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MISSION

"INSPIRING PASSION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD ... THROUGH EMPHASIZING CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND RECREATION IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO'S EXHIBITS, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES."

VISION

"TO BE A LEADING ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC STUDY RESOURCE WITHIN THE U.S. AND THE FAMILY ATTRACTION OF CHOICE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE REGION."



BIRMINGHAM

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends of the Zoo,

I hope you will join me as we raise a toast to the Birmingham Zoo's 60th anniversary! 2015 was a busy year, and while we celebrated the Zoo's past successes, we ushered in a new era of improvements and goals. The Zoo's front entrance was torn down, marking the beginning of developments that will carry us through the years to come.

While the bulk of the construction is just beginning, the Zoo celebrated the grand opening of the Barbara Ingalls Shook Black Bear Trail in August. The Birmingham Zoo welcomed two rescued North American black bears from Montana in 2014 and they were moved to their new home in the Alabama Wilds this past summer. The sister bears now delight guests as they climb trees and chase each other through their new exhibit. Thanks to our generous donors, the Zoo now has a perfect opportunity to educate visitors about how to safely share the world we live in with bears and other native species.

To advance conservational efforts on a local to global level, the Birmingham Zoo continues to grow its Passion into Conservation Action (PiCA) grant program. The Zoo awarded six grants in 2015, sending Animal Care Professionals to Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand. This program provides necessary funding/grants for Birmingham Zoo employees to travel locally, nationally and internationally to support other nonprofit organizations that share in the common goal of preserving the world's animal populations.

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 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 Birmingham Zoo participates in over one hundred Species Survival Plans[®], including the Sumatran orangutan, Kori bustard, DeBrazza's monkey and Komodo dragon.

We look forward to 2016 as the Zoo will continue construction on the new Asian Passage exhibit and a long-awaited new front entrance and welcome plaza. 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, DVM President & CEO

WHAT'S NEW AT THE ZOO?

Barbara Ingalls Shook Black Bear Trail

On August 3, 2015, Bety and Sassy, the North American black bears moved to the new Barbara Ingalls Shook Black Bear Trail exhibit in the Alabama Wilds. The move went smoothly and the bears were able to be released into their new exhibit the next day. Bety and Sassy have utilized all parts of the exhibit so far and have been seen climbing in trees, playing in the stream and denning up for the winter in an artificial den that their Animal Care Professionals created. In addition to enjoying their new exhibit, Bety and Sassy are also able to participate in training sessions every day.



The Zoo hosted an event to celebrate the grand opening of the new exhibit and to thank the generous donors that made the building of the Barbara Ingalls Shook Black Bear Trail possible. Music from Sweetwater Road and food from Full Moon Bar-B-Que highlighted the night as guests experienced the trail for the very first time. Bety and Sassy came out to play and climbed the trees, to the delight of the guests, and Zoo Animal Care Professionals prepared a special keeper chat discussing the Zoo's bears and their counterparts in the wild. The Birmingham Zoo hopes that this new trail will encourage visitors to learn more about human-bear conflict and how to safely share the environment with North American black bears.

Junior League of Birmingham–Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo Changes

The Junior League of Birmingham–Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo and Alabama Wilds Trail were in a constant state of change and improvement in 2015. The eastern wild turkeys, red and grey foxes and eastern screech owls all received new and improved exhibits. The Goat Show, always a guest favorite, was upgraded through the training of new behaviors and inclusion of more guest interaction. The chicken coop gained four new hens: a jubilee orpington, lavender orpington and two silver-laced wyandottes. These birds are all beautiful breeds and give a great fresh look to the coop.

Red and Gray Foxes

In July, the red and gray foxes received a brand new home that is nearly double the size of their old exhibit. The new exhibit has an open top which allows for a more natural environment. It is also a rotating exhibit, which means that the design of the exhibit and attached holdings allows the two species



of foxes to rotate between holdings and the exhibit, without ever having to cross paths. One day you might visit the Zoo and see two gray foxes, but another day you might see the red fox. Gray foxes and red foxes typically do not associate in the



wild, and Animal Care Professionals can now replicate their natural environment as closely as possible. These two species fit in perfectly with the theme of human-animal conflict the Zoo has developed on the Alabama Wilds Trail. Foxes have been known to prey on chickens and other small farm animals. To keep a respectful balance with this wildlife, the Zoo encourages residents to secure any food or pets at night to discourage these curious animals from getting into trouble at their home.

Eastern Screech Owls

The Birmingham Zoo's two eastern screech owls, Smokey and Bandit, moved from the Junior League of Birmingham–Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo barn to their own exhibit on the Alabama Wilds Trail. Eastern screech owls are a tiny breed of owl found throughout the eastern United States. The new exhibit is more similar to the habitat screech owls would naturally be found in. The two sisters now have plenty of room to fly and hop from branch to branch.

Eastern Wild Turkey

In August, a new eastern wild turkey exhibit opened. The exhibit's location allows visitors to get a three sided view of the Zoo's five turkeys: Mr. Big, the Zoo's large male turkey, and four females named Lady Bird, Martha, Eleanor and Mary Todd. The exhibit features a small pond and several



natural perches to allow these large birds high places to roost. You can often hear the gobbles from Mr. Big at the start of the day, bringing a more natural feel back to the Alabama Wilds Trail, while pleasing and engaging visitors as they walk by.

Trails of Africa

African Elephant

October was a very busy month for the Trails of Africa team, as they successfully relocated the youngest elephant, Tamani, to the Kansas City Zoo. For the past few years, the Birmingham Zoo has been home to North America's first and only all-male bachelor herd of elephants. Now, in order to replicate life in the wild, Tamani is preparing for future breeding efforts with Kansas City Zoo's female herd. His training with the staff here in Birmingham helped to make the move a very smooth transition for him. The staff at Kansas City Zoo has continued to provide excellent care for Tamani and his new female companions.

Yellow-Backed Duiker

Late in the summer, the Zoo received a yellow-backed duiker from the Naples Zoo at Caribbean Gardens in Naples, Florida. Not just any duiker, Dino, is a well-loved duiker that lived here in Birmingham before transitioning to Florida. Dino was very popular with staff and guests alike, and has been brought back to Birmingham as the Zoo prepares to become more involved in the duiker Species Survival Plan[®].

EDUCATION: PROGRAMMING AND OUTREACH

2015 WAS AN EXCITING AND INNOVATIVE YEAR for the Education Department at the Birmingham Zoo. The department pursued the Birmingham Zoo's mission to "Inspire Passion for the Natural World" through groundbreaking and inclusive educational programming that encouraged and promoted lifelong learning. This programming included: school programs, preschool and homeschool classes, educational events, night time programs, summer camps and school break camps, daily educational programs and Kiwanis ZooSchool. Collectively, educational programming recorded a total attendance of 38,002 people.

The Zoo continued to reach out to area educators and hosted the second annual Teachers' Night at the Zoo. Highquality fun and educational summer camps were also offered. Thousands of children, from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, enjoyed up-close animal encounters, time splashing in the Junior League of Birmingham–Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo fountains, themed crafts, train and carousel rides, guided tours of the Zoo and keeper chats, while learning about zoo careers, unique animals and wildlife conservation.





BY THE NUMBERS

- **33,007** Students visiting Zoo on field trips
- **45** Alabama counties represented among field trip students
- 719 Kiwanis ZooSchool Participants
- 720 Homeschool Academy Participants
- 393 EdVenture Preschool Class Participants
- 1,400 ZooFari Summer Camp Participants
- 48 ZooKeeper for a Day Participants
- 866 Nightlife Programs Participants
- 45 Number of Sensory Bags checked out
- 85% Percentage of BZI Staff receiving Sensory Friendly Initiative Training



EDUCATION: KIWANIS ZOOSCHOOL

FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, the Birmingham Zoo and Birmingham City Schools have partnered with the Kiwanis of Birmingham to present Kiwanis ZooSchool to over 2,500 students. Kiwanis ZooSchool is a week-long, interdisciplinary program developed for seventh grade students by certified, highly qualified teachers and administrators. The curriculum is based on Alabama College and Career Readiness Standards, including the newly-revised science standards, as well as innovative instructional practices for Birmingham City School seventh graders. Students begin their week with pre-assessments to determine prior knowledge, attitudes and opportunities for growth, and they end their week with post assessments to measure those growth opportunities.

Kiwanis ZooSchool students are challenged to research existing environmental issues and analyze possible solutions through immersive, hands-on activities throughout the Zoo grounds. Students have up-close experiences with many of the 250 different species of animals at the Zoo, including the Birmingham Zoo's bachelor herd of African elephants, the only one of its kind in North America. Additionally, they interact with Animal Care Professionals and Zoo Staff to investigate career opportunities that are available within the Zoo, including animal nutrition and animal health care. Students learn about water-related issues and soil testing through hands-on activities in the Zoo's full-circle EcoGarden. Throughout the week, students explore how humans rely on the Earth's resources and how dependence on these resources impacts their environment. Zoo Educators guide students to further examine impacts of poaching, conservation efforts and ecosystem services. The week culminates with post assessments to measure growth, including the creation of a multi-media technology product which is presented by students.

Based on student feedback, Kiwanis ZooSchool is inspiring, educational and fun. Working in the EcoGarden has inspired several students and teachers to seek out opportunities to build gardens at their respective schools. The experience of eating fresh vegetables from the EcoGarden has also inspired a change of attitude toward healthy eating habits. Along with showing continuous marked improvement between students' pre and post assessments, ZooSchool students have learned about many STEM-based careers and consider them as exciting possibilities for their futures. Feeding giraffes and



elephants was cited as memorable and enjoyable experiences by many ZooSchool students. By the end of a week of Kiwanis ZooSchool, participants recognize the intrinsic value of the Earth, its resources and have a greater understanding of their place within their ecosystem, reinforcing the Zoo's mission to inspire passion for the natural world.

Kiwanis ZooSchool Donors

Alabama Power Foundation **BBVA** Compass Bank Foundation Children's of Alabama City of Birmingham **Comer Foundation** Hill Crest Foundation Honda Manufacturing of Alabama Hulsey Family Fund IBERIABANK Institute of Museum and Library Services Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation Kinder Morgan Kohl's Publix Super Markets Charities Redmont Park Historic District Foundation Wells Fargo

Participating Schools

Bertram A. Hudson K-8 School Ernest F. Bush K-8 School Huffman Middle School Inglenook K-8 School Jones Valley Middle School Phillips Academy Richard Arrington Jr. Middle School William J. Christian K-8 School



VOLUNTEERS

THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO'S VOLUNTEERS collectively contributed 28,224 hours of their personal time in 2015. Volunteers interpreted information to visitors and assisted in staffing creature carts and biofact stations, summer and school break camps, Breakfast with Santa and events like Boo at the Zoo presented by Wells Fargo and Zoolight Safari presented by Wells Fargo. Dedicated volunteers brought their enthusiasm to help support the mission of the Zoo and shared their passion and smiling faces with all of the guests they encountered. In 2015, the Zoo saw a record number of volunteers for Boo at the Zoo and ZooLight Safari, with over 1,500 volunteers participating. These remarkable individuals gave 8,764 hours to help these events run smoothly. Both adult and teen volunteers continued to serve as ambassadors for the Birmingham Zoo. They also participated in Sensory Friendly Training to assist with the Zoo's Sensory Friendly initiatives. The Camp Crew Program, which was started in 2014, enabled teenagers ages 14-17 years old to work with children attending ZooFari Summer Camps. Crew volunteers assisted teachers during the weekly camps, set up and cleaned up classrooms, lead tours around the Zoo and engaged children throughout the day. The Zoo welcomed approximately 53 Camp Crew Volunteers into the program in May of 2015. The teens had a record year for summer camp volunteer help and logged over 7,942 hours with Zoo Camps alone.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO'S 2015 VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers with the most hours logged: TEEN: Jonathan Knight, 444 hours | ADULT: Susan Alexander 621 hours

ADULT VOLUNTEERS

Susan Alexander Lia Allen Elizabeth Anderson Linda Barnard Jenine Bastas Beth Benson Dan Borger Carolyn Brockman Naomi Buklad Star Bullock Jaylon Burton George B. Butler, Jr. Candi Canterbury Joel Christiansen Tyler Compton Lindsey Coxwell Joan Crawford Ellen Deramus Emma Dortch Dawn Gentry Frances Gilroy Jessica Haywood Alexis Helton Sally Hirschberg Jonathan Kennard Carrie Kramer Denise McClay Sarah Middlebrooks Krystal Moore Nita Oliver Ronald Ozeki Steve Parillo Susan Prince Eric Simons Chris Spiker Christopher Thompson Marcella Thompson Becki Vance Katherine Walcott Alysan Wayman Lorna Wikle Aaron Williams Cheryl Williams





TEEN VOLUNTEERS

Gabrielle Accas Elizabeth Adams Abhimanyu Arora Tommy Bishop Caleb Brezina Tasha Brooks Decarlos Brown Kevin Bryant Megan Cather Rex Christian Michael Chung Ty Clark Erin Clarke Kyle Costello Elina Couture Courtney Crane Heather Crittenden Ella Crump Lydia Diegel Mason Dillard Adrienne Dixon Perry Dowell

Michael Drews Kristain-Zani Eatman Isabella Esman Kaitlyn Esman Lillian Farrington Kara Ferguson Alexandra Flanders Travis Freeman Rachel Friedlander Virginia Givhan Kendall Goodwin Lindsey Goodwin Samuel Guilsher Caleb Gurley Tvler Harrell Marie Harris Matthew Hembree Jessica Henry Michael Hester Meredith Hickey Kate Hinson

Lauren Holbrook Cedric Hosea Christina Johnson William Johnson Logan Jones Meagan Kaletski Allison Karlsen Katie Kehl Jonathan Knight Rachel Kourmoulis Billi Lauryn Joshua Lawley Megan Lawley Xinlan (Rachel) Liu Shaelyn Lozier Isabel Martin Savannah Martin Carson McKelvin Iillian McKenzie Andrew McKibbin Elizabeth Meeks Clamentra-Isis Moody

Briana Morris Stefan Morris Kaitlyn Munger Jeff Murai Haley Nelson Dalton Nichols Caroline Nowak Win Otamias Julia Perz Leah Perz Alden Peterson Timberland Pickett Anna Pitts Kate Pitts Anna Prchal Anna Presnall Carlee Prince Leah Pugh Gianna Quarello Erin Ramey Ryan Remetich Kevin Rojas

Lillian Roman William Scaini Kiersten Schellhammer Kylie Scroggins Olivia Sekyra Isabel Smith Reagan Smith Savannah Spears Samantha Strunk Luke Thannickal Krislyn Taylor Thompson Jack Trench Bridget Vance Rohith Vuribindi Zaida Weibley Austin Weldon Matheu Woodall Karlos Wright Madison Zilke



CONSERVATION: SPECIES SURVIVAL PLANS® (SSP) AND ZOORUN 2015 — MILES FOR MARINE MAMMALS

Species Survival Plans[®] (SSP)

SSPs are typically used to manage species that are threatened or endangered by making recommendations to ensure the sustainability of a healthy and genetically diverse population of animals. Many of these SSP Programs are for species that urgently need to be conserved and protected in the wild. Several Zoo staff members serve as committee members, chairs and SSP coordinators for a variety of SSP species identified by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The Birmingham Zoo currently works with over 100 SSP species, including the Kori bustard.

Kori bustards are the largest flying birds native to Africa. Primarily found throughout southern Africa, the species is listed as Near Threatened by the International Union for Conservation of Nature. Though the population decline is slow, these beautiful birds have been hunted for their feathers and are losing their habitat due to over-grazing livestock.

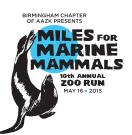
The Birmingham Zoo is making great strides in the breeding of these birds by partnering with Jacksonville Zoo in Jacksonville, Florida. Kori bustard eggs were sent to Birmingham from Jacksonville in 2014, those eggs have hatched and the birds have thrived and joined the main flock. By allowing the birds to pick their mates from the group, Birmingham Zoo animal care professionals have found that they are more likely to reproduce. The Zoo hopes to continue being a leader in the conservation and breeding of Kori bustards. Birmingham is the only Zoo to implement mate selection in the species, and several more institutions have sent their eggs to Birmingham for hatching and participation in the Species Survival Plan^{*}.





ZooRun 2015 – Miles for Marine Mammals

The Birmingham Zoo hosted the 10th Annual ZooRun in May. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Marine Mammal Center (MMC) in Sausalito, California. The MMC is a rescue and rehabilitation center that cares for injured or sickly marine mammals. The Zoo's



own California sea lions, Giovanni and Farley, were stranded as young pups and were rescued by the Center in 2009. Besides rescuing and rehabilitating stranded and injured marine mammals, the MMC does important research. Studies on cancer in sea lions have been applied to human cancer research, in studying the influence of exposure to carcinogens and the influence on cancer rates. Thanks to generous donors and runners alike, the event was a success and the Zoo was able to send \$8,783.50 to MMC to help fund their efforts to rescue marine mammals and further marine research.

CONSERVATION: PICA GRANTS PROGRAM

2015 MARKS THE ZOO'S THIRD YEAR of awarding Passion into Conservation Action (PiCA) grants. Each year, a small number of grants are awarded to employees for projects that will benefit species conservation, the Birmingham Zoo and the employee's professional development. Since inception, the Birmingham Zoo has awarded 19 grants, totaling almost \$68,000 toward the conservation of species at multiple levels. In 2015, the Zoo awarded six PiCA grants to Zoo employees to travel to Botswana, South Africa, Namibia, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand.

February

Carrie Brooks, *Education Program Coordinator*, traveled to Australia to learn about the country's Save the Cassowary Campaign. The Birmingham Zoo houses a cassowary and Carrie wanted to learn firsthand how to bring that message back to Birmingham to help this worldwide effort to conserve cassowaries. Not only did she visit five different zoos throughout Australia and learn from her peers about their programs, but also had the "moment of a lifetime" when she visited a natural area in Mission Beach and saw a cassowary in the wild.



March

Rachel Gulley, *Children's Zoo/Alabama Wilds Animal Care Professional,* traveled to Rotorua, New Zealand to work with Wingspan Bird of Prey Center. Wingspan is New Zealand's leading conservation, education and research organization for birds of prey, and much of their work is focused on the conservation of the New Zealand falcon. This falcon is actually rarer than New Zealand's iconic kiwi and is the only native bird of prey in New Zealand. While there, she participated in their captive breeding and release program to help increase the dwindling populations of this rare falcon.

May

Amy Toman, *Trails of Africa Animal Care Professional*, traveled to Namibia to work with the Giraffe Conservation Foundation (GCF) and assisted Dr. Julian Fenessey and the GCF team on the first ever long-term ecological population study on Angolan giraffes. Amy traveled with GCF deep into the bush, camping under the stars. Not only did Amy see many giraffes, she also saw many healthy populations of wildlife including oryx, mountain zebra and springbok. Amy says "the memories and lessons taken from this trip, I am sure to never forget. The opportunity that was provided by the Birmingham Zoo will continue to drive my passion for conservation and assist with shaping my vision for continued conservation success."



June

Bridget Beury, *Trails of Africa Pachyderm Animal Care Professional,* traveled to Botswana to work with Dr. Kate Evans and Elephants of Africa. She worked with Dr. Evans and her team at headquarters on the Okavango Delta, in and around Makgadikgadi National Park. The Delta is home to many of the world's most endangered large mammal species. Bridget says that "with camp being located inside the national park, animals could be seen roaming through our tent area, including elephants looking for some acacia tree pods." Every day, the Elephants for Africa team and Bridget would head out in the research vehicle on a preset route with cameras, notebooks and binoculars to search for elephants. Bridget says of her trip, "I am so humbled to have had a chance to experience the animals I take care of every single day in range country. I hope to continue to spread awareness of the plight that elephants are faced with so that they can be around for future generations to enjoy!" difficult challenges and find themselves short of medicine, equipment, money, space, support staff and time. These workshops are focused on addressing those challenges.

December

Travis Coty, *Predator Animal Care Professional*, first traveled to Cradock, South Africa in 2013 to work with Karoo Cat Research, a research station focused on small African cats. These include black footed cats, a species that calls the Birmingham Zoo home, and a cat that Travis works with on a daily basis. While at the research station, Travis assisted with scouting for signs of small wild cats on the landscape, as well as with the daily feeding and attention needed for cats currently under human care at the rehabilitation center. In 2015, Travis was awarded a grant to return to South Africa to continue the work he began at the research station in 2013. Travis says his time in South Africa "will always be one of my most cherished memories."







August

Stephanie McCain, DVM, Diplomate American College

of Zoological Medicine, *the Zoo's Director of Animal Health*, traveled to Yogjakarta, Indonesia in August to participate in the Orangutan Veterinary Advisor Group Workshop. The group has met annually for the past six years with the goal of promoting collaboration and training between veterinarians and staff working with orangutans globally. Orangutans continue to be in severe crisis. The only great apes found in Asia, their natural range is limited to the islands of Borneo and Sumatra, and their rainforest homes are continuing to disappear at alarming rates. The veterinarians and staff in this working group collectively care for the largest captive population of orangutans in the world. They continue to face

SCIENTIFIC STUDY: BIRMINGHAM, AL — A CENTER FOR ELEPHANT RESEARCH

THE TRAILS OF AFRICA EXHIBIT at the Birmingham Zoo proudly continued to study and care for its all-male bachelor herd of African bull elephants. The Zoo hosted its second annual regional elephant management workshop in mid-April, and had thirteen Animal Care Professionals visit to observe how the Birmingham Zoo Animal Care Professionals manage and train the Zoo's four elephants. Every day of the workshop brought great discussion about elephant management and global elephant conservation. A post-conference tour was also given for the Elephant Managers Association and more than thirty animal professionals from around the world heard about the Zoo's elephant programs, officially putting Birmingham, Alabama on the map for research and conservation of elephants.

In January, the Birmingham Zoo's elephant team created and implemented an ongoing professional relationship with the Montgomery Zoo to train the elephants in Montgomery for reproductive assessments. This cooperative work helped the Montgomery Zoo prepare for ultrasound reproductive assessments on their three female A frican elephants in preparation for breeding. The zoo-to-zoo collaboration continued through September and was beneficial for both teams.





The Bulwagi Story

2015 brought an elephant-sized problem for the Animal Health Center. Bulwagi, the Birmingham Zoo's 34 year-old African bull elephant, had a long-term crack in his tusk. Elephants' tusks can become worn and crack naturally as they use them for digging, lifting objects, gathering food, stripping bark to eat from trees and for protection. Bulwagi's tusk crack was in danger of growing larger, so something had to be done. In February, the Zoo invited two well-respected elephant experts, a veterinarian and a dentist with many years of elephant experience, to review the tusk crack and help develop a plan of action to treat the crack and maintain Bulwagi's overall health.

On November 5, 2015, Bulwagi underwent a procedure to prevent the crack in his tusk from growing which would happen if left unattended. This procedure was done in conjunction with a team led by director of University of Alabama at Birmingham's Materials Processing and Applications Development Center, Brian Pillay, Ph.D. The research team included Ben Willis, Engineer 1 for the Materials Processing and Applications Development Center, Kristin Hardin, Ph. D. student in materials engineering, David Smith, undergraduate student in biomedical engineering and Shivani Vashi, undergraduate student in material engineering. Under the guidance and direction of Dr. Pillay, the team was able to create a specialized resin and application process in hopes of preventing the crack in Bulwagi's tusk from getting wider and longer. The carbon fiber wrap was one of the first in the world and the Birmingham Zoo and UAB received much publicity and congratulations from around the world.

SCIENTIFIC STUDY: ANIMAL HEALTH CENTER

THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO announced the birth of its newest primate on July 27, 2015. A baby DeBrazza's monkey was born to proud parents Brittany and Huey. This was the second DeBrazza's monkey born in two years. Poppy, the first baby, was born on Memorial Day in 2014. With this pregnancy, the Zoo's veterinary staff were able to get an ultrasound and prenatal measurements, which will contribute to the Zoo's understanding of De Brazza's monkey fetal development. The Zoo actively participates in the DeBrazza's monkey SSP, and is excited to provide insight into the reproduction of the species.

Total Species by Classification

CLASSIFICATION	NUMBER OF SPECIES	NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS
Insects	6	217
Fish	7	29
Amphibians	10	34
Reptiles	55	121
Birds	95	354
Mammals	54	137
TOTAL	227	892





COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: ANIMAL PROGRAMS

2015 WAS AN EVENTFUL YEAR for the Birmingham Zoo's Marketing Department. While celebrating the Zoo's 60th Anniversary, several milestones were achieved, new events were held and even more records were broken as the Zoo experienced high attendance numbers for the fourth year in a row.

BY THE NUMBERS

64,330 The number of Facebook followers the Birmingham Zoo had at the end of the year. The Zoo campaigned to reach 60,000 likes on Facebook for the 60th Anniversary year, and far exceeded this goal.

159.17% The percent increase in Instagram followers in 2015. The Zoo started with 2,643 and ended with 6,850.

59,618 The number of unique visitors to the Birmingham Zoo's website during the month of March, the busiest month for the website. An all new Birmingham Zoo website was launched in June.

177 The total number of animals adopted through the Zoo's "Adopt-an-Animal" campaign. By adopting an animal, Zoo parents contributed towards an animal's food and care. 2015 saw a **42.7%** increase in animal adoptions through this program.

Animal Programs

The Animal Programs department had one of its busiest years yet in 2015. The Zoo to You program participated in events such as Hoover Days, Read and Romp, Breakin' Bread, Vulcan's Birthday Bash and the District 1 Music & Movie Festival. A special animal program was created to partner with Birmingham City Library's summer reading program, Nature's Heroes. Members of the department were asked to be guest lecturers in the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Animal Behavior class. In total, the Zoo to You program reached approximately 4,600 people.

The department welcomed a few new animals including a groundhog and a Virginia opossum. Animal Programs started a Virginia opossum breeding program with the hope to help other institutions acquire opossums from AZA accredited facilities. The program has already been successful and the first two offspring have been sent to Omaha, Nebraska's Henry Doorly Zoo and the Minnesota Zoo.

Animal Programs staff influenced the community both on and off the grounds of the Zoo in 2015. Programs were presented to more than 13,041 students in conjunction with the Kiwanis ZooSchool, Zoo Snoozes, Twilight Tours, camps and animal education programs. Approximately 10,416 visitors attended the popular Schaeffer Eye Center Wildlife Shows at the Zoo in 2015. Staff members visited the Children's of Alabama hospital twice a month to present animal demonstrations for young patients and their families.

The Programs Department hosted its second Certified Interpretive Guide (CIG) training course through the National Association of Interpretation and ten members of Zoo staff and volunteers attended. There are now a total of 23 trained CIG at the Birmingham Zoo, and the entire Programs Department staff has been certified. This special certification is a way to document the possession of skills and knowledge that allow individuals to perform effectively in the interpretive profession. The Zoo's CIG's use their skills to improve wildlife shows and enhance visitors' learning experiences while at the Zoo.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: DREAMNIGHT AND SENSORY-FRIENDLY INITIATIVÉS

DreamNight

In June of 2015, McKinney Capital/Landscape Workshop partnered with the Birmingham Zoo to further its impact on the Birmingham community through DreamNight. This special event is sponsored annually by McKinney Capital/ Landscape Workshop and is an opportunity for young patients with chronic illnesses from Children's of Alabama and their families to experience the Zoo. Visitors enjoyed carousel and train rides, and an evening away from the hospital. Each child was given a plush giraffe to take to the clinic. The event featured a mock hospital, complete with pharmacy, triage, orthopedic station and an x-ray machine and MRI machine for the children to use to "examine" their plush giraffes. Roddy McKinney, founder and owner of McKinney Capital/ Landscape Workshop, and his family greeted guests as they entered the Zoo. Volunteers from the Junior League of Birmingham assisted in welcoming and distributing the plush giraffes to excited children. The Birmingham Zoo is proud to host community events like DreamNight, and to continue to "Inspire Passion for the Natural World."



Sensory-Friendly Initiatives

In 2015, the Birmingham Zoo was excited to announce a partnership with KultureCity to develop the Sensory Friendly Zoo Initiative. The goals of this initiative were to raise awareness of Sensory Processing Disorders (SPD's) among Zoo staff and throughout the community, to increase accessibility throughout the Zoo grounds for visitors with SPD's and to promote inclusive experiences for visitors with SPD's. The initiative came about after last October's Special Needs Spooktacular. This special event made it possible for over 300 families with special needs children to visit a modified Boo at the Zoo for free. Roger Torbert, Vice President of Education at the Zoo, says, "We were overwhelmed by the success of the Special Needs Spooktacular. Several staff members and volunteers commented that this was one of their most rewarding experiences. This event marked the first ever visit to the Birmingham Zoo for many of these families and served as a welcome call for future visits."

With the Zoo's partnership with KultureCity, families with children who have Sensory Processing Disorders now have access to many resources at the Zoo including noise canceling headphones, fidget toys and weighted lap pads. The Zoo has installed signage identifying "quiet zones" and "headphone zones" to help visitors as they explore the Zoo grounds. In addition, the Zoo's Education Department made adjustments to classes and summer camps to make them more sensory-friendly.

One of the most powerful aspects of the Sensory Friendly Zoo Initiative was the training Zoo staff members received to increase understanding of SPD's, informing them about the efforts the Birmingham Zoo is making to better serve the community and to discuss simple strategies each employee can implement to support this initiative.





NOTABLE EVENTS: TAILS IN THE TRAILS AND ZOO, BREWS & FULL MOON BAR-B-QUE



Tails in the Trails | 2015 Chair: Whitney Wright

On April 24, the Birmingham Zoo's Junior Board hosted its fifth-annual Tails in the Trails event presented by Harbert Management Corporation. Over 600 attendees were greeted by Jack Hanna, international TV personality and star of the FOX show, "Jack Hanna's Into the Wild!" Guests were also greeted by



an African serval, an eastern screech owl, a Virginia opossum, a gopher tortoise, a sand boa, a box turtle and a red milk snake in the Junior League of Birmingham–Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo. Guests were then invited to enjoy bar-b-que catered by Full Moon Bar-B-Que as well as beer and cocktails provided by Cahaba Brewing Company and Cathead Vodka. In addition to the food and drinks, guests enjoyed live music performed by Gentleman Zero, as well as the Zoo's Jane H. Brock Soaring Safari Zipline Adventure attraction. The Birmingham Zoo's Junior Board strives to increase Zoo membership, assist with events and promote the Zoo. Proceeds from the event benefitted the Barbara Ingalls Shook Black Bear Trail.





Zoo, Brews & Full Moon Bar-B-Que

On Saturday, June 20, the Birmingham Zoo hosted its first-annual Zoo, Brews and Full Moon Bar-B-Que event in the Junior League of Birmingham–Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo. The event celebrated the Zoo's 60th Anniversary and the Year of Alabama Barbeque. During this family-friendly event, guests enjoyed Full Moon bar-b-que, brews provided by Good People Brewing Company, animal greetings and walkabouts, a bouncy castle and train rides, and live music by The Whigs. The first 1,000 guests ages 21 and up received a complimentary memorabilia cup. The event far exceeded the Zoo staff members' expectations, and is expected to be an even more memorable experience in 2016.





NOTABLE EVENTS: IBERIABANK ZOOGALA 2015

2015'S RENDITION OF THE IBERIABANK ZOOGALA was

launched into the record books as the most financially successful in the history of the event. In total, the event, presented by IBERIABANK, raised \$383,000 for daily operations of the Zoo. The birthday-themed celebration recognizing the Zoo's 60th birthday was held in the Zoo's signature exhibit, Trails of Africa, and guests were invited to mingle and enjoy dinner and dessert by Kathy G. & Company. Live stage entertainment was provided by the band Compozitionz, a silent auction with fabulous trips and Zoo packages was held and jewelry was for sale by Empire Diamond Corporation. Throughout the evening, guests enjoyed animal walkabouts, employee PiCA grant presentations and a view of the African elephants in their habitat.











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ZOOGALA 2015 CHAIRS

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NOTABLE EVENTS: BOO AT THE ZOO AND ZOOLIGHT SAFARI PRESENTED BY WELLS FARGO







Boo at the Zoo presented by Wells Fargo and

ZooLight Safari presented by Wells Fargo were great successes in 2015 as both events set new attendance and revenue records. 33,885 guests attended Boo at the Zoo, an increase of over 4,000 visitors from the previous year. Guests of all ages visited the Zoo for some holiday-themed fun for 18 nights at Boo at the Zoo and 19 nights at ZooLight Safari. This year, visitors experienced the thrill of the all-new ice rink, brought in especially for the holidays. Fun for all ages, guests skated past their friends and family while enjoying fun music and lights on this exciting new attraction in Trails of Africa. The synthetic ice did not require cooling and was able to survive the unpredictable southern winter.















DEVELOPMENT: RENEW THE ZOO

2015 BROUGHT GREAT CHANGES to the Birmingham Zoo. Though the capital campaign had been ongoing for more than a year, construction officially began in earnest on August 17, when the Zoo officially transitioned operations from the front entrance to the Junior League of Birmingham–Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo. The front entrance move was the first step in preparing the Zoo for construction of the new front entrance plaza. Demolition of the old entrance began in September, in conjunction with the backfilling of two of the Zoo's large ponds.



The Zoo's reptile department faced a unique challenge. When the process of transforming the two former fish hatcheries into an event lawn began, the department had to find new homes for the fish and turtles inhabiting the space. This required advance planning and a large amount of help. Reptile Manager, Dan Self, contacted Alabama Aquarium and Pond Services, a local company specializing in pond management, to look at the ponds and create a plan to properly move the animals. On September 17, the ponds were electroshocked and the Zoo's animal care professionals collected over 500 fish. This process did not harm the animals, and was the least stressful solution for the move. The fish, including koi, sunfish, bass and grass carp, were transported to ponds located at EBSCO Industries. After this process was completed, Zoo staff removed and relocated the remaining fish and turtles to other ponds on Zoo grounds. Through a great display of teamwork between multiple Zoo departments, approximately 600 individual fish were relocated safely.

Throughout the year, the Zoo's development staff worked diligently to secure funding for the Renew the Zoo campaign. The Zoo named F. Dixon Brooke, Jr., retired CEO of EBSCO, as its campaign chair, and through his leadership and a team of volunteers, many more large gifts and grants were acquired. Through leadership gifts, \$3 million was aquired from local businesses and foundations, including gifts from The Altec/Styslinger Foundation, AutoTec and its employees, EBSCO Industries and its employees, the Mike and Gillian Goodrich Charitable Foundation, McKinney Capital, Nall-Whatley Foundation, O'Neal Industries, Thompson Foundation, Vulcan Materials Company and Wells Fargo. The



A CAMPAIGN FOR THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

Birmingham Zoo is grateful for the support of so many corporate leaders in the Birmingham community, and looks forward to a successful continuation of the campaign in 2016.

In addition to major corporate gifts, the Zoo began an initiative to gain support from its valued members. The Zoo invited members to renew their memberships and join the Tiger Society by making an additional gift to the Renew the Zoo campaign. The Tiger Society is open to both renewing members and non-members interested in supporting the Zoo through membership and a tax-deductible campaign gift.





THANKS TO OUR 2015 DONORS

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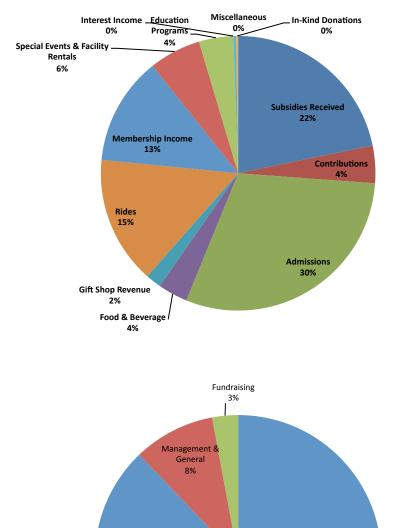
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FINANCIAL REPORT



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS Support and Revenues

Total Support and Revenue	\$ 11,785,157	
Assets Released from Restriction	\$ 1,917,170	
	\$ 9,867,987	
In-Kind Donations	\$ 22,595	0%
Miscellaneous	\$ 32,769	0%
Interest Income	\$ 1,151	0%
Education Programs	\$ 397,997	4%
Special Events & Facility Rentals	\$ 601,790	6%
Membership Income	\$ 1,257,502	13%
Rides	\$ 1,485,796	15%
Gift Shop Revenue	\$ 180,532	2%
Food & Beverage	\$ 345,638	4%
Admissions	\$ 2,959,774	30%
Contributions	\$ 434,943	4%
Subsidies Received	\$ 2,147,500	22%

Expenses		
Program Services	\$ 10,264,640	88%
Management & General	\$ 1,074,522	9%
Fundraising	\$ 340,721	3%
Total Expenses	\$ 11,679,883	
Decrease in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 105,274	
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Contributions	\$ 3,886,864	
In-Kind Donations	\$ 150,000	
Assets released from restriction	\$ (1,917,170)	
Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 2,119,694	
Increase in Net Assets	\$ 2,224,968	
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$ 27,727,496	
Net Assets at End of Year	\$ 29,952,464	

Program Services 88%

INSPIRING PASSION FOR THE NATURAL WORLD... THROUGH EMPHASIZING CONSERVATION, EDUCATION, SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND RECREATION IN ALL ASPECTS OF THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO'S EXHIBITS, PROGRAMS, FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES.



Birmingham Zoo, Inc. 2630 Cahaba Road Birmingham, AL 35223 Phone: 205.879,0409 birminghamzoo.com