



2013 ANNUAL REPORT



Photographed by Lydia Cost, Registrar at the Birmingham Zoo, Inc. (BZI)



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WELLS FARGO DINO DISCOVERY

On March 16, 2013, the Birmingham Zoo welcomed its first T-rex dinosaur...sort of. Through the generous support of Wells Fargo and Vulcan Materials Company, and the technical wizardry of Billings Productions, the typically quiet nature trail of the Junior League of Birmingham-Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo was invaded by eleven different species of long-vanished dinosaurs, including the aforementioned life-sized *Tyrannosaurus rex*, whose booming roar could be heard throughout the Alabama Wilds.

Visitors of all ages marveled at the state-of-the-art, animatronic creatures and absorbed knowledge of the lives of the ancient animals. From the simplicity of dinosaurs that taught their young to forage to the intricacies of communication between members of pack-hunting species, visitors were guided to compare Alabama's contemporary native animals to the dinosaurs of the past. A few lucky guests even got to interact with a baby puppet T-rex. Operated by the Dino Discovery staff, this amazing puppet visited many birthday parties during the duration of the exhibition.



INTERESTING DINO DISCOVERY FACTS

1. Long-neck herbivores like the Brachiosaurus and the Dilophosaurus were included in the Wells Fargo Dino Discovery exhibit.
2. The Compsognathus species were chicken-sized scavengers of their time.
3. The life-sized T-rex was more than eighteen feet tall and forty feet long.
4. The creatures featured color patterns that imitated modern ones seen in the Alabama Wilds, including skinks and copperhead snakes.



Wells Fargo Dino Discovery was a great success and was amazingly popular. It marked the first time the producers had shown these creatures in combination with live animals. The attraction proved so successful that it was extended through the summer months. This afforded an excellent opportunity to combine the exhibit with the Summer ZooFari Camp.

Wells Fargo Dino Discovery Camp was a five day camp based on the Wells Fargo Dino Discovery exhibit. Lessons focused on the prehistoric creatures and their relationship to Alabama species of today. More than 1,100 children in kindergarten through 5th grade participated in the program.

TRAILS OF AFRICA: FIRST BACHELOR HERD OF ELEPHANTS IN NORTH AMERICA

The First Bachelor Herd of African Elephants in North America

The primary goal in 2013 for Trails of Africa was to successfully create a bachelor herd of African elephants for conservation studies, to understand elephant behavior and learn how to better manage the species. A “bachelor herd” is a gathering of juvenile male animals that are sexually immature.

With the arrival of the Birmingham Zoo’s fourth and last male elephant in 2012, the process of introducing all of the male elephants was initiated. It was no small task. The process involved carefully monitoring different combinations of groupings of the elephants at different times.

After much study, in May of 2013, the Elephant Care Professionals (ECPs) stationed themselves along the length of the main yard of Trails of Africa as all four animals entered the yard for the first time. The crowds welcomed 32-year-old Bulwagi, 13-year-old Ajani, 12-year-old Callee and 7-year-old Tamani. The elephants interacted with each other throughout the day, and the ECPs breathed a sigh of relief. This milestone marked a vital breakthrough in the creation of the bachelor herd.

Elephants are incredibly social animals. The dynamics of their interactions change frequently throughout the day. The Zoo’s ECPs constantly monitor the animals and record their behavior. Weekly blood samples are sent to partners at South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction and Conservation



(SEZARC) for monitoring of the elephants' hormone levels. This information is correlated with the observed behavior of the animals, supplying invaluable conservation data for the management of such bachelor herds.

To enhance observational skills in terms of elephant behavior and management, two of the Birmingham Zoo's ECPs plan to attend the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Principles of Elephant Management course held in Wheeling, West Virginia, in February of 2014.

Rhino Romance

With the African elephant bachelor herd successfully launched, the next goal was to also allow the rhinos access to the main yard, creating an interspecies dynamic in the main yard as would naturally occur in the wild. The Zoo's male rhino, Max, joined the Birmingham Zoo in October of 2012. The Zoo's team hopes that extended periods of time in the main yard will encourage the rhinos to breed. There are two females, Laptop and Ajabu. Laptop is the only proven breeder. Positive interactions between Ajabu and Max are slowly developing as they figure out the mechanics of mating. With a little space, time and monitoring of hormone levels, elements are in place for successful reproduction.



Tadpole the Hippo

Tadpole remains one the most entertaining animals on the main yard. Tadpole has lived in the same exhibit for more than 30 years. Tadpole roams the Boma Yard and often has the main yard to himself, providing an additional enrichment opportunity to explore nature. Occasionally, Tadpole chooses to spend the night out in the main yard.

Tadpole is slowly being introduced to the rhinos. He and Max have shared several interactions and continue to get to know each other. The female rhinos are a bit shy and are wary of Tadpole, who spends most of his time in the pool. We anticipate they will come around as the comfort level in the main yard increases.



SPECIES SURVIVAL PLAN® (SSP) OF BIRMINGHAM ZOO'S LION AND RED PANDA CUBS

The Birmingham Zoo is a proud partner in the Species Survival Plan® program (SSP). Developed in 1981 by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the SSP initiatives help ensure the survival of species, most of which are threatened or endangered in the wild, by enlisting the resources of zoos and aquariums.

Lions

The lions at the Birmingham Zoo are part of the Lion SSP. The goal of the program is to manage the lion population and ensure that it remains genetically sustainable.

Five cubs were born at the Birmingham Zoo in 2011. As they reached maturity, a plan was made to transfer them to other accredited zoos, with the hope that the Birmingham-born lions could build other prides. How do you transfer five lions? The Zoo's Predator Department focused on how to make the transition smooth, safe and minimally stressful for the animals.

Animals are commonly sedated for transport. However, being sedated in transport can cause complications with recovery, and there are limited options for assisting a distressed animal while it is crated and in transport. To avoid the risks of sedation, the Predator Team set forth to train all five cubs to enter the crates voluntarily, thus eliminating the need for anesthesia.



The training project was successful. All five lion cubs, two males and three females, were safely transported without sedation. Baron and Vulcan, the two male lions, now reside at Utah's Hogle Zoo. There are plans to fully introduce them to two young lionesses that are still a bit shy around the new males. Baron and Vulcan have both started growing manes. Their manes are fuller around their chin and cheeks, but they still look a bit like they're sporting the "mohawks" from when they were small cubs.

The three females, Lily, Asha, and Kimba, are now living in the African Safari Park in Puebla, Mexico. The Spanish language version of National Geographic recently filmed a feature titled "Impossible Cargo" about the transport of the Birmingham-born lionesses. The African Safari Park staff relayed their gratitude to the Birmingham Zoo's Predator Department for the diligent training that made the move safe for all involved.

Lily, Asha, and Kimba will soon be released into a 10-acre exhibit and introduced to a male lion. It is hoped they will begin their own pride.

This project is a prime illustration of the vital role the Birmingham Zoo plays in the conservation of species. It is not just the work of one zoo. It takes many zoos working together to protect and preserve animal species.



Red Panda

The Birmingham Zoo also participates in the SSP for red pandas. On May 30, 2013, the Zoo's breeding pair, Sorrel, the 3-year-old mom, and Shifu, the 4-year-old dad, produced two male cubs. Red pandas have a mortality rate of 50% for all offspring, so the cubs had to be carefully monitored at all times. Infrared surveillance cameras were mounted in the nest box in their exhibit.

We are pleased to report that both cubs thrived, and the whole family is currently on exhibit here at the Zoo. The young red pandas will soon be sent to other AZA facilities.

In its continued support of the conservation of red pandas, the Birmingham Zoo again participated in International Red Panda Day on September 21, 2013. Thirty-three supporters became "Red Panda Rangers" and navigated their way through events in the Predator Building and learned about the plight of these unique animals.

Local Artist Paints Mural

The Birmingham Zoo extends special thanks to rising artist, Annabelle DeCamillis, who shared her talent and passion with us. Her oil painting of a lion is magnificently showcased at the Birmingham Zoo's Predator Zone, proudly sponsored by Birmingham Coca-Cola Company.



DeCamillis says she has been doing artwork all of her life and was encouraged to develop her talent by her family. Both her mother and father paint in oil, her stepfather works in ceramics, and both her mother and stepfather teach art and operate the Red Dot Gallery in Homewood.

DeCamillis said her favorite artwork is that of the Old Masters, a term generally referring to European artists working prior to 1800. But she likes to mix the style of the Old Masters with contemporary scenery.

She received the Alabama Council on the Arts Visual Achievement Award and won best in show in the I Love Homewood Day's sidewalk chalk contest and the People's Choice Award in a Nature Conservancy Earth Day fundraiser.



OPENING OF THE GIANT RIVER OTTER EXHIBIT AND RED DIAMOND SEA LION SPLASH SHOW UPGRADE

The Birmingham Zoo welcomed the arrival of Karina and Lara this year, two female Giant River Otters who are currently on exhibit in the Primate Building. The Rain Forest exhibit was renovated to include water features and plant life natural to the South American environment where these animals reside in the wild.

This exhibit distinguishes the Birmingham Zoo as one of the few facilities in North America to have giant river otters on exhibit. The Giant River Otter is hunted extensively for its dense pelt. They are listed as endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature record of threatened species. This exhibit, and the associated study of the animals, will contribute to the conservation and preservation of this fascinating swimming species.



Close Encounters of the Fishy Kind: Red Diamond Sea Lion Splash Show Upgrade

Our good friends at Red Diamond have supported the Zoo's sea lion shows since 2006. In 2013, the company's continued generosity allowed the Zoo to make huge technological leaps forward with the production of "Close Encounters of the Fishy Kind," starring sea lions Giovanni and Farley.

Red Diamond's support enabled us to acquire a new sound system as well as the equipment and modifications required to bring the sea lions even closer to the Zoo's visitors. Guests of all ages are now able to stare in wonder at the faces of Giovanni and Farley from just a few feet away.

As with all of the Zoo's programs, the Red Diamond Sea Lion Splash Show carries important messages. Conservation messages include recycling, the importance of keeping the oceans clean and making responsible and educated choices when purchasing seafood for consumption.

The sea lions are a long-time favorite of the Zoo's visitors, and Red Diamond's sponsorship allows us to raise the bar every year in terms of production values and educational content.

Fine southern sweet tea and the sea lions at the Birmingham Zoo — what more could a person want? The Birmingham Zoo thanks Red Diamond for their kind and continued support.

CONSERVATION INITIATIVES IN THE BIRD DEPARTMENT

Conservation of bird species remains a primary focus of the Birmingham Zoo. In total, our Bird Department actively participated in 46 SSPs.

Whooping Cranes

For the third year, the Zoo participated in rearing whooping cranes for release back into the wild through “Operation Migration.” This program has played a lead role in the reintroduction of endangered whooping cranes into eastern North America since 2001. In the 1940s, the species was reduced to just 15 birds.

Using ultralight aircrafts, “Operation Migration” pilots act as surrogate parents and guide captive-hatched and imprinted whooping cranes along a planned migration route beginning in Wisconsin and ending in Florida – as depicted in the Columbia Pictures film *Fly Away Home*.

Piping Plover

For the fifth year, the Zoo participated in the Great Lakes Piping Plover Project in the area of salvage rearing. “Salvage rearing” involves the artificial incubation of eggs found in abandoned nests in the wild, followed by hand-rearing and release of the birds.



Kori Bustard

The year 2013 marked the Birmingham Zoo’s first year of partnering with the Jacksonville Zoo’s SSP. The Jacksonville Zoo had a pair of Kori Bustards that laid fertile eggs but did not have room to raise the chicks. Having the available space and staff, the Birmingham Zoo picked up the eggs and hatched the chicks.

The Story Of The Brown Tree Snake

The brown tree snake is infamous for being an invasive species responsible for devastating the majority of the native bird populations in Guam. Mariana fruit doves and Rufous Fantails now face the danger of the snake in Saipan, the island north of Guam. The Birmingham Zoo’s Bird Zoological Manager, Jeff Pribble, was dispatched to aid the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in capturing and translocating a number of the birds to the snake-free island of Sarigan. Their efforts were successful.

This project was made possible through funding by the Birmingham Zoo’s Passion into Conservation Action (PiCA) Program. Zoo professionals worked with each other and with local governments to capture and relocate birds, saving them from extinction at the jaws of the brown tree snake.

ANIMAL INVENTORY AND ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER

How many species of animals are at the Birmingham Zoo? This is an important question, and one a credible zoo meticulously tracks. At all times, we are aware of each individual animal in the Birmingham Zoo's care. Below is the final tally of animals onsite at the end of 2013, plus the number of species.

"Species" is often defined as "a group of individuals that actually or potentially interbreed in nature." In this sense, a species is the biggest gene pool possible under natural conditions.

This includes animals on loan to the Birmingham Zoo. It does not include animals out on loan to other zoos.

Animal Health Center

Our Animal Health Center is vital to the operation of the Birmingham Zoo. The professional veterinarians, managers and staff members are responsible for every animal in the Zoo's care, and have devoted themselves to keeping abreast of the latest

research and medical advancements pertaining to every species housed at the Zoo.

Building A Beak

One of the great veterinary accomplishments of 2013 for the Zoo's Animal Health Center team was the successful fabrication and attachment of a prosthetic upper beak to a Ground Hornbill.

Voluntary Medical Tests

Some animals require anesthesia in order to collect samples for routine medical tests. It is always optimal, however, if the samples can be drawn without anesthesia. This type of sample collection, without anesthesia, is referred to as "voluntary" and is achieved through training.

The Zoo is pleased to report that the Children's Zoo staff successfully obtained voluntary cardiac ultrasounds on the North American River Otters and voluntary blood draws on the Forest Guinea Hogs this past year. They also worked with the Africa and Predator staffs to obtain voluntary blood draws on giraffes and sea lions.

Professional Accomplishments

Lead veterinarian in 2013, Dr. Stephanie McCain, implemented a study of the use of Deslorelin implants to prevent egg-laying in tortoises.

In addition, Dr. Stephanie McCain was recently named a Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM). To be eligible to take the test, veterinarians must have six years of zoo work experience and five "first author" publications. The test also required more than 1,200 hours of preparation. The qualification was an intense two-day process consisting of written and practical components covering all aspects of wild animals in human care and free-ranging wild animal medicine, including birds, reptiles, mammals, fish and insects. Dr. McCain's achievement marks the first time a veterinarian at the Birmingham Zoo has been board-certified by the ACZM.

| SPECIES | # OF INDIVIDUALS | # OF SPECIES |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| Mammals | 140 | 56 |
| Birds | 424 | 105 |
| Reptiles | 131 | 57 |
| Amphibians | 34 | 8 |
| Fish | 35 | 2 |
| Insects | 171 | 6 |
| TOTAL | 935 | 234 |



EDUCATION: INSPIRING PASSION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD

In 2013, more than 20,886 students participated in the Zoo's educational initiatives. Our camps and courses raised more than \$330,000 in support of the Zoo's mission and operations.

Professional development for the Zoo's education staff included attending the American Camp Association Conference and the National Association of Interpretation Conference and training.

ZooSchool teachers conducted their first "Professional Day" with the Birmingham City schools who will participate in next year's program. Professional Day was established this year to be an annual Zoo event going forward. Professional teachers from the Birmingham City schools were invited for a day at the Zoo to review the program and the curriculum in advance and to meet the ZooSchool teachers. This built a strong alliance for a successful ZooSchool.

Summer Zoofari Camp

Students pre-K through eighth grade enjoyed a week of fun and learning at this year's Summer ZooFari Camp. This fantastic learning experience included up-close animal encounters, train and carousel rides, fun in the splash fountains, guided tours of the Zoo and, most importantly, a curriculum filled with lessons, crafts and activities.



ANIMAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Highlights for our Zoo to You program in 2013 included two venomous snake educational programs for the Mercedes manufacturing plant, guest lectures to the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Animal Behavior class and for its animal research employees, participation in the Birmingham City Council's Party with a Purpose event, partnership with the United Way's Read and Romp program and a literacy event for children at Railroad Park. Select animals also attended almost 200 birthday parties this year.

Animal programs were presented to more than 10,600 students on the grounds of the Zoo in conjunction with the Kiwanis ZooSchool, ZooSnoozes, Twilight Tours and other educational programs.

The Birmingham Zoo continues to visit Children's Hospital once a month to present animal demonstrations for the young patients and their families. The Zoo's very own Kelly Wall, Programs Manager, was honored by being asked to guest judge their annual Halloween costume contest.

The Animal Programs Department greeted baseball fans at eight Birmingham Barons home games at the new Regions Field. Onyx, the Black Vulture, flew the first pitch at one of the games.

This year's Groundhog Day event was attended by more than 300 visitors that anxiously awaited Birmingham Bill's prediction during the Wildlife Show. Birmingham Bill predicted six more weeks of winter, and his prediction came true.

The Zoo's Wildlife Shows were themed with the summer camp curriculum, and were titled "Wide World of Wings, Animal Zoo-per Heroes," and "Animal Safari." As part of these programs, the great horned owl was free-flighted for the first time. This is when owls soar overhead and visit guests up close on a trainer's glove. More than 22,800 visitors attended the popular Wildlife Shows at the Zoo in 2013.

The Animal Programs department established a new wildlife presentation called *Despicable Boo* and wrote an interactive wildlife storybook called "Twas the Night Before Winter," a story that came to life with the presence of real animals.

In conjunction with the Zoo's Marketing Department, the team participated in a photo shoot with the African serval and barn owl for Birmingham Magazine. Kelly Wall did weekly Friday media spots with Fox 6, while other Programs staff had weekly rotating Sunday media spots on both Fox 6 and NBC 13 television stations.

Kelly Wall became a Certified Interpretive Guide through the National Association of Interpretation. Kelly Wall and Lauren Kimbro both became Certified Professional Bird Trainers, knowledge assessed through the International Avian Trainers Certification Board.



Kelly Wall with Birmingham Bill, February 2, 2013



Zoo to You staff and animals

KIWANIS ZOOSCHOOL

Kiwani's ZooSchool is an interdisciplinary program focused on providing 7th grade students from Birmingham City Schools with unique, interactive educational opportunities. The curriculum is based on the Birmingham Zoo's Trails of Africa exhibit and asks one essential question: "How can the modern African people overcome the challenges facing them – and how can I help?"

2013 was an outstanding year for the program. In a study that compared students who did not take part in the Kiwanis ZooSchool program with those who did, participating students scored an average of 38% higher in the subjects of English/language arts, mathematics, science and social science.

Kiwanis ZooSchool students participated in conservation initiatives during the 2012-13 school year, including

fundraising efforts for EcoCell to raise awareness of gorilla habitats in the rainforest areas of Africa. The EcoCell mission was to gather old cell phones, batteries and other electronic equipment from which the mineral coltan, which is mined in the Congo, could be reclaimed. The students successfully gathered more than seventy dollars worth of qualifying equipment.

The students also participated in an environmental attitudes survey. The survey helped determine the students' awareness of the link between environmental hazards and diseases and the parameters of individual and social responsibility as they relate to environmental protection.



KIWANIS CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM

Kiwanis ZooSchool would not be possible without the generous support of Kiwanis Club of Birmingham and its fellowship and coordination within the business community.

On behalf of the Birmingham Zoo, the participating students and the community at-large, we thank the following businesses, foundations, organizations and individuals for making the Kiwanis ZooSchool program possible:

Alabama Power Foundation
BBVA Compass
Birmingham City Schools
Children's of Alabama
City Councilor Valerie A. Abbott

Hill Crest Foundation, Inc.
Honda Manufacturing of Alabama LLC
IBERIABANK
Institute of Museum and Library Services
Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation

Kiwanis Club of Birmingham
P and C Carroll Foundation
Redmont Park Historic District Foundation
Thomas & Julia Crawford
The Daniel Foundation of Alabama

Kiwanis ZooSchool was awarded a federal grant from the Museums for America in 2012. In 2013, this grant provided \$65,500 in funding. It should be noted that the Birmingham Zoo was the only recipient of this award in the state of Alabama.

Kiwanis ZooSchool 2013 Participating Schools

Daniel Payne Middle School
Ernest F. Bush Middle School
Hayes K-8 School
Huffman Middle School
Jones Valley Middle School
Osie Ware Mitchell Middle School
Richard Arrington Jr. Middle School
W.E. Putnam Middle School
Wylam K-8 School



In 2013, Kiwanis ZooSchool and the Education Department welcomed a working partnership with Dr. Lee Meadows of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Dr. Meadows specializes as a consultant in the areas of curriculum and instruction. He coordinated curriculum assessments as well as assisted in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) integration. He also advised the team in regard to integration of content based on the Alabama Course of Study and nationally-established core standards. We welcomed Dr. Meadows' expertise to the Zoo team.



BIRMINGHAM ZOO'S ECOGARDEN AND JUNIOR LEAGUE PLACEMENT

The Zoo added some acreage this year, a new EcoGarden! Partnership for this project was in conjunction with the Junior League of Birmingham. (See their report below.) Volunteers assisted in gardening and planting. In the coming year, ZooSchool 7th graders, along with the Zoo staff and other volunteers, will participate in hands-on lessons about recycling, composting, nutrition and other sustainable practices.



Birmingham Zoo Launches New EcoGarden in Partnership with the JLB

If you have driven from Highway 280 to the Red Mountain Expressway in the past few months, you may have noticed an organized garden of raised beds and young trees sprouting up on the site of the old Shades Valley High School. This 22-acre lot is the location of the new Junior League of Birmingham (JLB) EcoGarden placement, made possible by a collaboration between the JLB and the Birmingham Zoo. In partnership with Zoo personnel, JLB volunteers will lead Birmingham City School students and community volunteers in sustainable gardening projects and related activities. From September through the end of the school year, the EcoGarden will be tended by hundreds of the city's seventh grade students, along with the Zoo staff and JLB volunteers.

Over the past two years, leaders at the Birmingham Zoo have imagined and developed the EcoGarden as a means of providing nutritious organic food options for Zoo animals, in addition to their current diets. The EcoGarden allows more expensive and unusual vegetables, such as okra, to be harvested on site. Additionally, the

Zoo accumulates a large amount of animal waste and waste material from landscaping services, such as cut grass and the remnants of tree removal. These materials provide ideal compost for the garden, and because of the cyclical nature of this process, the garden merits the name, EcoGarden. The EcoGarden is incorporated into the Zoo's Kiwanis ZooSchool program, a program that is a week-long and based on the Trails of Africa exhibit. By visiting the EcoGarden, students will learn more about the use of multipurpose materials and the benefits of recycling waste.

EcoGarden Chair Ellen Duncan and Co-Chair Kate Holmes have worked with the Zoo to coordinate the logistics of this massive undertaking that will introduce students, attending the Kiwanis ZooSchool program, to the EcoGarden as a part of their curriculum. The EcoGarden will provide students with an introduction to horticulture and organic gardening, as well as hands-on experience in the Zoo EcoGarden. "We are very excited about adding this new experience to the ZooSchool curriculum and working with the Junior League of Birmingham to show students firsthand the process of composting to planting, caring to growing and then harvesting to feeding back to the animals the produce grown in the EcoGarden," says Dr. William R. Foster, President & CEO of the Zoo.



DEDICATED TEEN AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS

The Birmingham Zoo, its mission and all associated programs simply could not operate without the service of our dedicated volunteers. In 2013 alone, volunteers at the Birmingham Zoo donated more than 40,500 hours of their time and talents. This shows an incredible commitment from private and corporate citizens and communities to support the Zoo and its unique mission.

Services provided by our volunteers in 2013 included greeting visitors, assisting in giraffe feedings and even managing software. More than 1,000 volunteers from corporate groups assisted in big events such as Boo at the Zoo and Zoolight Safari. Adult and teen volunteers served as interpreters throughout the year in various animal departments.



The Birmingham Zoo Docents



Volunteer of the Year — 2013

The Birmingham Zoo salutes our 2013 Volunteer of the Year — Ms. Carolyn Brockman. For the last eleven years, Ms. Brockman has served as docent with the Zoo. In 2013, she hit a milestone of 5,000 hours in volunteer service. Ms. Brockman's service has made and continues to make an incredible impact on all aspects of the organization. In addition to working as an Animal Husbandry and Show Crew volunteer, she serves as liaison between our birthday party team and the various animal departments. Her service to the Zoo and to our community cannot be fully measured.

Thank you, Carolyn — from all of us here at the Zoo who have the pleasure of working with you on a daily basis. We appreciate you.



FAMILY FUN AT THE ZOO: RAISING FUNDS AND CONSERVATION AWARENESS

Family Night

The Zoo's annual Family Night was held on April 30, 2013, with a focus on Dino Discovery. Dinner included options like Brontosaurus Burgers and T-rex Franks. All of the Zoo's family attractions were in operation. Parents and children had an amazing walk through our Alabama Wilds exhibit as they listened to the sounds of the dinosaurs! An obvious favorite attraction for the families was the large screen on which the Zoo projected the classic dino flick, *Jurassic Park*. A good time was had by all, and everybody survived the encounter.



dogs in 39 countries. Impacted by poaching, road kills, and mining and logging that continue to destroy their habitat, now only approximately 5,000 are believed to remain. The conservation missions in Zimbabwe are some of the last strongholds for the species.

More than 700 runners participated in this year's ZooRun, along with more than 200 cheering spectators. Total funds raised for Painted Dog Conservation exceeded \$15,000. Painted Dog Conservation has already helped to double the Painted Dog population over the past twenty years. None of this could be achieved without the support of sponsors.

On behalf of the Birmingham Chapter of AAZK and the Birmingham Zoo, we salute and thank the sponsors who made this important event possible:

Trak Shak
Doug Jones LLC
The Fitness Center
MedPlan Recruiting, Inc.
Nall-Daniels Animal Hospital
National Bank of Commerce
Pappas Ear Clinic

ZooRun

The 8th annual ZooRun was held on May 11, 2013, a 5K run or walk and children's fun runs to support Painted Dog Conservation. The race took participants through and around the Zoo grounds.

This event is planned and executed each year by the Birmingham Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK). AAZK is a much-respected organization of zookeepers, educators and other zoo professionals who are focused on conservation causes and fostering appreciation for the animal care profession.



Painted Dog Conservation was the mission selected for this year's ZooRun. Painted Dogs, also known as African wild dogs, used to range across Africa, with more than 500,000

Special Gratitude to the Zoo's Gift-in-kind donors:
Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Great American Cookie Company, Digital Marketing Services, Inc. (DMS)



FAVORITE FAMILY ATTRACTIONS: WELLS FARGO BOO AT THE ZOO AND WELLS FARGO ZOOLIGHT SAFARI

Wells Fargo Boo at the Zoo and Wells Fargo ZooLight Safari, main attractions of the Birmingham Zoo, helped draw record numbers to experience the Zoo in 2013 with strong attendance of more than 574,000 guests.

Wells Fargo Boo at the Zoo, 15 fun-filled nights in October, was a favorite attraction for families and individuals. With attendance of more than 25,000 guests and gross revenue exceeding \$360,000, guests dressed up in family-friendly costumes and experienced an array of fall-inspired activities, shows and rides.

This year, guests visited their favorite Marvel® characters like Spider-Man, Iron Man, Thor and Captain America! Guests had a chance to meet the heroes, get their autographs and take pictures.

Guests came dressed in their favorite costumes to search for Bigfoot on the Sasquatch Safari, to ride on the Eerie Express train, to take a spin on the Scarousel and to participate in animal-themed games at the Creepy Carnival tent. An annual favorite was the WildLife Show, *Despicable Boo*, which brought in record crowds.

Partnered with Wells Fargo, Birmingham Zoo twinkled into the holiday season on Friday, December 7 as part of the annual Wells Fargo ZooLight Safari kick-off for the 18-night ZooLight extravaganza. More than half-a-million twinkling lights transformed the Zoo into a winter wonderland where festive snow fell every night!

New this year was the “Tree Lighting Ceremony” every night with an illuminating tree reaching nearly 30 feet tall! A special appearance by Miss Alabama on December 14 was a highlight. Guests had the opportunity to take part in story time, animal demonstrations, the Jingle Bell Carousel, the Holiday Express Train Ride, Santa’s Roller Racers and the Holiday Hayride. Santa was present for photos each night. With a strong attendance of more than 36,000 and gross revenue of over \$317,000, funds raised went directly toward the daily operations of caring for the Zoo’s collection of animals and education and conservation programs.

Wells Fargo has been instrumental in supporting Zoofari Summer Camps with scholarship funds allowing more families to participate. These enriching programs provide children with a safe learning experience about animals, nature and conservation. The Education Department strives to connect people with nature by enhancing their understanding and appreciation for the wonderful diversity of nature that surrounds us daily.

Thank you Wells Fargo for making Boo at the Zoo and ZooLight Safari successful!



BIRMINGHAM ZOO AND BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS BUTTERFLY EDUCATION DAY

The Birmingham Zoo partnered with its close neighbor, the Birmingham Botanical Gardens, to celebrate Butterfly Education Day with the Zoo and the McWane Center. The Association for Butterflies' annual celebration was filled with fun activities offered at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens (BBG). This took place on June 15, during Father's Day weekend.

This event was developed to raise awareness of our magnificent butterfly populations in the state. The BBG provided an



expert look at plants for butterflies, the McWane Center gave a scientific look at butterflies and the Zoo provided an in-depth look at butterflies as animals. The Birmingham Zoo hosted children's activities during that time, with butterfly releases scheduled for 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The event took place at the Birmingham Botanical Gardens on

Saturday morning and was filled with many varied booths to learn and explore the components of butterflies as well as their environment.

The Birmingham Zoo was represented by Tim Timmerman and Cydne Bolden, Children's Zoo butterfly keepers. They shared their knowledge of butterflies and demonstrated the life cycle of butterflies with living animal displays from the Zoo's Butterfly Garden. Timmerman and Bolden also performed two releases of live adult butterflies for the crowd. The species released included Monarch, Spicebush Swallowtail and Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterflies. Each of these species are native to the Birmingham area as well as the rest of Alabama. Timmerman and Bolden not only displayed their knowledge of butterflies, but also provided a promotional invitation for the community to discover the many new summer happenings at the Birmingham Zoo.



ZOOGALA 2013 CORPORATE PARTNERS

ZooGala Corporate Partners are corporations who have opted to support the operation and missions of the Birmingham Zoo by making a significant donation at the beginning of each year. These corporate citizens recognize the value of investing in animal conservation and preservation. The Zoo's operations and mission could not proceed without the generous support of conscientious corporate citizens, and we salute these fine companies.



The Birmingham Zoo recognizes and thanks all who made this vital fundraiser successful in 2013:

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Special gratitude for the Birmingham Zoo's Gift-in-kind donors in making ZooGala a success!

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Hollywood Glamour At The Zoo

The ZooGala 2013 theme was “Old Hollywood Glamour.” The annual event, held at the Cahaba Grand Conference Center on September 21, 2013, was lead-sponsored by our generous benefactors at IBERIABANK.

The funds raised from this annual event go directly to the Zoo’s operations and mission. The team at the Birmingham Zoo thanks and salutes our excellent chairs of this year’s ZooGala, Tzena Gauldin and Laura Clark.

Guests were greeted by classic Hollywood feather dancers and Zoo animals including the fennec fox, an American alligator, an African serval, a great horned owl, and a barn owl. A focal attraction was the jewelry showcase sponsored by Empire Diamonds.



NORTH AMERICAN BLACK BEARS COMING TO THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO!

Thanks to a generous donor through the Barbara Ingalls Shook Foundation, the reality of the North American black bears being at the Birmingham Zoo in 2014 is coming true.

In preparation for their arrival, Animal Health technician Christine Hoskinson received a grant through the Zoo's PiCA program. Through this experience, Hoskinson gathered a wealth of experience that will be utilized to educate the public at the Zoo and to raise awareness on a regional level of the need

to understand and cohabitate with the North American black bears.

Here is her courageous and inspiring story:



Passion into Conservation Action *The Birmingham Zoo's PiCA Grants Program*

What is a PiCA Grant?

In 2012, the Birmingham Zoo started the PiCA Grants Program, which awards grants to employees to participate in conservation research at local, national and international levels.

Christine Hoskinson, the Zoo's Hospital Manager employee, was awarded a PiCA grant to conduct a health assessment of black bears in Mississippi. Black bear populations were once abundant in the bottomland hardwood forests of the southeast, including Alabama. By the turn of the 20th century, bear numbers dwindled as habitats were cleared to make way for agricultural and residential development. Today, black bears are making a comeback, but populations are still small and their current status is not well studied.

Christine's Story

In July of 2013, Christine traveled to Mississippi to begin her PiCA grant where she worked with Mississippi State University conducting field work on behalf of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks. The goal was to determine the health status of black bears in Bolivar County. Christine was soon immersed in the fine art of tracking bears as university biologists taught her the tricks of the trade. They captured bears to perform health assessments and to fit them with radio tracking collars, or if bears were recaptured, to check the condition of existing collars. Biologists use these collars to track bears in the wild, learning about their movements and habitat preferences. After the assessments, the bears were quickly released, unharmed at the point of capture.

During Christine's first week, the team was fortunate enough to catch four bears (this is a lot!). Two of the four bears captured were uncollared female bears, a rare and exciting event. Biologists estimate that only about 100 bears are in Mississippi,

so discovery of new female bears in the area is an indicator that a successful breeding population is being established.

By assisting Mississippi State with bear studies, Christine was able to contribute toward scientific understanding of an important southeastern mammal species. Gaining knowledge of bear movement and behavior will also help protect the public as we learn more about how bears could impact human activities. Christine's experience helped to enrich her interactions with Zoo guests.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS IN 2013!

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Zoo,

The Birmingham Zoo had a “**Wow**” year in 2013!

The Birmingham Zoo introduced four African bull elephants in the Trails of Africa main yard – the first time ever in North America! The Elephant Care Professionals have partnered with South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction and Conservation for monitoring hormone levels and observing behaviors. This strong partnership has provided invaluable conservation data to be shared on an international level.

The Birmingham Zoo is passionate about preserving endangered or threatened animals and plays an active role in partnering with the Species Survival Plan® (SSP) program. Developed in 1981 by the American Association of Zoos and Aquariums, SSP initiatives help ensure the survival of species, most of which are threatened or endangered in the wild, by enlisting the resources of zoos and aquariums. The Bird Department actively participated in forty-six Species Survival Plans! As the lion pride is part of the SSP program to manage and preserve its population, the male cubs born at the Birmingham Zoo now reside in Utah’s Hogle Zoo and the female cubs were transported to an African Safari Park in Puebla, Mexico.

In raising awareness of conservational needs on a local to global level, the Birmingham Zoo continues to grow its grass roots PiCA (Passion into Conservation Action) program. This program provides necessary funding/grants for Birmingham zoo keepers to travel locally and internationally to support other non-profit organizations who share in the common goal of preserving the world’s animal populations.

In drawing record crowds this year, the Birmingham Zoo welcomed its first ever Wells Fargo Dino Discovery. Guests encountered eleven different species of long-vanished dinosaurs and a Tyrannosaurus rex’s booming roar could be heard throughout the Alabama Wilds. This provided a great opportunity to compare Alabama’s contemporary native animals to the dinosaurs of the past.

2014 promises to be an exciting year too, as we plan to welcome two rescued North American black bears to the Birmingham Zoo.

Most importantly, I want to thank each one of you for truly making a difference to the Birmingham community and your Birmingham Zoo.

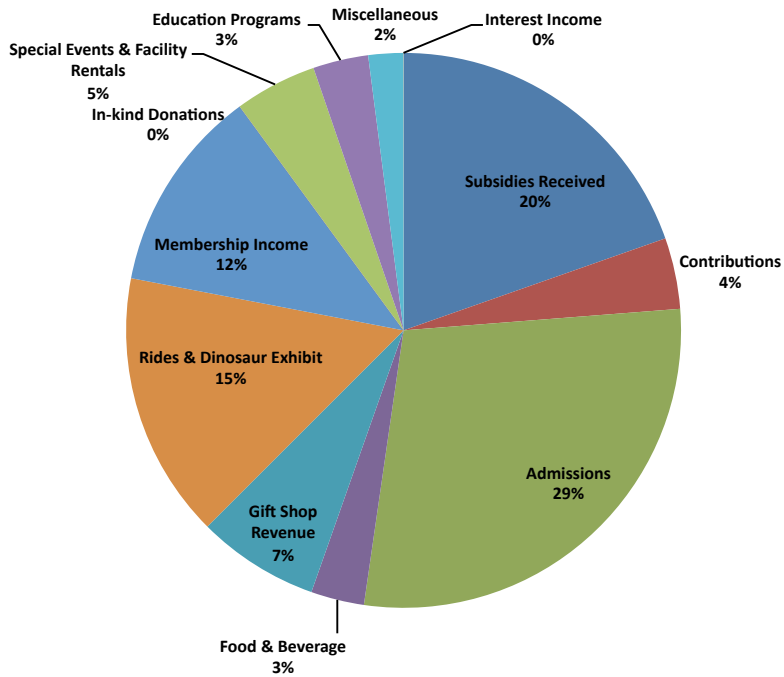
Cheers,



William R. Foster
William R. Foster, DVM
President & CEO



FINANCIAL REPORT



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Support and Revenues

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-----|
| Subsidies Received | \$ 1,985,000 | 20% |
| Contributions | \$ 418,765 | 4% |
| Admissions | \$ 2,885,475 | 29% |
| Food & Beverage | \$ 314,062 | 3% |
| Gift Shop Revenue | \$ 719,382 | 7% |
| Rides & Dinosaur Exhibit | \$ 1,569,058 | 16% |
| Membership Income | \$ 1,206,753 | 12% |
| In-kind Donations | \$ - | 0% |
| Special Events & Facility Rentals | \$ 484,927 | 5% |
| Education Programs | \$ 326,011 | 3% |
| Miscellaneous | \$ 205,586 | 2% |
| Interest Income | \$ 953 | 0% |
| | <u>\$ 10,115,972</u> | |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Assets Released from Restriction | <u>\$ 577,133</u> |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total Support and Revenue | <u>\$ 10,693,105</u> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

Expenses

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------|-----|
| Program Services | \$ 9,768,822 | 86% |
| Management & General | \$ 1,110,261 | 10% |
| Fundraising | \$ 495,010 | 4% |

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total Expenses | <u>\$ 11,374,093</u> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|

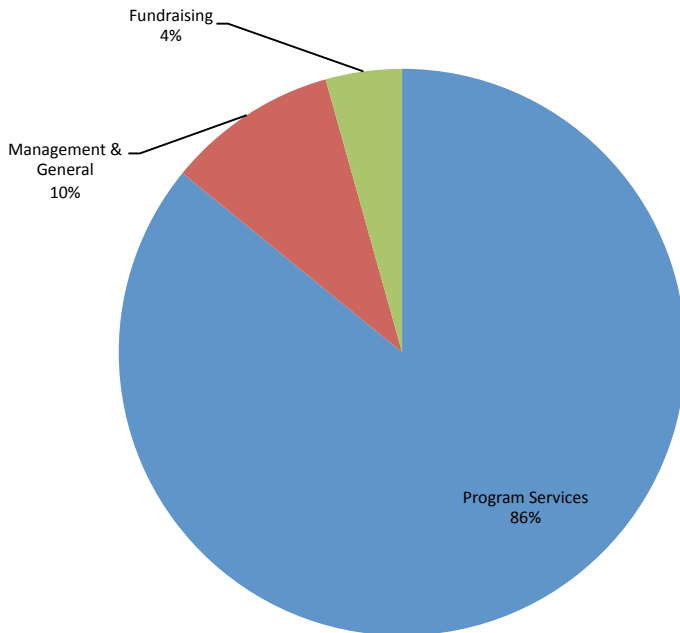
| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Decrease in Unrestricted Net Assets | <u>\$ (680,988)</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Contributions | \$ 853,212 |
| Assets released from restriction | <u>\$ (577,133)</u> |
| Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | <u>\$ 276,079</u> |

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Decrease in Net Assets | \$ (404,909) |
|------------------------|----------------|

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | <u>\$ 24,588,554</u> |
| Net Assets at End of Year | <u><u>\$ 24,183,645</u></u> |



The Birmingham Zoo is an independent, not for profit, 501 (c) (3) organization.

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**“INSPIRING PASSION FOR THE
NATURAL WORLD...THROUGH
EMPHASIZING CONSERVATION,
EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC STUDY
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ZOO’S EXHIBITS, PROGRAMS,
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