

Animal Tracks



Pirates at the Zoo!



HEALTH UPDATE:
KUMAR

BUTTERFLIES ARE BACK AT
THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO!

A Day in the Life of an Africa
Animal Care Professional

Presenting Sponsor



SHIP

Featured Partner



CONTENTS

4 HEALTH UPDATE: KUMAR
See how Kumar, the Zoo's Malayan tiger, is recovering from the removal of a cancerous tumor.

10 PIRATES AT THE ZOO!
Pirates have dropped anchor at the Birmingham Zoo! See if you can spot them on your next visit.

16 BUTTERFLIES ARE BACK AT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO!
This exciting habitat is back open for guests to enjoy all summer long.

20 A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN AFRICA ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONAL
Hear what happens on a typical day for an Animal Care Professional in the Africa Department.



4



10



20



16

PHOTO CREDITS: Bridget Beury, Tyler Eads, Dane Jorgensen, Scott Kayser, Kiki Nolen-Schmidt, Amy Toman, Anna Turkett

BZI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Cissy Jackson, *Chairman*
Robert Aland, *Vice-Chair*
David Loper, *Secretary*
Thomas E. Sisson, *Treasurer*
Wally Nail III, *Immediate Past Chair*

BZI BOARD
Leigh Collier
Mark Crosswhite
Jack Darnall
Austin Davis
Nancy Collat Goedecke
Gaynell H. Hendricks
G. Douglas Jones
Randall Jordan
Laura Pitts
Britt Redden

EX-OFFICIO
William R. Foster, DVM, *President and CEO*
Amanda Hawkins, *Junior Board President*

EMERITUS
Arthur Henley
Colin H. Luke
Michael D. Thompson
Jesse S. Vogtle, Jr.

BZI JUNIOR BOARD LEADERSHIP
Amanda Hawkins, *President*
Tim Hennessy, Jr., *Vice President*
J. Chris Mason, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Stephen Armstrong, *Immediate Past President*

BZI JUNIOR BOARD
Rosemary Alexander
Frank Anderson
Louis Anderson
Courtney SeShazo
Joseph DuMontier
Kathryn Gay
Jayna Goedecke
Joe Gribbin, Jr.
Fontaine Haskell
Eve Hennessy
Matt Hottle
Emily Jordan
Madison Merrill
Meg Ross
Brandon Stewart
Caroline Walker
Drew Weil
Dana Williams
Cory Wilson

BIRMINGHAM ZOO SENIOR STAFF
Dr. William R. Foster, *President and CEO*
Chris Pfefferkorn, *Senior Vice President*
Jennie Whitman, *Chief Financial Officer*
Rusty Keene, *Vice President of Operations*
Karen Carroll, *Vice President of Development*
Roger Torbert, *Vice President of Education*
Kerry Graves, *Vice President, Sales and Marketing*
Dr. Stephanie McCain, *Director, Veterinarian Services*
Marcia Riedmiller, *Curator of Mammals*
Pat Flora, *Curator of Trails of Africa*
Cindy Pinger, *Curator of Birds, Reptiles and Children's Zoo*

CREATIVE TEAM
Editor In Chief: Clark Maxwell
Contributing Editors: Jackie Batson and Kiki Nolen-Schmidt
Contributing Writers: Jesse Daniel, Alonia Diaz, Tyler Eads, Kandace Griffin, Lindsey Herron, Emily Layman, Laura Schillinger, Kiki Nolen-Schmidt, Anna Turkett and Danielle Williams

Birmingham Zoo 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.

Animal Tracks is published four times a year for members of the Birmingham Zoo. All rights reserved.

We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send to:
marketing@birminghamzoo.com.

Phone: 205.879.0409
Fax: 205.879.9426
2630 Cahaba Road,
Birmingham, Alabama 35223
www.birminghamzoo.com

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

ZOO SUMMER HOURS (THROUGH LABOR DAY)
9am to 5pm Monday – Friday
9am to 7pm Saturday – Sunday



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

Please excuse our mess - at the start of 2017, the important construction at the Zoo began to speed along. We would like to thank you for your continued support, and patience, as we work to make your Birmingham Zoo an even better asset and attraction.

You may notice the Zoo looks a little different each time you visit, and we are pleased that the new Henley Park will be opening in just a few weeks. This area will be available for rentals, parties, concerts, and picnics and play time for you and the thousands of children who visit the Zoo each year. We are excited about this new addition for our animals and for you.

As the event lawn is complete, work will continue on the new iconic Zoo entrance, slated to be completed in 2018. This new front entrance will streamline your ease of entry to the Zoo, will have self-serving kiosks, a new membership area and more.

2017 has already been a busy year at the Zoo. We welcomed Khan, a three year old jaguar, as a new Zoo Member who can be seen in the Primate/Social Animal Building, Pirates took over the Zoo's trains, and several staff members traveled and attended conferences to better spread the Zoo's mission of Inspiring Passion for the Natural World.

As the year continues, we hope you will plan a visit to see us at the Zoo and take advantage of the many Zoo Member Benefits. From Dinner with the Keepers, to early morning admission on Wednesdays, we are constantly striving to make your Zoo Membership better. We appreciate your feedback and participation in surveys, focus groups, and emails, and will continue to use your suggestions to shape the Zoo.

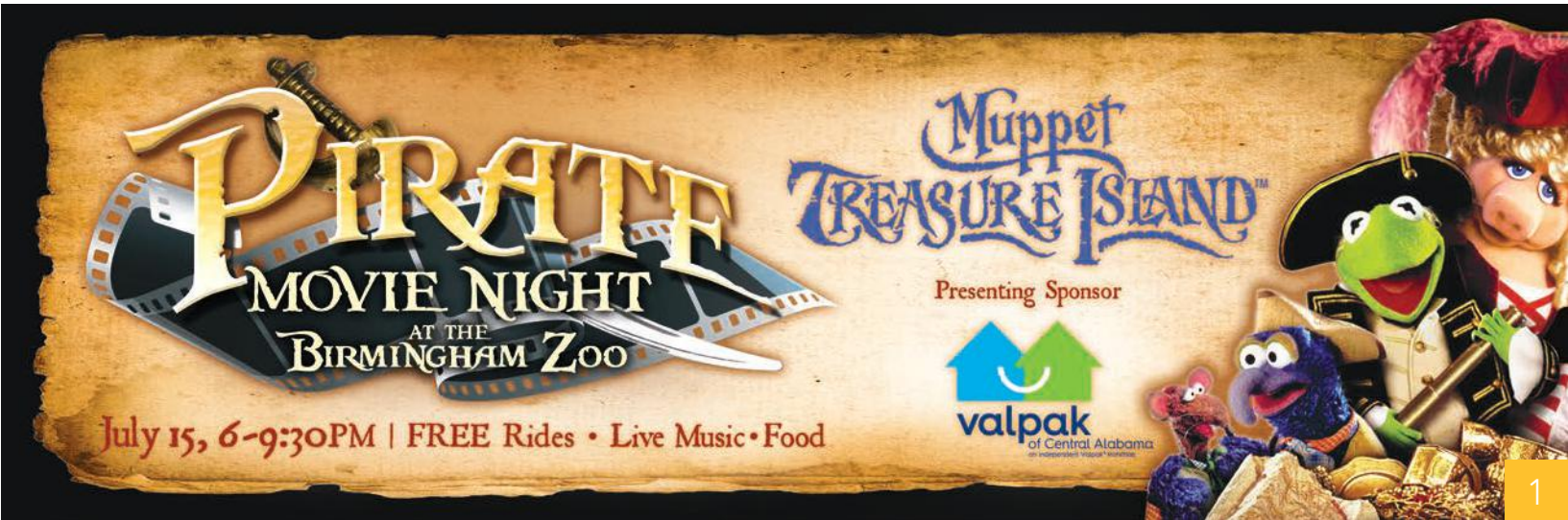
I would like to invite you all to join us for our exciting upcoming events. From a new Breakfast with the Princesses, to our annual ZooGala, there is sure to be an event that you will enjoy. For a full listing of upcoming events at the Zoo, please refer to page 12.

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



NEW AT THE ZOO TENREC AND ARMADILLO!

BY: EMILY LAYMAN AND KANDACE GRIFFIN

One of the newest additions to the Programs Department may be one of the smallest in our collection, but he is one that we are very excited to share with Zoo visitors! His name is Spike, and he is a Lesser Madagascar hedgehog tenrec. These animals live in arid climates throughout the southern and southwestern part of part of Madagascar and are considered to be semi-arboreal, residing both on the ground and in the trees of their dry forest habitat. Because their living conditions are harsh, they will often seek shelter by nesting in tree cavities.

Harsh conditions also mean less access to their favorite insects during the winter months. To accommodate for this challenge, tenrecs will enter into a hibernation-like state, called torpor, for approximately three to five months out of the year. This allows them to save energy by slowing their respiration, heart rate, and body temperature during this period. Interestingly, these animals' bodies can still prepare for breeding during torpor, which allows them to be able to mate just days after becoming active again.

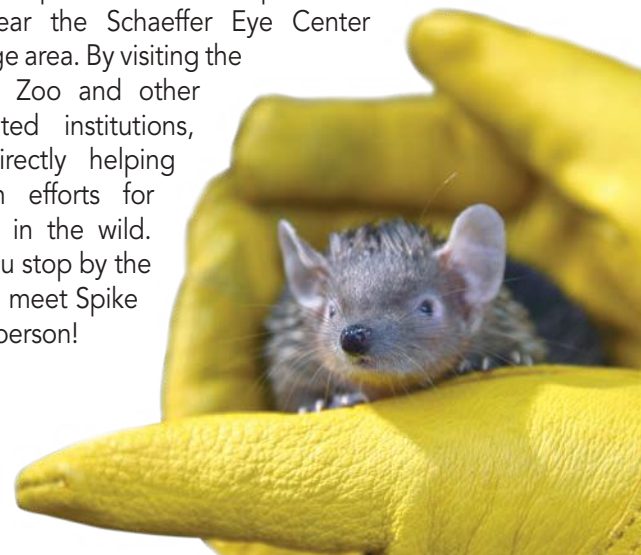
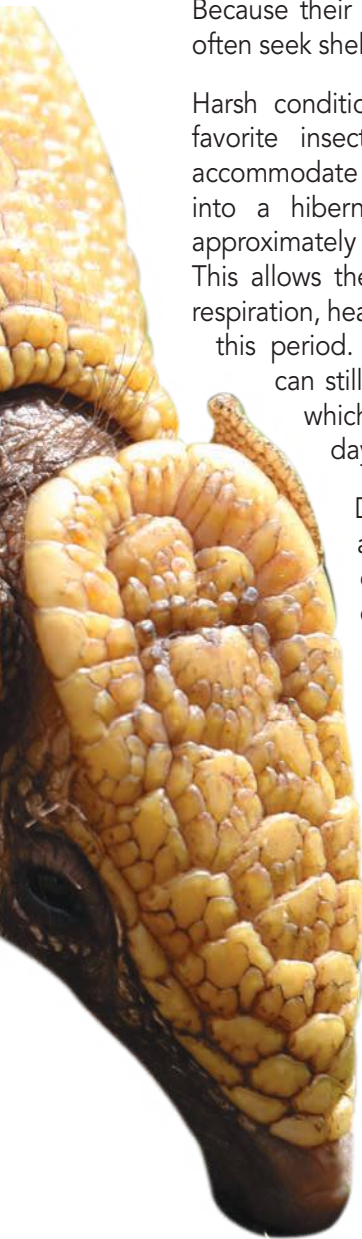
During the times of the year that tenrecs are active, they depend on several other adaptations for survival. For example, these nocturnal animals have very sensitive whiskers and excellent senses of hearing and smell to make up for not being able to see well at night. They also rely on their modified hairs as a spiky defense against predators. Although they share this characteristic and are similar in appearance to the African pygmy hedgehog, the Lesser Madagascar hedgehog tenrec is actually not closely related to this species.

While the Lesser Madagascar hedgehog tenrec is listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, habitat loss poses a threat to several other tenrec species.

We are also excited to welcome Arlo, the Southern three-banded armadillo! Arlo was born on October 13, 2016 at Loveland Living Planet Aquarium in Utah, and he made the journey to Birmingham, Alabama in March.

In the wild, three-banded armadillos are found in the grasslands or marshes of South America. They roam the grasslands searching for food, including fruit and a variety of invertebrates, favoring beetle larvae. Armadillos have bony plates as armor to protect them from predators. Because the bony plates are segmented into bands, Arlo, and other three-banded armadillos, have the ability to roll into a ball, completely protecting their bodies with their armor. However, they do not always entirely encase themselves in a ball. Three-banded armadillos will often leave a small gap in the bony plates; then when a predator investigates, perhaps with a claw or snout, the armadillo will snap their body closed quickly, deterring the predator. The distinctive ball defense of the three-banded armadillo has made hunting this species easier than other armadillo species. They do not run for safety in their burrows, instead relying on their armor to protect them. In addition, much of the armadillo habitat is being transformed into agricultural lands. These stressors have caused three-banded armadillo numbers to dwindle and now they are labeled as Near-Threatened. When you see Arlo, look closely at his head plate; just like human fingerprints, each armadillo head plate pattern is unique to each individual!

We encourage you to visit the Birmingham Zoo, where you might see Spike or Arlo at the 3pm Animal Greeting near the Schaeffer Eye Center Wildlife Stage area. By visiting the Birmingham Zoo and other AZA-accredited institutions, you are directly helping conservation efforts for animals out in the wild. We hope you stop by the Zoo soon to meet Spike and Arlo in person!



ABOVE: Arlo – Southern three-banded armadillo
RIGHT: Spike – Lesser Madagascar hedgehog tenrec

NEW HENLEY PARK EVENT LAWN AT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

LOOKING FOR A TRULY UNIQUE SPACE
FOR YOUR NEXT EVENT?

Located in the heart of the Birmingham Zoo, Henley Park Event Lawn is the perfect venue for your next event. Including over 32,000 square feet of natural landscaping and space for 2,500 guests, Henley Park is available for a variety of events, such as weddings, festivals, company outings, banquets and more. With catering options ranging from home-style BBQ to formal elegance, we have all you need to make your event a huge success.

For more information on booking your next event at Henley Park
call **205.879.0409** or email specialevents@birminghamzoo.com



MALAYAN TIGER RECOVERING FROM CANCEROUS TUMOR REMOVAL

BY: KIKI NOLEN-SCHMIDT

The Birmingham Zoo's beloved Malayan tiger, Kumar, was diagnosed with cancer in late March. In the routine daily physical assessment of Kumar, the Zoo's Animal Care Professionals noticed a raised area near Kumar's right hip. Using trained husbandry behaviors, the Animal Care Professionals worked with Kumar to have him present his hip close enough to the safety mesh so the Zoo Veterinarians could use a needle to get a sample of the area. This was sent to a lab for analysis and unfortunately, the sample showed that Kumar had a malignant sarcoma, a type of cancer that invades soft tissues.

Kumar underwent a procedure on April 4, 2017 to remove the tumor, and to have a complete physical performed. During the procedure, Kumar had both chest radiographs and an abdominal ultrasound performed, which did not show any evidence of the cancer having spread to the other organs. Once that was determined, the Zoo's Veterinarians proceeded to surgically remove the tumor on Kumar's right hip. Wide margins around the tumor were necessary to ensure removal of all of the affected soft tissue. This left a large main incision, which required multiple smaller incisions on either side to alleviate pressure on the main incision.

The tumor was sent off for evaluation to assess whether or not all of the cancerous tissue was removed. The histopathology results came in and thankfully, the Veterinary team was successful in excising all of the tumor.

Kumar temporarily stayed in his indoor habitat to keep flies off the incision. The Zoo is happy to report that Kumar is back in his outdoor habitat and is doing well at this time.

Kumar was born on April 20, 1999 at the Cincinnati Zoo and came to the Birmingham Zoo on June 19,

2001. At the current age of 18, Kumar is quite old for a Malayan tiger, with the oldest in human care being 22 years old. The average lifespan of Malayan tigers in the wild is 15 years. Cancer is not uncommon in aged animals such as Kumar.

Malayan tigers are found throughout southern and central parts of Malay Peninsula with their range extending into southern Thailand. Over the last one hundred years, tiger populations have decreased dramatically. Deforestation and hunting have reduced the number in the wild from hundreds of thousands to between 600-800 individuals.

Malayan tigers in Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accredited Zoos are managed by the AZA Species Survival Plan® program, a committee consisting of zoo professionals that work to ensure the survival of the species.

You can visit Kumar in the Predator Building where he currently resides. During his recovery process, you may notice a scar and shaved hair on Kumar's right hip. With his hair cut, you can see that a tigers' skin is actually striped as well in the recognizable orange, white and black coloring!



TASTE THE FEELING™



ALABAMA POWER VISITS CONSTRUCTION SITE

Alabama Power executive, Jonathan K. Porter, Vice President, Birmingham Division, recently visited the Zoo to see the construction site and present Zoo officials with a check. The Alabama Power Foundation awarded a grant to the Birmingham Zoo's Renew the Zoo Capital Campaign. The grant will be for the Phase 1 portion of the capital project, which includes the Henley Park Event Lawn, due to open this summer. Other major supporters of Henley Park include the Linn-Henley Charitable Trust, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, the Mike and Gillian Goodrich Charitable Foundation, ADTRAN, CS Beatty Construction, and the Walker Area Community Foundation.

"Alabama Power is a leader in our community, and the Birmingham Zoo is extremely grateful for their continued support," says William R. Foster, DVM, President & CEO, adding that the Alabama Power Foundation's mission to strengthen communities and nonprofits has had a tremendous impact in our city. Since its founding in 1989, the Alabama Power Foundation has given more than \$180 million in grants across the state and has been a longtime supporter of the Birmingham Zoo.



PHOTO CAPTION (Cissy Jackson, Zoo Board Chair, Chris Pfefferkorn, Zoo Senior Vice President, Jonathan K. Porter, Alabama Power Vice President, Birmingham Division, and Kerry Graves, Zoo Vice President, Marketing and Public Relations, in front of the construction site at the Birmingham Zoo.

THE NEWEST GIANT AT THE ZOO

BY: DANIELLE WILLIAMS

On a rainy Thursday in May, one of our Animal Care Professionals and I drove to the Atlanta airport to pick up a much anticipated new arrival, Carlito the giant anteater. The process of getting Carlito to the Birmingham Zoo started several months earlier and was a bit of a roller coaster process for Zoo staff.

We first reached out to the giant anteater Species Survival Plan® (SSP) coordinator in July of 2016 to get information on current housing needs, transfer recommendations, and more. We learned that the SSP needed more zoos interested in housing single male anteaters, because 14 of the last 15 anteater births had been male. The SSP then connected us with a California zoo that had a young male available.

The Santa Barbara Zoo staff shared information with us on a two year old anteater, and he sounded like a good match. They were ready to move him in January, but it was still too chilly in Alabama at that time of year. Once the weather warmed up, he received a pre-shipment exam to make sure he was in good health to transfer. Then we had to figure out how to get him here. Our first choice was to fly him, but he is a very large young anteater – 165 pounds. When we took into account the size of crate he would need to have enough space and his weight, he was too big to fly on any planes directly into Birmingham. To drive would be a 30+ hour trip, which we worried could be too stressful for him. We kept making calls until we found that a large enough plane was flying from Los Angeles to Atlanta, and then we booked him a flight.

We had to watch the weather to make sure there were no severe storms the day he was supposed to move, but we only had heavy rain and the flight went well. Carlito arrived at the Atlanta airport in good condition, and we loaded his transport crate into a van to drive him the last two and a half hours to Birmingham. Once at the Zoo, he was unloaded at the Animal Health Center to go through a quarantine period, like all new animals to the Zoo, to verify his health after travel.

Once Carlito completes his quarantine and receives a final checkup, he will move to the Primate Building. You might be wondering why a giant anteater would move to the Primate building, but if you have been to the Zoo lately, you might have noticed that the jaguar lives there too. We have several South and Central American monkey species, commonly referred to as "New World" monkeys, including spider monkeys, squirrel monkeys, and cotton top tamarins in the Primate Building. We would like our guests to experience some of the other animals that share this region.

Giant anteaters are especially interesting inhabitants of South and Central America. They are insectivores, which means they eat bugs – up to 35,000 ants/termites a day! Even though they don't have teeth, they do have large claws for tearing into ant and termite mounds. When threatened, they stand on their back legs to defend themselves, and they have been known to ward off jaguars this way. Keep your eye on your Birmingham Zoo updates so you can visit Carlito when he moves to the Primate/South America area!



THE BARONS ARE BACK!

CATCH ALL THE ACTION AT REGIONS FIELD

For ticket and promotion information:
VISIT BARONS.COM OR CALL 205.988.3200

SPOT THE JAGUAR!

NORTH AMERICA'S BIGGEST CAT IS BACK AT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO!



IBERIABANK
IS WILD ABOUT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO!

Visit us at any one of our other Birmingham branches today!

Homewood - 2340 Woodcrest Place | Fultondale - 1301 Decatur Highway

Downtown Birmingham - 2025 3rd Avenue North | UAB Banking Center - 1801 4th Ave South, Suite 115

Pelham - 2695 Pelham Parkway | Vestavia - 613 Montgomery Highway | Crestline Village - 100 Euclid Avenue

Hoover - 2765 John Hawkins Parkway | Mountain Brook Village - 2824 Cahaba Road

www.iberiabank.com

Member
FDIC

ALABAMA THE BEAUTIFUL

BY: JESSE DANIEL

One of the great things about living in Alabama is the abundance of rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands that are used by millions of people for recreation each year. But, look a little more closely, just under the surface, and you will find a world that is sometimes easily overlooked.

Alabama leads all other states in the nation in the number of mussel, snail and crayfish species and is near the top in number of fish species. This is due to a variety of different reasons. Alabama has 77,000 miles of streams, 3,500,000 acres of marshes and wetlands, and we receive approximately 55 inches of rainfall each year. Additionally, our unique geological history, geographically diverse regions, and mild climate have nurtured the many species that have evolved here over time. In addition to a high biodiversity, this has also given us a high number of endemic species – animals found nowhere else in the world. For example, two species of darters, the watercress darter (*Etheostoma nuchale*) and the vermillion darter (*Etheostoma chermocki*), are restricted to only tiny parts of the state. Watercress darters are found only in Turkey Creek and vermillion darters are isolated in three springs on the Black Warrior River System.

For most all of these animals, clean, healthy waterways are needed for their survival. Stream health can sometimes be determined with the naked eye, but sometimes we need to look a little more closely. Things like sedimentation (dirt), algae growth, visible pollution, etc. can give us a good idea, but biologists use other ways to determine the unseen condition of a river. Macroinvertebrates – animals with exoskeletons that are big enough to see without a microscope – are a great indicator. Animals like mayflies, dragonflies, and others begin their life cycle as aquatic larvae. These immature flies make their homes among the stony shoals and shallow areas of rivers and streams where food and oxygen are abundant. Researchers sample these areas and compare the numbers and types of macroinvertebrates they find. Some animals, like mayflies and stoneflies, are very sensitive to changes in conditions brought on by pollution, and die out easily. However, animals like dragonflies and



TOP: Vermilion Darter BOTTOM: Dragonfly Nymph

damselflies prefer good water conditions, but are more tolerant to pollutants. Depending on the ratios that are sampled, researchers can get a pretty good idea of water health without the use of chemical testing.

Each and every resident can do their part to protect our watersheds from pollution and disturbance. A watershed is the entire geographical area that drains into a river system. This includes our parking lots, storm drains, roadway ditches, and even the gutters on our houses. All the water, dirt, pollution, and natural objects on the ground drain from our 14 watersheds into one of our 16 rivers, and ultimately into the Gulf of Mexico. Getting our trash and recycling where it belongs is the number one way that we all can help. This includes eliminating trash and litter from our residential areas, roads and drainages. If you enjoy participating in recreational water activities, be sure to carry trash bags and never throw objects overboard. If you're like me, take along an extra bag and pick up any trash you see floating on the surface or near the water's edge.

Having such a rich natural heritage is something we should cherish here in our state. Get out and explore the beauty and abundance of Alabama and let others know what a truly special place we get to call home, sweet home.



PIRATES AND PARROTS

THE TRUTHS AND LEGENDS

BY: ANNA TURKETT

Pirates have just landed here at the Birmingham Zoo, and their parrot friends are here to greet them. The Zoo has many species of parrots ranging from the small nectar-eating lorikeets to the majestic macaws. But why do we think of parrots when we see a pirate? And did they really have talking pet parrots on their shoulders?

Our ideas about pirates having parrots are rooted in both fact and fiction. On the fiction side, we have the iconic pirate tale *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. This book gave us many of the iconic pirate imagery we see today – including peg legs, eye patches, and treasure maps marked with an X. The infamous Long John Silver had a pet parrot named Captain Flint who rode on his shoulder and regularly shouted pirate phrases like “pieces of eight!” So began the tradition of talking parrots being a favorite pet of the swashbuckler.

On the factual side, we do know that pirates transported parrots on their ships – we have historical records of parrots in their ship manifests. But the reason wasn’t for companionship; it was for the exotic pet trade. During the Golden Age of Piracy in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, parrots were a popular and expensive pet in Europe. Pirates would capture or buy the parrots in Central America and the Caribbean then sell them overseas. It isn’t likely that they kept the birds as companions, as a wild parrot would bite and be very loud.

Here at the Zoo, we have three green-winged macaws. Even though they look like a pirate’s parrot, you won’t hear them talk or see them on anyone’s shoulder, but you might hear them scream (almost as loud as a jet engine taking off!) or see them being trained by Animal Care Professionals as we work with them on presenting husbandry behaviors. Look right to see more information about these fascinating birds...

Have you taken an adventure on the Zoo’s new Red Diamond Express Pirate Train Ride? This exciting new attraction at the Zoo opened in May and is sure to excite swashbucklers of all ages.

The new Pirate Ride is comprised of legions of realistic, life-size, animatronic pirates. Entertaining as well as inspiring, the Pirate Train Ride is designed to send an important message about water conservation. Special thanks to Shipt Grocery Delivery for helping bring the Pirates to the Zoo. Various animal figures, including Komodo dragons, gibbons, parrots, snakes and more add to the magic of the Pirate attraction.

The Pirates at the Birmingham Zoo previously took over the boat ride tour at the Columbus Zoo. After releasing their siege in Powell, Ohio, they took a voyage south and have landed at the Birmingham Zoo. Since landing, the pirates have gotten into antics all along the Zoo’s train track. They can be seen playing music and games, planting plants, doing laundry and more! Through all of their actions, the pirates work on ways to conserve water. Most of the water on Earth is salt water, which is fine for

pirates sailing the seven seas, but leaves only 1% of Earth’s water for us land lovers to share! This is why it is important to take small actions, such as checking for drips and leaks, turning off the faucet while you lather your hands, or brush your teeth, and if you’re real brave – letting it mellow if it’s yellow!

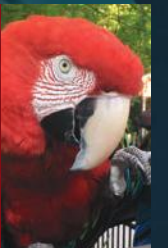
The pirates seem to have taken a liking to living in Alabama, a state with more fresh water species than any other in the United States. There are more fish species in Birmingham’s Cahaba River than in all of the rivers in the entire state of California. Facts like this, and more, are woven throughout this attraction, allowing riders to learn while being entertained.

The pirates were created and produced by an internationally recognized company out of Ohio that specializes in attraction installations for theme parks and zoos around the world. You can see the pirates each time you ride the train at the Birmingham Zoo. The train is open daily and is \$3.50 per ride.

This attraction is designed for brave buccaneers. The pirates move and talk, which may be scary to little ones.

Peanut: “Ruler of the Roost”

- * Personality: Dominant and brave
- * Favorite activity: Eating corn and sunflower seeds
- * Fun fact: Peanut is our heaviest macaw at around 3 pounds!



Saturn: “Peanut’s Right-Hand Man”

- * Personality: Gentle and flighty
- * Favorite activity: Spending time with Peanut
- * Fun fact: Saturn is the “chattiest” of the bunch. He can’t mimic any words, but he makes a lot of parrot chattering noises. He will sometimes mutter or even make a laughing sound.



Lucy: “Happy Bachelor”

- * Personality: Relaxed and curious
- * Favorite activity: Chewing on sticks
- * Fun fact: Despite his name, Lucy is actually a male. He’s pretty content without a mate – he doesn’t have to share his food and gets to explore whenever he wants.



UPCOMING EVENTS

July

1-4 Fourth of July Weekend at the Zoo

15 Pirate Movie Night (Night Event)



8-9 Zoo Fun Days

10 Zoo Member Night at the Birmingham Barons

15-16 Zoo Fun Days

19 Zoo Member Night at the Birmingham Barons

22-23 Zoo Fun Days

29-30 Zoo Fun Days

30-Aug 5 Cat Week

August

5-6 Zoo Fun Days

12 World Elephant Day

19 Pancakes and Princesses

19 Fairytales and Frogs



26 Cassowary Day

September

2 Vulture Awareness Day

2-4 Labor Day Weekend at the Zoo

15 **IBERIABANK** ZooGala (Night Event. Ages 21 and up.)

16 Red Panda Day

22 World Rhino Day

23 La Celebración (Hispanic Heritage Day)

24 Bowling for Rhinos (Night Event. Vestavia Bowl.)

October

15, 19-22, 26-31
Boo at the Zoo Presented by Wells Fargo



SMART GIVING FOR THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

BY: STEWART WELCH III

Recently I had the pleasure of having lunch with Dr. William Foster, Director of the Birmingham Zoo, and Sissy Jackson, President of the Birmingham Zoo Board. I was amazed at all of the innovative changes they have made, as well as their future plans to enhance the 'Zoo experience'.

The Zoo is among the City of Birmingham's crown jewels as it attracts over 670,000 local and out-of-town visitors annually and enhances the reputation of the city. Our lunch conversation drifted into my area of expertise - funding the Zoo's ongoing operations. It takes a lot of money to run the Zoo and fortunately, Birmingham area residents recognize the value of the Zoo, but constantly raising funds is an ongoing challenge. Giving, however, can be both easy and smart.

Smart Giving Strategy #1

If you are an avid fan of the Birmingham Zoo, one simple idea is to use a portion of your IRA as a tool for giving. Here's how this might work:

With a simple beneficiary change form, make the Zoo the beneficiary of a portion of your IRA. For example, say you have an IRA worth \$100,000 which is now payable equally to your three children. Change the beneficiary to read: \$25,000 payable to the Birmingham Zoo; balance to my three children (named) equally. Note that nothing happens until after your death so you have access to 100% of your IRA money should you need it. Giving IRA money at your death to a charity you support is a smart money strategy. Why? First, it's easy to do. You don't need an attorney or a lot of paperwork. You simply sign a new beneficiary form. Second, while investing in an IRA is a great strategy for accumulating wealth (tax deduction for contributions; tax deferred growth), it is a much less valuable asset to inherit because to access the money, your children must pay income taxes at their highest tax rate. To the extent you use your IRA to give to charity, you're shifting 'tax-free' dollars to the charity versus 'taxable' dollars to heirs. Simple, easy, smart.

Smart Giving Strategy #2

If you are 70 ½ or older, you must take Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA account(s). Typically, your broker sends you a check for your RMD which you, in turn, deposit and must report as ordinary income on

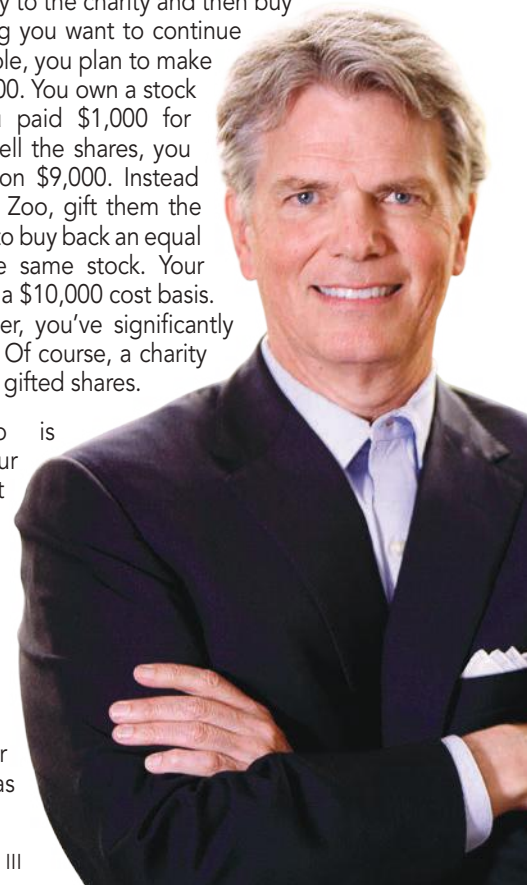
your tax return. If, during the year, you make a gift to a charity, you report that deduction on your tax return as well. You can short-cut the process by having your broker pay your RMD (or a portion of it) 'directly' to the charity. One advantage, in addition to being a simple short-cut, is that this direct gift-transfer has the effect of lowering your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) which, in turn, lowers the threshold for deducting itemized medical expenses, miscellaneous deductions, as well as (potentially) the income adjusted surcharge for Medicare Parts B and D.

Smart Giving Strategy #3

Commonly, people simply write a check to their favorite charity. If you have appreciated securities, a smarter strategy is to give the stock directly to the charity and then buy back the shares (assuming you want to continue holding them). For example, you plan to make a gift to the Zoo of \$10,000. You own a stock worth \$10,000 that you paid \$1,000 for (your cost basis). If you sell the shares, you owe capital gains taxes on \$9,000. Instead of writing a check to the Zoo, gift them the stock, then use your cash to buy back an equal number of shares of the same stock. Your 'new' stock will now have a \$10,000 cost basis. If you need to sell it later, you've significantly reduced your tax liability. Of course, a charity never owes taxes on your gifted shares.

The Birmingham Zoo is certainly worthy of our support. It's an important attraction as well as an important part of the economic engine that drives Birmingham and the surrounding communities. If you want to make a gift, make it a 'smart' gift. Consult with your tax advisor before following the ideas presented in this article.

PHOTO: STEWART WELCH III



VOLUNTEER AT THE ZOO

Summer is here and the Birmingham Zoo is looking for passionate adults to come on board and join our volunteer team! Adult Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age or older, not in high school and must share in the Zoo's mission to "Inspire a Passion for the Natural World." As a volunteer, you will begin your journey with us as an Information Ambassador, where you will learn the ins and outs of the Zoo and share them with Zoo guests. From there, we offer more opportunities through training; some of which include Kiwanis's Giraffe Encounter, Trails of Africa Zoo Guide, and the new Jaguar Zoo Guide position! Plus, as a team, we are constantly evolving and adding additional programs to take part in. Without new faces joining our team we cannot continue to evolve and add more sparks to our inspiration flame! Orientations are held monthly, so visit www.birminghamzoo.com/get-involved/volunteer/ to start your application today.



Bham Now

bhamnow.com

tech. jobs. nature. fun. food.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: SHIPT

Shipt, a Birmingham, Alabama-based grocery delivery service, is honored to be the presenting sponsor of Birmingham Zoo's new Pirate Attraction.

As one the country's fastest growing grocery delivery companies – and a proud Birmingham grown business – Shipt partners with leading retailers and local stores to shop for and deliver fresh groceries and household essentials to members by way of expert, friendly shoppers. The membership-based service offers unlimited grocery deliveries in as soon as one hour and actively serves over 30 cities and their surrounding suburban regions. Launched in 2014, Shipt currently has offices in Birmingham, Alabama, and San Francisco, California. Learn more at www.shipt.com, on Facebook at @Shipttoday, on Instagram at @ShiptGroceries, and Twitter at @Shipt.



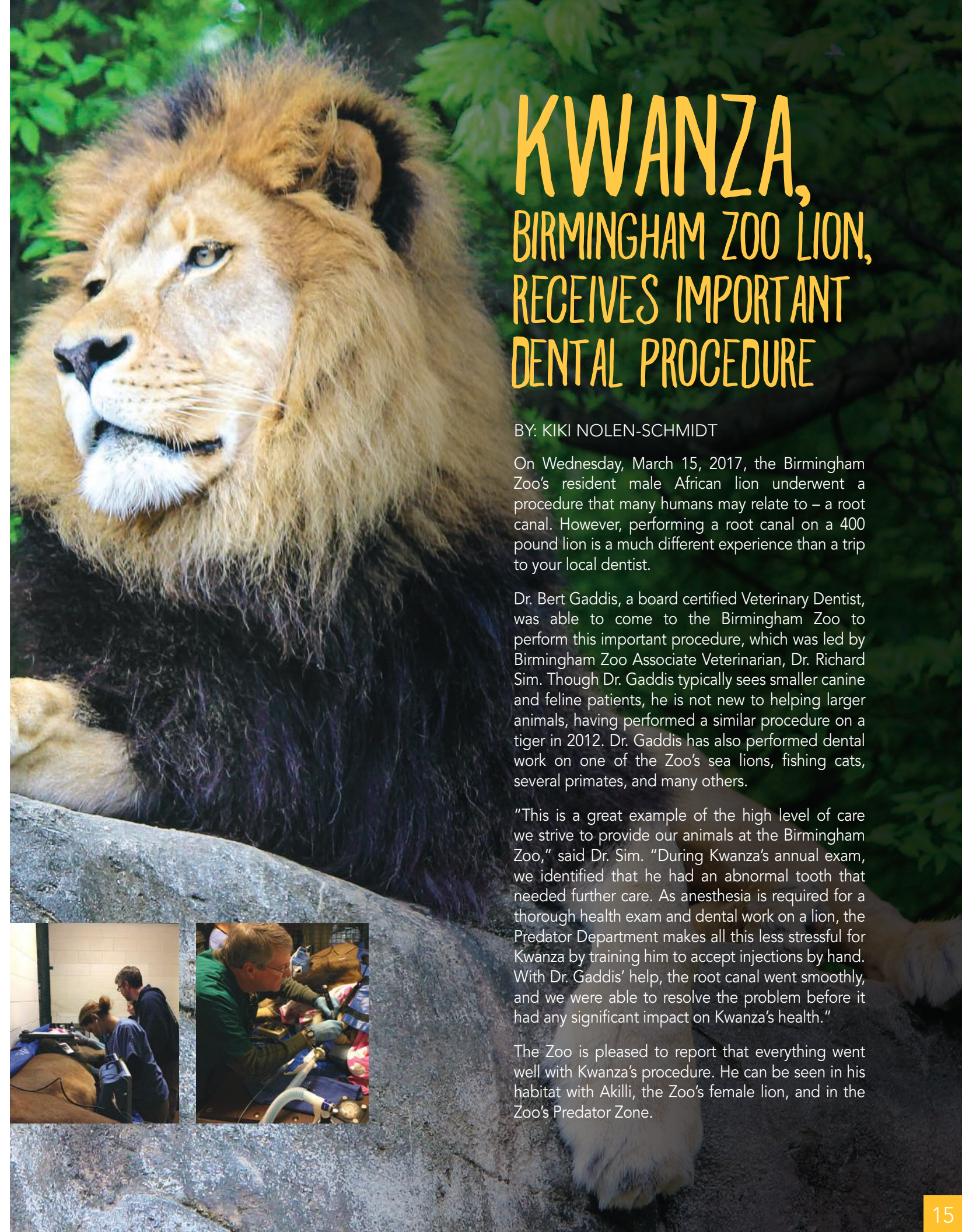
GREEN TEAM – WATER CONSERVATION

BY: LINDSEY HERRON

Looking for more ways to “go green”? The Birmingham Zoo Green Team is here to help!

With another hot Alabama summer right around the corner, it's the perfect time to start thinking of water conservation! As the temperature rises, our lawns and gardens need more water in order to stay looking their best. Watering during the early morning and late afternoon will minimize evaporation. Make sure your sprinklers aren't watering sidewalks and roads, either. Save your water for the plants! Check pools for leaks once a month and don't overfill them. Lower water levels can help reduce splashing outside of the pool, which will help minimize water loss. Finally, instead of washing your car at home, head to your local car wash. Most professional car washers use water recycling systems, so not only will you have a sparkly clean car, your water use will be minimal as well.

With all the fun to be had outside, it might be easy to forget about water conservation in the house. Because most water use takes place inside homes, it's important to make sure we check our water habits here, too. The bathroom is a great place to start your water conservation habits. Always check faucets and toilets for leaks. Did you know one drip per second can add up to over five gallons lost per day? Turning your faucet off when brushing your teeth can save up to four gallons a minute and if you shorten your showers by a minute or two, you can save approximately 150 gallons a month. Little changes add up! Monitor water use in other areas of the house as well. Most new dishwashers require less water to run than you would use handwashing dishes, and many washing machines have adjustable water levels. Never thaw foods under running water, and soak your dirty pots and pans instead of running water over them to loosen stuck-on food.



KWANZA, BIRMINGHAM ZOO LION, RECEIVES IMPORTANT DENTAL PROCEDURE

BY: KIKI NOLEN-SCHMIDT

On Wednesday, March 15, 2017, the Birmingham Zoo's resident male African lion underwent a procedure that many humans may relate to – a root canal. However, performing a root canal on a 400 pound lion is a much different experience than a trip to your local dentist.

Dr. Bert Gaddis, a board certified Veterinary Dentist, was able to come to the Birmingham Zoo to perform this important procedure, which was led by Birmingham Zoo Associate Veterinarian, Dr. Richard Sim. Though Dr. Gaddis typically sees smaller canine and feline patients, he is not new to helping larger animals, having performed a similar procedure on a tiger in 2012. Dr. Gaddis has also performed dental work on one of the Zoo's sea lions, fishing cats, several primates, and many others.

“This is a great example of the high level of care we strive to provide our animals at the Birmingham Zoo,” said Dr. Sim. “During Kwanza's annual exam, we identified that he had an abnormal tooth that needed further care. As anesthesia is required for a thorough health exam and dental work on a lion, the Predator Department makes all this less stressful for Kwanza by training him to accept injections by hand. With Dr. Gaddis' help, the root canal went smoothly, and we were able to resolve the problem before it had any significant impact on Kwanza's health.”

The Zoo is pleased to report that everything went well with Kwanza's procedure. He can be seen in his habitat with Akilli, the Zoo's female lion, and in the Zoo's Predator Zone.



BUTTERFLIES ARE BACK AT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

BY: TYLER EADS

Have you seen them? The butterflies are back!

Make sure you make your way over to the Children's Zoo Butterfly Garden on your next visit to the Zoo. The habitat opened on April 29 and will run through Labor Day. The Children's Zoo staff will be releasing butterflies at different times each day so be sure to stop by for a visit.

Butterflies have a very eventful life. They undergo a process called metamorphosis. This means that before the butterfly becomes an adult it will undergo a complete change in appearance. Butterflies begin as an egg that is laid on a host plant. The host plant serves as a food source for the next stage of the butterfly's life: a caterpillar. This stage of a butterfly's life is all about eating! The caterpillar grows rapidly and actually sheds its skin numerous times during this stage. This is also why the host plants are so important to butterflies. If an egg is laid on a plant the caterpillar does not like, it will not complete its transition into an adult butterfly. In the third or chrysalis stage, the caterpillar sheds one last time and forms a protective casing around its body. The adult butterfly forms within the casing and emerges in a few weeks, completing the metamorphosis. When the adult butterfly first emerges, the wings are folded and wet. In order to gain flight, the butterfly must fill its wings with fluid to spread them out and allow them to dry. This process can take up to 2 hours, depending on the size of the butterfly. Once the wings are full and dry the butterfly takes

flight to begin its search for nectar and a mate to begin the process all over again.

Did you know there are butterfly farms? The butterflies for the Butterfly Garden are supplied by John Wahl with WT&S Butterfly Farm. We receive a shipment of 100 chrysalises each week to release into the garden. Once we receive the shipment, an Animal Care Professional will pin the chrysalis in a different box inside our Chrysalis Room where they will begin the process of emerging. Make sure on your next visit to take a look in the window and see if you can watch a butterfly emerge.

Monarch butterflies are perhaps the most well-known species of butterfly we have at the Zoo. Monarchs migrate to southern California and South America for winter. According to the Xerces Society, there has been a decline of more than 80% of the Monarchs seen in central Mexico. Much of this decline is believed to be linked to the loss of milkweed plants across the United States. You can help the monarch and other butterflies by planting regionally appropriate milkweed and other host plants in your yard or garden.

Want to plant a butterfly garden at home? It's easy! Begin by finding a location that receives a good amount of sunlight during the day. Next you want to make sure you get plants and flowers that produce good nectar, such as Milkweed, Petunias, Sunflowers, and many other types. Don't forget the host plants; just be ready for the caterpillars to eat them up. Lastly, sit back, relax, and enjoy the butterflies!

◀ ZOO BREW ▶



Red Diamond®. The Official Coffee & Tea of the Birmingham Zoo.

Visit us at the wet and wild Red Diamond® Splash Show and then hop aboard the Red Diamond® Express Train!

Top 10 BBQ Restaurants in the U.S.
Ebony Magazine // Huffington Post

The ULTIMATE TAILGATE



Full Moon
BAR-B-QUE

From 10 guests to 10,000, Full Moon delivers the ultimate tailgate party. With our fleet of portable hickory-fired bar-b-que pits and more than 30 catering vans, we bring the party to you—wherever you are.



FULLMOONBBQ.COM

WE HAVE A SPACE JUST FOR YOU

BECOME A PART OF THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

Show your pride in your Birmingham Zoo with a gift to the new Asian Passage habitat.

This new feature will support the Zoo's conservation efforts and your donation will be used to build habitats for Asian species, offering guests the opportunity to see these fascinating animals up close. Gifts of \$1,000 or more will be recognized on the beautiful donor wall. Your gift truly makes a difference in the Zoo's future.

To donate, please visit www.birminghamzoo.com/get-involved/donate/



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN AFRICA ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONAL

BY: LAURA SCHILLINGER

Hey folks! Thanks for joining me for a look at my day as the Zoological Manager of Trails of Africa (TOA). TOA is a \$12 million project that includes a four acre elephant yard and barn. TOA was designed to be the first, and is currently the only, successful all male herd of African elephants. TOA currently houses 3 male African elephants, 3 white rhino, 1 Nile hippopotamus, 4 giraffe, 3 zebra, 3 red river hogs, 2 ostrich, and 1 yellow backed duiker. As a department, we cover the entire back half of the Zoo! It's quite a large area to manage but it's a lot of fun.

My job includes duties of an Animal Care Professional and those of a manager. Since most of my time is spent with the elephants, I make sure everyone is healthy as soon as I arrive. The rest of the crew checks on the other TOA animals and lets me know of any issues. When checking the animals every morning, a few things we look for are the alertness of the animal, make sure they look physically healthy, and if there is an appropriate amount of manure present. Noticing this can give us a quick idea about any issues that may have arisen overnight. The elephants go through a daily morning routine, which is an easy way to let us know where the elephants are mentally. Many of the behaviors they perform are the same; however, there are variations in each routine. We ask the elephants a series of behaviors, such as to present their ears, lift each foot, and perform a turn. We gauge the elephant's state of mind based on how quickly, and how much effort, they put into their behaviors. Doing these behaviors is a form of exercise, which is important in maintaining their overall health. The behaviors also help with routine medical check-ups. After the morning routines, the team heads out to clean all of the habitats while I use this time to perform office duties.

Once the yards are clean, I join the team back in the elephant barn to help give the elephants baths, breakfast, and shift them outside for guests to enjoy. After all the elephants are out, we have a huge barn to clean. We like to keep the barns as clean as possible for the animals.

A fun part of my job is conducting behind the scenes tours for special guests. It's part of my job to lead these tours and provide a wonderful experience to inspire potential donors to help support the Zoo and conservation. The TOA crew is responsible for educating our guests about the animals we care for and how every guest can contribute to conservation.

After cleaning our barns, we feed the elephants lunch and spend additional training sessions with the animals. We're currently working with our male giraffe on allowing us to trim his hooves and x-ray his feet. Our female rhinos are also being trained to allow an ultrasound. Our rhinos are recommended to breed through their Species Survival Plan®, so it's important that we are able to detect a pregnancy.

Meanwhile, I have to make time for my managerial duties. Luckily, I have an amazing team who can work the day without my immediate presence. To finish the day, the team sets up the animals for the night. The animals are fed and shifted into appropriate areas for the night. Sometimes we have after-hours events that require animals and team members. It's part of my job to ensure these events are a memorable experience for guests. Therefore, some of our days can be quite long. However, we're all happy to do it because that is more time we get to spend with the animals!

It is truly my pleasure to work with these animals and this team. Even after long days and hard work we look forward to coming back and doing it all again tomorrow. Come see us in TOA at the Birmingham Zoo!



KUDUS

WE KNOW IT'S "KUDOS," BUT WE'RE A ZOO!

The Birmingham Zoo gratefully acknowledges the following donors For the period: February 1, 2017 - April 30, 2017

RENEW THE ZOO CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Mr. and Mrs. Hal Abroms
Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Aldridge
Ms. Elise Bodenheimer
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Boulware
Ms. Luann F. Bowser
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Brewer
Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brill
Ms. Barbara Chapman
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Chazen
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clayton
Ms. Betty Cowin
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Curtin
Ms. Wanda Dake
Daniel Corporation
Mr. Jeremy Dickson
Mr. and Mrs. Devin C. Dolive
Dr. Azita Takeshian and
Mr. Aref Eghbalian ✦
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Engel
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Engel
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Friedman ✦
Dr. and Mrs. Morton Goldfarb
Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Graves
Mr. Robert W. Gray
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Killian
Mr. Philippe W. Lathrop and
Ms. Judy Crittenden
Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Martin ✦
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Martin
Mr. and Mrs. Hampton McFadden Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Nall
Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Nesmith
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Owen Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Perry
The Estate of William T. Ratliff, Jr.
Renasant Bank
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Ross
Ms. Barbara Shepherd
Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Stein

2016/2017 CORPORATE PARTNERS 2017 ZooGala Presenting Partner IBERIABANK

2017 Tails in the Trails Presenting Partner Zekelman Industries

ELEPHANT PARTNERS Alabama Power Company Alagasco (Spire Energy) BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama

ORANGUTAN PARTNERS C.S. Beatty Construction, Inc. Medical Properties Trust, Inc. Protective Life Corporation Vulcan Materials Company

GIBBON PARTNERS Mr. and Mrs. James Ard Balch & Bingham LLP Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC Burr & Forman LLP Dunn-French Foundation Goodwyn Mills & Cawood, Inc. John 3:16 KPMG LLP Don and Sandy Logan Maynard Cooper & Gale

McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Inc.
McKinney Capital
The Nall-Whitley Foundation
O'Neal Industries
Southern Foodservice Management
Waste Management
Western Supermarkets

RED PANDA PARTNERS AmWINS Group Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling Company United, Inc. Bryant Bank Merrill Lynch Motion Industries, Inc. New Capital Partners Vulcan Industrial Contractors Co., LLC

FISHING CAT PARTNERS Alabama Controls, Inc. Aquatic Gardens & Fountains, Inc. Bagby Elevator Company, Inc. BB&T BBVA Compass Cowin Equipment Company, Inc. Greenhalgh Insurance Agency The Tim Hennessy, Jr. Family Jemison Investment Co., Inc. Momentum Telecom, Inc. Ray & Poynor Properties, Inc. Red Clay Technology Group Redhawk Consulting Royal Cup Coffee Vulcan Value Partners, LLC

PEACOCK PARTNERS Cook & Bynum Capital Management Gray & Associates, LLC Gray's Roofing and Tree Service Ron and Melinda Helveston KC Projects, LLC Marx Brothers, Inc.

RED-CROWNED CRANE PARTNERS Mr. and Mrs. Louis Anderson A.G. Lighting, LLC BHK Investment Advisors BHT Charitable Foundation, Inc. Bright Future Electric, LLC Brookline Capital Partners, LLC Cobbs Allen Fetch Graham & Company, LLC Jimmy John's Jones-McLeod, Inc. Medical Business Management Pearce, Beville, Leesburg & Moore, PC Pimco Powell Pediatric Dentistry Southern States Bank Standard Heating and Air Conditioning Co., Inc. Standifer Animal Clinic Tacala, LLC Transamerica Warren Averett, LLC Williams Blackstock Architects

MAJOR SUPPORTERS Alabama Power Company Mr. and Mrs. Allen Ritchie Altec, Inc. AutoTec and its Employees

Balch & Bingham LLP
Barbara Ingalls Shook Foundation
Birmingham Coca-Cola Bottling
Company United, Inc.
BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama
Bradley
Brasfield & Gorrie, LLC
Mrs. Jane H. Brock
Mr. and Mrs. Philip J. Carroll, III
City of Birmingham
City of Hoover
City of Mountain Brook
City of Vestavia Hills
Community Foundation of
Greater Birmingham
Mr. and Mrs. Skip Cooper IV
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crawford
Daniel Foundation of Alabama
EBSCO Industries and its Employees
Full Moon Bar-B-Que
The Goodrich Foundation
Kathryn and Raymond Harbert
Mr. and Mrs. W. Cobb Hazelrigg &
Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Wedell
Hill Crest Foundation
Hugh Kaul Foundation
IBERIABANK
Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. James
Jefferson County Commission
Jemison Investment Co., Inc.
John B. Thompson Foundation
Junior League of Birmingham
Mr. and Mrs. Gerard Kassouf
Kiwanis Club of Birmingham
Linn-Henley Charitable Trust
Mr. David M. Loper
Lucille S. Beeson Charitable Trust
Mayer Electric Supply Company, Inc.
Maynard Cooper & Gale
McKinney Capital/
Landscape Workshop
Medical Properties Trust, Inc.
Mike and Gillian Goodrich
Charitable Foundation
Mr. Wally Nall III
The Nall-Whitley Foundation
O'Neal Industries
Dr. and Mrs. Dennis G. Pappas
PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
Protective Life Corporation
The Estate of William T. Ratliff, Jr.
RealtySouth
Robert R. Meyer Foundation
Southern Foodservice
Management, Inc.
Susan Mott Webb Charitable Trust
Thomas E. Jernigan Foundation
Thompson Foundation
Mrs. Lucille R. Thompson
Vulcan Materials Company
The Warren Family Foundation
Wells Fargo

BOO AT THE ZOO
Alagasco (Spire Energy)
Publix Super Markets Charities

DREAM NIGHT
McKinney Capital/Landscape
Workshop, **Presenting Sponsor**

GOLDEN EAGLE HABITAT Mr. and Mrs. Louis Anderson Vulcan Value Partners, LLC

JAGUAR HABITAT Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Bazemore Peggy and Uday Bhat Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Duncan Mr. and Mrs. Bill Floyd Ms. Rona Harper Mr. and Mrs. Jason Harris Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Jackman Jaguar Birmingham Ms. Virginia Martin Mr. and Mrs. Shiraz Merchant Mr. and Mrs. Charles Northen III Mr. and Mrs. Roy Purcell Mrs. Allen D. Rushton Mr. and Mrs. W. Michael Strickland Tim Allen Paints, Inc. Dr. and Mrs. Scott Touger Ilana and Zachary Touger Mr. Tinsley Van Durand Ms. J. Ann R. Wright

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA Birmingham Jewish Foundation Junior League of Birmingham

OFFICIAL MAP SPONSOR RealtySouth

CONSERVATION Mrs. Amy McCarthy in honor of Brian McCarthy Mountain Park Garden Club Mr. Wally Nall III

PIRATES ATTRACTION Shipt, **Presenting Partner** DC Scientific Pest Control, Inc., **Featured Partner**

LE CELEBRACIÓN Abogados Centro Legal / Barber Harris, LLC

RED DIAMOND SEA LION SHOW Red Diamond Coffee and Tea Company

RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED Mr. and Mrs. David Barthold City of Hoover Mr. and Mrs. James S. Christie Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Devin C. Dolive Lucille S. Beeson Charitable Trust Marvin's Inc. New Horizons Protective Life Corporation Mr. and Mrs. James Richardson

ZOO, BREWS AND FULL MOON BAR-B-QUE Full Moon Bar-B-Que, **Presenting Partner** Bashinsky Foundation, **Featured Partner**

ZOOFARI CAMPS Poarch Band of Creek Indians

ZOORUN Chiropractic Covenant Classical Schools and Daycare ErgoScience Physical Therapy The Fitness Center Nall-Daniels Animal Hospital The Trak Shak

ZOOSCHOOL Ard Contracting, Inc. Honda Manufacturing of Alabama, LLC Kinder Morgan Foundation

ZOOLIGHT SAFARI Alagasco (Spire Energy)



Fairytales & - FR^{OG}GS Day

at The Birmingham Zoo
SATURDAY, AUGUST 19

10AM-2PM

featured partner

The Enchanted Princesses

www.birminghamzoo.com

