So, the next time you see a wild Mini driving around town, honk to say thanks for the big support that helped drive some serious donations to the Zoo.

Please send your gift in the enclosed envelope, make a pledge online at www.MarylandZoo.org/donate, or call us at 443-552-5293.

If we pull together, we can make a big difference for the Zoo. Please make your gift today!

more penguins!



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

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member news

Are you a Penguin Parent?

If so, you are part of a very exclusive group! We'll thank you for adopting a Zoo penguin – and encourage you to do so if you haven't already – by giving you an invitation for two to an exclusive premier opening event of the Zoo's new penguin exhibit in the fall of 2014, as well as an adorable plush penguin, a photo of a resident penguin, and a Fun Facts card all about penguins. Go to the Zoo's website – www.MarylandZoo.org/penguin – and become a Penguin Parent!

Member mornings

Mark your calendar for 2014!

This year, we're offering Member Mornings at the Zoo every first Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of the month. As a member, you can enter the Zoo early starting at 9:30 a.m. We invite you to ride the train and carousel for free up until 10:30 a.m. It's our way of saying thanks for being a member and supporting your Zoo!

Select dates may include additional activities that will be posted on our website, www.MarylandZoo.org.

Have you Herd?

If you're receiving Have You Herd?

the Zoo's online member newsletter, then you're tuned in to our latest members-only offers, specials, and more. Sign up today by calling 443-552-5281 or emailing membership@marylandzoo.org.