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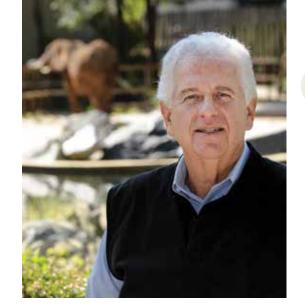
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The Zoo is an ever-changing place always looking to embrace new opportunities and possibilities for the animals, our visitors, and the community at large.

Given our mission and our magnificent residents, you can imagine that the Zoo is an ever-changing place, always looking to embrace new opportunities and possibilities for the animals, our visitors, and the community at large. We welcome change, and right now you are looking at change in the form of a redesigned *Zoogram*.

Last year, we updated our logos, signage, and graphic materials to give the Zoo a new signature, and we decided to do the same with *Zoogram*. Inside these pages, you will find all of your favorite features now enhanced by expanded coverage, crisp design elements, and larger, bolder photos of amazing wildlife. After many years working with an extremely talented freelance designer, Suzanne Glover, we decided it was time to bring the design in-house. Our equally talented graphics manager, Hailey Lipocky, is collaborating with *Zoogram* Writer/Editor Sarah Evans and VP of Education Lori Finkelstein to put a fresh new stamp on the magazine.

What is even more exciting about this particular issue of *Zoogram* is the fantastic animal news we have to share. There is so much to tell—a baby sifaka born here in November, penguin chicks hatched over the winter, a young rhino from The Wilds in Ohio, two new bobcats from Oregon and Tulsa, two new ostriches from North Carolina, and most incredibly of all, two female grizzly bear cubs that were rescued in Montana and brought to the Zoo just before Christmas.

Each of these animals has an interesting back story, but the grizzlies perhaps most of all. I won't spoil it here—you need to read it for yourself and make plans to come visit soon!

Over the winter we transformed exhibit space in the *Maryland Wilderness* into a new home for bobcats, and we also expanded and renovated the Arctic fox habitat in *Polar Bear Watch*. Our Education and Events staffs have been very busy planning new programs and events for you and your family while also getting ready for perennial favorites such as Bunny BonanZoo, Brew at the Zoo, and Zoo Snooze overnights.

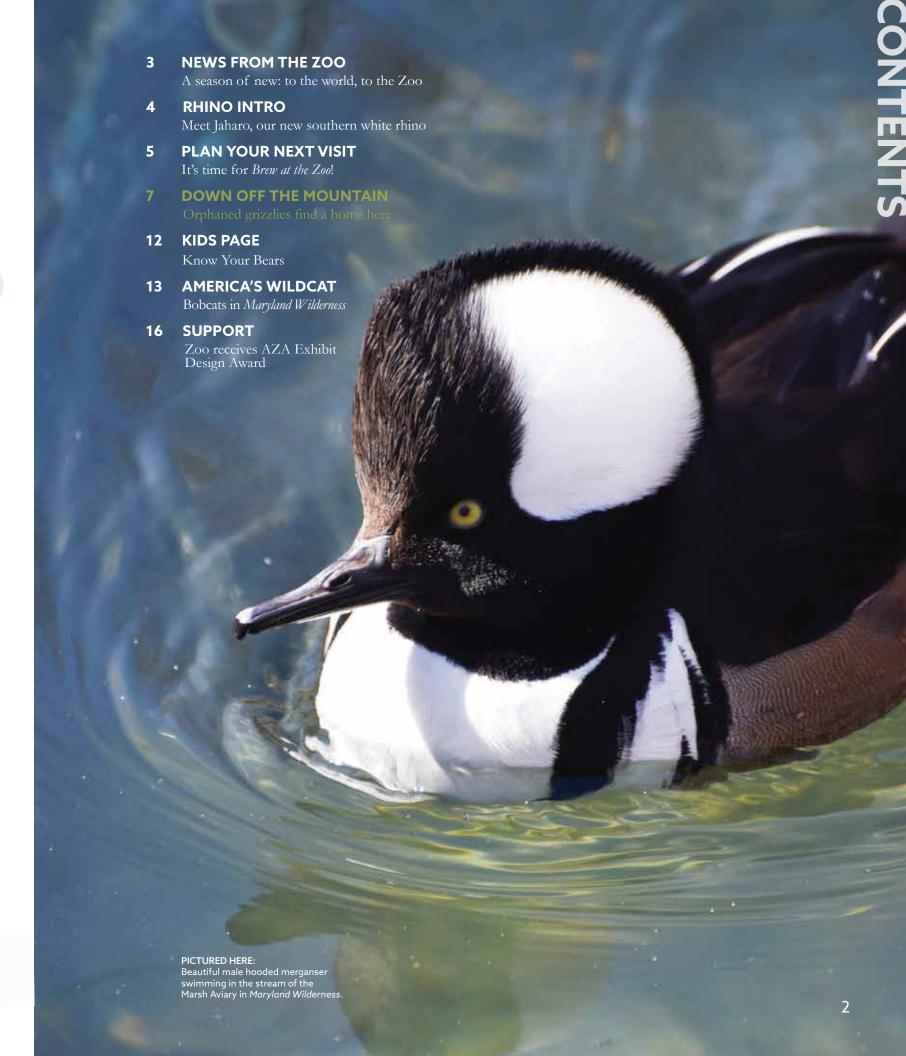
Take a look at the calendar in this issue and please join us as we spring into 2017!

Don Hutchinson

President/CEO











September through February is breeding season for the

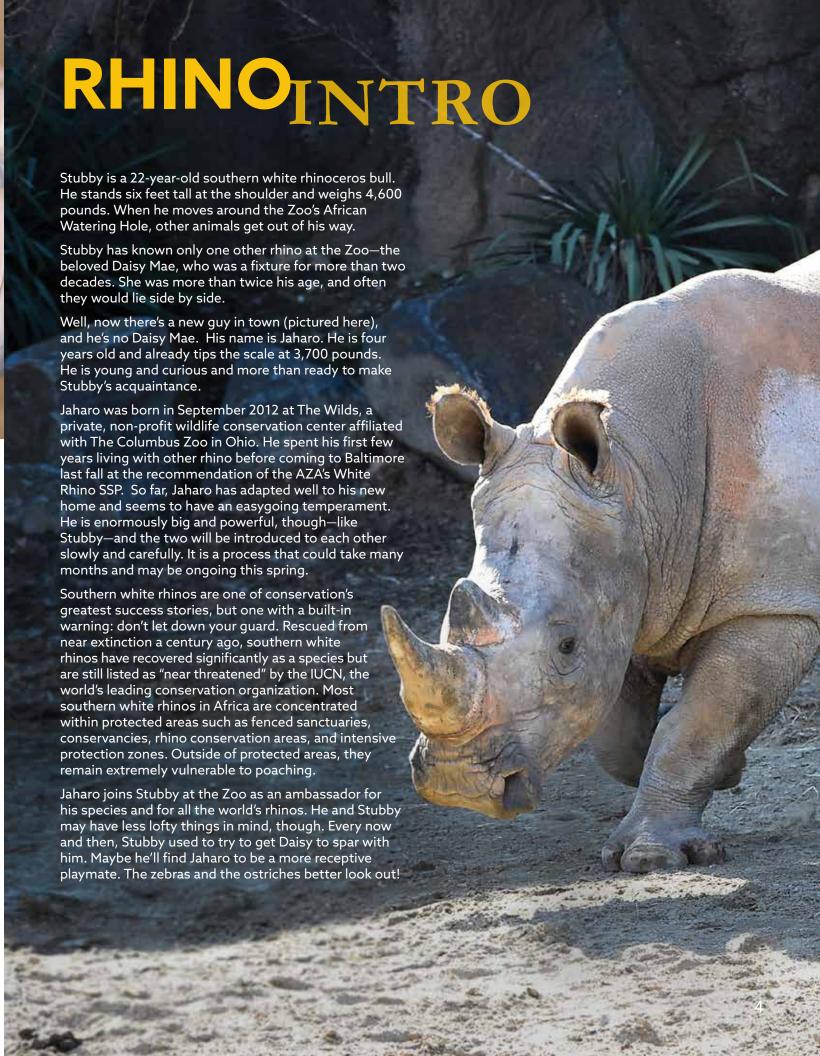
GROWING THE COLONY

NEW FEMALES IN THE FLOCK

The Zoo's ostrich flock 3 with the arrival of two young females Hole exhibit. They hatched in May and June 2016 respectively. You'll notice that one ostrich is significantly smaller than the other two. That is because she is of a different and slightly more diminutive subspecies. Both new ostriches have quite a bit of growing to do, though, and should reach full size at about 18

3





PLAN

YOUR NEXT VISIT

If winter is the season of grey and white, then spring is the season of color, when flowers bloom, trees bud, and the outdoors beckon. Shake off your winter doldrums and join us at the Zoo this spring for all sorts of fun happenings. And remember, it's Brew at the Zoo season too, so get your tickets now!

As you plan your next visit, please check the Zoo's website—www.MarylandZoo.org—for timely updates on events, programs, exhibits, and improvements.

DAILY ACTIVITIES

Please check the Zoo information board in Schaefer Plaza for updates on the day's activities.

Goat Corral: Brush, pet, or just visit the goats.

Creature Encounters: Experience wildlife up close with live animals and hands-on activities at the Zoo's outdoor education center.

Education Stations: Engage in fun learning activities throughout the Zoo.

Penguin Feeding: During twice daily feedings, a Zoo educator talks with guests about black-footed penguins.

Keeper Chats: Keepers discuss the animals in their care and answer your questions.

Jones Falls Zephyr: All aboard the Zoo train. Open daily, weather permitting. \$

Carousel: Take a spin on our vintage carousel. \$

Giraffe Feeding Station: Up close and personal with giraffes. \$



ALERT THE KIDS!

The Tree Slide is open again.

MARCH

Zoo Bloom

Our kickoff to spring!

March 18

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Breakfast with Chimps

Start your day in a wildly memorable way.

March 18 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. \$ R

Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Make some animal-inspired art.

March 22
5:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Stroller Safari

Stories, songs, and strolls for our youngest visitors. March 23rd 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Animal Craft Safaris

A creative way to learn about animals. March 16 & 26 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Penguin Education Center

Breakfast with Penguins

They'll have fish. How about you?

March 25
8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Zoo Snooze Family Overnight—SOLD OUT

Camp out with the kids!

March 18-19

APRIL

Stroller Safari

Zoo fun for little ones. April 20th 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. \$ R

Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Bring out your inner artist.

April 5
5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m.

Penguin Education Center

Zoo Snooze Family Overnight—SOLD OUT

Nest for the night in penguin territory.

April 8-9

Animal Craft Safaris

Make an animal-related craft to take home.

April 13 & 30 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Penguin Education Center \$ R

Mary Sue Candies Bunny Bonanzoo

You supply the basket, we'll supply the eggs.

April 14-16 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Hop on over and join the fun. April 15 8:30a.m. - 10 a.m.

Party for the Planet

Celebrate Earth Day at the Zoo.

April 22

April 22 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Horticulture Workshop Tree Walk

April 29 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. \$ R

Breakfast with Giraffes Coffee and leviathans: a

great combo.

April 30

8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$ R

MAY

Stroller Safari

Stories, songs, and strolls for our youngest visitors. May 25th 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. \$ R

Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

A creative after-hours evening at the Zoo. May 3 & 17 5:30pm-8pm Penguin Education Center

Horticulture Workshop

Herb Gardening May 7 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. \$ R

Breakfast with Penguins

Morning rituals: coffee, breakfast, penguins. May 14 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

\$ R

Zoo Snooze Family Overnight—SOLD OUT

Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Zoo at night.

May 20-21

Animal Craft Safaris

A story, a craft, a fun way to learn.

May 18 & 28 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Penguin Education Center \$ R

Breakfast with Giraffes

In case you missed your chance in April.

May 20 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. \$ R

Brew at the Zoo

Raise a glass and dance the afternoon away at this good-time fundraiser for the Zoo.

Advance tickets can be purchased online and include unlimited beer and wine samplings, a complimentary tasting glass, and admission to the Zoo. VIP packages are also available. Purchase your tickets soon—this event will sell out!

Dates: May 27 & 28 Hours: 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. Prices: \$15-\$75

JUNE

Wildlife Photography Workshop

Learn from photo experts. June 3 or 4 10:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$ R

Stroller Safari

Zoo fun for little ones. June 22nd 11 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

Zoo Snooze Adult Overnight

A grownup campout for ages 21+ June 10-11 6 p.m. - 9:30 a.m. Waterfowl Lake

Breakfast with Elephants

Start your day with pachyderms and pancakes.

June 11
8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Where the Wild Things Art Paint Night

Bring a friend and create your own fun.

June 14 5:30 p.m.- 8 p.m. Penguin Education Center \$ R

Animal Craft Safaris

Make something, learn something.

June 15 & 25 11 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Penguin Education Center \$ R

Breakfast with Penguins A breakfast to remember!

June 17 8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. \$ R

Wild About Giraffes Day

A day devoted to the world's tallest animal.

June 18 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wild About Enrichment Day

What is it and why does it matter?

June 24

June 24 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Breakfast with Giraffes

Tall company, great food.

June 25
8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.

\$: fee to participate



A local veterinarian examined the bears and discovered that the smaller one had been shot. Both were treated and then transferred to the state-run Montana WILD Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Helena. Meanwhile, Courville and others continued to search for the mother bear. In late September, she was located near St. Ignatius. She had been serverely wounded by gunshot and was humanely euthanized on the spot.

By early November, the cubs had recovered their health but were not recommended for re-release. Grizzlies usually remain with their mothers for up to three years. These two sisters, orphaned so young, hadn't "had enough experience to know how to be a bear the rest of the year," noted Courville. Because the wildlife rehab center could not keep them indefinitely, the cubs were in need of a permanent home. Hearing of the cubs through the AZA, The Maryland Zoo offered to take them.

A JOURNEY TO REMEMBER

Plans were soon made to transfer the grizzlies to the Zoo on permanent loan from the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks. With the paperwork signed, the real work of getting the bears to Baltimore began, and that turned into quite an adventure. Think Montana in mid-winter, days before Christmas, with storms bearing down.

Mike McClure, the Zoo's general curator, and Dr. Ellen Bronson, the Zoo's senior veterinarian, flew to Helena in late December expecting to meet with state wildlife officials, prepare the bears for transport, and quickly get on the road back to Baltimore. As soon as they landed, though, the snow began to fall, the roads began to close, and the temperature dropped well below zero. With each passing day, "we tried everything possible to get out," says McClure, but it was just too risky.

Finally, four days in and with another storm on its way, Bronson, McClure, the wildlife transporter, and the Montana team took advantage of a clear two-hour window to anesthetize the bears, examine them, crate them, and send them on their way. "It was so cold outside," says Bronson, "that the anesthetic drug froze in the dart gun. I had to make the dart over and

administer it quickly before it froze again!" At last, though, the truck carrying the bears set off down the only open road out of Helena. It arrived in Baltimore 48 hours later and safely deposited two grizzlies and an exhausted but relieved McClure.

AMERICA'S BROWN BEARS

The cross-country journey took these two bears far from their original home, yet their species is one of the most widespread in the world. Grizzlies are a North American subspecies of brown bear, whose vast range extends across the northern hemisphere. Grizzlies inhabit interior areas of the continental U.S., Alaska, and western Canada, while Kodiak bears —the other North American subspecies of brown bear—live on the Kodiak Islands and along the coasts of Alaska and British Columbia. Ancestors of both subspecies are thought to have migrated to North America from Siberia by way of a land bridge more than 50,000 years ago. For many millennia, grizzlies were among the iconic mega-fauna of the American West, but that began to change drastically during the 19th century.

GRIZZLIES ARE A NORTH AMERICAN SUBSPECIES OF BROWN BEAR.

As pioneers pushed west, grizzlies found themselves competing with humans for space and prey. Wherever homesteads, ranches, and towns sprang up, grizzlies lost habitat and were killed for their coats and for the perceived threat—mostly assumed, sometimes real—that they posed to people and livestock. By the end of the 19th century, grizzlies had all but vanished from the western U.S. They persisted only in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, in small pockets of territory compared to their once expansive range.

In 1975, grizzlies were listed as a threatened species in the lower 48 states under the Endangered Species Act. The new federal status immediately triggered protections and a recovery program for grizzlies that have worked to some extent. Today, the grizzly population in



Yellowstone has recovered enough to be considered for de-listing. However, other grizzly populations, including in Montana, remain threatened.

SILVER-TIPPED AND MIGHTY

Grizzlies are named for the light-tipped fur that gives many of them a grizzled look. Adult grizzlies are enormous (although generally not as big as Kodiaks) and enormously powerful, with females weighing up to 550 pounds and males sometimes surpassing 1,000 pounds.

And yet while grizzlies are definitely top-of-the-food-

time

chain predators, taking down ungulates and moose as well as smaller prey such as deer mice and pocket gophers, they tend to be shy and retiring by nature and spend most of their foraging for nuts, berries, fruit, leaves, and roots. These giant omnivores hibernate in dens through the winter to conserve energy, and this is also when pregnant females give birth,

usually to twins. The most dangerous grizzly is one taken by surprise or a mother defending cubs.

SLOWLY BUT SURELY

It will take time for the Zoo's grizzlies to adjust to their new life. Since their arrival, though, they have begun to get used to people and to their new surroundings and they remain closely bonded to each other. They will transition to Polar Bear Watch at their own pace, under the watchful and experienced eyes of the animal care team. "Because of our significant experience with bears at the Zoo and in the field," notes Bronson, referencing the Zoo's work with polar bears and black bears, "I think we are well poised to take on grizzlies."

It is a thrilling development for the Zoo, a great outcome for these bears, and a wonderful opportunity for visitors to get to know one of the world's most iconic species of wildlife.

△ A brief rest for the Zoo's

How well do you know your bears? Draw a line from each fact to the correct bear.



and heaviest of bears.



I live across the entire northern hemisphere.



at sea.





different things roots, berries fish, honey, and animals big and

small.



My claws are about as long as your







behind my shoulders is all helps me dig!



My fur looks white, but actually hollow.



I sleep all winter (unless disturbed).



seals.



I live only in the Arctic.



Despite my name, my fur can be brown, blond, black, or silver-tipped.



Starting this spring, for the first time in a long time, the Zoo will once again be home to bobcats. This species of wildcat is native to Maryland and most every other part of North America. Zoo staff and outside contractors spent the winter transforming exhibit space in the Maryland Wilderness into habitat fit for two new bobcats, a young male and a 6-year-old female.

"Kilgore", the male, still has a lot of kitten in him. He was found by a fisherman in Oregon last June when he was only a few weeks old. The fisherman turned him over to the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife. When the Zoo became aware of him through the AZA, we expressed immediate interest but were unable to provide immediate

housing. Our colleagues at the Oregon Zoo agreed to care for Kilgore temporarily. "Oregon Zoo staff took him in when he was approximately 6 weeks old and weighed

a little less than 2 pounds," says Erin Cantwell, the Zoo's mammal collection and conservation manager. "While he was definitely underweight for his age, overall he looked to be in good health. However, since he had been found alone at such a young age, he was not a candidate for release

"Josie", the female, came to Baltimore last December from the Tulsa Zoo. She had been living with another female there but the two had become incompatible. This is not unusual, as female bobcats in the wild steer clear of each other. Josie is not overly aggressive but "she is a bobcat with attitude," says Cantwell with all due respect. "She engages well with her keepers, but she also lets people know where they stand with her." She is quite vocal for a cat that is normally silent and she

likes to observe from a high perch. It will be interesting to see what lessons she has to teach Kilgore.

Keepers began introducing the two bobcats to each other behind the scenes in late January. Their exhibit should be finished by early spring, at which point they will move to the Maryland Wilderness. "I think Zoo guests are going to be amazed to see these two bobcats explore their new home. They are really special animals," says Cantwell.

DISAPPEARING IN PLAIN SIGHT

Although it's difficult to get an accurate count, there may be as many as 1 million bobcats living in the United States. They are the most populous species of North American wildcat by far. They live in just about every state, including Maryland, and roam forest, woodlands, swamp, and desert. Odds are you've never seen one in the wild, though, and never will. This is exactly how the bobcats want it.

Secretive and solitary, bobcats are at least twice the size of domestic house cats. They are named for their bobbed tails. They have spotted, buff-colored coats that provide excellent camouflage, making them difficult to see. They are wary of humans, making them difficult to approach. They hunt and survive by stealth, so hiding in plain sight is the name of their game.

To see a bobcat in the wild, you would need to study its behavior and its habits and then become something like it: patient, persistent, watchful, up at dawn or out at twilight, tuned in to shadows on the periphery and forms melting into woods.

"You can pretty much guarantee [a bobcat] will be off and running the second it sees you," says Daniel Dietrich, an American

wildlife photographer who has become expert at observing the species. "More often than not when the shutter clicks, the bobcat will find me. If I am on my belly and keep my face behind the camera, they will often just carry on. If I am standing, they typically hit the road quickly. That is why I like to shoot lying down when photographing bobcats."

As skittish as they are around humans, bobcats are tough predators that can take down prey much larger than themselves. They usually don't, though, going after birds, mice, rabbits, squirrels, and other small animals instead. They are carnivores whose preferred manner of attack is to stalk and pounce rather than chase. Bobcats maintain home territories of varying size, depending on availability of prey. They alert other bobcats to their presence through scent markings. They tend to rest by day in places that provide good cover and to hunt in low light or at night.

GOING VERTICAL

Bobcats also like to climb, which is why the Zoo's new exhibit will have branches, rocky ledges, and plenty of other vertical lifts. Many feet off the ground, mesh will prevent the cats from actually leaving the exhibit but will still give a good view to the open sky.

In every possible instance, Zoo staff has given careful thought to what bobcats might want in their habitat. But Mike McClure, the Zoo's general curator, knows from experience that you can't second guess an animal. "We'll make our plans, we'll build things we're proud of, we'll think, 'If I was a bobcat, this would be the most glorious thing ever," joked McClure, "and the bobcat will walk in and say, 'Nope, don't like that, I'm going over here where you can't see me anymore.' And we'll work with that."

Once Josie and Kilgore are in their exhibit, they will indicate through behavior what might need to change. As McClure points out, "exhibit design is equal parts science and art. The goal is to create an environment where the animals are comfortable and have the ability to make choices about where they go and what they do. If we do that well, then we create an experience where guests can peek through a window and share in the animal's world."

We invite you to do just that this spring in the Maryland Wilderness. Come see bobcats!





Penguin Coast Recognized by the AZA for Exhibit Design Honors

Every year through its Exhibit Awards, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) acknowledges excellence in exhibit design and in creating opportunity for visitors to observe and learn about animals. Any AZA-accredited institution or "Related Facility" member could win—a pool that includes U.S. and international zoos and aquariums. At the AZA's most recent conference, The Maryland Zoo proudly received a Top Honors Award in Exhibit Design for 2016 for the *Penguin Coast* exhibit.

"As the highest honor for new exhibits, this award recognizes The Maryland Zoo in Baltimore's innovation and commitment in designing a dynamic, immersive habitat that provides the best in animal care and public education to help connect people with nature," said Keith Winsten, director of the Brevard Zoo and chair of AZA's Honors and Awards Committee.

Karl Kranz, the Zoo's executive vice president of animal programs & chief operating officer, was on hand at the

conference in San Diego to accept the award on behalf of the Zoo while other Zoo staff cheered wildly from the audience.

"African penguins called Rock Island home for 45 years, so *Penguin Coast* marks quite a departure for us," said Don Hutchinson, president/CEO of The Maryland Zoo. "To have this recognition from our zoo and aquarium peers is an amazing honor and we couldn't be more proud of our staff who works daily to maintain *Penguin Coast* and care for the animals that make their home there – not only penguins, but also the cormorants and pink-backed pelicans."

Penguin Coast was designed and built over a three-year period, opening in September 2014. Construction and consultation companies for the exhibit included: CLR Design, Whiting-Turner (general contractors for the exhibit), HDC, Inc. (project management), Gecko Group (interpretive and directional signage), and TJP Engineering.

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MAY 27+28
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

Brew at the Zoo is, hands down, the Zoo's biggest fundraiser of the year and most successful ever. Last year, Brew broke the \$500,000 mark for the first time and this year, it is projected to do the same or better.

The importance of Brew to the Zoo cannot be underestimated. All proceeds directly benefit our animal, education, and conservation programs. We are grateful to the thousands of festival-goers who turn out each year, because their ticket purchases matter. We are also grateful to Brew's lead sponsor, BB&T, and to all other sponsors, including World of Beer, PetER, The Maryland Lottery, MissionTix, Bond Distributing Company, and Transdev, for their support, which is tremendous and essential.

Get your tickets now for Brew at the Zoo 2017! Visit www.MarylandZoo.org/brew.

Held every year over Memorial Day Weekend, Brew is a fun-loving, family-friendly, dance-the-afternoon-away outdoor festival. Those 21 and over can sample an unlimited number of local and national beers and wines, but you don't have to imbibe to enjoy. Hang with your friends or kick back with your kids, enjoy the live music, browse the vendor kiosks, eat delicious food, visit with Animal Ambassadors, and make time to tour the Zoo (included in Brew ticket purchase).

Saturday, May 27, 1-7 p.m.:

- Honey Extractors (cover band)
- Kilmaine Saints (Celtic rock)
- Kelly Bell Band (blues)

Sunday, May 28, 1-7 p.m.:

- Dan Wolff & The Muddy Crows (Americana)
- Nelly's Echo (alternative pop/rock)
- AS IF 90's Tribute Band (90's covers)



Do your kids love animals and love the Zoo? Then Zoo Camp is perfect for them! At Zoo Camp, we visit with animals, explore habitats, hear from staff about what it's like to work with wildlife, and make the Zoo our summer playground for a week. Week-long sessions are available for children entering grades 2-8 in the fall of 2017.

700 CAMP

Zoo Camp Highlights:

- Immersive tours of the Zoo
- Interacting with animal experts
- Behind-the-scenes experiences and keeper chats (grades 3–8)
- Up-close visits with Animal Ambassadors
- Riding the train and carousel (grade 2)
- Feeding a giraffe and brushing goats
- Creating wildlife-themed crafts using recycled materials
- Learning ways we can help protect wildlife and wild places

To learn more, choose a session, and register, please visit www.marylandzoo.org/camp.





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Gift Shop (443) 552-5315

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Administrative offices are open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m The Zoo is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily during the months of March through December and Friday-Monday during the months of January and February. The Zoo is closed Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

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AQUARIUMS C

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