

# ZOOGRAM

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore



SUMMER 2019

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We take conservation and sustainability seriously at the Zoo. We are doing our part to promote both, at home and around the globe.

I am by nature a positive person, striving to make the Zoo and by extension Druid Hill Park and the city of Baltimore better places to live and thrive. However, a recent United Nations scientific report tells us that more than one million species of plants and animals are at risk of extinction, and it documents the “unprecedented” decline in global biodiversity that has implications for all life on Earth.

This is, to put it mildly, devastating news for the planet. One million species. Birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, plants, and pollinators may disappear. There really is no time to wait—we need to take positive steps to stop climate change, clean our air and water, and protect ecosystems and precious wildlife. I challenge you to learn more and take positive action. We all need to do our part to protect our planet’s biodiversity.

We take conservation and sustainability seriously at the Zoo. We are doing our part to promote both, at home and around the globe. In this issue of *Zoogram*, you will read about two projects having positive effect: a stormwater management project here at the Zoo and a flamingo rescue project in South Africa. The stormwater project, completed in conjunction with the State of Maryland and the Port of Baltimore, mitigates erosion and restores a streambed in the woods near the Buffalo Yard Road walking path.

The flamingo rescue project came in response to an S.O.S. call from colleagues at SANCCOB, one of our long-time conservation partners. They phoned Jess Phillips, Area Manager of *Penguin Coast*, in late January to ask for help rehabilitating hundreds of abandoned flamingo chicks. The Zoo’s Conservation Department responded immediately and within 48 hours, Jess was in South Africa. The story he lived is both heartbreaking and uplifting. It reveals the devastating impact of environmental change on a species, as well as the extraordinary impact that people can have when they pull together.

Hope in the face of challenge is important because hope inspires action. We gain hope from the incredible work that our conservation partners are doing around the world. We are proud to share in that work and to celebrate biodiversity here at the Zoo. Join us this summer to celebrate our newly renovated *African Journey* exhibit. We are so excited to share this with you, your family, and friends.

Come see us soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Hutchinson".

Don Hutchinson  
President/CEO





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on exhibit in Chimp Forest.



### NEW CHEETAHS

As of March, there are 2 new cheetahs on the watch in *African Journey*— 4-year-old brothers, in fact, that came to the Zoo from a wildlife conservation park in Nebraska. Sometimes referred to as the greyhound of cats, the cheetah is the world's fastest land mammal. It is also the rarest of all African cats and is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN, the world's leading conservation organization.



### CHELSEA CLINTON

On April 9, the Zoo hosted former First Daughter Chelsea Clinton for a special visit to mark the publication of her new children's book about endangered animals, *Don't Let Them Disappear*. The mother-of-two read aloud to dozens of children on the Mansion House porch and enjoyed taking their questions. Clinton also had the chance to visit with Zoo staff and animals, including a few curious and endearing penguins!



### ALEX THE CHIMP

A 21-year-old male chimpanzee named "Alex" has joined the Zoo's chimpanzee troop. He came here in April from the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Indiana at the recommendation of the AZA's Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan (SSP). While going through a mandatory one-month quarantine period, Alex was able to see and hear the other 11 chimps in the troop, including 3 other males and 8 females ranging in age from 12 to 47. Over the next several months, keepers will introduce Alex carefully to the other chimps, facilitating what hopefully will be a smooth integration into the troop. Read more about Alex and the rest of the troop on pages 13-15.





# STEPPING OUT

The moment has finally come! For months, we have been updating you on the Zoo's most expansive exhibit project ever—the renovation of the elephant, lion, and giraffe habitats in *African Journey*. At long last, the backhoes are clearing out and the animals are moving in! Or maybe "out" is a better word to choose, because the lions, giraffes, and elephants are outside once more, exploring their new space.

The Zoo's two lions were the first to return. Hassan and Zuri moved into their outdoor lair in early spring—carefully at first, scenting the air and staking out vantage points in what, to them, seemed like an entirely new environment. They are now quite comfortable in the space, and skittishness has given way to commanding lion confidence.

The giraffes were next to take a look around. For many days in late spring, Caesar stood in the towering giraffe-only doorway of the Giraffe House, gazing out at his enlarged new yard without daring to set foot in it. His behavior was typical for his species. Giraffes are watchful and cautious. They move at their own pace, and there really is no rushing a giraffe. Once he was ready, Caesar stepped outside and started to explore. The three female giraffes—Anuli, Kesi, and Willow—will soon follow his lead.

Meanwhile, after spending the winter inside their barn, the Zoo's four African elephants are now taking full measure of an outdoor habitat that has nearly tripled in size, with the addition of two new yards. Remember Rock Island where the Zoo's colony of African penguins used to reside? Remember the neighboring Camel Yard? Both have disappeared, rock by enormous rock, and in their place is wide-open terrain fit for elephants, sand pit and mud wallow included.

Summer is off to a good start for the Zoo's lions, giraffes, and elephants, and hopefully for you, too!





A close-up photograph of two antelope heads, likely topis, in a savanna setting. The antelope in the foreground is in sharp focus, showing its large, spiraling horns and alert expression. The second antelope is slightly behind and to the right, also looking towards the camera. The background is a soft-focus view of dry grass and trees under bright, natural light.

# PLAN

## YOUR NEXT VISIT

*Lions, giraffes, and elephants are back! This summer, come to the Zoo and celebrate the opening of the newly renovated African Journey with us. You'll be amazed! Our summer calendar is full of great happenings, too, so be sure to check it out and join the fun.*

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

## DAILY ACTIVITIES

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

**Creature Encounters:** Start your visit at the Zoo's outdoor education center, where you may encounter Animal Ambassadors.

**Education Stations:** Stop by for some hands-on learning and fun at stations throughout the Zoo.

**Keeper Chats:** Keepers share stories and answer questions about Zoo animals and animal care.

**Penguin Feedings:** Twice a day, a Zoo educator narrates while keepers feed the penguins.

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

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

**Giraffe Feeding Station:** OPENING SOON.

*\$: fee to participate*



## JUNE

### CrossFit

Stretch near sitatunga.

June 22

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R



### African Journey Celebration

Experience the new exhibits for the first time!

June 22 & 23

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.



### Breakfast with Penguins

Tabletop deliciousness at Penguin Coast

June 28

8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

\$ R

### Yoga at the Zoo

Calm your mind, strengthen your body.

June 29

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Wild About Enrichment Day

What is it and why does it matter?

June 29

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Breakfast with Giraffes

Pancakes for you, browse for them.

June 30

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

## JULY

### Stroller Safari

For our youngest visitors!

July 6

11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

\$ R

### Junior Photo Safari Workshop

Focus on scales.

July 7

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

\$ R

### Breakfast with Chimps

Break bread with the troop.

July 13

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Photography Workshops (18+)

What better subject matter?

July 13 & 14

10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

\$ R

### Yoga at the Zoo

Visit the animals after vinyasa.

July 14 & 20

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Where the Wild Things Art

Bring out your inner artist.

July 17

5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

\$ R

### Sip & Stroll: Zoo History & Architecture

An adults-only evening tour

July 20

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

\$ R

### Zoo Snooze Family Overnight

Bring your flashlights!

July 20

6 p.m. – 9:30 a.m.

\$ R

### Breakfast with Lions

Start your day with coffee and a roar.

July 27

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### CrossFit

Leap near lemurs.

July 28

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

## AUGUST

### Yoga at the Zoo

Where better to strike a pose?

August 4 & 24

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Where the Wild Things Art

Craft beer, craft creation.

August 14

5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

\$ R

### Stroller Safari

Why walk when you can ride?

August 4

11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

\$ R

### Breakfast in Africa

Waffles at the Watering Hole

August 17

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Citizen Science

Bumble Bee Watch & the Lost Ladybug Project

August 18

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

\$ R

### Cross Fit

Planks near chimps

August 18

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Wild About Panamanian

#### Golden Frogs Day

A day devoted to jewels of the forest

August 17

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Sip & Stroll: Birds, Blooms, Flutterbys

An adults-only evening tour

August 24

5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

\$ R

### Zoo Snooze Family Overnight

Enjoy the Zoo after dark.

August 24

6 p.m. – 9:30 a.m.

\$ R

### Breakfast with Giraffes

Say good morning to Caesar.

August 25

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Junior Photo Safari Workshop

Focus on feathers.

August 28

10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

\$ R

### Zoo Bop

Kid-friendly music festival at Waterfowl Lake

August 31

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

\$ R

## SEPTEMBER

### Breakfast with Celebrity Creatures

Say good morning to Animal Ambassadors.

September 7

8 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

\$ R

### Stroller Safaris

Fun for the three-and-under crowd

September 7 & 17

11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

\$ R

### Zoo Snooze Family Overnight

Enjoy the Zoo after dark.

September 14

6 p.m. – 9:30 a.m.

\$ R

### Breakfast with Bears

A polar and grizzly delight

September 14

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Trucks for Tots

Why? Why not!

September 15

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Where the Wild Things Art

Join in after-hours art.

September 18

5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

\$ R

### Breakfast with Elephants

Or perhaps pancakes with pachyderms?

September 21

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Musical Petting Zoo

Family fun with the Baltimore Gamers Symphony Orchestra

September 21

10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

### Yoga at the Zoo

Can you say downward dog?

September 8

8 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

### Wild About Elephants Day

Check out the new exhibit!

September 8

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Wild About Rhinos Day

Rare and wondrous mega-fauna

September 22

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Wild About Primates Day

Celebrate your fellow primates.

September 1

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

### Breakfast with Penguins

Sip your juice, sight a penguin.

September 28

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m.

\$ R

*Every year between October and April, a sea of fluttering pink washes across Kamfers Dam outside the diamond-mining town of Kimberly in South Africa. Thousands upon thousands of lesser flamingos alight on the shores of this man-made wetland for chick season.*

# FLAMINGO S.O.S

*By Sarah Evans, Zoogram Editor*









Nearly 40 years ago, the town of Kimberly unwittingly mixed the perfect ecosystem cocktail for lesser flamingos when it began pumping waste and runoff water into a then-dry salt pan to create Kamfers Dam. Blue-green algae bloomed in the nutrient-rich environment, attracting lesser flamingos and dozens of other wading bird species there to feed. Kamfers Dam became one of only eight breeding sites in the world for lesser flamingos, and the only site in South Africa.

To see upwards of 100,000 lesser flamingos gathered in one place is breathtaking. Among the smallest of the six species of flamingo, these beautiful birds range in color from pale pink to red, with black flight feathers on the underside of their wings, thin pink legs, dark red bills, and golden eyes ringed in purple.

Once paired, lesser flamingos construct nests out of wet, soupy mud in shallow water. The nests resemble miniature volcanoes—tall and cone-shaped with a single egg deposited on top. Each pair protects its nest and incubates the egg until it hatches, then feeds and cares for their chick for several weeks until it can survive on its own. For all to go well, water must surround the mud nests to keep them moist and adequately cool.

### THE TRAGEDY

This past breeding season at Kamfers Dam, things did not go well. The area was suffering through the worst drought in 75 years. As water in the dam receded, thousands of flamingo nests at the western end became stranded. Parent birds took flight across the dam, abandoning their newborn chicks and eggs.

This response was neither unprecedented nor unusual. Lesser flamingos are very reactive to changes in their environment and, like most other water birds, will abandon disturbed nest sites. As a species, though, they are good at self-regulating; they may lose chicks and eggs one year but will rebound the next, without greatly impacting the stability of the overall population.

None of these facts made it any easier for local residents to witness the tragedy unfolding at Kamfers Dam in late January of this year. As the adult flamingos moved on, an army of volunteers moved in, rescuing 2,000 desperate chicks and eggs left behind in the scorching heat. The question then became, “What now?” There was no way to care for so many chicks, much less incubate the unhatched eggs, in Kimberly. Within hours, the chicks were being trucked and air-lifted to wildlife rehabilitation facilities





around the country.

### THE CALL FOR HELP

The largest number of chicks, 500 in all, arrived at the South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds (SANCCOB) in Cape Town. A longtime conservation partner of the Zoo, SANCCOB has vast experience rescuing and rehabilitating sick and injured African penguins and other seabirds. However, it had never dealt with flamingos before. Dr. Stephen van der Spuy, SANCCOB's chief executive officer, did exactly the right thing under the circumstances. He picked up the phone and started calling around the world for help.

From his office in Baltimore, Jess Phillips, Area Manager of *Penguin Coast*, answered that call. Within 48 hours, the Zoo's Conservation Department had approved his travel and Phillips was on a plane to South Africa. He landed in Cape Town at 11 p.m. on January 31. When he arrived at SANCCOB early the next morning, he was already a somewhat familiar face, as he and other Zoo staff are collaborating with SANCCOB on a number of ongoing African penguin conservation projects. This, however, would be the start of an entirely new working relationship!

Lesser flamingos flock by the thousands to Kamfers Dam in South Africa. Chicks rescued at the dam and sent to SANCCOB are shown here soaking up the sunshine and learning to feed themselves.

### INSIDE SANCCOB

"The chicks were divided up into four rooms when I arrived," recalls Phillips, "and they were so hungry, they were literally trying to feed from each other." He was first tasked with weighing and tagging 375 chicks. (Sadly, by the time Phillips arrived, more than 100 chicks had already succumbed to dehydration or illness brought on by their abandonment and hasty evacuation.) After weighing and tagging, Phillips joined in the tremendous effort to tube-feed the chicks one by one. They were being tube-fed every three hours, starting at 6 a.m. and ending at 10 p.m. As soon as one feeding would end, there would be just enough time for the requisite cleaning, shifting, and records management before another feeding would begin. Eventually, caretakers started hand-feeding the chicks, and Phillips helped train others on how to do this properly. He would place one fuzzy gray chick in a bowl on his lap while countless others pecked at his feet. "I would encourage people to get the chicks to stand up, then hold their heads and stretch their necks, so that their crops could fill completely."

Each day brought new and exhausting challenges, but "every





Phillips hand feeds a tiny flamingo chick. As the chicks grew, they moved outdoors—where they enjoyed the pool that Phillips built for them!

day we improved upon the day before,” Phillips said. He jokingly became known around SANCCOB as the Fixer of All Things. First, he devised holding pens out of baby equipment. “You’d have to step into the [original] pens and chicks would be all over your feet and you didn’t want to step on anyone,” he recalls. “So, we went out and bought hundreds of baby pens and rigged them up to hold the chicks.” Next, he helped the baby flamingos to wade. A local contractor volunteered to build a large outdoor enclosure so that the chicks could move outside as they got bigger. Phillips figured out how to give them water. “We built a pool using roofing material and a drain, similar to the system I’d used for foot baths for sheep.” What sheep? “I used to run a sheep farm before coming to the Zoo,” he explained. “I took care of 3,000 sheep!”

### LESSONS LEARNED

With each passing day, the flamingo rescue operation became more manageable, until a new crisis hit. “Everything was going pretty well,” says Phillips, “and then all of a sudden we started losing 15 to 20 chicks per day.” Salmonella poisoning was the cause, but it took a full week of round-the-clock triage, testing, and intensive care to determine. By then, only 150 chicks remained. “It was a very tough situation,” admits Phillips. “Everyone was working so hard, doing so much work, and it really hit us hard.”

Not all of the flamingo chicks survived, to be sure, but many did, and this was a hard-won victory for their caretakers. A few months after Phillips departed South Africa, the surviving chicks were returned to Kamfers Dam for eventual release. There were other positive take aways, as well, from the world’s largest flamingo rescue. First, proper protocols are now in place to thoughtfully manage a similar situation *in situ*. Secondly, the rescue focused international attention on Kamfers Dam, and now there may be more interest in managing the wetland as a wildlife conservation area.

For Phillips, the rescue offered an extraordinary opportunity to assist a conservation partner and support wildlife in need. “It’s incredible how quickly the Zoo responded,” says Phillips, “and excellent that we are able to prioritize conservation work in this way.”



# STRING FLAMINGO

Try your hand at a string flamingo!

String art is a fun and easy craft for all ages that requires very few and inexpensive materials. Gather your supplies at a local crafts store and then follow the steps below.

*Special thanks to our friends at Art with a Heart in Hampden for creating this step-by-step string flamingo guide for us.*

## SUPPLIES:

**Wood block or cork floor tile**

**Pink, yellow, black string or embroidery floss**

**Small nails or veneer pins**

**Printed flamingo**

**Tape**

**Hammer**



1. Find and print a line-art flamingo image. Tape image to wood or cork.



2. Lightly hammer nails or pins through paper, into wood or cork, along flamingo outline.



3. Remove paper carefully without removing nails.



4. Knot string around first pin and then weave string around pins to create outline of shape.



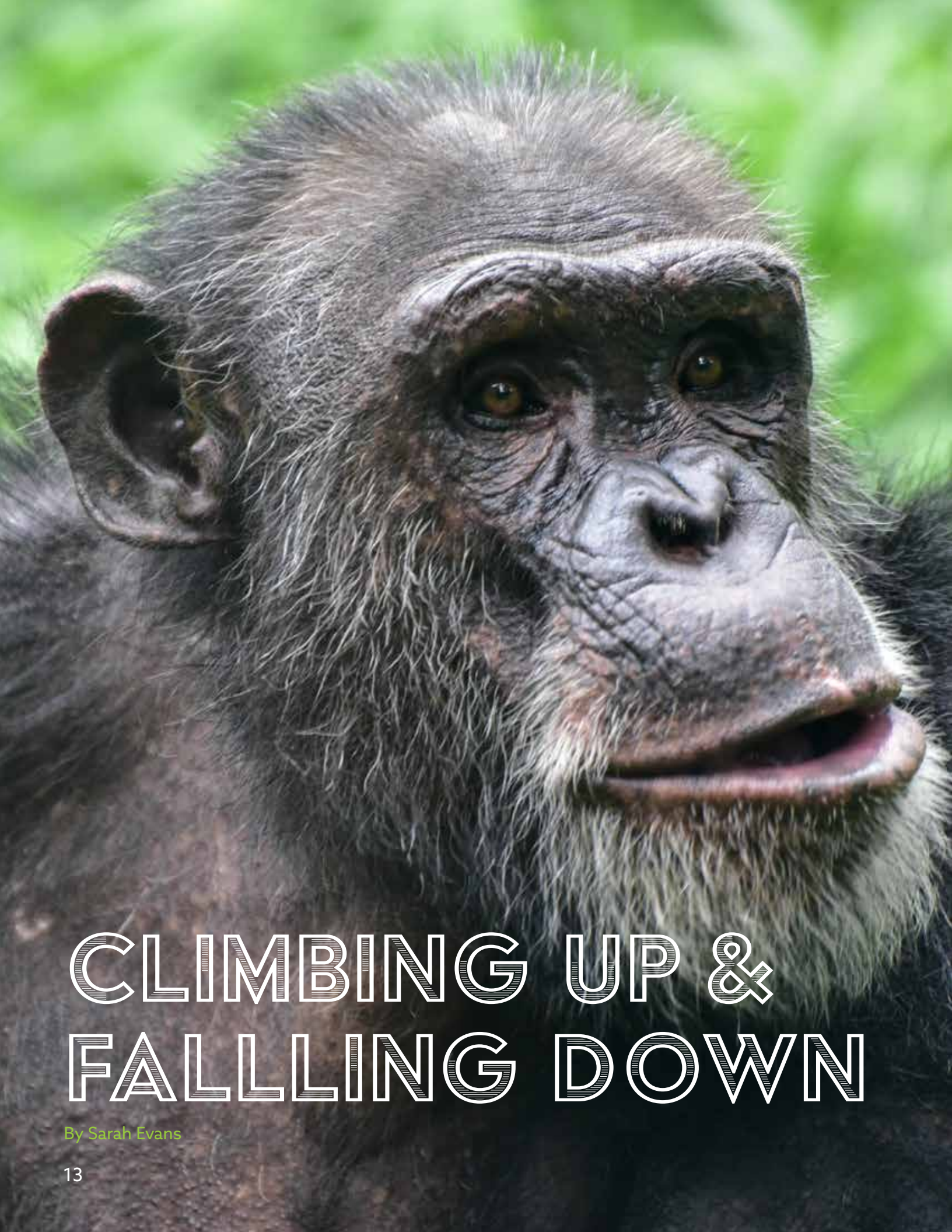
5. Fill in shape by weaving string back and forth from pin to pin in any pattern you like.



6. Use different shades of pink for body and wing, black for beak, and yellow for legs.







# CLIMBING UP & FALLING DOWN

By Sarah Evans



*“The chimpanzee community is a fusion-fission society,” wrote renowned primatologist Jane Goodall in one of her seminal works, The Chimpanzees of Gombe. At the time of its publication, Goodall had been living among chimpanzees in the sweltering forests of Tanzania for 25 years, learning more about the behavior of our closest primate cousin than anyone prior or since.*

Chimpanzees form large, hierarchical groups, or communities, observed Goodall. (*A fusion of chimps, so to speak.*) Within each community, however, there exist smaller social groups whose members are constantly changing. (*A fission of chimps, so to speak.*) The fluidity of the smaller groups means that individual chimpanzees are “free at almost all times to join—or to avoid—any other individual” in the community, wrote Goodall. It also means that “it is never possible for a chimpanzee, upon waking in the morning, to be quite sure who he will encounter during the day.”

Up until now, the Zoo’s chimpanzees have not always had this social experience. They wake and encounter all members of their troop each day, regardless of who chooses to hang out with whom from moment to moment. This is about to change, though, which means that life in the Zoo’s troop is about to get even more interesting. This summer, the six-keeper Chimp Team, led by Area Manager Pam Carter, will introduce “fusion-fission” to the Zoo’s troop.

### GROUP DYNAMICS

To be honest, “fusion-fission” as a management strategy is often born of necessity in chimp troops. One chimpanzee, for whatever reason, simply cannot with another chimpanzee. Chimp society, like ours, involves friends, enemies, and power struggles, and sometimes you have two chimps that don’t always get along. Rather than remove either chimp from the troop, the alternative is to minimize their interactions and allow other members of the troop to flow freely between groups. This way, relationships, alliances, and freedom of association are maintained, but conflict is averted.

“We are always watching those relationships and coalitions that are forming because that’s a natural part of chimp society,” explains Erin Cantwell, Mammal Collection & Conservation Manager at the Zoo. “It’s our responsibility to

read those behaviors appropriately and mitigate any issues, including changing things up with a different management strategy if necessary.”

### IT’S COMPLICATED

Solving one challenge will almost certainly create new ones because “any time you change one piece of the social equation with chimps, it cascades into everything else,” says Cantwell. Chimp society is complex, with rules of engagement that can be difficult to discern, but the main organizing factor is social rank. An alpha male sits atop the chimp social hierarchy and rules the troop. He ranks #1 and every other male falls in line beneath him. Females form their own hierarchy within the troop, and juveniles usually acquire rank based on that of their mothers. It’s complicated, to say the least.

Chimpanzee life revolves around climbing up and falling down the social ladder. Your position on the ladder matters because it influences your quality of life and chance of survival. Chimpanzees form genuine friendships and preferences for one another, but every interaction is also defined by the social pecking order. “I’m either working to get along with you or I’m working to overpower you, whichever is more likely to improve my status,” says Cantwell, channeling a chimp’s inner thoughts. Needless to say, the social dynamics become even more complex when social groups are in flux.

### MANAGING THE SHIFT

Few zoos would be able to take on a management challenge like this, but the Maryland Zoo is well prepared to do so because of its long history, considerable experience, and staff expertise with chimpanzees. For months now, keepers have been preparing for the shift to fusion-fission by putting different chimps together in small groups and seeing how everyone reacts. When asked whether there has been significant wailing and gnashing of teeth so far (among the chimps, not the keepers), Cantwell laughed and replied “yes, but there’s a bit of wailing on a daily basis anyway. That’s just chimps.”

By early July, the Chimp Team expects to formally institute the new management practice. When you visit the Zoo, you’ll start seeing one group of chimps outside together and another group inside. On any given day, the size and makeup of the



groups will vary, depending on choices the chimps themselves make each morning.

### ENTER ALEX

Meanwhile, along with fusion-fission, there is another dramatic twist at play in the Zoo's chimpanzee troop, and his name is "Alex." This past spring, 21-year-old Alex, a male chimpanzee, joined the Zoo's troop from the Potawatomi Zoo in South Bend, Indiana, at the recommendation of the AZA's Species Survival Plan (SSP) for Chimpanzees. He spent several weeks behind the scenes getting to see and hear the other 11 chimps before actually meeting them. He is now being integrated slowly and carefully into the troop. There is no telling how long the process will take, as chimpanzee introductions are notoriously complex, but one thing is certain: the chimps will take the lead and the keepers will be guided by their behaviors.

"Alex has never been in a big troop before so there could be some culture shock for him," says Cantwell, "but ultimately we hope he will pair up with Kasoje [the troop's alpha male] and learn from a dominant male." Over the coming months, he will also get to know Jack and Louie, the troop's other two males, as well as the eight females. He will have plenty of time to form his own friendships, alliances, and rivalries, just as all chimps do. "It will be interesting to see how it all plays out," says Cantwell.

Welcome to the troop!

Grooming is an important way for chimpanzees to calm and reassure each other and to forge social bonds. Male chimpanzees "display" to demonstrate their power. This usually involves screaming, stamping, and bristling!





# ZOO BOP

A Kid-friendly, Kid-approved music festival that everyone will love!

- Live music
- Dancing
- Food
- Bubbles (and other fun activities)
- Artisan Vendors
- Free admission to the Zoo with paid Zoo Bop admission

**When?** August 31 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Where?** Waterfowl Lake

**Why?** End summer on a high note!

**How?** [www.marylandzoo.org/ZooBop](http://www.marylandzoo.org/ZooBop)

Featuring performances by:



Get your tickets now! Go to [WWW.MARYLANDZOO.ORG/ZOOBOP](http://WWW.MARYLANDZOO.ORG/ZOOBOP)





# A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT

Among the rolling hills and old-growth forests of Druid Hill Park are a number of small, unnamed waterways. One such stream meanders along the Zoo's Buffalo Yard Road and through the Maryland Wilderness area, continuing northeast to eventually join the Jones Falls, a main tributary of Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Fed mostly by groundwater, the stream is a mere trickle of water most of the time. However, even a small amount of rainfall can turn it temporarily into a strong torrent. Over more than a century, the narrow valley through which the stream flows has suffered extreme erosion. "We call it the 'Grand Canyon of the Zoo'," said Adam Wyatt, project manager at the Zoo. "We had a very serious, legacy erosion problem that likely started long before the Zoo began."

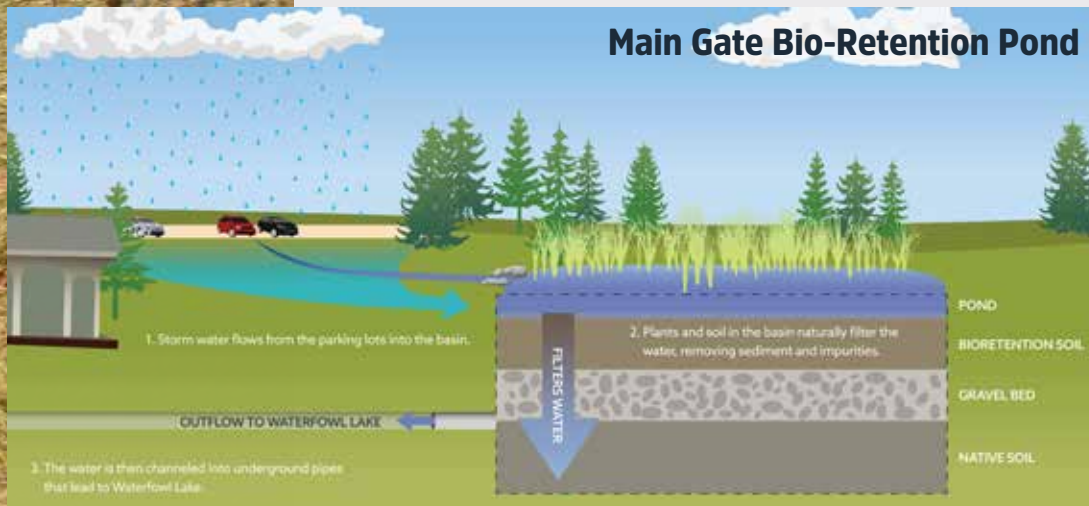
In January, the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Port Authority (MDOT MPA) funded a restorative ecosystem project to revitalize the streambed and manage storm water that was pooling near the Zoo's entrance.

Now, a series of cascading step pools gently directs and filters the stream as it continues downhill through the forest of towering beech, oak and tulip poplar trees. Layers of boulders, cobble, sand, and wood chips slow the momentum of the water to prevent erosion (see photo above). At the same time, the process purifies the water by removing sediment and pollutants.

Near the Zoo's main gate, MDOT MPA constructed a bioretention pond, which is similar in look and concept to a rain garden. Stormwater runoff filters through the pond and is directed to the Zoo's Waterfowl Lake through underground pipes. In the process, pollutants are removed.

Correcting runoff issues near the Zoo's entrance and restoring the streambed help to conserve a riparian habitat that is home to many native species of amphibians, insects, birds and mammals. The newly constructed filtration step pools and the surrounding landscape also provide an aesthetic for visitors to enjoy while walking into or out of the Zoo via Buffalo Yard Road.





Both projects were a collaborative effort funded by MDOT MPA. The pond and restored streambed were designed by Moffatt & Nichol Engineers, construction was completed by Maryland Environmental Service, and the areas were landscaped by Bry's Lawn Care & Landscaping. Baltimore City Department of Parks and Recreation also partnered with the MPA for the projects.

"We are very excited to partner with the Zoo. This is the first partnership we had together and for the Port of Baltimore, this will be the first stream restoration the Port has undertaken," said Bill Richardson, general manager of Safety, Environment and Risk Management for MDOT MPA.

As a way of mitigating the impact of Port development, MDOT MPA honors the "Green Port of Baltimore" commitment, which also includes funding projects such as the well-known Inner Harbor trash wheels, solar compacting trash cans, and tree plantings around the city.

Among the nation's ports, the Port of Baltimore ranks first for autos and light trucks, roll on/roll off heavy farm and construction machinery, imported sugar and imported gypsum. The Port ranks second in exported coal.

"The Maryland Port Administration is committed to growing the Port sustainably," said Richardson. "That means taking responsibility for clean water, air, and land. We hope that these projects will help educate Zoo visitors and the local community about the importance of keeping our waterways clean."

"Projects such as these show our guests that the Zoo is dedicated to conservation and the environment, and great things can be accomplished for our watersheds and the Bay if everyone works together," said Wyatt.

## CONTACT THE ZOO

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Administrative offices are open Monday through Friday, 10:00 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**



# MARYLAND ZOO

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## ROUND UP FOR CONSERVATION

Become a wildlife conservationist this summer!

It can happen on your next visit to the Zoo—simply round up any purchase you make to the next dollar. If your total purchase is \$10.54 and you say “YES!” to rounding up, 46 cents will be donated to the Zoo’s conservation budget. Your donation directly supports important Zoo conservation initiatives, such as staff participation in the world’s largest flamingo rescue! (See story on p. 7.)

Thank you! And remember, a little goes a long way. In just one year, thanks to the generosity of our guests, the Zoo raised nearly \$10,000 through its Round Up for Conservation program.