

A close-up photograph of an elephant's head and trunk, showing the intricate texture of its skin. The trunk is thick and wrinkled, with small white tusks visible at the base. The elephant's ears are partially visible on the sides.

# ZOOGRAM

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

SUMMER 2018



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After several years of planning, we are moving ahead on much-anticipated changes and improvements to the lion, giraffe, and elephant exhibits.

When you visit the Zoo this summer, you might see our newest “animals”—the working beasts of the construction world! They’ll be moving rocks and hauling dirt on their side of construction barriers, busily transforming the lion, giraffe, and elephant habitats in *African Journey*. At long last, after several years of planning, we are moving ahead on much-anticipated changes and improvements to these exhibits. The end result will benefit and enrich the animals in so many ways and will give Zoo visitors amazing new opportunities to connect with these iconic species. Get a preview of the changes we’re making in this issue of *Zoogram*.

I also invite you to read about the amazing journey of “Makoda” the badger. She was orphaned in the wild in Montana and is now an education program animal here at the Zoo. She has joined the ranks of our Animal Embassy and is now participating in Outreach programs. We also have other exciting news to share regarding the Zoo’s Outreach program. This summer, the Outreach team is launching a new series of community-based programs that encourage “nature play.” Their efforts are supported by a grant that the Zoo recently received from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) “Nature Play Begins at Your Zoo & Aquarium” program, supported in part by the Disney Conservation Fund. It’s an exciting opportunity to help connect families to nature.

When I am out and about in the community, at meetings or conferences, people often ask me how best to support the Zoo. There are many ways, of course, starting with your next visit. Every visit helps support the animals, the staff, and our conservation and education programs. Now is also a great time to get involved in the renovation of the lion, giraffe, and elephant habitats. Maybe you’re wild about the lion training wall or passionate about the elephant mud-wallow. Check out sponsorship opportunities in the pages of this *Zoogram*, see what’s right for you, and please give us a call.

As we continue to improve and as we continue to engage as many people as possible with the wonders of wildlife, please know that we couldn’t do it without you. Your support is and always has been vital to our success.

Thank you, and I look forward to seeing you at the Zoo!

*Don Hutchinson*

Don Hutchinson  
President/CEO



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PICTURED HERE:  
Stubby, a southern white rhino, enjoying some hay in the shade.





### BLUE DUIKER

For some time now, the Zoo's one and only blue duiker has gone quietly about his business in the company of birds. He lives at ground level in the African Aviary. Now he has company of his own kind! He has been joined in the aviary by a female blue duiker. She is almost two years old and was born at the Northeastern Wisconsin Zoo (NEW Zoo) in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Blue duikers are tiny antelopes about the size of house cats. They inhabit a wide variety of forest and woodlands in central, eastern, and southern Africa. The Zoo's pair has been recommended to breed by the AZA's Blue Duiker Species Survival Plan (SSP).



### NATURE PLAY

It should come as no surprise that children are naturally good at nature play. Jumping in puddles, making mud pies, and fashioning fairy furniture out of flower petals come easily to the young and imaginative. Nature play is a fun part of childhood with many known benefits, but sometimes kids need a little push to get outside and get started. Let us help! This summer, with support from a \$10,000 grant from the AZA/Disney Conservation Fund, the Zoo is taking "nature play" on the road. Look for Zoo educators at a local farmers market or other community event near you and drop by for a visit. Don't ask what the twigs and acorn caps are for, though—let your kids show you!

### 1000TH CHICK

On February 13, "Millie" the African penguin hatched at *Penguin Coast* and became an instant celebrity. She is the Zoo's 1000th African penguin chick! The Maryland Zoo is now the first zoo or aquarium in North America to ever hatch 1,000 African penguins. This historic milestone is testament to the success of our breeding program and good news for the long-term prospects of this endangered species. Millie is one of 13 chicks hatched at *Penguin Coast* during the 2017-18 breeding season. You can see her and the rest of the ever-growing penguin colony at the Zoo this summer.



## GET INTO THE *flow*

About one year ago, African penguins began observing humans at the Zoo in a whole new way. Whereas once the humans all stood upright, facing forward, now they were turning themselves upside down, leaning sideways, gazing up at the sky or through their legs, and floating their arms and legs in all different directions. Some of them were, anyway, on particular mornings at *Penguin Coast*. Odd creatures, these humans, but very much in control of their limbs and their breath.

Sign up for "Yoga at the Zoo" and you too can be one of these calmly flowing humans. The penguins, pelicans, and cormorants will watch as you join in a 60-minute Vinyasa yoga class outdoors at *Penguin Coast* or, if the weather is uncooperative, inside the Penguin Education Center near the underwater viewing glass. "I think what makes this class unique is our studio," notes instructor Kate Rosenfeld. And whether you're a lifelong yoga practitioner or a complete newbie, "all are welcome," she says. "Modifications are made for those just starting out in their practice as well as for those more advanced."

You'll arrive at the Zoo in time for an 8:30 a.m. start and you're welcome to stay on after class to visit up close with a Penguin Ambassador, enjoy a complimentary beverage, and tour the Zoo. Your ticket includes free admission. This is a great opportunity to calm your mind, strengthen your body, and experience the Zoo in a unique way. Sign up early, though, because classes fill quickly!

To learn more or to register for an upcoming class, visit the Zoo's website at: [marylandzoo.org/yoga](http://marylandzoo.org/yoga)

YOGA  ZOO  
AT THE



# PLAN

## YOUR NEXT VISIT

Big changes are happening at the Zoo this summer! As dirt gets moved and new spaces take shape in African Journey, we invite you to share in the excitement. You may travel a slightly different path when you visit but you'll still have plenty to see and do. Spend a day with us and see for yourself!

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 construction progress.

## DAILY ACTIVITIES

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

**Creature Encounters:** See Animal Ambassadors up close and enjoy other activities at the Zoo's outdoor education center.

**Education Stations:** Stop by stations throughout the Zoo to engage in fun learning activities.

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

**Penguin Feedings:** It happens twice a day—talk with a Zoo educator about black-footed penguins while keepers dole out fish!

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

**Carousel:** Take a spin on our vintage carousel. \$

\$: fee to participate

## JUNE

### Animal Craft Safaris

Animal-themed creativity for kids

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

### Wild About Giraffes Day

Look up. Way, way up.

June 16  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Where the Wild Things Art

#### KIDS Paint Night

Let the kids paint!

June 20  
5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$ R

### Stroller Safari

Tour the Zoo with your toddler.

June 21  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
\$ R

### Wild About Enrichment Day

What is it and why does it matter?

June 23  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Junior Photo Safari Workshop (ages 8-14)

Photograph animals in motion.

June 23  
10:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$ R

### Breakfast with Giraffes

Enjoy your eggs in tall company.

June 24  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Yoga at the Zoo

Calm your mind, strengthen your body.

June 24, 8 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
June 28, 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
\$ R

### Breakfast with Penguins

Tabletop deliciousness at Penguin Coast

June 30  
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
\$ R

## JULY

### Yoga at the Zoo

Visit the animals after vinyasa.

July 7 & 8  
8:00 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Stroller Safari

For our youngest visitors!

July 7  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
\$ R

### Junior Photo Safari

#### Workshop (ages 8-14)

Zoom in and focus on details.

July 28  
10:30 a.m.- 12 p.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$ R

### Breakfast with Chimps

Break bread with the troop.

July 14  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Bring out your inner artist.

July 18  
5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$ R

### Breakfast in Africa

Set your table on the savannah.

July 22  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Breakfast with Penguins

Swim on by and stay a while.

July 27  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Animal Craft Safari

Creative fun for kids 4+

July 29  
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$R

## AUGUST

### Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Have a drink; paint a masterpiece.

August 1  
5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$ R

### Stroller Safaris

Why walk when you can ride?

August 4 & 23  
10:30 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.  
\$ R

### Breakfast in Africa

News flash: coffee at the watering hole!

August 11  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Wild About Panamanian Golden Frogs Day

A day devoted to the jewels of the forest

August 11  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Wild About Elephants Day

Pachyderms take center stage.

August 12  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Field Talk

Working for wildlife

August 16  
6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Mansion House Porch  
\$R

### Animal Craft Safari

Kids create animal crafts.

August 26  
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$R

### Zoo Snooze Family Overnight

Enjoy the Zoo after dark.

August 18-19  
6 p.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$R

### Breakfast with Giraffes

Say good morning to the herd.

August 4  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Yoga at the Zoo

Where better to strike an animal pose?

August 25 & 26  
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

## SEPTEMBER

### Zoo Bop

Kid-friendly music festival at Waterfowl Lake

September 1  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
\$ R

### Breakfast with Celebrity Animals

Meet the Ravens mascots.

September 1  
8 a.m. – 9: 30 a.m.  
\$ R

### Stroller Safaris

Fun for the three-and-under crowd

September 1 & 27  
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.  
\$ R

### Breakfast with Bears

A polar and grizzly delight

September 8  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Trucks for Tots

Why? Why not!

September 9  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Join in after-hours art.

September 12  
5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$ R

### Breakfast with Chimps

What a way to start your day!

September 15  
8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Musical Petting Zoo

Family fun with the Baltimore Gamers Symphony Orchestra

September 15  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Yoga at the Zoo

Can you say downward dog?

September 16  
8 a.m. – 10 a.m.  
\$ R

### Animal Craft Safaris

Animal wonder through crafts and stories

September 20 & 30  
11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.  
Penguin Education Center  
\$R

### Wild About Rhinos Day

They do mega-fauna proud.

September 22  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Wild About Primates Day

Say hello to your animal cousins.

September 23  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Field Talk

Tales from a field biologist

September TBD  
6:30 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Mansion House Porch  
\$ R

### Breakfast with Penguins

Sip your juice, sight a penguin.

September 29  
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.  
\$ R



# stepping out ON THE SAVANNA

by Sarah Evans, Zoogram Editor

*When you reach the Giraffe Feeding Station on your next tour of the Zoo, you're going to have a "what's-behind-the-curtain" moment. Instead of turning right and heading toward Elephant Overlook, your view and your path will be blocked by a construction fence. You'll go left instead, toward the lemurs, but you might walk away wondering what's happening behind that fence.*

*Very exciting things, that's what!*





For the past five years, the Zoo has been working on an ambitious plan to transform the elephant, giraffe, and lion habitats in *African Journey*. Zoo staff has collaborated closely with exhibit designers on every detail in order to create stimulating environments for the animals and wonderful new viewing and learning opportunities for guests. With construction now underway, plans are becoming reality.

Let us give you a preview of what's to come in *African Journey* for elephants, giraffes, lions, and you!

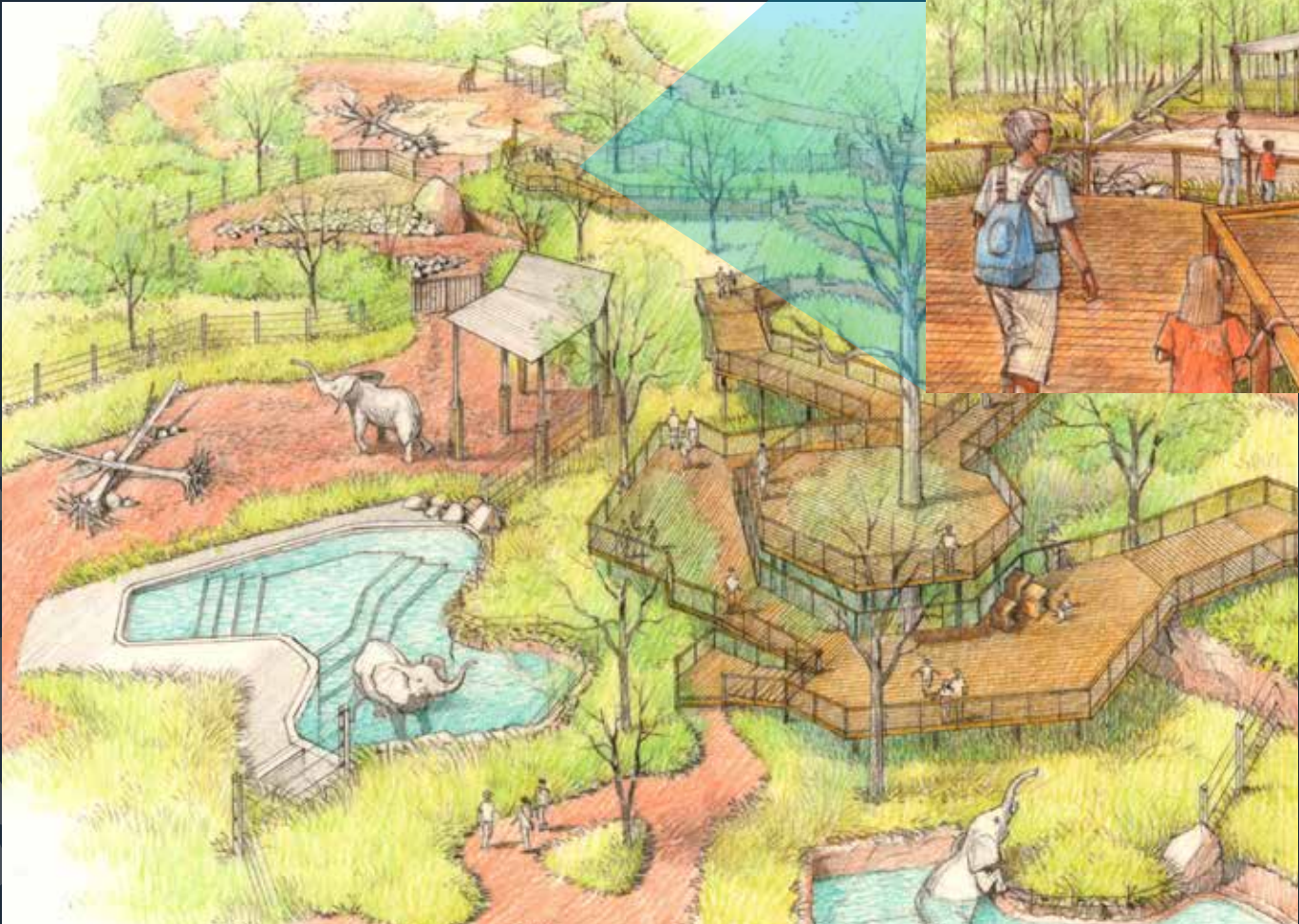
**EXPLORING THE GREAT OUTDOORS**

The elephants are getting more and better space, inside and out. Their barn is going to nearly double in size, to 14,300 square feet, and it's going to have larger stalls with padded flooring and sand beds. The elephants will move in and out of the barn through remotely-operated hydraulic gates and they will interact with keepers at training walls in multiple locations. Staff facilities will also be upgraded, with an enclosed, air-conditioned kitchenette, lockers, and meeting area.

Outside, the elephant habitat is nearly tripling in size, to 77,300 square feet, with two new yards added. The former camel ride area and Rock Island penguin exhibit will become the Savanna Passage and Upper Savanna Habitat respectively. The elephants will be able to bathe in multiple pools, cool off in the spray of a water cannon, dust in a sand pit, wallow in a mud mire, and browse from a flexible hay hoist, among other activities. Zoo guests will be able to see them from multiple locations along a new and improved boardwalk, which will include a demonstration/keeper chat area and an expansive deck known as "Savanna Overlook."

The elephants are getting more and better space, inside and out.

All of this is going to happen with the elephants still in residence. "The plan is to get as much of the outdoor work for their yards done by summer so that the elephants can be outside getting used to their new space while we're working on the inside of the barn," explains



Karl Kranz, the Zoo's Chief Operations Officer and Executive Vice-President of Animal Programs. Whenever the elephants are indoors, work will either stop for the day or be staged in such a way as to prioritize the safety and well-being of both the elephants and their temporary, tool-wielding human guests.

**STEPPING ON TERRA FIRMA**

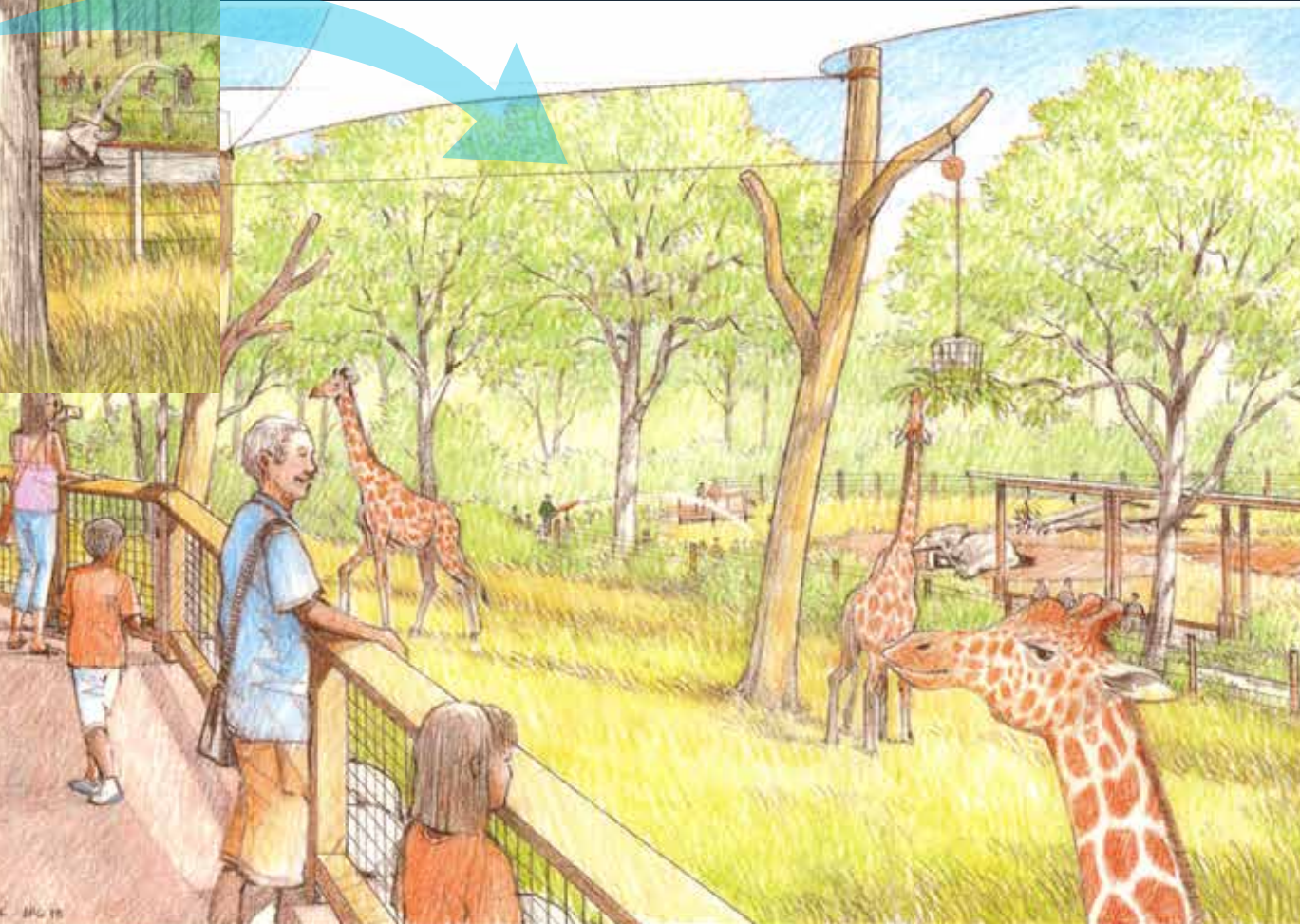
Not far away, the giraffes will be testing new and improved ground beneath their feet. The changes to their yards won't be as visibly dramatic to guests, but the giraffes will notice. Their outdoor habitat will grow by one-third, to 36,200 square feet, and will be re-graded so that the ground is flat rather than sloped. This will allow the giraffes to walk safely throughout the entire space even in wet weather, giving them a chance to be outside more often.

For the first time ever, the giraffes also will have the option to cross over from their existing habitat into the Upper Savanna area of the elephant habitat by way of a new "Giraffe Crossing" land bridge. "This will not only give the giraffe additional room to roam but to

eventually share space with the elephants, as they would in the wild," says Zoo President Don Hutchinson. Once the dust has completely settled in African Journey and the animals have adapted to their new and improved surroundings, the process of introducing the giraffes to the crossing and eventually to the elephants will begin. There is no telling how long it will take – the giraffes and the elephants will decide, and animal care staff will take cues from them. It's an exciting new frontier that requires patient, careful, step-by-step execution.

The giraffes are getting flat ground, giving them a chance to be outside more often.

This summer, you will still be able to see the giraffes every day but you will have to know when and where to look. While work is being done to their outdoor habitat, the giraffes will be inside the Giraffe House, which will remain open to the public. Each afternoon, when construction workers pack up and head home, the giraffes may go outside for a few hours.





GONE (TEMPORARILY) BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The lions, on the other hand, will be out of sight for good this summer. Construction workers and lions don't mix, period, so the big cats will be spending a few months in quiet, temporary, indoor/outdoor quarters at the Zoo's Animal Hospital. While they are there, workers will be creating a new guest pathway between the lion and giraffe habitats that will end in a canopied cul-de-sac.

The lion's outdoor space will get a makeover, with the addition of upper and lower embankments.

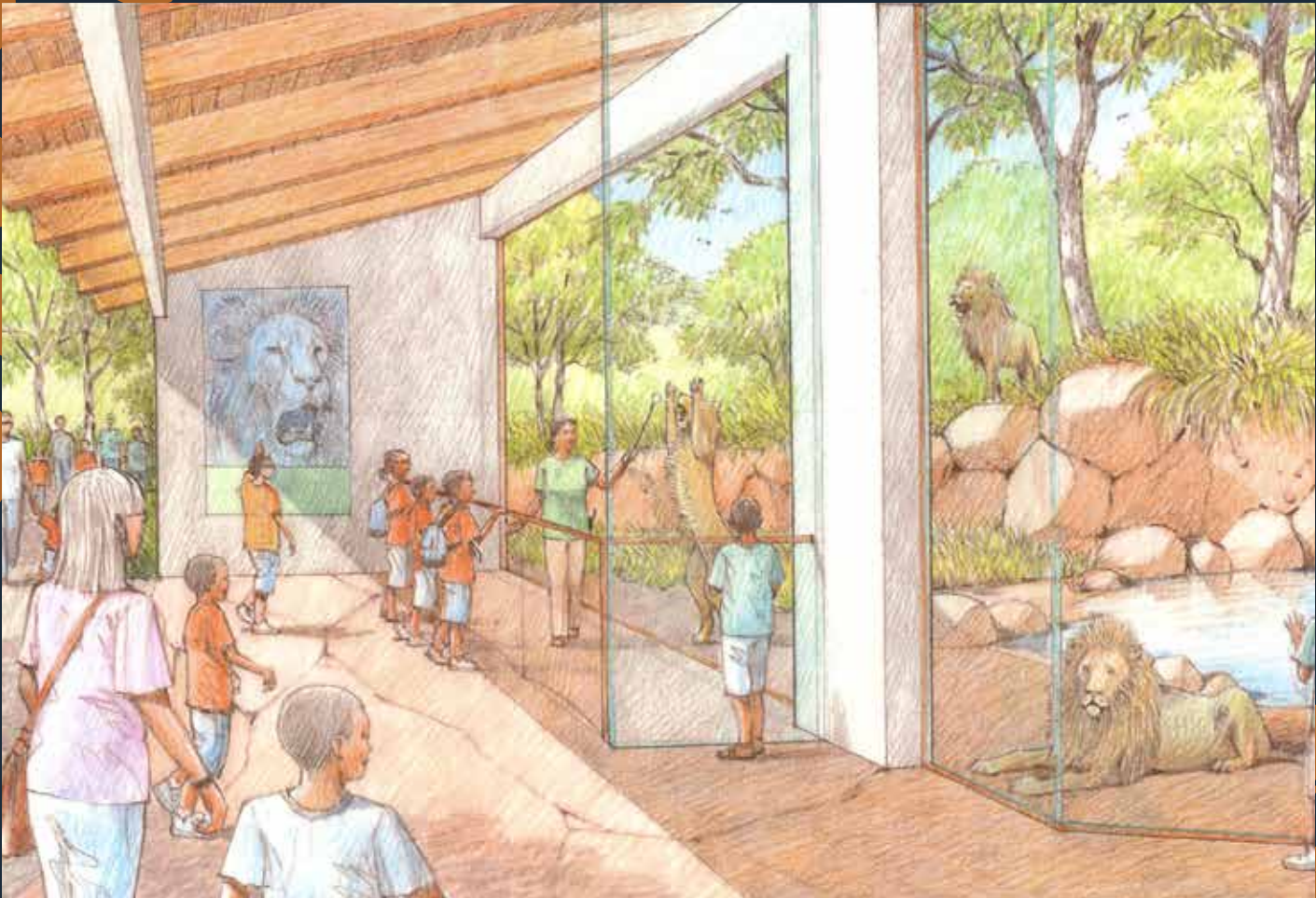
Changes to the lion exhibit will enable guests to see animals at eye level all around them, with lions to their left and giraffes to their right. Guests will be able to observe the lions through a combination of floor-to-ceiling viewing

glass and stainless steel mesh. Keepers will engage the lions in training sessions at the mesh, and guests are free to watch. The lions' outdoor space will get a makeover, too, with the addition of upper and lower embankments, a mud-bank wall, a small pool, and a shaded area near the glass where the lions may choose to lounge.

PEEK BEHIND THE CURTAIN

To realize its vision for *African Journey*, the Zoo is partnering once again with CLR Design, the award-winning architectural and landscape firm that created Penguin Coast. The work itself will be executed by Gilbane Building Company as general contractor and HDC as project manager. The Zoo is grateful to the State of Maryland for its invaluable support of this project, and we look forward to pulling back the curtain on lions, elephants, and giraffes in a few short months. Meanwhile, it's not too late to get involved! (See page 17 for details.)

ALL for ANIMALS



LET'S GO OUTSIDE!

So you want to play in nature this summer but someone is worried that you might get hurt, bitten, hot, or dirty? Complete this letter and calm that someone down. Then get on out there!

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:  
(fill-in-the-blank)

Summer is coming and I'd like to \_\_\_\_\_ outside. I've been cooped up all \_\_\_\_\_ and I need some fresh \_\_\_\_\_. I'm \_\_\_\_\_ going to get really \_\_\_\_\_. I plan to \_\_\_\_\_ a tree, \_\_\_\_\_ in puddles, wade in a \_\_\_\_\_, pick \_\_\_\_\_ up off the ground, and possibly put some of those \_\_\_\_\_ in my mouth. I'll be using \_\_\_\_\_ quite a bit. There's a good chance I'll get \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_. My shoes are going to get \_\_\_\_\_ - if I wear shoes - and I'm going to get soaking wet, from water or \_\_\_\_\_. I may ruin some \_\_\_\_\_. I also might smell. But don't \_\_\_\_\_!

The research is with me on this. By playing outside in nature, I'll become more self-reliant, creative, imaginative, confident, observant, and caring. I'll learn to take risks and build up my immune system. If I fall but then get back up, I'll be more resilient. I'll learn to problem solve. And I'll be happier. Kids who play outside in nature are \_\_\_\_\_. In closing, it's good that you're trying to protect me from germs and heat, but I'm not a \_\_\_\_\_. I'm a kid. Plus, I'm trying to limit my screen time!

Yours truly,

\_\_\_\_\_  
(your name here)



Note from the Zoo: After presenting this letter to your parent, grandparent, or other adult in your life, ask them to remember what they used to do when playing outside as kids. Then, find time to do some of those things together this summer!



# Exceptional Digger

by Sarah Evans



*To see an American badger in its native habitat, you have to leave the state of Maryland and go west. Head for the Great Plains, west of the Mississippi River and east of the Rocky Mountains, and start looking around. Across a vast expanse of open prairie, you might spot a large mound of dirt—a “spoil heap”—beside an entrance to an underground burrow. If a small, dark-nosed, white-striped face is staring back at you, then you’ve found the burrow’s occupant: a badger.*

Don’t get too close. It’s best to give all wildlife space, and let’s face it, the badger would never let you get too close anyway. It would dive below ground in an instant rather than make your acquaintance. Badgers are solitary animals and, despite their reputation for facing down coyotes, bears, and other overly-curious animal interlopers, they make themselves scarce around people.

## Exceptional Diggers

Below ground is where this badger would go, and below ground is a very comfortable place for an American badger to be. These western relatives of skunks and wolverines are considered “the only true fossorial carnivores of North America.” In plain English, this means they are made to burrow, in search of prey and in search of shelter. To burrow, you have to be able to dig, and badgers are exceptionally good diggers. In fact, their name derives from the French *bêcheur*, which means “digger.”

Take a close look at the American badger and you’ll see why these animals are so well adapted for digging. They are wedge-shaped like a garden spade, with small heads, thick necks, and powerful shoulders. They are built low to the ground. They have long claws on all four feet and partially webbed front feet, keeping toes close together for even stronger digging. Their eyes are

protected from flying dirt and dust by an inner lid or “nictitating membrane” that drops down when needed.

## Lead with the Nose

American badgers use their long claws and powerful shoulders to dig ground squirrels, chipmunks, mice, prairie dogs, and other small rodents out of their dens. They are specialist predators that feed mainly on burrowing rodents, although they won’t pass up other types of prey that cross their path. When hunting, badgers lead with their noses, sniffing as they go and rarely moving in a straight line. Short and stout with shaggy coats, they seem to flow across the ground. They have small eyes and relatively poor vision but acute senses of smell and hearing that lead them to their prey. They are ferociously quick with all four feet and, when threatened, can also dig themselves underground and out of sight in a matter of seconds.

## Winter Below Ground

During the warmer months of the year, badgers move around quite a bit in search of prey and may use a different burrow each day. As the weather cools, though, badgers return to a single den to spend the winter. On the Great Plains, winter is long and cold and prey is scarce, so badgers bulk up by autumn. They survive on extra body fat until spring returns, the ground thaws, and the pursuit of rodents resumes. While badgers will come above ground to sun themselves on mild winter days, they spend the bitterly cold stretches in their subterranean lairs. To conserve energy, they enter *torpor*, a state similar to hibernation. Everything slows down: body temperature and heart rate drop to about half of normal and badgers doze.

Females give birth to cubs while in their winter dens. Baby badgers are born tiny, blind, and helpless, each weighing no more than a deck of cards. A mother will nurse her cubs below ground for about two



months and then emerge with her family in early spring. By then, with eyes wide open, the cubs are ready to play, eat solid food, and learn how to catch dinner. They will stay with their mother until fall and then head off on their own.

### The Story of Makoda

Sometimes, though, things don't go as planned for a badger. In the early spring of 2015, two Montana farm workers came across a tiny female badger only a few months old. They watched her long enough to conclude that her mother wasn't coming back and then delivered her safely to the Montana WILD Wildlife Rehabilitation Center outside of Helena. This state-run facility takes in orphaned wildlife, nurses them back to health, and returns them to the wild whenever possible. In this case, however, the baby badger was orphaned too young to have learned how to survive on her own. She was deemed un-releasable. She remained at the rehab center for more than a year, until her fate became tied to that of two orphaned grizzly bear cubs.

Those who have been following news from The Maryland Zoo can probably guess what happened next. In December 2016, Mike McClure, the Zoo's General Curator, and

Dr. Ellen Bronson, Director of Animal Health, Conservation, and Research, flew to Helena to bring the two young grizzlies back to Baltimore. After several days of waiting out fierce winter storms and coordinating with Montana wildlife officials and rehab center staff, McClure and Bronson got the grizzlies safely on their way. Along with the grizzlies, a third animal passenger hitched a ride east: the young badger now known as "Makoda." She, too, was on her way to a new home at the Zoo.

### Mastering good communication

Makoda and the grizzlies spent their first several weeks at the Zoo in quarantine, in accordance with routine protocol. The bears then moved to the Zoo's *Polar Bear Watch* exhibit and Makoda moved to the Animal Embassy. For the past year, she has been preparing for her debut as an Animal Ambassador. She has gotten used to the sights, sounds, and smells of her new neighbors, which include a kinkajou, a porcupine, and some very vocal parrots. She also has developed a strong bond with her lead trainer, Alistair Small (*below*), who has spent countless hours behind the scenes with her, gaining her trust and training certain behaviors

that will allow Makoda to safely and comfortably appear in front of audiences large and small.

"Training is basically good communication," says Alistair. "It's making sure that you and the animal are on the same page. When I'm working with the badger, I'm 100% focused on her and she is entirely focused on me." This allows the two of them to read each other's signals and for Alistair to guide Makoda with body language, verbal cueing, and positive reinforcement (i.e. food treats). "She does very well," says Alistair. "She is focused and highly food-motivated, which helps. She can always choose not to participate in a training session—it's entirely up to her and never forced—but that rarely happens."

### Stepping out as an Animal Ambassador

As it turns out, Makoda is a natural in her new role. She has mastered every training behavior that Alistair has asked of her and she is impressively calm in crowded settings. "She went to a number of staff meetings just for practice," says Alistair. "She'd give the people a quick glance and sniff around a little bit, but for the most part, it didn't faze her.

And that's just how she is. I certainly can't take credit for that, that's all her." Despite being a badger whose natural inclination might be to burrow out of sight, Makoda seems temperamentally well suited to Animal Ambassadorship.

When the time came this past spring for Makoda to visit her first school on a ZooMobile program, Alistair knew she was ready and he was right. She calmly went about her business, focusing her attention on him and leaving her audience wide-eyed with wonder. "For kids to be in their gymnasium or cafeteria and have an animal come visit them is a huge opportunity, and in many cases can be pretty life-changing for them," notes Alistair. It's unlikely that any of the children in that audience had ever seen a badger up close, and they probably won't ever forget meeting Makoda. "She is a badger and we always respect that she is a badger," says Alistair. She is proving to be an exceptional one at that.







# JOURNEY WITH THE ZOO ON SOMETHING **new**

Elephants ramble. Giraffes browse. Lions roar. At the Zoo, we know that every species is unique and we want every animal to have as many opportunities as possible to do what comes naturally. This means creating environments that stimulate, enrich, and encourage animals to make choices for themselves about when, where, and how to engage.

In other words, we want giraffes to be able to move freely in search of browse, taken underfoot, from an elevated hay basket, or directly from your hand. We want lions to be able to wrestle in play or nap in peace, occasionally opening one eye to glance at restless humans. And we want elephants to be able to take a dust bath or wallow in mud whenever they see fit.

In the newly envisioned *African Journey*—now in a state of complete transformation—lions, giraffes, and elephants will have all these opportunities and more. The Zoo has spent years planning, designing, and garnering support for its ambitious renovation of *African Journey* and we are very excited that construction is underway. To realize our vision, we are partnering once again with CLR Design, the

award-winning architectural and landscape design firm that created *Penguin Coast*. Gilbane Building Company is the general contractor and HDC is the project manager.

We are grateful to the State of Maryland for its generous support of our efforts to create truly world-class exhibits and we are actively seeking individual and corporate partners as well. Your participation, no matter how big or small, is vital! Go online or use the enclosed envelope to make a donation on behalf of your favorite animal, or let us craft a support package that works best for you or your organization. Whether you want to sponsor the entirety of *African Journey*, an individual habitat, or a specific feature such as the lion demonstration/training wall or the elephant water cannon, we’ve got you covered. And if you have a soft spot for leopard, warthog, or cheetah, we can work with you there, too!

Let us explore all the possibilities with you. Give the Zoo’s Development Office a call at **(443) 552-5293**. We look forward to talking with you!



Get your tickets now!  
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Administrative offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Zoo is open 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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# MARYLAND ZOO

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## Sunbeam Sundays

### One of many special perks of Zoo membership

Stroll outside this summer with the Zoo's naturalist! As a Zoo member, you're invited to take a guided nature walk at the Zoo on the first Sunday of every month. You'll explore a different natural area with the Zoo's naturalist and learn about wildlife and native plants. Sunbeam Sundays are for members only and are free of charge, but please register in advance on the Zoo's website.



### Enjoy many other WILD benefits of Zoo membership this summer, including:

- 25% off all guest passes
- Savings on Penguin Encounters
- Discounts on special events - This includes Breakfasts with the Animals and Zoo Bop!
- Discounted admission to more than 150 other zoos and aquariums

Get the most out of your Zoo membership. Find the full list of benefits at [marylandzoo.org/memberbenefits](http://marylandzoo.org/memberbenefits).