

A close-up photograph of a rhinoceros standing in a muddy enclosure. The rhino's thick, wrinkled skin is covered in large patches of brown mud, particularly on its back and head. It has a single prominent horn and is looking slightly to the right. The ground is a mix of dry earth and muddy puddles.

# ZOOGRAM

The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore

Summer 2021





Serenaded by the cicada symphony,  
we have been offering a host of  
new experiences at the Zoo this  
spring and summer.

Can you hear yourselves thinking over the sound of the cicadas? It may only last a few weeks, but the Brood X cicadas certainly know how to take center stage. As a zoo situated in the middle of old growth forest, we have more than our fair share of cicadas here and the animals are taking notice. Humans, too!

Serenaded by the cicada symphony, we have been offering a host of new experiences at the Zoo this spring and summer. I hope many of you have tried your hand at tossing fish to the penguins or trekking with a goat around the Farmyard. I learned something new while participating recently in one of our newest animal experiences: tortoises have sensitive shells so they enjoy being brushed! Feeding and brushing a tortoise turned out to be even more fun and informative than I expected.

In recent weeks, we also have brought back some familiar and popular programs that were suspended during the pandemic. As more people become fully vaccinated and life gets back to some version of normal, we are beginning to gather again. At the Zoo, this means a return of Keeper Chats! We are now hosting chats at the Colobus Trail and beside the lion, elephant, and trumpeter swan habitats. Check our website for the weekly schedule and come talk to our animal experts.

I am sure you are as thrilled as we are to see this pandemic receding, but it is not over yet, and we continue to prioritize above all else your safety and that of our staff, volunteers, and animals. We keep up daily with the various local, state, and federal COVID-19 guidance and mandates, and we ask that guests continue to adhere to our mask policies while visiting the Zoo. I realize that it can be cumbersome to take your mask on and off in different parts of the Zoo. It's summer, it's hot, and it's not easy to keep masks on young children. But we're all in this together and we appreciate your cooperation. As protocols shift, we will be sure to keep you updated.

Meanwhile, there is so much to enjoy when you visit the Zoo this summer, and you can get a preview and some behind-the-scenes insight in this issue of *Zoogram*. Get the latest update on African elephants. Discover a window to the Chesapeake Bay alongside the Zoo's Community Conservation Ambassadors. Imagine being a rhinoceros meeting zebras for the first time. And there's more, so keep reading and then come visit us.

We look forward to seeing you this summer at the Zoo!

Sincerely,

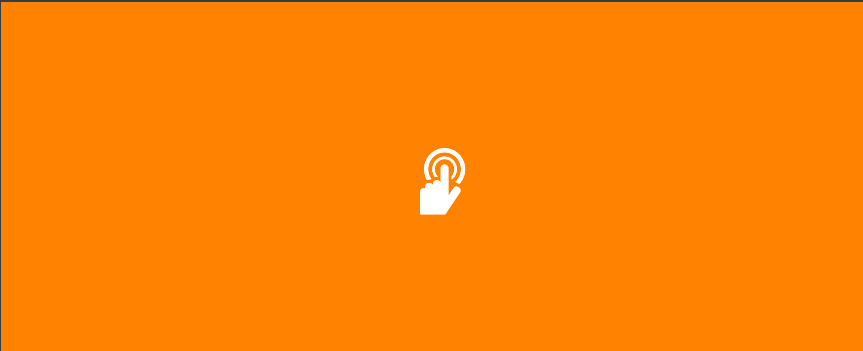
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Kirby Fowler, Jr." in a cursive style.

J. Kirby Fowler, Jr.  
President & CEO

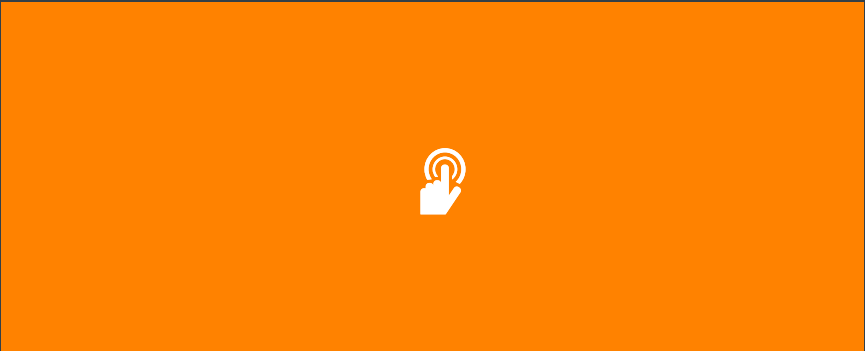




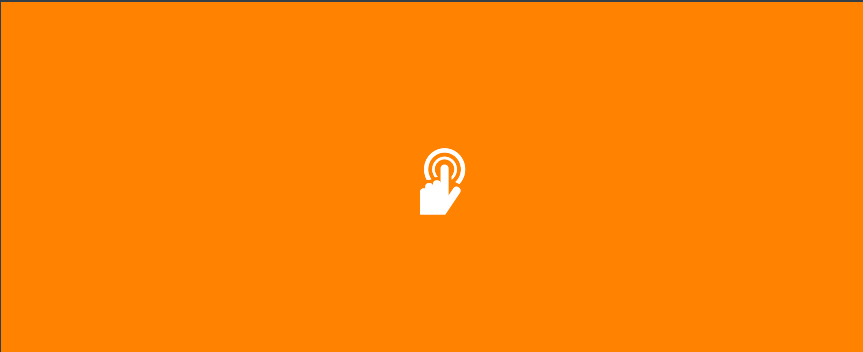
**ZOO SPOTLIGHT**



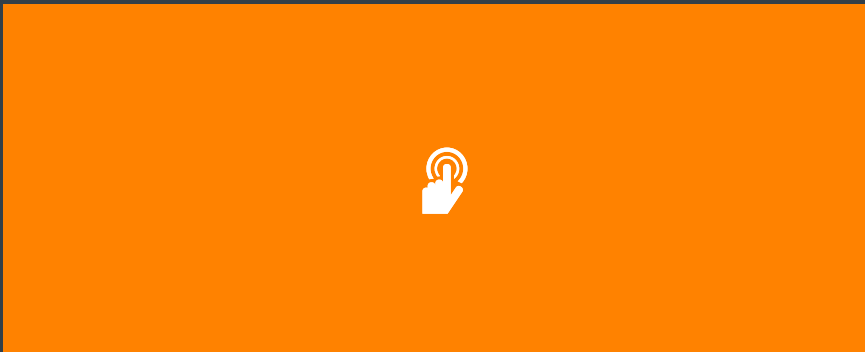
**PLAN YOUR NEXT VISIT**



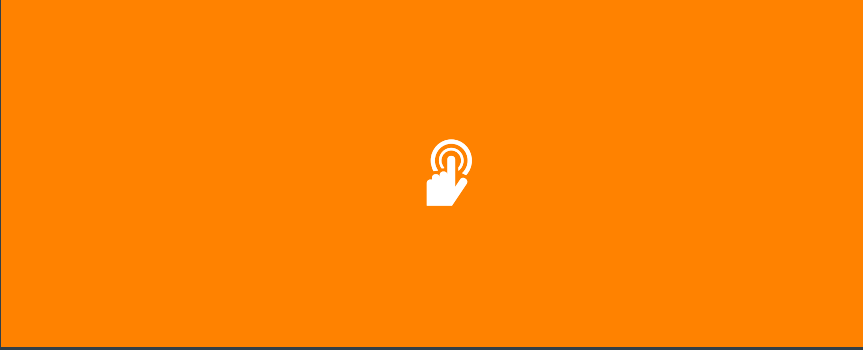
**NEWS FROM THE ZOO**



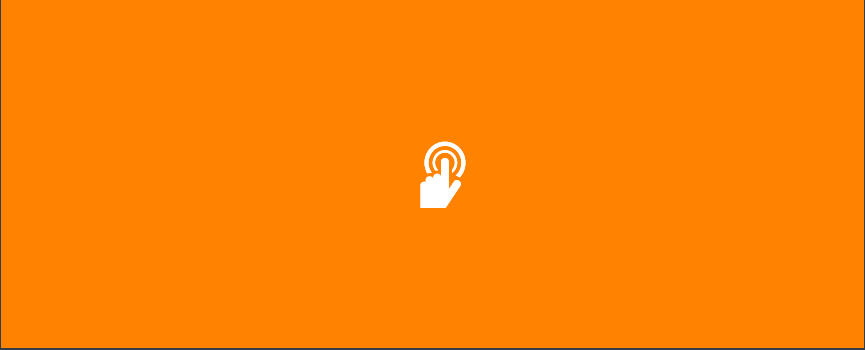
**REPORT FROM THE FIELD**



**CONSERVATION CORNER**



**FEATURE STORY**



**KIDS SECTION**

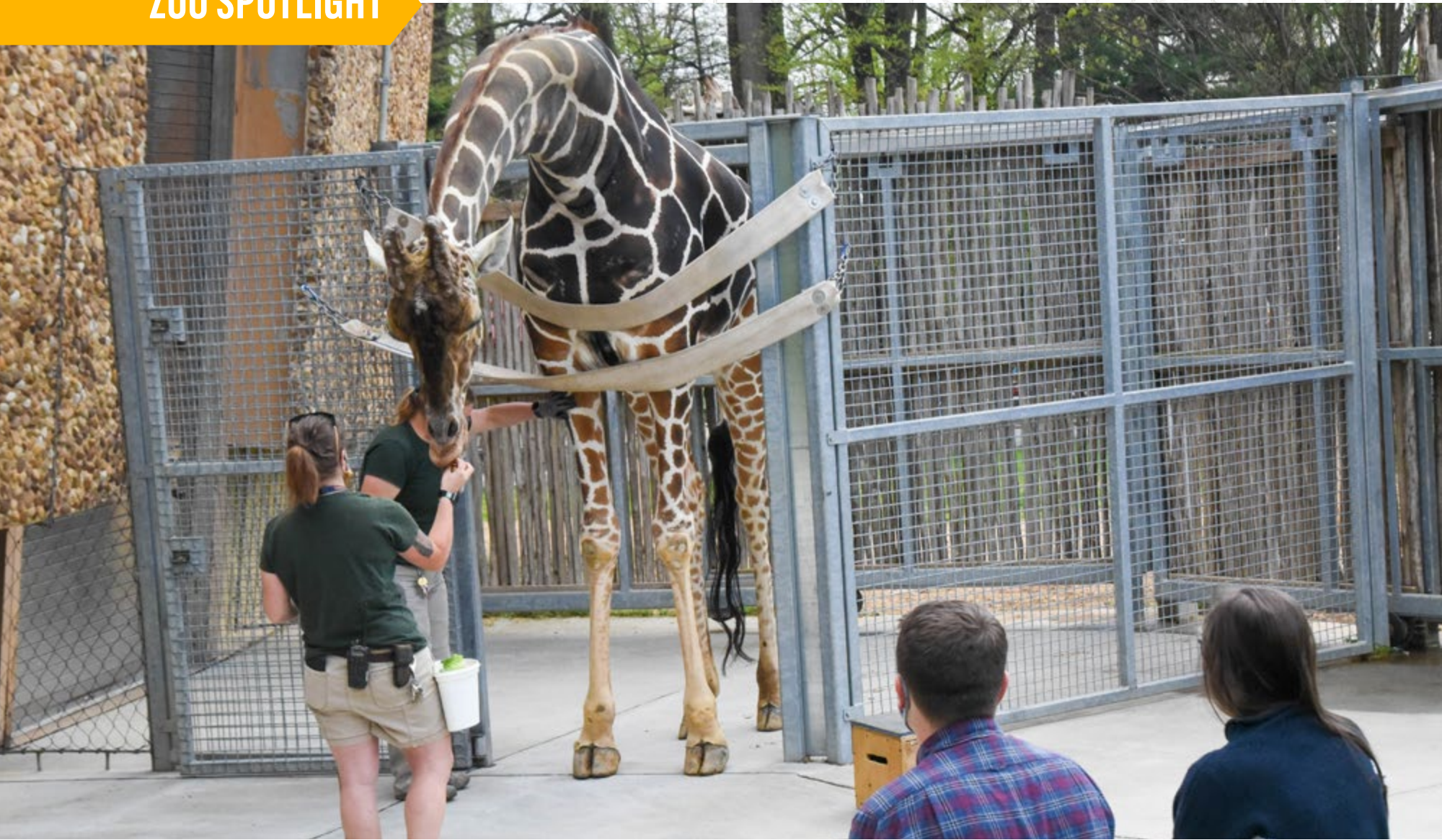


**SUPPORT THE ZOO**





## ZOO SPOTLIGHT



This summer when you visit the Zoo, you might go nose to nose with an otter. You'll be able to get right up close to a newly enlarged viewing window overlooking the otters' newly enlarged beach, and if you're lucky, a curious swimming torpedo will take time out from its water acrobatics to pay you a visit. Let's say the otters are too busy swimming, though. Then you can stand in the underwater tunnel or at the underwater viewing window and get a great look at them. Your best look ever, in fact, thanks to a soon to be completed renovation of the otter exhibit.

Going to nose to nose with an otter is certainly an experience to remember. It's one of many animal experiences that can make your visit extra special. Some will happen by chance, like hearing the lions roar or seeing colobus monkeys in their overhead trail. Others you can sign up for in advance. Take your pick—you can feed a tortoise, toss fish to penguins, feed a giraffe, walk goats, or sit in on a training session with penguins or giraffes!

Sounds fun, right? To learn more, click below.



PLAN YOUR NEXT VISIT

*This summer, we hope you'll discover that there's more than one way to have fun at the Zoo! Spend a day with the animals and bring your own picnic or sign up for an extra special Yoga with the animals. Feed a giraffe, trek with the goats, visit with penguins, or come after hours for an adults-only sip and stroll.*

*As you plan your next visit, please reserve your timed entry in advance and review modifications designed to keep you, our staff, and the animals safe and healthy.*

*We look forward to seeing you soon! And remember—your visits help support our mission to care for the animals and to promote wildlife conservation at home and around the world, so thank you!*



#### **ZOO BOP | September 4**

[Contact us for more info](#)

Zoo Bop is back this Labor Day weekend! This kid-friendly, kid-approved music festival will have the whole family dancing.



#### **ZOO EXPERIENCES**

[Click Here to learn more](#)

Make your visit to the Zoo this summer extra special by signing up for an up-close "meet and greet" animal experience.



#### **ZOO WEDDINGS**

[Click Here for info and reservations](#)

Say "I do" at the Zoo. Celebrate your special day indoors or outdoors, by the lake, on the porch, with family, friends, and maybe an animal guest or two. Give us a call!



#### **KEEPER CHATS**

[Click Here for times](#)

Hear from those in the know about your favorite Zoo animals and the care that they receive.



#### **PICNICS**

[Click Here for more info and reservations](#)

Want to take your family reunion or work party outdoors this spring? Host your group at Waterfowl Lake or Celebration Hill. Zoo staff will be on hand to assist, and any one of our approved caterers can help provide a spread.

CLICK HERE

to take a look at all of the Zoo's upcoming events and programs.





TRUMPETER SWAN CYGNETS

The Zoo’s pair of trumpeter swans are parents once more. They began incubating their most recent clutch of eggs in April, and just a few weeks ago in mid-May, a soft, fuzzy, gray burst of new cygnets hatched out. Their experienced and veteran parents are guarding and tending them well. In recent years, the Zoo has participated in Iowa’s Trumpeter Swan Restoration Project, introducing cygnets hatched at the Zoo into Iowa’s wild population of birds. That population is now bolstered enough that the restoration project is on pause, which is great news. The Zoo plans to partner with a new restoration program in conjunction with the AZA’s Trumpeter Swan Species Survival Plan. If all goes according to plan, these young swans will soon spread their wings and fly!



SLENDER-SNOUTED CROCODILE

Inside Chimpanzee Forest, there is a river. A river exhibit, to be precise, and in its water, you will find fish, turtles, and a newcomer to the Zoo—a 15-year-old, male, recently arrived African slender-snouted crocodile. He currently measures 4.5 feet from the tip of his snout to the tip of his tail. Once fully mature, though, he may triple in length and weigh up to 500 pounds. African slender-snouted crocodiles are a critically endangered species native to the tropical forests of central Africa.



GREAT WHITE PELICANS

The Zoo is now home to Great Whites! You’ll see them swimming around the *Penguin Coast* exhibit, getting to know the penguins and cormorants. Don’t worry, though, they bear no resemblance to the shark of the same name. These two male great whites are pelicans, also known as eastern white pelicans, that arrived last November from the Dallas Zoo at the recommendation of the AZA’s Great White Pelican Species Survival Plan. At four feet tall and with a wingspan of nine feet, they certainly live up to their name.



# AFRICAN ELEPHANTS

*This year, for the first time, the IUCN—the world’s leading conservation organization—has recognized two species of African elephant: the forest elephant and the savanna elephant. Generally speaking, savanna elephants are larger, have curved tusks, and roam varied habitats in sub-Saharan Africa. Forest elephants are smaller and darker, have straight tusks, and inhabit equatorial forests primarily in central Africa. Both species are in dire straits. The forest elephant is considered critically endangered, and the savanna elephant is considered endangered. We spoke recently with Mike McClure, the Zoo’s General Curator and Elephant Manager, about what this new designation means for African elephants going forward.*



## Why is this a significant development?

I think the primary significance has to do with conservation. By splitting African elephants into two species, it up-lists each to a higher level of conservation concern. The scientific community and conservation organizations are even more justified now in advocating for the protection of both species by and in their home countries. You also now have one of the most important tools that you can possibly have, which is a shift in public sentiment. The power of public perception is tremendous, and it will work in our favor to try and protect these elephants.

## What is the science behind the decision to recognize forest and savanna elephants as two different species?

The science is not new. Based on genetic analysis, we have known for many years that forest and savanna elephants are two different species. The IUCN is extremely rigorous in its process, though, and has taken longer than some conservation organizations to recognize African elephants as two distinct species.

## When do scientists think that African elephants split into two species?

They think somewhere between two and six million years ago—which, admittedly, is a huge range. To put it in perspective, that’s about when humans and chimpanzees split. The genetic studies also suggest that forest elephants are as different from savanna elephants as Asian elephants are from mammoths, which is an interesting comparison.

## Habitat loss and poaching are the two greatest threats to both forest and savanna elephants. What is the most creative solution you have seen to either of those threats?

There is much that still needs to be done to address the human needs that drive poaching and deforestation. But what I have seen—what does work—is empowering countries to return deforested areas to forested areas. When countries take large plots of land and invest resources into keeping people and cattle out and preventing poaching and just leaving it alone, the animals come back. Set space aside for them, and elephants come back, they thrive, and they do what they’re supposed to do.

## How are zoos making a difference for elephants in the wild?

The work that we and other zoos are doing with savanna elephants is critically important. We have 24/7 access to these animals, and the direct contact gives us the ability to observe and learn things that you just can’t with wild animals. And that knowledge translates to how wild elephants can be managed and protected. Zoos also do something that no other organization can. We have savanna elephants! People come to our zoo to see them, and through us they can experience them. They can get up close to one, meet one, and learn about them as individuals. That creates connection.

## When someone asks what they can do to help wild elephants, what do you tell them?

I tell them they can become caregivers to elephants in the wild, just as we are caregivers to the elephants at the Zoo, by getting involved and offering targeted financial support. The Zoo works directly with some really effective elephant conservation organizations on the ground, such as Elephants for Africa and the International Elephant Foundation. People can support those organizations directly, or even easier, you can give to the Zoo’s Conservation Fund and enhance our ability to get much-needed donations to our partners in the field.

## Are you hopeful about the future for elephants?

I am. I’m an eternal optimist and I think elephants are worth fighting for. I think with the up-listing of the forest elephants and the heightened focus on them, which is only going to increase over the next several years, people are going to hear more about them and learn more about them. Their existence will be more widely publicized, their plight and the ongoing plight of savanna elephants will be highlighted, and there are plenty of people like us who want to save them and have means and the knowledge to create the right programs. So yes, I am always hopeful.





## CONSERVATION CORNER



By Sarah Evans, Zoogram Editor

*From the sky, the Bush River looks like an arm of the Chesapeake Bay reaching nine miles inland into Harford County, Maryland. At its headwaters, the river mixes with Otter Point Creek, a shallow tributary that feeds one of the largest remaining freshwater tidal marshes within the Upper Chesapeake Bay. The marsh and surrounding forest are home to beaver, mink, muskrats, deer, foxes, squirrels, bald eagles, osprey, great blue herons, fish, turtles, frogs, snakes, and of course, otters. Wild rice growing near the water's edge attracts and feeds numerous species of marsh-dwelling birds, including the rare king rail. The birds attract birdwatchers, and the area draws adventurers who can explore by foot, canoe, kayak, or pontoon boat.*

Otter Point Creek is no place for trash, and yet trash accumulates, polluting the marsh and threatening native wildlife.

The trash must be removed, one piece and one plastic bottle at a time, to safeguard the beauty, ecology, and environmental integrity of this natural area. The work falls mostly to volunteers, and on a Saturday this past spring, a group from the Zoo was among that number. Zoo staff and volunteers, both teen and adult, waded in marshy mud, collected nearly two truckloads of trash, and over the course of the day discovered a magnificent estuary less than 20 miles north of Baltimore City.

“We are delighted to have hosted the Zoo for this cleanup,” says Kathy Baker-Brosh, president of the non-profit Otter Point Creek Alliance. “This event highlights the shared interest of the Zoo and the [Anita C. Leight] Estuary Center [at Otter Point Creek] to care for and protect wildlife. We also plan to explore the potential for community science projects and monitoring wildlife with the Zoo.”



For Jen Sohl, who manages the Zoo's conservation programs, this day was the realization of a long-held goal. “The Zoo is full of amazing people who really care about preserving ecosystems and helping wildlife,” she says, “and there are so many wonderful places right here in Maryland, in our own backyard, that could use our help.”

Sohl has worked closely with Peter Martin, the Zoo's naturalist, and Emily Cross-Barnet, volunteer manager, to launch Community Conservation Ambassadors. This new program will involve Zoo staff and volunteers in local projects aimed at habitat restoration, ecosystem management, wildlife preservation, and citizen science. Otter Point Creek was the kick-off event, and it promises to be the first of many.

“This is a really important part of what we do,” says Kirby Fowler, the Zoo's president and CEO. “Conservation is central to our mission, and to a person, our trustees and senior staff feel that it's important to keep expanding our conservation efforts, both locally and internationally. I think it's critical for us to foster community partnerships, and I also think it's great from the standpoint of bonding and employee morale for us to get dirty together out in the field!”

Fowler would know. He was the first to sign up for the Otter Point Creek expedition and he spent the day up to his knees in mud, admiring the beautiful surroundings and enjoying the camaraderie of a dirty yet heartfelt cleanup.

“It was a worthwhile experience,” says Tory Allman, one of the teen volunteer participants. “I want to do more conservation outings in the future because it was a fun way to engage with the community and the environment.” Naomi Elkins, another of the teen volunteers, wholeheartedly agrees. “The cleanup was a great experience and opened my eyes to how much trash can ruin an environment,” she says. “I would love to be part of more conservation programs because I had a lot of fun and I enjoyed making a difference.”

Next, the Zoo's Community Conservation Ambassadors will spend a day helping out at BLISS Meadows, an urban farm and environmental education center in northeast Baltimore whose programming is geared especially to families of color.



Zoo staff and volunteers removed an extraordinary number of plastic water bottles during their Otter Point Creek cleanup. “Removing trash from waterways is significant to the lives of the animals who live there, especially plastics pollution which is increasingly threatening. Animals can accidentally ingest it, get tangled in it, or become suffocated by it,” notes Baker-Brosh.



# BULLDOZERS of the Savanna

by Sarah Evans

*In the wild, southern white rhinoceroses are known to be aggressive. Their aggression is triggered by poor eyesight. They sense shape and movement all around them and if they cannot quite tell what is approaching, they charge. “Their plan in life is just to bulldoze everything because on the savanna only an elephant is bigger,” explained Erin Grimm, mammal collection and conservation manager at the Zoo. “Their automatic reaction to anything unfamiliar is to use their weight and run it over. And it helps that they have a giant sword on the front of their face.”*

Despite their intimidating façade, rhinos are mega-herbivores, not predators. They are not looking to eat anyone; they are only looking to eat grass. Nonetheless, their bulk—combined with horns and hard-wired wariness—demands respect of the highest order. This was well understood by the animal care team that received two new male southern white rhinos at the Zoo last November. The rhinos had reason to be wary, and the keepers would have to earn their trust.

The two young bulls had been raised outdoors in the company of other rhinos at a private wildlife center in the southern U.S. They had never seen the inside of a barn before. During their four years of life, they had barely seen people, much less zebras and ostriches. “When they came in, they had never been touched and were as wild as they come,” recalled Mike McClure, the Zoo’s general curator. “They were rowdy, and they were afraid.”

## Inside the Rhino Barn

During their first month at the Zoo, the rhinos were on high alert. Every time someone opened a door to enter their space, their ears went up, they would stand butt to butt with horns facing out, and then they would bolt. It took time and patience to convince them that the small bi-pedal creatures wearing green shirts posed no threat and, in fact, were a great food source.

Keepers took the first step. One keeper at a time would enter the rhino area and stand still as a statue, holding alfalfa cubes, a mega-herbivore delicacy. Slowly but surely, the rhinos would return from wherever they bolted to. As they relaxed, the keeper would offer an alfalfa cube.

It was important during this trust-earning phase that keepers remained unresponsive to any defensive behaviors from the rhinos. “If they charged the bars at us,” said Grimm, “we’d stay quiet and have no reaction so as not to reinforce that behavior.” Easier said than done when 3,000 pounds of tough hide and muscle is barreling at you, but the keepers did it.

As the rhinos began to calm, keepers continued to move deliberately and consistently around them, letting them get accustomed to daily routines and giving them opportunity to move away if that is what they felt they needed to do. Keepers would announce themselves before opening a door, remain quiet in the vicinity of the rhinos, and always, always provide food. Most importantly, keepers let the rhinos guide the pace of interaction rather than imposing their own timetable. By remaining objective and scientific in their behavior analysis, keepers gained tremendous insight into the animals they were working with, and insight translates to success.

“Now you can walk into the barn and both of these rhinos will approach and show curiosity toward us. We can scratch them now, we can brush on them—they’re getting desensitized to tactile,” said McClure only a few months after the rhinos’ arrival. “The fact that they’re recalling and working with us and moving through doors that they’ve never seen, it’s all pretty impressive. I’m really excited about the prospects we have for these animals.”

## Outside at the Watering Hole

By mid-April, the rhinos were ready to get outside. In some ways, they were returning to what was familiar: dirt, rocks, grass, changing weather. Yet still, it was new habitat that had to be explored before it could be considered safe. There was also an alarming new variable at play in this habitat: people on the nearby boardwalk.

“I think the people piece was probably the most striking to them,” admitted Grimm. “Everything to do with people was definitely scary to them.”

And so, whether visitors realized it or not, when they first saw the rhinos outdoors, they were seeing nervous rhinos. The already enormous newcomers were carrying their heads much higher than a relaxed rhino would, which had the effect of arching the muscles in the hump over their shoulders and making them look even bigger. Size is intimidating, and that was the point.

“They also spent a lot of time, the first couple of days, kind of backing into each other and putting their butts together and putting their sharp horns out at whatever [potential] dangers were coming as they were trying to assess what was going on,” said Grimm.

The truly discerning rhino behaviorist also might have noticed that these two were curling their tails tightly up over their backs. For reasons that are not readily apparent, this, too, is indication of a rhino on edge.

“I think it definitely helped that they had each other as partners in all this,” said Grimm. “I think it made them feel safer because they were used to being together and they had someone watching their back. It definitely gave them confidence to have the built-in buddy system.”

For the first few weeks of habitat exploration, keepers gave the rhinos constant access to behind-the-scenes areas, both indoors and out. If being outside felt stressful, the rhinos could stay in the barn or at least stay out of sight. It did not take long, though, for them to get used to their habitat and choose to stay out all day. They even began to lie down in their mud wallow, a sure sign of rhino relaxation.

## Meeting the Neighbors

Grimm and the rest of the animal care team decided in early May that the rhinos were ready to meet their neighbors at the Watering Hole, the zebras and ostriches. How, exactly, would this be done?

“Very carefully,” replied McClure, stating the obvious. “These are young, healthy, agile rhinos that can move very quickly, and they may look small compared to Stubby [their male rhino predecessor at the Zoo] but they weigh about 3,000 pounds each, and that’s a lot of force.”

All animal introductions are unique and inherently unpredictable, and some are more nerve-racking than others, but with every introduction, trust is crucial. The animal care team worked hard to gain the rhinos’ trust so that they could help them through just this sort of challenging new situation. In early May, it came time to trust the rhinos, zebras, and ostriches or, at the very least, trust that their instinct for self-preservation would lead to safe and respectful sharing of space. Ideally, the zebras and ostriches would show proper deference to their huge new neighbors and in return, the rhinos would not bulldoze them.

The zebras went first.

“When you think about an animal that can’t see well and now they’re confronted with this very flashy, fast-moving, black and white thing, that’s definitely going to be scary,” said Grimm. She was willing to trust the zebras, though, who are fast and agile and had been around other rhinos before. “We needed the zebras to use their brains and assess the situation and make good decisions, and they did.”

As it turned out, the rhinos were more curious than spooked by the zebras. Initially, they would try to approach the zebras—perhaps to get a better look—and the zebras would retreat. The black-and-white flashy ones had enough sense not to want to get too close. The rhinos would wait for them to emerge from wherever they were hiding but eventually would give up and wander away. This pattern repeated itself for several days until both species began to relax. Every now and then, the rhinos still approach and the zebras will run, but these neighbors seem to have accepted each other nonetheless.

Next up: the ostriches. “We were very pleased with how calm the rhinos were during the zebra intros and we are hoping for the same with the ostriches,” said Grimm a few weeks ago. At the time, ostrich intros had not yet begun but were imminent. These would be challenging for very ostrich-specific reasons.

“Ostriches don’t do a lot of thinking,” explained Grimm delicately. “I mean, when your eyeballs take up more room in your head than your brain, there’s only so much thinking that can physically happen.” She feared that the three female ostriches would start “doing their ostrich thing” and fail to notice that “the rhinos have no frame of reference for that.”

The youngest and smallest ostrich, known as “Bea,” is the true wildcard because of her odd devotion to the Zoo’s previous rhino, Stubby. “She tried to do her mating dance for him all the time,” explained Grimm. “He’d be laying down in the wallow and she’d come up and start her dance. He was always unimpressed and would walk away from her, but I’m slightly concerned that she’s going to start dancing for the new rhinos and then who knows.”

Hopefully, Bea will prove to have more sense than anyone realizes. Or perhaps the rhinos will take ostrich dancing in stride. In any event, as Grimm often says in her capably understated way, “it should be interesting.”





# CHESAPEAKE CONNECTION

If you live in Maryland, you know about the Chesapeake Bay. It is a beacon of natural beauty and a haven for a wide diversity of plant and animal life. What you may not know, though, is that the Chesapeake Bay is actually the giant submerged mouth of the Susquehanna River! Hydrologists (scientists who study natural water systems) call this a ria.

The Chesapeake Bay is also the largest estuary in the United States, a body of water formed where rivers and streams flow into the ocean, mixing fresh water with salt water. This enormous estuary stretches 200 miles from Havre de Grace, Maryland to Norfolk, Virginia.

The Bay is big, and the watershed that feeds it is even bigger. It pans out over 64,000 square miles, covering six states—New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, and Virginia—as well as the District of Columbia. It encompasses dozens of rivers and streams that flow into the Bay, plus the many hundreds of creeks that feed those rivers and streams. It trickles, burbles, ripples, and flows through forests, farms, cities, suburbs, meadows, and wetlands all the way to the ocean.

## Kids' activity

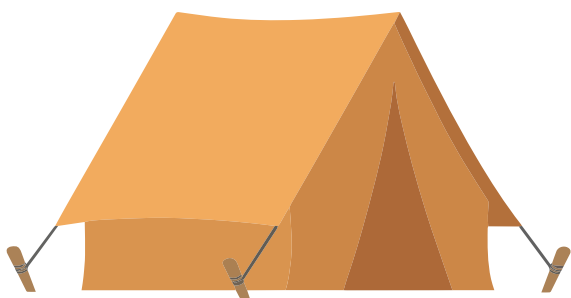
**One way to appreciate the Chesapeake Bay's ecological significance to people, plants, and wildlife is to show how it functions like some well-known household items. Can you make the connections? Point to the picture that matches each description.**



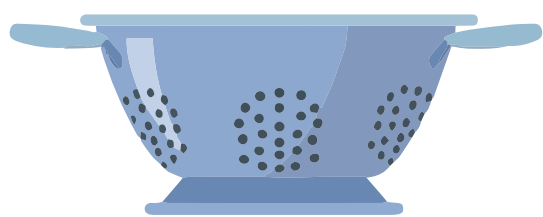
bag of grain



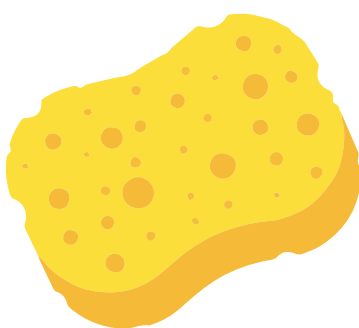
crib



tent



strainer



sponge

1. The Bay's wetlands soak up excess water from summer thunderstorms and reduce flooding.
2. Soil and nutrients that wash off the land during heavy downpours get trapped and filtered by the roots and stems of estuary plants.
3. Baby fish of many species, including American shad and rockfish, hide and feed in plants that grow underwater in the Bay.
4. Plants growing in Chesapeake marshes provide an abundance of food for all sorts of animals, including more than one million migrating ducks and geese that winter on the Bay.
5. For myriad species of organisms, the Bay's plants, soil, rocks and even some of its animals (oysters) provide shelter from weather and predators.





## A Lion's Tribute To A Transformative Leader

During his 12-year tenure as President and CEO of the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, Don Hutchinson managed the Zoo out of a financial crisis and into a visionary new phase of its existence. He was a tireless champion of the Zoo and a steadfast leader who spearheaded more than \$60 million in renovations, new habitat construction, and overall campus beautification. He left an inspiring and indelible mark on the Zoo, and that is worthy of tribute.

And so, after Hutchinson retired as CEO in June 2020, the Board and senior Zoo leadership got to work on a tribute that would be particularly fitting. Hutchinson oversaw the expansive renovation of the Zoo's lion, elephant, and giraffe habitats—a project that literally transformed the *African Journey* experience. As it happens, Hutchinson is also known for his love of big cats and lions especially. A large, multi-faceted tribute near the newly renovated lion habitat seemed like just the right thing.

Once the site was selected, the design team of Gecko Group and Stefansson Design and Consulting began crafting a naturalistic commemorative sculpture that pulled in elements of the surrounding habitats. The large rock is similar in shape and color to the rocks in the giraffe habitat. The artist painted lichens on it that mimic those in the trees across the guest path. In front of the rock sits a kiln-dried white oak limb like those used throughout the exhibit to support shade structures and signage. The lioness and her cubs are fashioned from weathered steel with a rusted patina that recalls one of the exhibit's featured design elements. The honorary plaque has the same weathered look, but its sentiment is timeless.

After months of planning and creating, the tribute to Hutchinson was unveiled on a breezy April evening before a gathering of trustees, staff, and volunteers. Prior Board Chairs Christopher Pope and Michael Hankin, as well as current Chair Jen Lowry, noted Hutchinson's many accomplishments at the Zoo and on behalf of the Baltimore community. Then Lowry and Kirby Fowler, Hutchinson's successor as president and CEO of the Zoo, pulled the cover from the tribute.

Hutchinson was momentarily speechless, and for those that know him, speechless is not a state normally associated with him! He recovered, though, and in typical fashion insisted that he accomplished nothing on his own. He gave credit to Zoo staff and to all those in attendance, expressed his gratitude, and was clearly touched that the tribute stood alongside his favorite animal. It was a moment to celebrate and certainly a legacy to commend.

The Zoo is a non-profit organization dedicated to engaging people with the wonders of the living world. Your generosity makes all that we do possible. Please consider making a donation today to support your zoo, all of the animals, and our wildlife conservation work at home and abroad.



[Click to Donate Today](#)



## A Baltimore Beauty Is Restored By Architect, Artisans, Preservationists, And Family

In the late 19th century, city residents came to Druid Hill Park to drink and collect cool, clean spring water from ornate public fountains. The fountains were created by enclosing natural springs flowing beneath the park. Prominent citizens of the day would finance the decoration of these fountains to showcase their wealth and philanthropic generosity. Residents would bring buckets to catch water to take back to their homes, while others would avail themselves of ladles attached to the fountains to take a sip while out walking in the park with their families.

All told, there were seven natural springs in Druid Hill Park. Today, there are portions of three fountains remaining, all within Zoo boundaries, although the water sources were capped long ago.

This past year, the Zoo was privileged to work with Azola Building Rehab, Inc. and a number of local artisans to move and restore one of these fountains, the Crise Fountain, from a hidden glen behind the scenes to a prominent spot near the Waterfowl Lake Pavilion. Descendants of John L. Crise had expressed an interest in funding the restoration, and a wonderful partnership was formed.

The Crise Fountain was presented to the City of Baltimore by John L. Crise, Esq. in 1870. Topped by a beautiful Italian marble statue of "Flora," the fountain was an apt expression not only of Mr. Crise's love for his wife but also of his beneficence towards his fellow Baltimoreans. The Crise Fountain was said to have the "most copious flow of water of any of the springs in the park," according to an article in *The Sun* dated July 26, 1881.

Historic photos showing the fountain's striking decorative details helped guide the restoration project. In photos, one can clearly see a bronze "lion's head" from which water flowed and two drinking ladles affixed to the marble. Short, decorative iron railings branched out in a semicircle on either side of the fountain.

The first phase of the project involved moving the fountain, along with its massive base, from the dell near the current elephant habitat to the Waterfowl Lake area across the path from the Lakeside Pavilion, where weddings and other events are held. Next came the renovation itself, which included cleaning the

marble and stone, creating a new bronze lion's head and cast-iron railings, and carving new pieces to replace features on the statue of Flora.

Architect F. Carl Schwarz designed the layout of the new location, designed the up-lighting of the fountain, and developed the permit drawings, which were instrumental in having the project approved for restoration and relocation by The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP).

While the fountain and statue were being moved and cleaned by Federal Masonry Restoration, artisans from Hilgartner Natural Stone Company took casts of the marble where pieces had been lost to time. They carved new marble features including the fingers, toes, and nose of Flora, as well as the dove she holds in her hand. They installed the newly carved pieces and restored Flora to her original glory.

The very same company that designed the cast-iron railings for the original Crise Fountain in 1870 also cast new railings for the restored fountain based on historic photos. That Baltimore-based company is G. Krug & Son, recognized as the oldest continually operating blacksmith's shop in the United States.

As the springs no longer run in Druid Hill Park, a waterline was installed in the new location, allowing the fountain to be turned on and off when people are present. However, due to current health standards, the drinking ladles are no longer available!

Notably, the Maryland Zoo has more historic buildings and ornamental structures on its grounds than any other zoo of its era. Many of these structures date to the mid-1880s. The Zoo is committed to maintaining them as part of its architectural legacy, so that they too can tell a story and be enjoyed by future generations. We plan to relocate and restore all three of the historic park fountains still on Zoo grounds so that they can be fully appreciated by visitors. With the completion of the Crise Fountain renovation, we are one step closer to realizing that goal.

The Zoo is grateful to the Crise Family descendants who afforded us the opportunity to restore the Crise Fountain. Their generous grants have allowed us to beautify a relic of their family's legacy, recapture an artifact of Baltimore history, and put it on display for all to enjoy.





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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 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00p.m. 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.

To all our friends and members, thank you for your continued support of the Zoo and its amazing animals. Here's to a happy and healthy 2021! We look forward to seeing you on grounds this summer.

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.

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Visit [MarylandZoo.org](http://MarylandZoo.org) for a full listing of the Zoo's leadership, including the [Board of Trustees](#) of the Maryland Zoological Society, Inc.

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