RIVERBANKS

May – June 2009
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Riverbanks Hours of Operation

Open daily except Thanksgiving day & Christmas day
9am – 5pm Daily
9am – 6pm Weekends during Daylight Savings

Subscriptions to Riverbanks are $24 per year.
Members of Riverbanks Society are entitled to one free subscription along with free admission and guest passes, discounts at Zoo & Garden gift shops, invitations to special events and much more. To subscribe to Riverbanks or to join the Society, visit www.riverbanks.org or call 803.779.8717 x1111.

Riverbanks Magazine

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Front cover: Kniphofia ruperi
Photograph by Andy Cabe

Riverbanks Zoo & Garden is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums and a member of the American Public Gardens Association.
The observation deck

Believe it or not, I really do put a lot of thought into this column. Whenever possible, I try to theme my message to either the articles in the magazine or some issue of timely importance to the Zoo or Garden. This column falls into the latter.

It seems that no matter where I go these days, someone asks me how the Zoo is doing in these tough economic times. This is a perfectly logical question, given the fact that every day we hear of some business or industry that is suffering as a result of the bad economy. I am pleased to tell you that this is not the case with Riverbanks Zoo and Garden. At the time of this writing, we are experiencing one of the best attendance years in the 35-year history of the Zoo. In fact, if we have a good spring (warm temperatures and no rain), we will once again approach the one-million visitor mark.

Attendance is just part of Riverbanks’ economic health. Of equal importance are you, our Riverbanks Society members. While income from the Society is used in a variety of ways, it is vitally important to the Zoo’s financial wellbeing. Indeed, each year the Society contributes $1 million to the Zoo’s operating budget. This generous contribution actually represents 11% of our total annual revenue and closely rivals the funds we receive (separately) from Richland and Lexington counties. As has been stated many times before, Riverbanks Zoo and Garden stands as testament to the value of a strong public/private partnership.

Just like attendance, membership in the Society is holding steady with more than 32,000 active household members. However, we realize that investing in a Riverbanks Society membership is discretionary, especially when compared to critical household needs such as food, water and electricity. For that reason, please know how grateful we are to have your support in these uncertain times. We have worked very hard to gain your trust and hope that you will continue to view your membership as an essential component of your family’s quality of life. A visit to the Zoo and Garden means different things to different people. I like to think that in stressful times a visit to Riverbanks is good for the soul. It renews the spirit and brightens the day. Thank you for making us a part of your life.

Satchel Krantz

Plan Your Gifts

Many of you will make a gift to charity this year, and we ask that you consider making that investment in Riverbanks Zoo and Garden. Through a planned gift, you help to guarantee that future generations will enjoy the magnificent animals and plants at Riverbanks, while helping accomplish your own goals of future financial security or disbursement of your estate. Planned gifts may include gifts of cash, stock or securities, life insurance or IRAs, trusts or bequests. Should you have any questions regarding the advantages of planned giving, please feel free to call 803.779.8717 x1101.

Mission Statement

It is our mission to foster appreciation and concern for all living things. We are dedicated to providing:

◆ the highest standards of care for our animal and plant collections.
◆ a diverse educational and high-quality recreational experience for all Riverbanks visitors.
◆ all the resources at our disposal for the conservation of the earth’s flora and fauna.
When you need legal advice, who do you ask? When you have aches and pains, who do you call? You call a professional, of course. When I began thinking about must-have plants for the garden, I immediately thought of the Riverbanks staff. Combined, our horticulturists have more than 189 years of professional gardening experience. What follows is a compilation of garden essentials, hand-picked and recommended by the pros at Riverbanks. Some of these must-have plants are hot and new, while others are tried and true. Either way, you can’t go wrong with these garden gems or the expert advice.

— Melodie Scott-Leach, Director of Habitat Horticulture

**Edgeworthia chrysantha**
*Shown in top photo*

“Beautiful bark, texture and form. Works in both containers or in the ground, maintaining a respectable size without being too little or too big for any garden. And [let me tell you] about the heavenly fragrance!”

— Beth Owens, Botanical Registrar

**Brugmansia ‘Dr. Seuss’**
*Shown in bottom left photo*

“This *Brugmansia* can whisk you away from a hot, humid summer to a breezy, tropical oasis. Elegantly inverted creamsicle-colored blooms and whimsical ‘Seuss-like’ streamers extending from each petal provide a unique conversation starter and full-sun garden focal point. An angel trumpet that is sure to toot its own horn.”

— Kate Baltzell, Zoo Horticulturist

“*Brugmansia ‘Dr. Seuss’ is my choice for a must-have plant, even though it is toxic. It is a quick growing shrub that can grow to six feet in a season. It likes to be planted in the sun, but can take some shade when it gets hot. Given plenty of water and regular fertilizer, the *Brugmansia* will reward you with beautiful trumpet-shaped flowers.”

— Diane Baker, Garden Horticulturist
This unpretentious, native small tree is just one of many buck-eye species. This species erupts in the spring with tropical-like foliage followed by clusters of red, salvia-like flowers. After deciduously leaving its leaves behind in September, the fruits mature into the lucky seeds for which this plant is named.

Chris Mable, Zoo Senior Horticulturist

“Delicious plum-purple leaves distinguish this banana from its more common green counterparts. This banana usually only forms a single pseudostem, so it won’t spread rapidly out of its delegated area. As an added bonus, the leaves of Ensete are of a stronger substance and don’t get the wind damage that makes other bananas look ‘shredded’.”

Chris Spearen, Garden Senior Horticulturist

“A great shrub—blooms early summer to frost, attracts butterflies and hummingbirds. The cultivar ‘Honeycomb’ did fantastic in the garden last year.”

Meta Whitlock, Garden Horticulturist

“This is an amazing plant that will grow up to 8 feet tall if not much taller. I bet most people’s reaction is, ‘Wow that's a ... huge leaf! Gosh, that's cool.’ This is a good fast-growing plant that requires sun to part sun and adequate water. This plant is a true winner and a must-have for any avid gardener.”

J.C. Sallee, Garden Horticulturist
“What is that plant with the exquisite yellow flowers? This is the question you should be prepared to answer when you add this floriferous legume to your collection. Throughout the fall season, this ‘must-have plant’ will infuse breathtaking color and interest to an otherwise ... dismal canvas.” — Jerry Thrall, Zoo Horticulturist

**Senna bicapsularis**

“**Helleborus sp.**

“This easily grown perennial is one of the few garden plants that is winter blooming. The blooms are available in a variety of shades with interesting foliage variations. This plant prefers well-drained, organic soil in light shade. It looks great as filler, under shrubs or larger trees. It can survive our hot, humid summers as well as the occasional surprise frost. It does not need much care, in fact, prefers to be watered occasionally and left alone to look nice in every season.” — Anna Dickson, Greenhouse Horticulturist

“A garden is not complete without the **Dahlia ‘Edinburgh’**. With deep purple flowers tipped with white, this exceptional dahlia will bloom in flushes throughout the summer. The 3-foot well formed clump should be staked for extra support and planted in full sun.”

— Meghan Hemingway, Garden Horticulturist

**Dahlia ‘Edinburgh’**

“If it is year-round interest you want, the famed **Eriobotrya japonica** or loquat is a ‘must-have.’ Not only does this plant provide you with unique evergreen, tropical-looking foliage, but it also flowers and bears delicious fruit for you to enjoy. Although it grows best in full sun, this winner can take almost any condition and requires little to no care for success.”

— Linda Clamp, Zoo Horticulturist

**Eriobotrya japonica**
Any perennial hibiscus is a must-have plant, but my favorite is *Hibiscus grandiflorus*. Aptly named grand flower, the great rose mallow has an extremely large flower with dissected petals so that the flower resembles a windmill. The pale pink flower color stands out against the pale bluish-green velvet textured foliage. Grow it for the foliage or the flower, but just grow it. As with all perennial hibiscus, plant in good garden soil, and in full sun, for best flower. This perennial reaches about 6 feet in a season and is best planted behind other sun-loving flowers.

Melodie Scott-Leach, Director of Habitat Horticulture

"Osmanthus fragrans is a must-have plant. The delicate white, tubular, flowers fill the air with a sweet aroma in the fall and again in the spring. It is evergreen with glossy dark green leaves and is happy in full sun or part shade.”

— Trish Simpson, Garden Horticulturist

"If fire were a plant, it would be the gloriosa lily. This gentle climbing lily is a true show-stopper in the summer garden. The fiery, red and yellow blooms make *Gloriosa* a hot plant in more ways than one! While the flowers are the main course, I think the glossy green foliage on this plant make [it] a nice appetizer as well.”

— Andy Cabe, Director of Botanical Garden
Euonymus japonicus ‘Green Spire’
Evergreen Spindle

This columnar evergreen shrub is tough and adaptable to almost any type of soil. It makes a fabulous plant for the garden due to its small, dark green leaves that are very formally arranged around the stem, giving the plant an upright and unusual look. It is a multi-stemmed shrub, but each stem is no more than 3 inches in diameter. The glossy evergreen foliage is very dense and the stems remind me of green fireworks shooting up into the air. Wherever you plant ‘Green Spire’, it will be interesting, attractive and versatile—making a bold statement in any garden.

Amanda Segura, Garden Education Coordinator

Amsonia hubrichtii
(Arkansas Blue Star)

“This is a great plant for the garden three of the four seasons. The best attribute of Amsonia is the fine billowy texture of this mounding perennial. After emerging in the spring, blue star-shaped flowers appear on this airy plant. For the finale, the foliage turns a golden hue in the autumn, making this a must-have three-season plant.”

Brian Francis, Design Horticulturist

Eucomis comosa
‘Sparkling Burgundy’

“Eucomis species will always hold a special place in my heart and ‘Sparkling Burgundy’ is certainly no exception. This native South African bulb is a star among other summer perennials. Striking purple strap-like foliage emerges in spring and later fades to green. Waxy star-like flowers amass summer flowering stalks, which look similar to pineapples, hence its common name, pineapple lily. Each inflorescence is further topped with a tuft of tiny leaves making this cultivar a true showstopper. ‘Sparkling Burgundy’ can tolerate heat and humidity and thrives in a wide range of soils. This sun loving gem is a must for any garden.”

James Strozier, Greenhouse Supervisor
EXPLORE ◆ LEARN ◆ ENJOY
2009 Members’ Night Series

It’s Free, After-hours, and For Members Only

Two hours to stroll through the Zoo
Three Friday evenings
Free for members only
(no guest passes please)

Come one evening or all three.
The choice is yours!

May 15 ◆ Flap, Fly, Glide, Soar—Tonight is for the Birds
Why do some birds fly and others swim? Learn the answer to this and more at our thrilling bird flight show and behind-the-scenes penguin encounter. Arms tired? Take a spin on a cassowary on the Endangered Species Carousel.

June 19 ◆ Roar, Trumpet, Squeak, Howl—It’s Cool to be a Mammal
Discover what’s cool about being a mammal. Tour the elephant barn, explore the grizzly exhibit and pet a pony. Plus, check out the cool illusions of Ray Hardee.

July 17 ◆ Hop, Slither, Crawl and Swim…to the ARC
Ever touch a tortoise? Or watch an alligator dine? Join us as we spotlight scales, shells, fins and fangs at the Aquarium Reptile Complex. Top off the night with the newest 3-D experience A Turtle’s Adventure.

Tummy rumbling? Thanks to our ARAMARK partners, $1 Hot Dogs, $1 ICEE, $1 Ice Cream and Free 12 oz. Coke will be available each night.

Gates open at 6pm. Park at the main Zoo entrance only.
Visit www.riverbanks.org for details.
Plan your visit

Mark Your Calendars

May 2009
- 7 Rhythm and Blooms with Stillhouse
- ZooView webcam zooms in on a new animal
- 10 Mother’s Day Brunch
- 14 Rhythm and Blooms with Corner House
- 15 Members’ Night Out
- 21 Rhythm and Blooms with The Fossil Record
- 28 Rhythm and Blooms with J’Ouvert Steel Band

June 2009
- 4 ZooView webcam zooms in on a new animal
- 8 Summer Camp begins at Riverbanks
- 19 Members’ Night Out

July 2009
- 2 ZooView webcam zooms in on a new animal
- 17 Members’ Night Out
- 18 Enrichment Encounter

August 2009
- 1 Brew at the Zoo
- 6 ZooView webcam zooms in on a new animal

For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit www.riverbanks.org.

Keeping It Cool
Enrichment Encounter
Saturday, July 18

Riverbanks Garden Farmer’s Market

Wednesdays • 2pm to 7pm • April through October
1300 Botanical Parkway • West Columbia

Need fresh vegetables for dinner tonight? Grab a bag and swing by the new Riverbanks Garden Farmer’s Market for the ultimate fresh food experience. Riverbanks Botanical Garden is now offering the community a weekly opportunity to shop for fresh, locally grown and produced food. The Riverbanks Garden Farmer’s Market is open every Wednesday through October from 2pm to 7pm in the West Columbia Botanical Garden parking lot (admission tickets are not necessary). Choose from numerous vendors selling a variety of goods including fruits and vegetables, honey, fresh-baked bread, grits, jams and jellies, eggs, dairy products, meat, homemade soaps and more. All products are grown or produced right here in South Carolina. Through this new venture, Riverbanks is promoting local farmers and the local economy. We invite you to join us in this exciting community effort by shopping at Riverbanks on Wednesdays for homegrown goods!
May 17 - 6:30pm
Zoo Families
Sea horses to flamingos, giraffes to baboons, zoo families are always extraordinary! Watch Riverbanks Roundup to see how animals go all out to care for their young.

June 14 - 6:30pm
Largest, Laziest, Loudest
Extreme characteristics—are animals born with them or do they learn them? Discover the rhyme and reason behind the largest, loudest and laziest zoo animals.

July 19 - 6:30pm
Topic TBA

Want to be part of the show? Email your name, hometown and zoo-related questions to riverbanksroundup@riverbanks.org and then watch Riverbanks Roundup to see if your question gets answered on TV.

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**the best things in life are**
columbia’s free weekly

**freetimes**

- A New Issue Every Wednesday -
How and Why to Deadhead
by Kate Baltzell, Zoo Horticulturist

Flowering plants add pizzazz to our gardens. Keep them blooming all season long by deadheading (picking dead or dying flowers from a plant). You can deadhead with your fingers; simply pinch the flower off, if the stem is “snappable.” Otherwise, try hand pruners to clip off the bloom so as not to damage a woody flowering plant.

After removing the tired flowers, the plant can concentrate its energy on producing more buds. As the energy is pumped into bud production, less seeds will form. Daylilies, pansies, marigolds and salvia are a few plants in need of deadheading to maintain great color in the garden.

However, not all plants need or require deadheading. If you want certain annuals to naturally reseed, or like arranging dried seedpods for a long-lasting bouquet, or even enjoy seedpods left on plants for winter interest, consider leaving spent blooms on the plant. Happy deadheading!

Gardening Tips for May and June
from the Clemson Extension Urban Horticulture Center

- Renovate warm season lawn grass (centipede, Bermuda, St. Augustine, Zoysia) in the spring. Fall renovation can cause cold injury and result in turf damage.
- Vertical mow (power rake) warm season lawns in May to remove thatch, if necessary.
- Do not apply fertilizer to centipede lawn until late April or early May—after lawn fully turns green.
- Apply post-emergence herbicide to warm season lawns in May to control summer annual and perennial broadleaf weeds. Do not apply until three weeks after lawn turns green. Follow soil test recommendations.
- If you have not already done so, move your house plants outdoors, if night temperatures remain above 60 degrees. Keep them in shady locations and gradually expose them to brighter light.
- Thoroughly water newly planted (fall planting) trees and extend a 2- to 3-inch layer of mulch to the drip line or outer most branches.
Next time you are in the produce department at the local grocery, pick up a papaya. The seeds of the papaya can be easily germinated at home, and the palmate foliage will create a bold tropical look. This full-sun annual can grow up to 8 feet during a growing season. It is quite impressive! Germinating this summer showstopper is a great project for mid-February. Slice open the store-bought papaya, and clean off the slimy outer coating on the seeds. Allow the seeds to soak in water overnight. Place the seeds on a damp coffee filter and fold the filter over so the seeds are fully covered. Leave the coffee filter pouch on a sunny windowsill and keep moist for at least a week. Once roots and shoots form, gently plant the seedlings in potting soil. Water frequently and transplant to the desired location outdoors when the papaya has reached 12 inches. Try these out in containers or in the ground for best growth. You may even be able to harvest papayas in your own backyard!

Gardener’s Profile
by Amanda Segura, Garden Education Coordinator

With a background in science, Linda Clamp joined the Riverbanks habitat horticulture staff two years ago and has put her artistic touch on many areas of the Zoo. You may have seen her herb towers made from clay pots down at the Farm or her conical, art-deco metal containers hanging around Kenya Café. She also maintains the greenery surrounding Carousel Plaza, infusing her love of tropical plants whenever possible. Lately, Linda has been busy restructuring the beds by the bridge to the Botanical Garden that feature several new palms and a new stone and metal sign for the Garden. Although her mom influenced her love of plants, her thirst for knowledge leads her to keep trying new things. She has been doing metalwork for the past five years, and she often uses those skills at the Zoo. Linda is known for her gung-ho, do-it-yourself attitude, and this is evident in both her gardening and her artwork. "The hardest part of any project is getting started, in being confident in your own knowledge and going forward. You have to trust yourself and just jump in," says Linda. As a gardener and an artist, Linda jumps in with both feet, making a splash with anything she does.
Our award-winning education programs are a great way to learn more about the fascinating life at Riverbanks Zoo & Garden!

These memorable, impactful programs start at $9. If you are not a Riverbanks member, a general admission ticket will be required in addition to the program fee, as admission is not included in the price of ZOOventure or Garden Programs.

Programs for children ages 2–6 include arts and crafts, story time, games, live animal encounters and Zoo walks. These programs require one adult to attend with each child at no extra charge.

As always, we are interested in your comments and suggestions and invite you to call the Education Department for all ZOOventure programs at 803.779.8717 x1400, 9am to 4:30pm, Tuesday through Friday.

For Garden programs, call 803.779.8717 x1799. A registration form is below or you can register online at www.riverbanks.org.

We look forward to seeing you at Riverbanks!
**ZOOventure Programs**

**Early Childhood Classes**

**A Camping We Will Go**
We will need a flashlight and sleeping bag, too, because camping is the thing to do! What animals will we encounter on our camping adventure? Come find out on this cool camp class.

**Ages:** 2–4
**Length:** 45 minutes
**Location:** Wildlife Classroom
**Cost:** $9

**Family On Safari**
Experience the zoo that few get to see, the Zoo at night! Riverbanks staff members are your guides on an unforgettable night of games, activities and behind-the-scenes tours. Families should bring their own sleeping gear, tents and sense of adventure. Price is per person and includes light snack and continental breakfast.

**Ages:** 5 and up
**Length:** overnight – 7pm to 9am
**Cost:** $39 per person

**Pony Pals**
Meet our Shetland ponies up-close and personal! Young pony lovers will have a chance to feed, brush and ride the ponies. Parent participation is required for this class (one parent per child please). Registration dates, times and availability online at www.riverbanks.org

**Ages:** 3–4
**Length:** 1 hour
**Cost:** $16

**Pony Whisperer**
Come meet our Shetland ponies up-close! This class is specifically designed for the younger pony lovers out there. Children will learn how to feed, groom and care for the ponies! Parent participation is required for this class (one parent per child please). Registration dates, times and availability online at www.riverbanks.org

**Ages:** 5–7
**Length:** 1 1/2 hours
**Cost:** $18

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**Garden Programs for Kids**

**Caterpillar Critters**
Kids ages 3 and 4 will learn about a caterpillar’s transformation into a butterfly and plants that it likes to eat.

**Length:** 45 minutes
**Cost:** $7

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**Garden Classes and Workshops for Adults**

**Doing Green**

**Recycling Revealed at Riverbanks**

By Jennifer Rawlings, Aquarium Supervisor

For many years, recycling has been available in communities across the United States. In fact, we hear about recycling so much that we can easily take it for granted. Is it really a beneficial practice? Are we recycling as much as we could be? The US EPA estimates that about 75% of the materials we use are actually recyclable, but we recycle only about 33%.

Indeed, recycling is one of the most simple, yet effective, things you can do to have a positive impact on the earth’s resources. The items you recycle actually have value to the companies that process them. By turning used items into material that can be bought and sold, recycling actually creates jobs. It also reduces the need for landfills and incinerators, as well as saves energy and reduces pollution.

Many of us recycle items like paper, aluminum cans and plastic bottles. Other commonly recycled items are newspapers, cardboard, steel cans and glass bottles. In addition, we should be thinking outside the box when it comes to recycling. Did you know that many items can be hazardous when placed into landfills because they can contaminate soil and water in the area? Many of these items, such as batteries, electronics, compact fluorescent light bulbs, used tires, paint and used motor oil, are easily recyclable.

As part of a new initiative, Riverbanks is working to make recycling easier for its 900,000 annual visitors. The staff at the Zoo has been recycling for many years, but now you will be able to participate as well with the new bins around the park. So next time you visit, look for our new recycling containers and help support recycling efforts in Columbia.

To find out more about recycling, visit the following Web sites:

[www.FEarth911.com](http://www.FEarth911.com)
[www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov)
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<tr>
<td>Native Plant Gardening</td>
<td>Family on Safari</td>
<td>ZOO CAMP</td>
<td>Gardiners</td>
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<td>10am – ages 16 &amp; up</td>
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<td>6pm – 16 &amp; up</td>
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</table>
ADVENTURE TOURS
Experience the Adventure

Available Tours
Penguin ● Grizzly Bear ● Elephant

Exclusive Adventure Tours
Play Time at the Zoo ● Training Tails

Take a walk on the wild side as you get an inside look at some out-of-sight places. Step behind the scenes for an up-close encounter. Meet the animal care staff and find out what it’s like to work with some of the world’s most fascinating creatures.

Tours may include a trip to the animal hospital, the commissary or other off-exhibit animal care areas. See what it takes to run a world-class zoo and make positive contributions to wildlife conservation.

Adventure Tours make a perfect gift and excellent family outing. For more information and tour schedules, visit www.riverbanks.org or call 803.978.1110.

Take an Adventure Tour today!
Three- to four-year-olds grow wild about Sprout Camp! Four- to five-year-olds can't wait for KinderCamp! Six- to eleven-year-olds go ape over Wild Weeks, and twelve- to fourteen-year-olds think Adventure Camp is awesome! All campers will learn about animals and plants, and how to save the Earth that we all share. Don't miss the chance to enroll your child in Riverbanks Zoo and Garden’s summer camp programs—the most popular summer programs in the Midlands.

Sprout Camp (Ages 3–4 with parent)
Sprout Camp '09 is designed for the curious and imaginative 3 to 4-year-old and a parent. This three-day camp explores the interaction of plants and animals and guides children through the joy of gardening. Kids get a chance to discover the garden from an insect’s perspective, as they "pollinate" flowers and explore the Garden. Plus, they will plant flowers, build a bird's nest and learn about the animals in their own backyard. Each day consists of hands-on activities that capture the children's imagination through crafts, garden walks, explorations, stories and more. Sprout Camp meets at Riverbanks Botanical Garden on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30am until 11:30am. The cost for a 3-day session is $80 for Riverbanks members and $130 for the general public. The same program is repeated throughout the summer, so campers should sign up for one week only.

KinderCamp (Age 4–5)
This summer, KinderCamp is the place to be to learn what it’s like to be an animal in all sorts of weather. What do ducks do when it drizzles? What do chipmunks do when it’s chilly? At KinderCamp '09, your child will learn how animals from all over the world, and right here in our backyards, change with the seasons all year long. Campers will participate in hands-on science activities, Zoo walks, crafts and games, all while learning about animals and their wild homes. The cost for a one-week session is $110 for Riverbanks members and $180 for the general public. The same program is repeated throughout the summer, so campers should sign up for one week only.

Wild Weeks (Ages 6–11)
Wild Weeks '09 is the most unique and earth-friendly summer camp in Columbia. Each week, children learn about wildlife and the world around them at Riverbanks Zoo through crafts, games, keeper talks and live animal encounters. Campers are grouped according to their ages, ensuring developmentally appropriate activities. The cost for a one-week session of Wild Weeks is $175 for Riverbanks members and $245 for the general public. The same program is repeated throughout the summer, so campers should only sign up for one week.

Zooper Heroes – Over 70% of the Earth’s surface is covered with water. Campers ages 6 to 7 will spend the week exploring water, its properties, and the animals and plants that need it to survive.

Riverbanks Rangers – Campers ages 8 to 9 will don their lab coats as they explore the natural world through fun science experiments and animal observations.

ZSI: Zoo Scene Investigators - Campers ages 10 to 11 will experience what it’s like to be zoologists in the field as they learn methods of animal observation and population sampling.

Adventure Camp (Ages 12–14)
Riverbanks' Adventure Camp '09 is one of the most exciting and diverse camps in town! Each week participants will become environmental leaders by teaching younger campers about conservation actions like recycling, reusing and composting. When they’re not inspiring others, Adventure Campers will travel to various sites in Columbia for some wild adventures, learn about exhibit design, animal enrichment and animal husbandry at the Zoo, and take part in crafts, games and live animal encounters. The cost for a one-week session is $250 for Riverbanks members and $320 for the general public. The same program is repeated throughout the summer, so campers should only sign up for one week.

Register for your favorite Zoo Camp today!
For more information, visit www.riverbanks.org.
**2009 Summer Camp Enrollment Form**

**Please submit 1 form for each child.**

---

**STEP 1 – SELECT YOUR PROGRAM**

- Sprout Camp (ages 3–4)
- KinderCamp (ages 4–5)
- Wild Weeks (ages 6–11)
- Adventure Camp (ages 12–14)

---

**STEP 2 – INFORMATION**

- Child's Name:_________________________________________________ Age:______ Parent's Name:________________________________________
- Street Address:_____________________________________________ City:_________________________State:________________ Zip:__________
- Member #:_____________ Email:___________________________________ Phone (h)____________________ Work/Cell ________________ ______

**PLEASE NOTE:** T-shirts MUST be worn every day of camp. Each child receives one complimentary T-shirt. Additional shirts can be ordered for $12 each.

---

**STEP 3 – SELECT YOUR ENROLLMENT WEEK**

Please indicate your choice of week in order of preference (1st, 2nd, 3rd)

- Week #1  (June 8-12)
- Week #2  (June 15-19)
- Week #3  (June 22-26)
- Week #4  (July 6-10)
- Week #5  (July 13-17)
- Week #6  (July 20-24)
- Week #7  (July 27-July 31)
- Week #8  (Aug 3-7)

---

**STEP 4 – CALCULATE YOUR ENROLLMENT FEE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp Type</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>General Public</th>
<th>Fees</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sprout Camp</td>
<td>$ 80 per week</td>
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<td>Wild Weeks</td>
<td>$175 per week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adventure Camp</td>
<td>$250 per week</td>
<td>$320 per week</td>
<td>$______</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extended Stay &amp; Play</td>
<td>$ 75 per week</td>
<td>$ 75 per week</td>
<td>$______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Enclosed $______**

---

**STEP 5 – PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING**

- Registration is by mail or by secure online form only: www.riverbanks.org
- Full payment MUST accompany registration.
- If you are requesting the same week as other families (carpooling, etc.) please send all registrations back together in the SAME envelope.
- Written cancellations MUST be received no later than two weeks prior to camp date, to receive a refund (minus a $30 processing fee).
- Make checks payable to Riverbanks Zoo and Garden.

---

**STEP 6 - SEND FORM AND FULL PAYMENT TO:**

Riverbanks Education Department Attn: Summer Camp
PO Box 1060 - Columbia, SC 29202-1060

Applications are also available online at www.riverbanks.org
Red-bellied Piranha
*Pygocentrus nattereri*

**Status in the Wild**
Common

**Where’s Home?**
Amazon River Basin in South America

**Digs at the Zoo**
Tropical Habitat Gallery in the ARC

**Best Time to See Me**
Anytime

**What’s for Dinner?**
Insects, worms and fish in the wild; Zoo fare includes gel food (a healthy mixture of fish meal, algae, vitamins and minerals)

**Did You Know?**
These fish have amazingly sharp teeth; however, they are not as dangerous as Hollywood would have you believe! In fact, people in South America routinely bathe and swim in rivers where piranha are known to be found.

**Keeper’s Note**
Surprising to many guests, our piranha do not go into feeding frenzies! Actually, they often shy away from the aquarist during tank cleanings.

---

Black-footed Cat
*Felis nigripes*

**Status in the Wild**
Vulnerable

**Where’s Home?**
Arid semi-desert and savannas of South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana

**Digs at the Zoo**
Riverbanks Conservation Outpost

**Best Time to See Me**
The black-footed cat is most active at night; however, visitors are more likely to see it early in the morning or near the end of the day.

**What’s for Dinner?**
Rodents and small birds in the wild

**Did You Know?**
This small and shy felid can become ferocious when provoked. Legend among native Bushmen claims that the black-footed cat can kill a giraffe by piercing its jugular. Although this is purely legend, it was intended to characterize the persistent and ferocious nature of this little feline.

**Keeper’s Note**
On March 12, 2009, animal keepers inserted an infrared camera into the tunnel leading to the underground black-footed cat den and discovered three black-footed cat offspring. (Females usually produce two kittens per litter, but litter size can vary from one to four.) Their birth is very significant to the captive population bringing the total managed captive population to 45. Since 1996, Riverbanks has now produced a total of 20 black-footed cats.
**Black-necked Swan**  
*Cygnus melanocoryphus*

**Status in the Wild**  
Common

**Where’s Home?**  
Southern South America, including Argentina and the Falkland Islands

**Digs at the Zoo**  
Swan moat at the entrance to the Bird Garden (between sea lion and the grizzly bear exhibits)

**Best Time to See Me**  
Anytime

**What’s for Dinner?**  
The swans receive a specialized pellet at the Zoo but love duckweed and lettuce.

**Did You Know?**  
Male swans are called cobs, females are called pens, and baby swans are known as cygnets.

**Keeper’s Note**  
Riverbanks’ pair of black-necked swans hatched their first clutch of cygnets on March 6, 2009.

---

**Eastern Diamondback Rattlesnake**  
*Crotalus adamanteus* (translates as “unconquerable snake with rattles”)

**Status in the Wild**  
Diamondbacks are declining throughout their range and are now considered endangered in some states.

**Where’s Home?**  
The Lower Coastal Plain from North Carolina to Louisiana and south to the Florida Keys. Diamondbacks prefer open pine savannas, palmetto flatwoods and coastal maritime forests. They frequently use underground cavities created by the decaying root system of fallen pine trees as a cold weather refuge. These “stump holes” are an important component of good diamondback habitat.

**Digs at the Zoo**  
The Pine Flatwoods exhibit located in the South Carolina Gallery of the Aquarium Reptile Complex

**Best Time to See Me**  
Anytime—the big rattlesnakes in this exhibit are hard to miss!

**What’s for Dinner?**  
Adult diamondbacks prefer to feed on rabbits and large rodents, while juveniles feed on mice. Wild rattlesnakes may only need to feed a few times per year.

**Did You Know?**  
Eastern diamondbacks are the largest rattlesnakes in the world, capable of attaining a length of eight feet and a weight of 20 pounds or more. They have evolved venom that paralyzes the hind limbs of rabbits so that dinner can’t run too far after being bitten.

**Keeper’s Note**  
Late summer is breeding season for South Carolina’s rattlesnakes. Riverbanks’ male diamondbacks can be seen engaging in ritual combat during this time. The males will entwine their necks and try to crawl higher than their opponent, as if climbing an invisible rope. If one male gets higher than the other, he will forcefully shove his adversary to the ground. Presumably, the winner then gets breeding rites with the females.
In August 1995, I accepted the position of director of animal collections at Riverbanks after serving nine years as the curator of birds at the Milwaukee County Zoo. In the Winter 1996 edition of Riverbanks magazine, I wrote an article called “Saving the Trumpeter Swan.” The piece described the efforts of a diverse group of private and public entities, including the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Milwaukee County Zoo, who combined their talents and energies to achieve the goal of implementing the Wisconsin Trumpeter Swan Recovery Plan (Matteson, et al, 1986).

The trumpeter swan is a spectacular bird, the largest of all North American waterfowl and one of the heaviest flighted birds in the world. Sadly, prior to the implementation of the Wisconsin recovery plan, the species had been extirpated and had not reproduced in the state for more than 100 years. The goal of the recovery plan was to restore a breeding and migrating population of at least 20 breeding pairs of trumpeter swans in the state of Wisconsin by the year 2000.

In 1996 I reported that, during the 1995 field season, 12 pairs of trumpeter swans had nested in the wild in Wisconsin, resulting in 22 fledged cygnets. A lot has happened since then! By 2000, the program had exceeded its stated goal with 44 pairs nesting in the state, resulting in 114 cygnets. More than twenty years have now passed since the recovery plan was launched. In 2008, there were at least 120 breeding pairs of trumpeter swans in Wisconsin, and it is estimated that there are now approximately 600 individual trumpeter swans living in Wisconsin.

Riverbanks contributed directly to the success of this program in several ways. As director of animal collections, I coordinated a research project that used satellite telemetry to determine the migratory routes of trumpeter swans in this restored population. Over two consecutive seasons, a total of 16 swans were tracked using battery-powered satellite transmitters. The transmitters were bolted and epoxied to the neck collars of the swans allowing the research team to follow their migratory movements precisely. The insight derived from tracking the swans’ migratory movements allowed WDNR biologists to adjust their management plan for trumpeter swans in ways that facilitated species recovery and long-term survival. The Riverbanks Conservation Support Fund also granted funds to support this research.

In 2002, the WDNR conducted a study to determine the rate of population change for the restored Wisconsin trumpeter swan and the probability of extinction under various simulation scenarios. In short, the simulations projected a
population growth rate of 6% per year with essentially no chance of extinction within 100 years. These results lead to the logical conclusion that the Wisconsin Trumpeter Swan Recovery Program has been successful in re-establishing a self-sustaining, migrating population of trumpeter swans. This program is a shining example of a collaborative, team effort. It was successful because of a productive marriage of public and private individuals and organizations, each of whom brought a unique set of skills and resources to bear in order to solve the puzzle of restoring trumpeter swans to the state of Wisconsin.

References:

Just about every Riverbanks magazine includes information about the Zoo and Garden’s diverse conservation activities. But, what you may not realize is that Riverbanks has an internal committee dedicated to conserving biodiversity. The Conservation Committee is made up of three sub-committees: the Green Team, the Local/Regional Conservation Committee and the International Conservation Committee. Of this passionate and influential trio, it is the Green Team who serves to motivate the staff and ensure that the Zoo and Garden practices responsible stewardship of the earth and its resources.

**Waste Not, Want Not**

One of the exciting new programs that the Green Team has initiated over the last year is a large-scale animal and plant waste composting program. In December 2007, Riverbanks staff drafted a composting action plan in order to jump start our efforts. At first, several onsite meetings were held with personnel from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) to determine the steps needed that would ensure our new composting operation met all relevant federal, state and local standards for the composting of agricultural waste.

Members of the DHEC staff worked with Riverbanks’ Green Team not only to explain the regulations related to agricultural composting but also to help locate a site on which we could best launch our effort. Fortunately for us, we were introduced to professional engineer Joy Shealy of Shealy Engineering in Irmo, South Carolina. Joy, who had worked at DHEC for a number of years before starting her own company, took an immediate interest in helping to get our fledgling effort off the ground and provided invaluable consultant services free of charge. The result was the development of a first-ever, “Composting Facility Management Plan for Riverbanks Zoo & Garden.”

**Why Scoop Poop?**

Composting is a natural form of recycling that transforms organic material (animal and plant matter), through decomposition, into a soil-like material. Ancient farmers discovered that if they mixed manure from their domesticated animals with straw and other organic waste, the mixture would gradually change into a rich, fertile soil. Composting remained a basic activity of farming until the twentieth century when various synthetic fertilizers were found to provide many of the nutrients occurring naturally in compost, albeit without the added benefits of erosion control, proper pH balance and healthy root development in plants. With today’s awareness of green practices, composting is an excellent way to avoid wasting useful natural resources and improve soil structure without the expense of commercial fertilizers or the concern about contamination due to fertilizer runoff.

**Prelude to a Dump**

Using the new Composting Facility Management Plan as our guide and working closely with Joy Shealy, Riverbanks zeroed in on a site directly behind the elephant barn as the permanent site for the composting operation. Based upon the calculations included in the plan, and drawing on funding from the Riverbanks Conservation Support Fund, a concrete composting slab of approximately 3,000 square feet was constructed. The slab is enclosed on the bottom and sides by a concrete curb system to contain runoff. A built-in concrete culvert, with sump pump, at the bottom of the slab allows the nutrient rich runoff to be pumped back onto the compost piles in order to manipulate moisture content or to be used as liquid plant fertilizer.

**Now, That’s a Big Load**

Since Riverbanks’ elephants produce the bulk of the “green” or nitrogen rich materials (manure) that will be composted, this site was the most practical in terms of easy access by elephant keepers. In the initial phase of developing the composting operation, we plan to focus primarily on “green” materials. Immediately after cleaning elephant manure from the barn and exhibit, the elephant keepers easily and efficiently transport the manure to the composting slab using a motorized concrete buggy. Based upon the plan, a windrow composting method was adopted, and manure amounting to approximately 13,418 cubic feet per year is now being composted as opposed to going to the landfill.
Once the manure is delivered to the composting slab, it is organized into piles and monitored for daily temperature and moisture for an approximately 60-day period. During this time, temperatures in the piles reach 120-160 degrees Fahrenheit, and they are turned periodically to provide aeration and facilitate decomposition. Detailed records are kept throughout the process.

Feeling Flush?
As soon as a pile consistently maintains a core temperature of 105 degrees Fahrenheit, the compost is ready to be removed from the slab and piled nearby for approximately 30-day curing stage. When the pile drops to ambient temperature, the compost is ready for distribution throughout the park for landscaping soil amendments and as exhibit substrate. In the future, we hope to be able to market the compost to the community providing Midlands gardeners a chance to enrich their plants with "exotic" compost material.

After the formula for creating high quality "pachyderm compost" has been perfected, we plan to begin folding other materials (specifically, chipped/shredded plant materials) into the composting process with the goal of, eventually, composting virtually all animal and plant waste produced at Riverbanks. Development of the composting facility marks a great step forward in Riverbanks' green activities—and produces a nice budgetary savings as well!

**JUNIOR ZOOKEEPER**

**Fan-tastic!**

Now that summer is here, the weather is warming up! Can you guess which animal at the Zoo has a unique way to stay cool? That's right! Our African elephants flap their large ears when it gets hot outside. As they flap their ears, the blood in their blood vessels is cooled. Sometimes elephants get their ears wet to cool down even quicker!

**Animal Fan**

Here's a neat way you can cool down this summer while saving energy! You can make a recycled animal fan out of an old cereal box.

**Materials Needed:**
- Cardboard (from a recycled cereal box)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Recycled office paper (with one blank side)
- White glue
- Craft stick (regular or wide)
- Markers, googly eyes, yarn etc.
- An adult to help

**How to make it:**
- Cut out a fan in a large circle. Note: To make a double-sided fan, cut out two circles of the same size.
- Draw an animal face on the recycled paper and cut it out.
- Add ears, whiskers, a trunk or a mane. Be creative!
- Glue the paper onto the cereal box circle.
- Put some glue on the end of the craft stick.
- Push the craft stick into the middle of the cardboard circles.
- Let it dry.
- Have fun and stay cool with your recycled fan!

To make a baby elephant fan like this one, have an adult help enlarge this picture and trace the elephant face onto recycled office paper; and then color or paint the face and glue it to the cardboard.
Rhythm and Blooms

MUSIC & ART IN THE GARDEN

THURSDAYS IN MAY
6:00PM - 9:00PM

ADMISSION: $5 RIVERBANKS MEMBERS • $7 GENERAL PUBLIC

MAY 7
STILLHOUSE

MAY 14
CORNER HOUSE

MAY 21
THE FOSSIL RECORD

MAY 28
J’OUVERT STEEL BAND

TAPAS AND CASH BAR AVAILABLE • ORDER PICNIC BASKETS ONLINE
PICNIC BASKET ORDERS MUST BE PLACED BY THE TUESDAY BEFORE THE EVENT

WWW.RIVERBANKS.ORG
Ticket Prices: $31.95 adults, $15.95 children ages 3-12
Taxes are included in ticket price. Zoo admission is not included.

Two seating times: 10:30am or 1:00pm
Reservation deadline: Tuesday, May 5
Questions? Call 803.978.1055

Give Mom a break! Treat her to brunch in the rustic Ndoki Lodge at the Zoo. The view alone will impress her, but wait until she sets her eyes on the wide array of epicurean delights. From eggs Benedict to herb-crusted salmon, chicken Florentine to fresh salads and fruits, she won’t believe her eyes. And when she catches sight of the mouthwatering desserts, she’ll feel just like a queen! Seating is limited, so make your reservation today.

View the complete menu and make your reservations online at www.riverbanks.org.
Madagascar is the world’s fourth largest island, located in the Indian Ocean off the southeastern coast of Africa. But, what really sets Madagascar apart from most other places on Earth is the high degree of endemism (i.e., species of plants and animals unique to a certain place). Lemurs are just one example ... they are found nowhere else on the planet. Sadly, animals and plants that are endemic to islands tend to be at a higher risk of extinction due to the limited range imposed upon them by the surrounding water, an effective barrier to range expansion for terrestrial species.

BACKING THE PROJECT
Riverbanks’ Conservation Support Fund recently granted funds to Dr. Ed Louis of Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and the Madagascar Biodiversity & Biogeography Project (MBP) for an assignment titled, “Monitoring and Home Range Analysis of the Greater Bamboo Lemur (Prolemur simus) at Kianjavato, Madagascar.” The MBP is working to establish Kianjavato as a permanent site for research in Madagascar and has accomplished a number of important goals to this end.

This project is currently monitoring the largest known population of greater bamboo lemurs at Kianjavato. To date, 15 animals have been radio-collared and 45 confirmed in the population. This is a remarkable accomplishment, considering recent published estimates that suggest only 12 groups, totaling less than 100 individuals, have been documented in the past 20 years of regional surveys. Dr. Louis visited Kianjavato in March 2009 and was told by an experienced local guide, Mr. Rakotonirina, that he estimates the local population alone to be at least 100 individuals.

INVOLVING THE COMMUNITY
Kianjavato presently is a non-protected site. Importantly though, since the inception of the monitoring and surveillance project, there has been no evidence of illegal harvest of lemurs. With the support of the mayor, the local community has taken an active role in the protection of the local lemur population and, at present, the MBP is renovating a building in Kianjavato to be utilized as a research station and community center to facilitate conservation education programs.
The monitoring and home range analysis project in Kianjavato has yielded novel and significant information regarding the greater bamboo lemur. The 15 radio collars and surveillance equipment, supplied by Riverbanks Zoo and Garden’s Conservation Support Fund, are a vital component to this important research endeavor. As a result, Dr. Louis and the MBP are very optimistic about the future for these lemur populations at Kianjavato. Riverbanks is pleased to support this outstanding research.

WE’LL HANDLE THE ANTS... YOU HAVE THE FUN!

SHORT-BEAKED ECHINDA
AKA: “spiny anteater”

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RIVERBANKS
ZOO AND GARDEN

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Call our Sales Office at 803.779.8717 x1254 or visit www.riverbanks.org
EXPERIENCE BEAUTIFUL CORAL REEFS AND OCEAN CANYONS IN THE MYSTERIOUS AND UNPREDICTABLE WORLD OF THE DEEP-SEA

THE ADVENTURE BEGINS IN MAY

TURTLE'S 3D
Adventure
RIVERBANKS SOCIETY
P.O. Box 1060
Columbia, SC 29202-1060

SATURDAY
AUGUST 1ST
7:00PM - 9:30PM

BREW AT THE ZOO
It’s a Suds Sippin’ Safari

$25.00 RIVERBANKS MEMBERS • $35.00 GENERAL PUBLIC
TICKETS GO ON SALE JUNE 1ST

ZOO, BREW AND HOTEL, TOO
CONSIDER AN OVERNIGHT PACKAGE. IT’S THE SAFE WAY TO BREW!

EMBASSY SUITES COLUMBIA - GREYSTONE
RADISSON HOTEL COLUMBIA & CONFERENCE CENTER

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