



# Animal TRACKS

The Magazine for Members of  
The Birmingham Zoo

SUMMER 2016  
Vol. 49 No. 2

## SUMMER FUN

at the  
**Birmingham Zoo**





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### GO GREEN!

Due to Member requests, the Birmingham Zoo will continue to offer a hard copy version of Animal Tracks; however, we encourage you to help us stay in line with our mission and "Go Green" by signing up for the electronic version. We appreciate our readers and thank them for their dedication.

To ensure that your email is up to date, please email the membership office at [membership@birminghamzoo.com](mailto:membership@birminghamzoo.com) or call 205.879.0409.

### ZOO HOURS:

Open daily, Monday through Sunday: 9am–5pm

The Birmingham Zoo is the only AZA accredited zoo in the state of Alabama.

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# Letter from the Director



Dear Members,

As we prepare for an exciting and fun-filled summer at the Birmingham Zoo, I would like to reflect on several highlights from our Spring Season.

We are pleased to announce the Zoo was recently awarded the prestigious 4-star rating for good governance, sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency by Charity Navigator. With an overall score of 95.67 out of 100, the Zoo is one of only five nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organizations in the Birmingham area to receive this highly-coveted distinction and one of only ten in Alabama to receive this honor.

The Zoo also celebrated the grand opening of the larger-than-life Dino Discovery – They're Back! exhibit presented by Vulcan Materials Company. This exhibit features life-sized, animatronic dinosaurs, some at heights of nearly 20 feet, weighing nearly 7 tons and measuring 85 feet in length. Guests are able to travel on an expedition down a trail filled with magnificent creatures that once roamed the Earth over 65 million years ago. This prehistoric experience is like no other and gives visitors the opportunity to hear dinosaurs roar and see them move. Don't miss Dino Discovery before it goes extinct July 31!

The Zoo recently announced that the Capital Campaign goal has almost been met. There is a unique social media and photo contest centered around the Capital Campaign. Traveling the city of Birmingham are two bronze statues, a komodo dragon and an orangutan, making stops around the Zoo, at City Hall, AutoTec, Regions Field and more. Members of the community are encouraged to find the statues, take a selfie with them, and submit your idea of a name for each of the animals.

In March, the Zoo had a very successful Spring Break. Guests enjoyed Dino Discovery and classic favorites such as the Red Diamond Sea Lion Splash Show, Predator Zone, the Schaeffer Eye Center Lorikeet Aviary and much more.

In April, the Birmingham Zoo's Junior Board held its sixth annual spring event, Tails in the Trails. Guests enjoyed live music, food, beverages and animal encounters in the Junior League of Birmingham – Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo, as well as unlimited access to Dino Discovery. All proceeds from the event went towards building a new exhibit for the Zoo's golden eagles.

This summer, each day at the Zoo is filled with exciting activities, interactive exhibits, thrilling animal experiences

and more. Be sure to mark your calendar for Zoo, Brews and Full Moon Bar-B-Que on June 18 where you can enjoy samplings from craft breweries throughout Alabama and the Southeast. New this year, make plans to visit the Zoo on July 16 for DinoNite, where you can see The Good Dinosaur movie at the Zoo.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Zoo staff and the hundreds of animals that enrich the lives of our guests every day, thank you for your support. We look forward to seeing you soon and often.

Sincerely,

William R. Foster, D.V.M.  
President & CEO



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### DC Scientific Pest Control

DC Scientific Pest Control, a proud sponsor of Dino Discovery – They're Back!, has been a partner of the Birmingham Zoo for nine years. The company, which has been in business since 1964, offers an environmentally-friendly alternative to traditional pest control through their Green Science Solutions. These include Green Control, Termite Control, Mosquito Control and Complete Crawl Space Enclosures. The service is 100% guaranteed and is designed to control pests without the use of harsh synthetic chemicals. Green Science Solutions are family-friendly and pet-friendly as well. DC Scientific provides the Zoo with alternative pest control methods. Jordan Glass, Director of Sales and Marketing says "We enjoy the challenge of working effectively in such a complex environment." As a partner of the Zoo, DC Scientific Pest Control offers all customers who schedule a Sentricon Termite Treatment Plan a free annual family Zoo membership. If you are a current member of the Zoo, your membership will be extended.



Birmingham Zoo Members also receive 10% off any service from DC Scientific Pest Control. The Zoo is pleased to continue its partnership with DC Scientific Pest Control, and looks forward to a bright and pest-free future.



The Big Green Ant, DC's mascot, welcomed guests to the opening of Dino Discovery— They're Back!

## VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIALS



Volunteering at the Zoo teaches teens about animals, caring for large groups of kids, public speaking and many other great skills. The Birmingham Zoo has a fun, healthy environment for learning about conservation.

—Perry Dowell and Rachel Kourmoulis  
ZooFari Teen Volunteers

Interning at the Zoo has been awesome! I have been able to learn many interesting facts about each animal here at the Zoo, along with being able to see a lot of the behind-the-scenes work that is done by all of the Zoo staff to help the Zoo run smoothly. That's not all, I have also had the chance to write many cool lessons for our Zoo auditorium programs that are now being taught to students that visit the Zoo on field trips.

—Jaylon Burton  
UAB Teach Intern



There are many crossroads in life. As a recent widow, I chose the path of volunteering at the Birmingham Zoo and it has enriched my life beyond measure.

—Linda Barnard  
Adult Volunteer

Visit [birminghamzoo.com](http://birminghamzoo.com) for more information on how to become a Zoo Volunteer!



# NEW ANIMALS AT THE ZOO!

**T**he Birmingham Zoo has a new animal, the blue duiker calf! She was born on November 14 and is currently on exhibit between the round turtle pond and the flamingo lagoon. This is the second offspring for almost three year-old mother, Sprinkle, and four-year-old father, Puck. This blue duiker calf is almost full grown, but can be easily differentiated from her parents because her horns are not showing yet. Blue duikers are about the size of domestic cats and calves are no bigger than a kitten! They are native to the Central African Republic, down to Zambia, with an isolated population on the coast of South Africa, and have a diet full of browse and high-fiber produce.



In addition to the blue duiker, the Zoo has acquired a red-flanked duiker named Ricky Bobby from the Honolulu Zoo. He arrived at the Zoo in February of this year and is currently on exhibit with the secretary birds. The red-flanked duiker is around twice the size of a blue duiker, weighing in at 23 pounds. Ricky Bobby can be seen with a natural little fur mohawk on the top of his head. Red-flanked duikers are native to western and central Africa and eat browse and fruits.

The Birmingham Zoo has also recently acquired two crowned lemurs, Azizi and Nonami. Azizi came from Lincoln Park Zoo and Nonami came from Chehaw Wild Animal Park in Albany, GA. Compared to the Zoo's ring-tailed lemurs, they are slightly smaller in size. Both Nonami and Azizi are very inquisitive and vocal, making vocal calls to one another throughout the day. Crowned lemurs are native to Madagascar and their diet consists of various browse and fruit.



Three new alligators have joined the Birmingham Zoo family in the Alligator Swamp. Lemmy, Sparkles and Clyde came from Alligator Alley in Summerdale, Alabama. They are currently only 6 feet long, but adult alligators can grow to over 12 feet! The strong, muscular tail provides a powerful defense weapon and is also the alligator's swimming strength in the water. The alligators' diet at the Zoo consists of various rodents and other small prey.

The Birmingham Zoo is a member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and has joined with Aquariums and Zoos in North America maintaining Species Survival Plans® (SSP). An SSP is a cooperative breeding and conservation program. The Birmingham Zoo currently participates in 104 SSPs, including the blue duiker, red-flanked duiker and crowned lemur SSPs. With this breeding effort, the Zoo continues its mission of "Inspiring Passion for the Natural World."





*“I used to have neighbors.  
Now I have friends.”*

We all decided to go, and now we all have something we didn't have yesterday — a sense of community. Little by little we can do a lot.

**Small is Huge<sup>SM</sup>**

**We're proud to salute the Birmingham Zoo.**

Visit **[wellsfargo.com/stories](http://wellsfargo.com/stories)** to see how big small can be.

Together we'll go far



# Green Initiatives

By Lindsey Herron

**T**he Birmingham Zoo is continuing to make strides in 'greening' our institution! A new Green Team has been formed to implement green practices throughout the Zoo and to address how we can continue to improve. So far, the Green Team has implemented a "Turn it Off!" campaign, where staff is encouraged to turn off lights and unplug appliances and equipment that is not in use. This is a simple way to reduce our energy consumption. Water consumption is also being monitored in the hopes that we can decrease the amount of water the Zoo uses. Staff are watching for leaks and turning off faucets when not in use, both easy ways of minimizing water use. Recycling opportunities are also being expanded all around the Zoo, with not only paper and plastic recycling, but also batteries and toner and ink cartridges for staff. Increasing our recycling opportunities will reduce the amount of trash the Zoo sends to landfills.

Want to join the Zoo in going green? To start going green at home, you can do the same three simple things the Zoo is doing: turn off your lights, turn off your water and

recycle. These three practices can help you reduce your electricity and water consumption and help minimize your trash production. Every little bit counts!



**GO GREEN**



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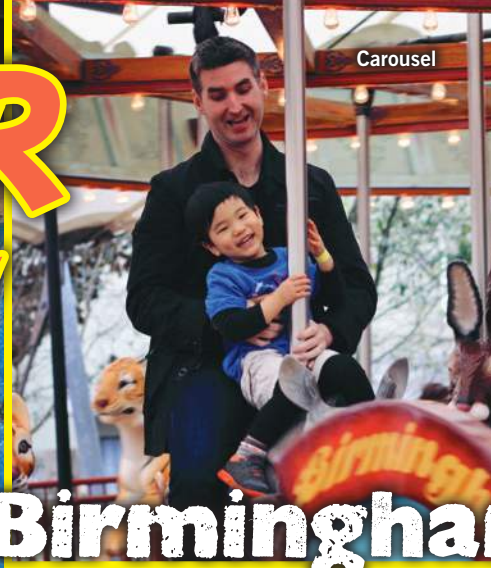


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at the **Birmingham Zoo**



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Splash Show



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Schaeffer Eye Center Lorikeet Aviary



Schaeffer Eye Center Wildlife Shows



Keeper Chats



Dino Discovery -  
They're Back!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## JUNE

- 18 **Zoo, Brews & Full Moon Bar-B-Que**
- 19 **Father's Day**  
FREE admission for Fathers with the purchase of a child's admission
- 21 **World Giraffe Day**
- 25 **Pink Flamingo Day**

## JULY

- 1-4 **Fourth of July Weekend**  
FREE admission for all active and retired military personnel and their dependents (Must bring military ID to receive FREE admission).
- 11 & 20 **Zoo Member Nights at the Birmingham Barons**  
Bring your Zoo Membership ID to Regions Field for FREE admission.
- 16 **DinoNite**  
This all-new event celebrates the Zoo's newest exhibit, Dino Discovery - They're Back! and features fun activities the whole family will enjoy, including music, attractions and The Good Dinosaur movie.
- 23-24 **Zoo Fun Days**
- 30 **Tiger Day**
- 30-31 **Zoo Fun Days**

## AUGUST

- 6-7 **Zoo Fun Days**
- 12 **World Elephant Day**
- 20 **Cassowary Day**

## SEPTEMBER

- 3 **Vulture Day**
- 3-5 **Labor Day Weekend**
- 16 **ZooGala**
- 17 **Red Panda Day**
- 22 **World Rhino Day & Bowling for Rhinos**
- 24 **La Celebración**

For more information or to be added to receive the Zoo's newsletter, visit [www.birminghamzoo.com](http://www.birminghamzoo.com) or call 205.879.0409. Be sure to visit us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest!



# EDUCATION RESEARCHER'S STATION

By  
*Jesse Daniel*



**T**his spring, the Birmingham Zoo took a big step forward to achieve our goal of providing guests with a world-class, on-grounds educational experience. By converting one of our underutilized outdoor pavilions into the new Researcher's Station, we have allowed guests another opportunity to participate in hands-on educational experiences and interact with Zoo staff and volunteers on a more regular basis. This space can be utilized both as an outdoor classroom, accommodating up to 30 students, and as a drop-in discovery center for the general public. Stocked with biofacts and field research equipment, the Researcher's Station helps to provide a new understanding of the work that goes into ensuring the survival of animals in the wild.

This new space transforms the former Cool Zone into a center of exploration that fits perfectly with the thematic stories of one of our most popular habitat areas. In 2011, the Trails of Africa set a new precedent for what an exhibit experience could look like at the Birmingham Zoo. The Researcher's Station builds on this immersive environment and sets the stage for ties to the future Asian Passage. Designed with rustic, hand-crafted furniture, and centrally located near the current Predator Zone, this space will allow for a multitude of conversations regarding wildlife from all parts of the world.

The Zoo is very excited about the Renew the Zoo campaign and the upcoming improvements it will bring. We hope that the Researcher's Station will be the first of many educational additions that support the Zoo's new infrastructure and help continue the mission of "Inspiring Passion for the Natural World."





**KEEP AN EYE OUT  
FOR EXCITING CHANGES  
COMING TO THE  
BIRMINGHAM ZOO!**



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Whether it walks, slithers or flies – we believe it's important to support the things that make our great state a better place to live. That's why we're proud to support the Birmingham Zoo, an attraction that has done an amazing job of helping protect animals and creatures of all kinds, for so many years.



**Always on.<sup>SM</sup>**



## Zoo Run 2016

**T**he eleventh annual Zoo Run, "Miles for Marine Mammals," took place on May 21, 2016 and was a huge success. Celeste Hicks, Animal Care Professional and

BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER OF AAZK PRESENTS



**MILES FOR  
MARINE  
MAMMALS**

**11th ANNUAL  
ZOO RUN**

President of the Birmingham Chapter of American Association of Zoo Keepers says, "We had a good turnout and loved seeing our participants having a great time! With everyone's support we were able to send thousands of dollars to the Marine Mammal Center!"

The Marine Mammal Center is a nonprofit veterinary research hospital and education center that focuses on expanding knowledge about marine mammals and inspiring global conservation. The Birmingham Zoo acquired its two rescued California sea lions, Giovanni and Farley, from the Marine Mammal Center. Giovanni and Farley can be seen at the Red Diamond Sea Lion Splash Show throughout the summer!

# Go Wild!

Host your next special event at the Birmingham Zoo.



**O**n April 29, the Birmingham Zoo's Junior Board hosted its sixth annual fundraising event, Tails in the Trails. This 21 and up event brought together Zoo enthusiasts for a night of fun in the Junior League of Birmingham – Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo. Even with the inclement weather this year, guests of the event enjoyed dinner by Happy Catering Company, drinks by Trim Tab Brewing Company, dancing and a silent auction. Net proceeds from the event benefit the new golden eagle exhibit, coming to the Birmingham Zoo.

## THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO JUNIOR BOARD PRESENTS TAILS IN THE TRAILS 2016



**Top row left to right:** Fontaine Haskell, Whitney Wright, Madison Merrill, Drew Weil, Kathryn Gay, Joe Gribbin, Jr., Eve Hennessy, Rosemary Alexander, Amanda Hawkins

**Bottom row left to right:** Courtney Patton DeShazo, Dana Williams, Julie Herring, Tim Hennessy, Jr., Matt Hottle, J. Chris Mason, Stephen Armstrong, Turner Burton

**Not pictured:** Lauren DeMoss, Frank Anderson, Bettina Boateng, Joseph DuMontier, Raymond Harbert, Jr., Lexi Holdbrooks, Amy O'Brien

The Birmingham Zoo's Junior Board strives to increase Zoo membership, assist with events and provide

promotion of the Zoo's overall mission, "Inspiring Passion for the Natural World."



# African Elephant Update

by Kiki Nolen-Schmidt

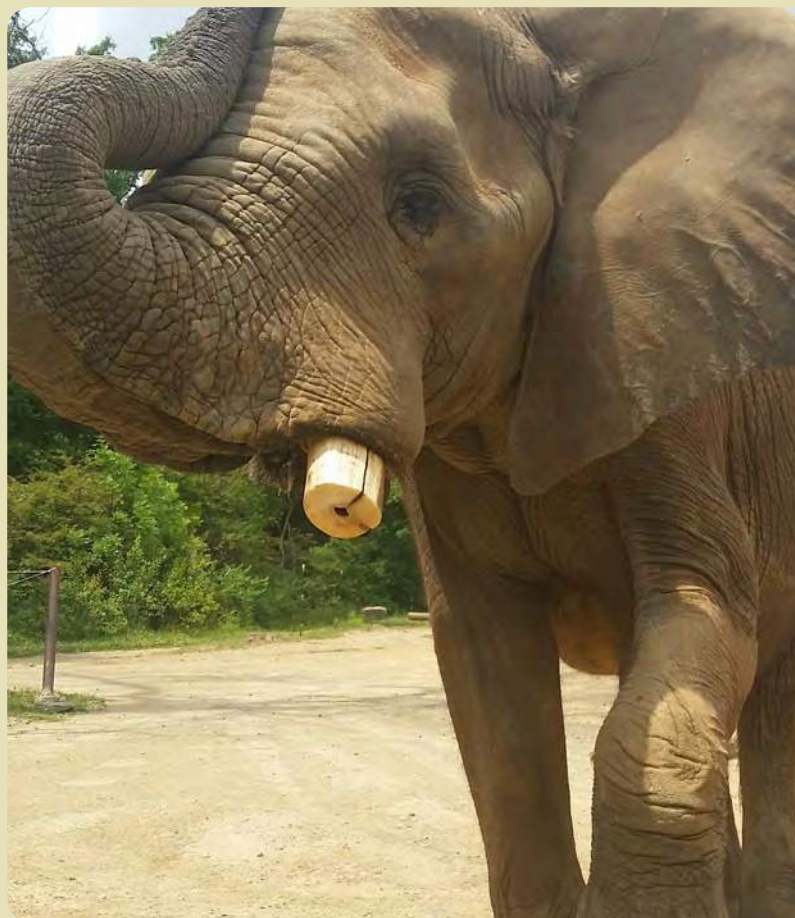
**T**he Birmingham Zoo's beloved African elephant, Bulwagi, received a potentially life-saving surgery in May to remove his infected tusk. The surgery was a very involved process requiring intense preparation, so the Birmingham Zoo brought in experts from the Colyer Institute and extra veterinary assistance from across the country to help with the multiple hour operation. In addition, Bulwagi received advanced training in preparation for the surgery.

Bulwagi, age 35, came to the Birmingham Zoo with only one tusk, as he lost the first tusk following an injury sustained at an early age. His remaining tusk had a long-term crack. Elephants use their tusks for digging, lifting objects, gathering food, stripping bark from trees and for protection. Through these activities, their tusks can be damaged. The veterinary staff at the Zoo worked to correct this condition since he arrived. In November 2015, Bulwagi participated in a revolutionary procedure in partnership with University of Alabama at Birmingham to place a composite wrap on his cracked tusk in an attempt to keep the crack from growing. While the wrap was not able to be left on Bulwagi for as long as expected, the results show that this type of wrap could help elephants all over the world.

Despite the continued efforts of the Zoo's Veterinary Staff, the crack in Bulwagi's tusk worsened over time and became infected. The Veterinary Staff tried several attempts at treating the infection with antibiotics without success.

After a three hour surgery in May, Bulwagi's tusk was cut back, which now gives the Zoo staff better access for daily care of the tusk. The Zoo's staff has not seen any changes to the social structure. Bulwagi still remains the dominant male of the Zoo's bachelor herd.

We are thankful that Bulwagi's procedure went well, and are grateful to the many talented members of the Zoo's staff and the partner organizations for helping with this tremendous endeavor.



View the Zoo's annual report  
online at [birminghamzoo.com](http://birminghamzoo.com)



# Kudos

*We know it's "kudos," but we're a zoo!*



*The Birmingham Zoo gratefully acknowledges the following donors for the period of November 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016.*

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