

# Animal Tracks

## Citizen Science and Your Birmingham Zoo!

Get involved as a citizen scientist  
to help with vital conservation  
research in Alabama!

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### **+** WHERE IS MY FAVORITE ANIMAL?

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Learn more about the new  
additions to our animal family!





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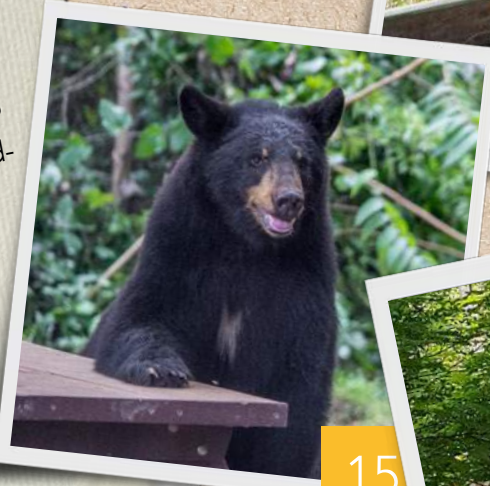
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**PHOTO CREDITS:** Kirstin Anderson, Sharon Joseph, Scott Kayser, Clark Maxwell, Renee Trojan, & Danielle Williams

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## LETTER FROM The Director

Dear Members,

As we embark on the fall months and one of the most eventful seasons, I hope that you have enjoyed a visit to your Zoo this summer. Seeing members and guests spend quality time with their family and friends has been uplifting for staff, volunteers, and myself.

Whether you spend the day feeding giraffes and lorikeets, taking photos, enjoying your favorite ride, shopping in the Gift Shop, relaxing by the ponds, or playing on Henley Park...whatever your pleasure, our Zoo is the perfect place to peacefully unwind and have endless fun in the beautiful Alabama sun! Every visit is a chance to create lasting memories and stories that will be told for generations to come.

In this issue, we are bringing you behind-the-scenes as animal care staff share their unique stories of providing extraordinary quality care to our entire animal family. The Birmingham Zoo is committed to exemplifying the 'gold standard' for animal welfare by meeting or exceeding the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation standards for modern zoological facilities worldwide.

Animals enrich our planet and our lives by helping us understand the natural world around us. AZA zoos and aquariums play important and complex roles in the conservation of animal species, preservation of wild and endangered populations, and animal welfare. The Birmingham Zoo is proud to be a neighboring ambassador. Supporting your Zoo makes it possible to help conserve wildlife and wild places, especially right here in Alabama.

I am excited for our upcoming events, programs, and projects in the months ahead. Every day, we strive to make your Zoo the best it can be for our animals and everyone in our community!

Thank you for continuing to support your Birmingham Zoo in Inspiring Passion to Conserve the Natural World. We look forward to seeing you soon and often!

*Chris Pfefferkorn*

Chris Pfefferkorn  
President & CEO



**Birmingham Zoo Mission: Inspiring Passion to Conserve the Natural World.**

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We welcome your comments and suggestions. Please send to:  
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# ANIMAL WELLNESS *A Team Effort*

BY: HOLLIE COLAHAN, VICE PRESIDENT OF LIVING COLLECTIONS AND  
SHARON JOSEPH, ANIMAL WELFARE AND ACCREDITATION CONSULTANT

Everyone would agree that animal wellness is the primary focus of the Animal Care and Veterinary Teams, but are they the only ones that help ensure our animals are happy and healthy? Last year, the Zoo formed a task force that developed a vision for our animal wellness program: the “best life” possible for every animal.

The task force was made up of not only members of the Animal Care and Veterinary Teams, but other departments as well, because everything we do at the Zoo impacts the lives of our animals. Good animal wellness does not just mean the absence of poor wellness; it means we are focused on providing animals with opportunities to thrive under our care. This interdisciplinary approach creates a culture of animal wellness advocacy such that every member of the staff understands they have a role to play in providing optimal care.

When Spud the Cape porcupine broke his leg, he required ongoing medical care and physical therapy to heal. But he also needed modifications to his habitat to make it safer/easier to navigate. The Primate Care Team and our veterinarian met with the Maintenance Team to brainstorm ideas and in June, Spud was able to return to his improved habitat and is doing great.

The Zoo hosts a variety of events throughout the year, one of these being Glow Wild, which was an amazing experience for our guests this winter. Undertaking a project this big requires teamwork across the Zoo. Months before the event, the Operations and Events Team met with the Animal Care Teams to discuss optimal

locations for sculptures, avoiding animals that might be startled by the large, lighted figures. During the weeks of setup, those teams communicated proactively with the Animal Teams to ensure that the equipment and noise would not have a negative impact on the animals. This proactive and cooperative approach ensures that both guests and animals can have a great experience.

During this past year, the COVID-19 pandemic created financial challenges unlike any the Zoo has ever experienced before. Hiring freezes, spending cuts, and cost savings were everyone’s priority in 2020. But as we began the 2021 budget planning process, the message from our Finance Team was clear: we will make sure the animals have what they need. We are all making do with less this year, but sea lions Farley and Gio are still dining on top quality seafood and repairs/improvements, like those to “Spud’s” habitat, continue to happen.

Building teams that can execute truly integrated, multidisciplinary care is central to ensuring that every animal at the Birmingham Zoo can have the best life possible.



## 2021 PASSION INTO CONSERVATION ACTION® (PICA) GRANTS

Passion into Conservation Action® (PiCA) grants are awarded to Zoo employees to allow them to participate in projects that support the conservation of species and their habitats at a local, regional, national, or international level. Since the PiCA program began in 2012, 44 Birmingham Zoo employees have participated in 55 conservation projects in 18 countries on 6 continents, with over \$225,000 in cash and in-kind contributions!

### 2021 PICA GRANT RECIPIENTS

**Jessie Griswold**  
**Animal Health Center, Lead Animal Care Professional**  
**Motus Wildlife Tracking Station at Birmingham Zoo**  
**Birmingham, AL**

Motus Wildlife Tracking Systems is an international research network to track flying animals via coordinated automated radio telemetry arrays. Alabama, with its extensive habitat diversity, is an important migratory path for a wide variety of bird species, many of which have been in steep decline. Knowing migratory paths of declining species is an important aspect of protection and conservation decisions on a local and national/international level. Through Jessie’s PiCA project, the Zoo plans to erect the first Motus Tower in Alabama!

**Terra Manasco**  
**Administration/Conservation, Conservation Manager**  
**Birmingham Zoo’s Pollinator Conservation Plan**

Terra’s PiCA grant supports the creation and expansion of pollinator habitats throughout the Zoo as well as the development of programs that encourage the creation of habitats throughout the greater Birmingham area.

This multi-faceted project will create new pollinator habitats in key public areas, develop best practices for reduction or elimination of pesticides, make improvements to the Monarch Waystation, provide supplies and bolster plant species to support the honeybee colony, and create a plan to engage the public through citizen science and garden certification.

**Jesse Daniel**  
**Education, Interpretation & Onsite Programs Manager**  
**Restoring the Florida Reef Tract through the Return of Atlantic**  
**Acropora Coral**  
**Islamorada, Florida (Florida Keys)**

Jesse Daniel will return to the Florida Keys to participate in Florida reef restoration. In his previous grant, Jesse worked with the Florida Aquarium and the Mote Marine Lab, including working in Mote’s open water coral nurseries, assisting with propagation of *Acropora* coral. In 2021, he will return to the Florida Keys, again working with Mote Marine Lab and its partners. He will participate in dives and the actual outplanting of *Acropora* coral in the Florida Reef Tract.





# TWO RHINOS WALK INTO THE DENTIST'S OFFICE.....

BY: STEPHANIE MCCAIN, DVM, DIPL ACZM,  
DIRECTOR OF ANIMAL HEALTH

Dental health is very important for animals, just as for people. But what if you're a rhinoceros? Rhinos spend a large portion of their day grazing, so their teeth are one of their most important body parts. Unfortunately for zoo veterinarians, the mouth of a white rhino only opens a few inches, so it is very difficult to see inside, let alone perform any dental work. Our two female rhinos, Laptop and Ajabu, were due for dental exams, so we decided to anesthetize them on the same day, one after another, which was quite the undertaking!

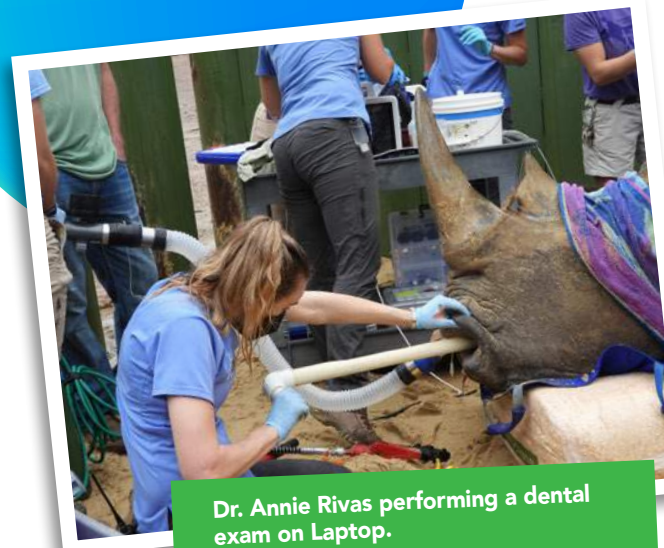
First up was Laptop, who is 28 years old. She was brought into a space that was well padded with sand and given an injection to anesthetize her, so staff could safely enter the space with her. One of our veterinarians then placed an endotracheal tube into her airway, so we were able to provide oxygen and make sure she took nice deep breaths using a specially-made ventilator. One of our veterinary technicians placed an intravenous catheter for administration of fluids and additional anesthetic drugs. We used anesthetic monitoring equipment to evaluate her heart and respiratory rates, blood oxygen saturation, and metabolic status throughout the hour-long procedure.

Using an endoscope, or small camera, we were able to visualize all of Laptop's teeth and thoroughly check them for any problems. Similar to horses, when rhinos chew, they can wear their teeth abnormally and create points that can cause discomfort to the tongue or cheek when eating. These points were filed down to create a smooth surface for better chewing.

Once the dental work was complete, all of the equipment was quickly removed from the space and anesthesia was reversed. Laptop stood up in less than 3 minutes. Staff then got everything organized again and ready to go on to the next one! After a short break, the entire procedure was repeated with Ajabu, Laptop's daughter, who is 20 years old. Not to be outdone by her mom, Ajabu was back on her feet just 2 minutes after her anesthetic reversal drugs were given.

Thanks to the hard work of all the staff involved, from Animal Care Professionals and the Veterinary Team to the Maintenance Team, who helped with preparations and equipment, both procedures went very smoothly.

Next time you are at the Zoo, take a look at how small the rhino's mouth is for an animal with such a big head! It took four Zoo staff members taking turns to hold the mouth open while our veterinarians performed the dental work. No one needed to visit the gym that day!



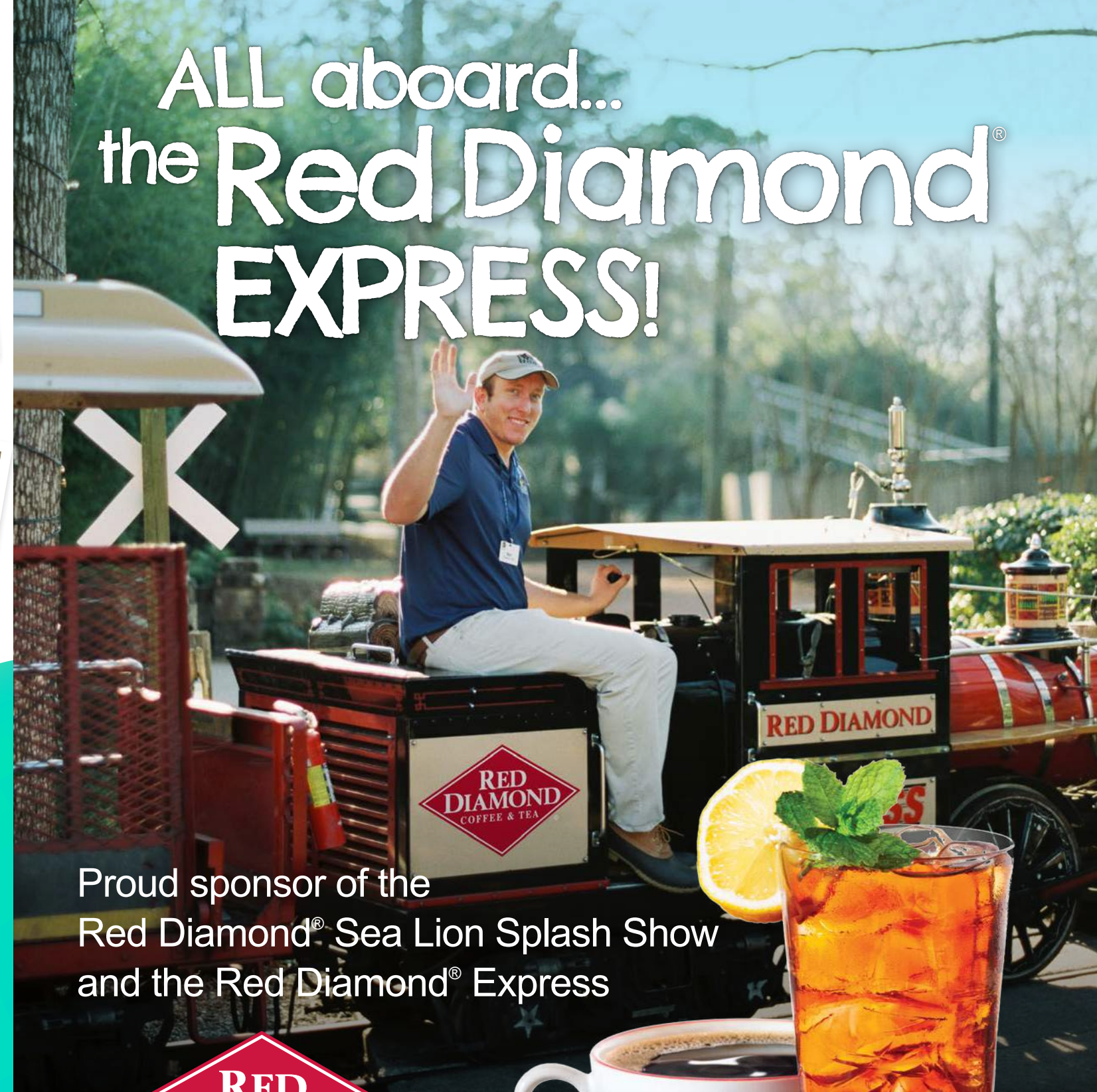
Dr. Annie Rivas performing a dental exam on Laptop.



Endoscopic picture of Ajabu's teeth.



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# MEET *Chaucer*

BY: VAUGHN MOORE, CHILDREN'S ZOO ACP 1

This June, Chaucer, a miniature donkey, was welcomed into the Children's Zoo Barn! Originally from the islands of Sardinia and Sicily, miniature donkeys were primarily bred to turn grain-grinding stones and carry water from village wells. First imported to the United States in 1929, miniature donkeys are now a popular pet (known for being affectionate, intelligent, durable, courageous, and cute), with the U.S. population being between 10,000-20,000.

Although donkeys have a reputation for being stubborn, miniature donkeys are known for having docile personalities and forming close bonds with humans. These bonds allow them to be easily trained to display various natural behaviors. Their popularity also stems from how they are "easy keepers," which means they utilize their feed efficiently, and therefore do not need a large amount. Miniature donkeys are grazing herbivores that use their large, flat teeth to tear and chew forage. This forage then fuels the animal through hindgut fermentation.

In contrast to some other miniature breeds of animals, the miniature donkey's size is natural and not a "bred-down" version of a large donkey. They typically do not surpass 36 inches in height, and weigh between 200-450 pounds. Chaucer is the most common color of miniature donkey, a grey dun with brown highlights. Other colors may include brown, black, slate grey, sorrel, spotted, piebald, skewbald, and cream. Every donkey has its own unique bray or "hee-haw," so when walking through the Alabama Wilds and the Junior League of Birmingham – Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo, make sure to listen out for Chaucer!

## MEET THE *Neighbors*

# MEET *Mad Max*

BY: DAN SELF, ZOOLOGICAL MANAGER OF REPTILES

Mad Max is one of the newest additions to the Reptile Building. He is a juvenile Komodo dragon and came to the Birmingham Zoo from the San Antonio Zoo, where he was born on Halloween of 2018. He is around four and a half feet long from his "nose" to the tip of his tail, and weighs in at just under 14 pounds. Max is a very curious and active animal and really enjoys interacting with enrichment items, such as large cardboard boxes.

Young Komodo dragons are very agile and are good climbers. In the wild, they spend a lot of time hiding in trees, away from larger dragons that would easily make a snack of them. As they grow, they become less agile, and by the time they reach maturity, most of their time is spent on the ground.

Max is currently with the other reptiles in the Reptile Building, but will eventually move to Asian Passage in the coming years. Be sure to visit the Reptile Building when it re-opens this fall!



## MEET THE *Neighbors*



# Monte, Matea, AND THEIR NEW MONKEY!

BY: DANIELLE WILLIAMS, ZOOLOGICAL MANAGER  
OF SOUTH AMERICA/PRIMATES

On May 3, 2021, the South America/Primate Department excitedly welcomed a new baby southern black howler monkey!

The infant was born to first-time parents, Monte and Matea. Monte moved to the Birmingham Zoo in May 2017 from San Antonio, where he lived with his parents and older siblings, and Matea arrived at the same time from Cleveland, where she had grown up in a family group. Monte and Matea had been recommended as a good match by the howler monkey Species Survival Plan® (SSP). During her new arrival routine quarantine period, Matea received a birth control implant. Since both monkeys were fairly young, our staff wanted to give them time to mature, while also adjusting to each other and their new settings, before they had any offspring. This was all a new adventure!

Monte and Matea got along well from the start, but it took longer to get them used to their daily routine when they moved to the South America/Primate Building. Gradually, they became more comfortable, and in July 2020, at a yearly health exam, veterinary staff removed Matea's birth control implant. While Monte and Matea continued to be a close pair – regularly snuggling at the top of the habitat and traveling together – the Animal Care Professionals (ACPs) rarely noticed any breeding behavior. ACPs collected regular fecal samples that were analyzed by our partners at the South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction and Conservation (SEZARC) for signs of pregnancy hormones, and in April 2021, SEZARC detected changes, and Matea's abdomen began to look larger.

On the morning of May 3, the ACP caring for the howler monkeys that day performed her typical morning check on all of the animals and noticed a small tail wiggling around Matea's hind quarters! All southern black howler monkeys have tan fur like their mother to help camouflage them, and if they are male, their coloration will change to black, like Monte's, at around two years old. The infant looked strong – it was able to hold its head up well and cling tightly to Matea as she moved around. The Animal Care Team watched carefully throughout the day to verify whether the infant was nursing, and Matea seemed to be doing everything she should, including carrying the baby against her chest, which made determining gender impossible.

Howler monkeys take about a year to wean, but within weeks, staff noticed the baby reaching new milestones. First, it explored, climbing all over Matea's body – some days it was like a living hula hoop! Then, as it got older, the baby started reaching out to hold onto the mesh in the off-viewing space and even to Monte. This is how the ACPs noticed it is a girl! The Primate Staff named her Miko. Monte has been very gentle and calm when Miko chooses to interact. He is being a great dad. As the year goes on, this little baby will hit many more achievements, from eating solid foods to climbing on structures independently. Be sure to check in on her often to see how she grows!

MEET THE  
*Neighbors*



*At Alabama Power, we believe in supporting the things that make our great state a better place to live. The Birmingham Zoo exemplifies this idea by helping to protect animals and unite our community through wildlife education.*

**We proudly support the Birmingham Zoo.**



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# FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLES

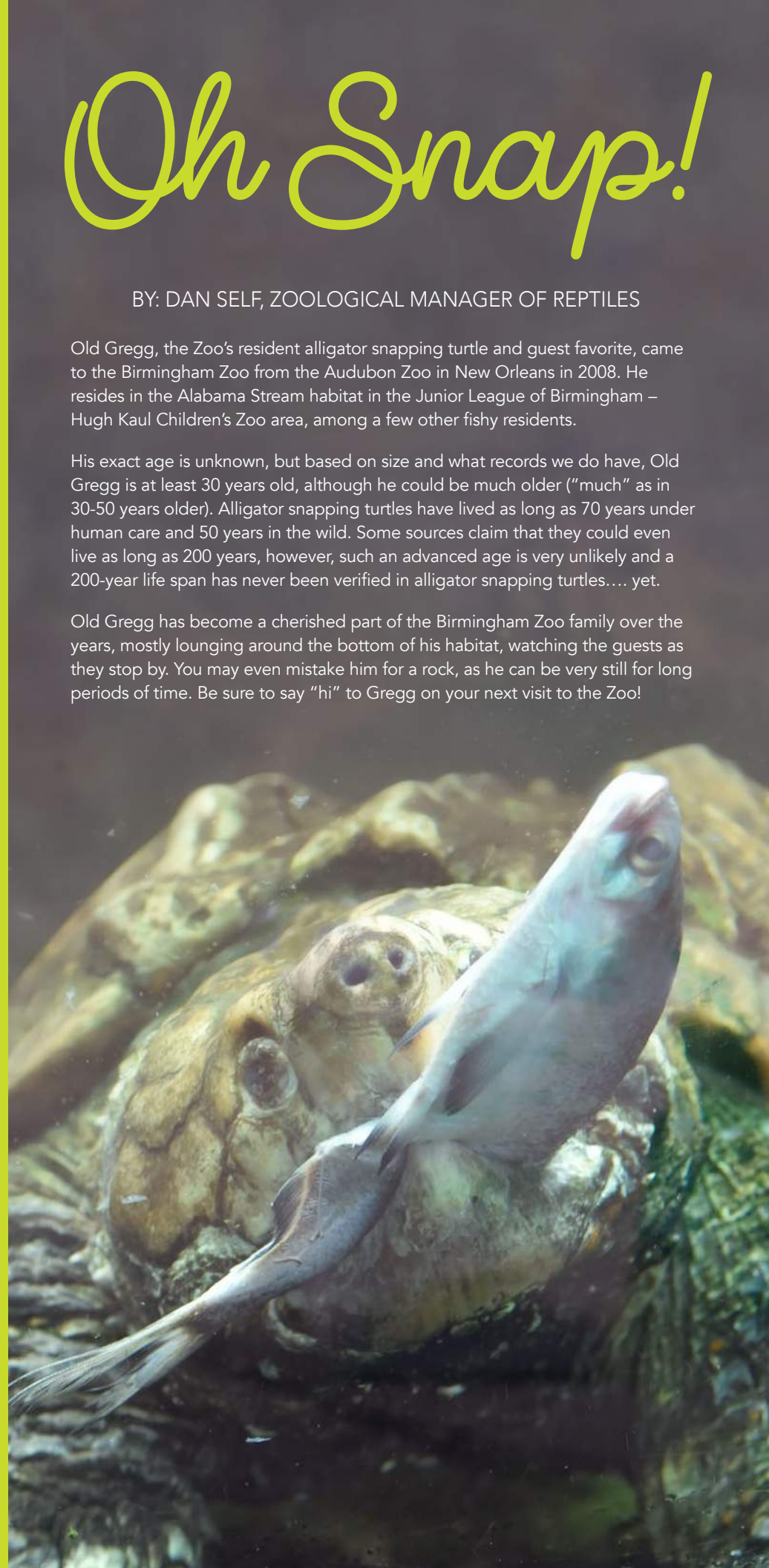
Alligator snapping turtles are found primarily in the southeastern United States, but can be found as far west as Texas and as far north as Illinois. They are often confused with common snapping turtles, which are a different species. The easiest way to notice the difference between the two species is that the common snapper has a smooth shell and the alligator snapping turtle has large “keels” or ridges on its shell. The alligator snapper also has a very large head and hooked beak.

Ranked as one of the heaviest freshwater turtles in the world, alligator snapping turtles top out at a weight of almost 250 pounds, although specimens over 175 pounds are extremely rare in the wild.

They are known to have a very dangerous bite - one of the strongest in the world. Studies have concluded that alligator snapping turtles have a bite force almost as strong as a tiger's! This is pretty amazing, considering that an adult alligator snapping turtle is only a fraction of the size of a full-grown tiger.

Alligator snapping turtles are extremely adaptable, as they can spend up to an hour submerged underwater searching for food. When it is time for a meal, they use their active scavenger skills and hunting instincts to find a good bite to eat. One hunting method they employ is to wiggle a pink worm-like appendage on their tongue to lure food in, and then use their sharp powerful jaws to dispatch their prey.

Alligator snapping turtles usually stay in the water, so if you encounter one on land, it is most likely a female looking for a place to lay her eggs. All turtles can wander far away from water while searching for the ideal nesting site. Turtles will hold on to their eggs until they find the perfect egg laying site - if they hold on to the eggs too long, the mother can become very sick. Handling the animal to return it to water is not only dangerous to you, but also dangerous for the animal if she needs to lay eggs. The best thing you can do for the health and safety of a turtle is to just leave it alone.



# Oh Snap!

BY: DAN SELF, ZOOLOGICAL MANAGER OF REPTILES

Old Gregg, the Zoo's resident alligator snapping turtle and guest favorite, came to the Birmingham Zoo from the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans in 2008. He resides in the Alabama Stream habitat in the Junior League of Birmingham – Hugh Kaul Children's Zoo area, among a few other fishy residents.

His exact age is unknown, but based on size and what records we do have, Old Gregg is at least 30 years old, although he could be much older (“much” as in 30-50 years older). Alligator snapping turtles have lived as long as 70 years under human care and 50 years in the wild. Some sources claim that they could even live as long as 200 years, however, such an advanced age is very unlikely and a 200-year life span has never been verified in alligator snapping turtles.... yet.

Old Gregg has become a cherished part of the Birmingham Zoo family over the years, mostly lounging around the bottom of his habitat, watching the guests as they stop by. You may even mistake him for a rock, as he can be very still for long periods of time. Be sure to say “hi” to Gregg on your next visit to the Zoo!

## Come ‘Nature Play’ With Us!

Medical Properties Trust is based in Birmingham and invests in hospitals around the world. We are a proud sponsor of the Birmingham Zoo and grateful for all they do to preserve wildlife, educate visitors and enrich our community.



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Here are some “wild animals”  
in their natural habitat,  
enjoying the Birmingham Zoo!

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# NATURE PLAY INTERN SPOTLIGHT

BY: COLLIN HOWELL, VOLUNTEER  
SERVICES MANAGER

On your latest visit to the Zoo, you might have seen some fun happening out in the Medical Properties Trust, Inc. Nature Play space, located next to Henley Park. Select days this summer, kids and adults alike participated in activities that promoted natural play with our Nature Play Intern, Rachel. These activities include everything from nature painting, to leaf rubbing, to even rolling down a hill. One of Rachel's favorite things to do is called "Tree Spirits," where kids will stick clay onto a tree and use natural objects to create faces on the clay. This encourages kids to explore their imagination for ways they can use nature to make art in their own backyards. Kids have a natural affinity for nature, and here at the Zoo, we want to help facilitate environmental exploration. Rachel says, "If I can inspire one child to connect with nature on a deeper level, then I've done my job."

To learn what Nature Play activities are going on when you're at the Zoo, look to see if there is Nature Play signage located in the front entrance breezeway on the day of your visit. You can also follow us on social media to get the latest updates for fall dates!

The audience of each activity varies from ages K-12, and adults are always welcome to participate as well, so there is something for guests of every age. Let's Play!



# PLASTIC FREE IS THE WAY TO BE!

BY: LINDSEY HERRON, ZOO REGISTRAR

## Looking for more ways to Go Green? The Birmingham Zoo Green Team is here to help!

Now that August is here, that means we just wrapped up Plastic Free July! Plastic Free July is a month long challenge that aims to help people minimize plastic pollution, especially by reducing the habit of using single-use plastic products. Single use plastic products are items that are only used once and then discarded, like food containers, drink bottles, and disposable cutlery. Plastic Free July is a great way to build new habits that are better for our planet and everyone who lives on it – but why stop at July? Each and every day, you can make choices for a brighter future. Continuing to reduce your usage of single use plastic is a great way to start a conversation about conservation, while also encouraging others to join in.

We have some tips and tricks for you to use less single use plastic! One of the simplest changes you can make is a reusable cup. When you get your coffee fix at your favorite local place, bring your reusable cup and ditch the disposable!

Another great way to reduce single use plastic waste is by looking in your bathroom and making some simple changes. Many of our daily bathroom supplies are packaged in single use plastic, like shampoo, conditioner, body wash, and even deodorant. But stores have begun offering alternatives, so now is a great time to see what's being offered. Bar soap is a good alternative to bottled body wash, and several companies offer bar shampoo to eliminate yet another bottle. There's even lotion and mouthwash available in recyclable metal and plastic bottles!

Here at the Zoo, we're minimizing our plastic use in a variety of ways. We have eliminated plastic bags from our gift shop, plus we offer beeswax food wraps to help you eliminate single use plastic wrap from your kitchen. The gift shop also has tons of reusable cups and bottles, so come by and pick out your new favorite!

Remember: every little bit counts!



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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## August 2021

August 28 – Magic City Wine Fest

## September 2021

September 9 – ZooRendezvous

Online Event - [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#)

September 14 – Teacher's Night

## October 2021

October 1 – 'Tails in the Trails

October 9 – Oktoberfest

October 16-17, 23-24, & 30-31 – Hoots & Howls

## November 2021

November 17 – January 17 –

Glow Wild: An Animal Lantern Celebration

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#BUILTINBHAM

# WHERE IS MY FAVORITE ANIMAL?

BY: DANIELLE WILLIAMS, ZOOLOGICAL MANAGER OF SOUTH AMERICA/PRIMATES

Have you ever been to the Zoo and noticed that an animal cannot be found on its habitat? It might seem strange that every animal is not viewable during all hours the Zoo is open, but there are often many things going on behind-the-scenes that might contribute to this situation. This is your chance to peek behind the curtain!

One of our most important goals at the Birmingham Zoo is to provide the best life for the animals in our care. While Animal Care Professionals (ACPs) are typically on grounds for 9-10 hours a day, the Zoo is open to our guests 7-8 hours of that time. Some of the tasks we need to accomplish on a given day for the benefit of the animals include:

**Animal introductions:** When we introduce or re-introduce animals, we try to give them as much space as possible. This allows each individual the opportunity to occupy the space in which they feel most confident and distance themselves from interactions that are not yet comfortable. Oftentimes we open their access doors to habitats and off viewing areas as part of this process, which means that guests may not see the animals on habitat from time to time.

**Animal feeding:** Some animals, especially those housed socially, are separated for certain feedings, including those with high value foods that can create competition. This allows the ACPs to ensure that each animal is receiving their portion of the diets, as well as any medications that might be prescribed. Species like the giant otters need to eat between 4-6 times a day! Feeding separations can result in some animals being briefly off-view during the day.

**Habitat maintenance:** Just like our homes, animal habitats have maintenance issues that need professional repair. It is not safe for animals to be in a shared space with our maintenance technicians or outside contractors. Some repair jobs can take hours to days to complete thoroughly, and the animals must remain off habitat for the duration.

**Medical reasons:** If an animal has an illness or injury, it might be necessary to keep them off habitat. For example, when our Cape porcupine Spud broke his hind leg, we needed to restrict his activity post-surgery. He and his brother moved to off-view rooms for several months while his leg healed, and we slowly rebuilt his strength.

**Altered schedules:** The fun part about working with animals is that it is dynamic. Every day is different, because animals have their own ideas about how the day should go based on their moods, interactions with habitat-mates, appetites, etc. Sometimes animals choose not to shift off habitat in the morning before the Zoo opens, which prevents ACPs from servicing the area. When this occurs, the shift often takes place later in the day when the Zoo is already open to guests.

Additional reasons for being off-habitat include allowing animals to retreat from a stressor, extreme weather (heat, cold, storms), training, transportation preparation, and more. There are a lot of integrated pieces moving behind-the-scenes to give our Birmingham Zoo animals the best life, so our guests can enjoy visiting and learning about these amazing animals for a long time to come.





# CITIZEN SCIENCE AND YOUR BIRMINGHAM ZOO!

BY: ANNE KRICHTEN, MANAGER OF LEARNING

Since April, aka "Citizen Science Month," volunteers, campers, and interns have been collecting needed data and educating others about conservation. Read on to learn more about their work!

### What is Citizen Science?

Citizen, community, or crowd science is research conducted by members of the general public. It is a growing, beneficial effort that allows study of complex issues, scale, or timeframes. In many projects, participants learn basic skills from experts or work independently to catalog, survey, identify, and monitor wildlife and natural places of a particular interest. At your Zoo, interns, campers, and volunteers coordinated with education staff to learn proper techniques to collect data and approach Zoo guests about the vital conservation work being done at the Birmingham Zoo.

### How Does It Support Your Zoo's Mission?

The Citizen Science projects implemented at your Zoo exist to *Inspire Passion to Conserve the Natural World*. Some participants, like our interns, already held a background in scientific research and were able to compound those interests here. For other volunteers or even teenage campers, being involved in your Zoo's Citizen Science projects opened the door to allow new voices to be heard, skills to be learned, and career paths to be envisioned as scientific inquiry became more approachable and tangible. In addition, the data itself supports conservation work across the country, instructs experts on conservation action that is worth prioritizing, and can further inspire average citizens to explore, learn about, and advocate for their natural environments.

### What was Accomplished this Year?

After a summer filled with science, national experts can now reap the rewards of your Birmingham Zoo's collections for projects including "[Caterpillars Count!](#)" and "[Butterflies and Moths of North America](#)." Almost two dozen volunteers, a handful of interns, and about 50 campers were brought into the world of Citizen Science and catalogued at least 100 arthropods across 50 plants on Zoo grounds every two weeks. After the first collection, ants, spiders, and beetles represented the leading groups of insects found, with more caterpillars, butterflies, and moths being studied later in the summer. Your Zoo was the first representative from Alabama to add data to both projects and was the fourth AZA accredited location to support Caterpillar's Count! This helped to greatly expand knowledge provided to scientists, birders, pollinator conservation groups, and your Zoo about local species, available resources, and land management needs.

### How Can You Get Involved?

If you are interested in learning more about Citizen Science projects and opportunities, explore the Birmingham Zoo's website and conservation tab for user-guides to other fun projects to try at home, email [volunteers@birminghamzoo.com](mailto:volunteers@birminghamzoo.com) about training sessions being offered, ask a Citizen Scientist wearing a neon vest any questions when you visit the Zoo, or look for the tagged plants with QR codes during your Zoo visit, which will guide you to relevant websites to learn more. You can also search for additional projects accepting volunteers by visiting [CitizenScience.gov](http://CitizenScience.gov), and telling a teacher about upcoming professional development sessions dedicated to Citizen Science next spring.



# Kids KORNER

Practice helping our Citizen Scientists with their project! See if you can properly match the insect photos with their names! If you want to check if you are an expert, try the online [Caterpillars Count](#) game for yourself!

**Caterpillars Count! ARTHROPOD GUIDE**

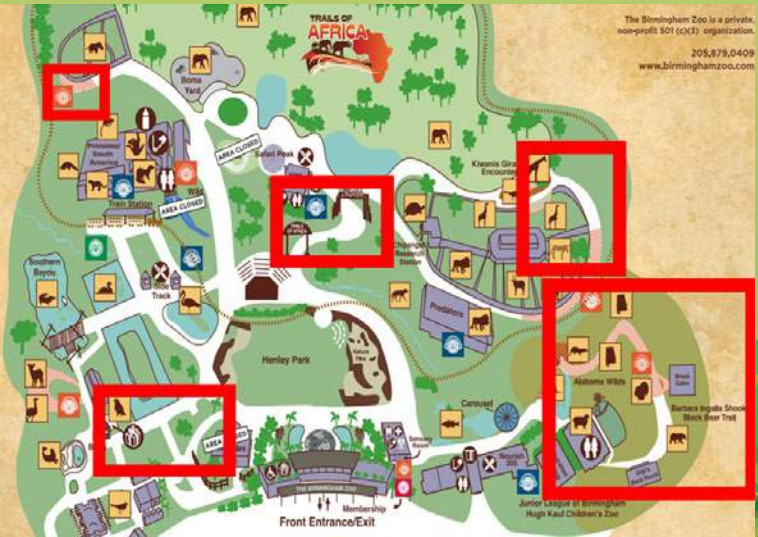
|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <b>A</b><br><br>2 pairs of wings, narrow waist!                         | <b>B</b><br><br>Some have good camouflage! Keep an eye out!                                 | <b>C</b><br><br>most < 5 mm, and often < 2 mm                             |
| <b>D</b><br><br>Only 1 pair of wings!                                   | <b>E</b><br><br>The head & abdomen appear to be part of a single round "body"; 8 long legs! | <b>F</b><br><br>Look for the "X" on the back formed by overlapping wings! |
| <b>G</b><br><br>The adult forms of our caterpillar friends!             | <b>H</b><br><br>8 legs; abdomen distinct from rest of body                                  | <b>I</b><br><br>Look for the "X" on the back formed by overlapping wings! |
| <b>J</b><br><br>Look for the straight line where the wing casings meet! | <b>K</b><br><br>Ladybird beetle larva   | <b>L</b><br><br>Look for the "X" on the back formed by overlapping wings! |

1 cm = 10 mm

## CHOICES

- Aphids
- Daddy Long Legs
- Bees and Wasps
- Spiders
- Caterpillars
- Flies
- Butterflies and Moths
- Beetles
- True Bugs
- Ants
- Grasshoppers and Crickets
- Cicadas and Leafhoppers

Next time you visit the Zoo, see if you can find our tagged plants that we study! You can find them at the locations numbered on our Zoo map below:



Answers: A) Bees and Wasps B) Caterpillars C) Aphids D) Spiders E) Daddy Long Legs F) Cicadas and Leafhoppers G) Butterflies and Moths H) Grasshoppers and Crickets I) True Bugs J) Flies K) Beetles L) Ants



***Proud Presenting Partner of***



PRESENTED BY  
**FIRST HORIZON**  
FOUNDATION

**Thursday, September 9, 2021**

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# FIRST HORIZON FOUNDATION

## IS WILD ABOUT THE BIRMINGHAM ZOO

For over ten years, IBERIABANK (A Division of First Horizon Bank) has partnered with the Birmingham Zoo as Presenting Partner of our Zoo's largest annual fundraiser. ZooGala, now called ZooRendezvous, is a wildly successful event held each fall and has raised over \$4.4 million to help our Zoo's mission to *Inspire Passion to Conserve the Natural World*. Upon entry into the Birmingham market in 2009, IBERIABANK has been a loyal Corporate Partner supporting many Zoo improvements including the Trails of Africa, the Barbara Ingalls Shook Black Bear Trail, and most recently, the beautiful new entrance and Hugh Kaul Plaza.

With 8,300 associates company-wide, spanning 12 states across the southeastern United States, First Horizon Bank is deeply committed to the communities they serve. The company provides leadership grants for associates who serve in board capacities with the Zoo and a matching gift program for employee donations to the Zoo. "IBERIABANK's investments in our Zoo continues to provide tremendous support to the Birmingham community and families we serve," said Zoo President & CEO Chris Pfefferkorn. He continued, "We look forward to continuing this

impactful partnership as IBERIABANK transitions to First Horizon Bank."

First Horizon Foundation is the private charitable foundation of First Horizon National Corporation. Founded in 1993 to serve the communities in which it operates, the Foundation has donated more than \$100 million across its footprint. As conscious stewards of the environment, First Horizon Foundation seeks to support organizations that are helping create and promote a more sustainable future. This includes nonprofits that aim to reduce the carbon footprint, create and/or preserve greenspaces, and utilize clean energy. Additionally, the Foundation provides grants to enable organizations to provide scholarships, after-school programming for underserved youth, and educational resources similar to those that our Birmingham Zoo provides with its successful ZooSchool program.

First Horizon Bank's Senior Vice President, Birmingham Market President, Alex Morton, said, "The Birmingham Zoo is not only an asset to the Birmingham community, but also to the state of Alabama, bringing families from all across the southeast. We can't think of a better nonprofit to support!"



**FIRST  
HORIZON**  
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# Kudos

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

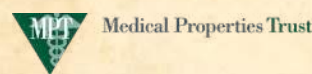
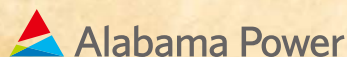
## 2021 Corporate Partners as of June 10, 2021

We're sincerely grateful for these Partners. Their investments make a real difference for your Zoo!

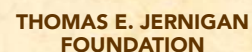
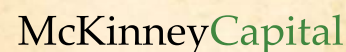
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### ELEPHANT PARTNERS (\$20,000+)



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## Generous Donors between February 1, 2021 and May 31, 2021

"Thank You" to these generous donors for their contributions to the Alabama Wilds Raptor Habitat, Education Fund, Emergency Animal Fund, Conservation Fund, Glow Wild 2020, Hoots & Howls 2020, Pollinator Garden, Sea Lions Sponsorship, Wildlife Stage Sponsorship, and ZooSchool. We're grateful for your faith in your Birmingham Zoo!

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Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wojciechowski

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The Birmingham Psychiatric Society in Memory of Dr. Paul O'Leary

Cahaba Valley Kennel Club in Memory of Dr. Debra Darche

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Calhoun in Memory of Mr. David DeMedicis

Mr. Terry W. Cannon in Memory of Mr. David DeMedicis

Ms. Deborah Chargois in Memory of Marie Antoinette Barbot Majeau

Mr. Dan Colahan in Honor of Ms. Hollie Colahan

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Collins in Honor of Ms. Darlene Brodsky

Dr. Christy Doyle and the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Office of Behavioral Health in Memory of Dr. Paul O'Leary

Dr. Marc Feldman in Memory of Dr. Paul O'Leary

Mr. Dante Gapultos in Memory of Mr. David DeMedicis

Ms. Kelli Gilpin in Memory of Mrs. Anne Waits-Wren

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Ms. Starr C. Rogers in Memory of Mr. David DeMedicis

The Honorable J. Scott and Dr. Cameron Vowell in Memory of David DeMedicis

Ms. Petra Watson in Memory of Dr. Paul O'Leary

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