

RIVERBANKS

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RIVERBANKS ZOO AND GARDEN

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Riverbanks Hours of Operation

Open daily 9am – 5pm except Thanksgiving day & Christmas day
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.

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Cover Photograph: Rockhopper penguin by Matt Croxton



The Observation Deck

The staff refers to this particular issue of *Riverbanks* as the “thank you” issue. Each year we take time to express our gratitude to those who have made a special gift to Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in the last year. If somehow your name is omitted, please know that it is a mistake of the head, not of the heart. Please also know that this column is my personal way of saying thanks.

You might think, given the extensive list of donors, that Riverbanks has a large development office with scores of people dedicated to raising funds that advance the mission of the Zoo and Garden. But you would be wrong; Riverbanks does not have a development office. There is not one single employee assigned to raise money from the private sector. This is not to say that we haven’t tried the more traditional approach. Like many nonprofit cultural organizations, we employed several development directors in years past with mixed results. And with the recent downturn in the economy, bank mergers and corporate restructuring, raising money has recently become even harder. Hard, but not impossible. We are grateful and proud that so many of our local, regional and national businesses continue to support and sponsor our exhibits and activities.

But it is you, our members, who continue to be our most dedicated and generous supporters. Every day, approximately 40% of all Zoo visitors are members of Riverbanks. That’s 400,000 visits each year! Indeed, the Riverbanks Society generates approximately \$2 million each year through membership dues and donations. Out of this total, \$1 million is contributed to the general operating fund of Riverbanks, making the Society a full partner with Richland and Lexington counties in supplementing the operating budget. The remaining funds are used to conduct the business of the Society (the printing and mailing of this magazine, for example) and to fund capital projects, repairs and renovations. Two years ago, the Society contributed the funding for a new zebra barn and public restroom as well as an upgrade of the Zoo’s overflow parking lot off Rivermont Drive.

We do not take this generous display of support for granted. We know that we must earn your trust and support every day of the year by offering you—and your family—consistently fun, educational and high-quality experiences. And, in turn, we hope you transform the value of your experiences into an investment in this world class zoo and botanical garden, a win-win for your children, the animals and our community.

Satch Krantz

Shake, Waddle and Roll

Members and guests who frequent the Birdhouse at Riverbanks may be interested to know that the penguin exhibit recently underwent some major behind-the-scenes changes to improve its efficiency. Modifications included adding new insulation above the exhibit, changing the insulation around the cold water pipes and lowering the back area ceilings. This may not sound like much, but the changes will drastically reduce the cost of operating the penguin chiller (the large air conditioner used to keep the exhibit at its proper temperature), greatly benefit the penguins and ultimately improve the guest experience.

In the summer when outdoor temperatures reach more than 90 degrees, the chiller must regularly maintain the air temperature in the penguin exhibit at a brisk 45 to 48 degrees. With the recent upgrades, the chiller will no longer have to work as hard to do this. The insulation above the exhibit will keep more of the hot summer air out and the cool exhibit air in; and now that the cold water pipes have new insulation, the water temperature will stay a cold 40 degrees, making it easier to clean and disinfect. Also, with the back area ceilings lowered by almost 2 feet, the chiller will have a smaller area to keep cold.

In addition to the insulation and ceiling work, a large shelf that spanned the length of the keeper hallway has been removed. This shelf protruded about 3 feet from the wall and made the back area feel very small. It was originally used as a nest box platform for the African penguins that were housed at the Zoo years ago, but since we no longer have this species, there is no need for the shelf. By removing it, the back hallway now has an extra 3 feet of open space that runs the length of the hallway. Also, because the shelf was used as a nest box platform, there were holes in the wall so that the penguins could enter their nests; those holes have been covered up with nice sliding doors.

Now that all of the renovations are finished and the exhibit is up and running, behind-the-scenes Adventure Tours with the penguins are being offered again. This is very exciting because the Penguin Adventure Tour has totally changed its format from before!

After a fascinating visit to the animal commissary, the penguin tour kicks off in the back keeper area of the penguin exhibit. A bird keeper accompanies the group during this time into the rear hallway of the exhibit and shares all she knows about penguins. Adventure Tour participants get to feel the temperature that the penguins live in, smell what penguins smell like and hear what three types of penguins sound like. Tour takers even have the chance to slide open the doors to the old nest holes and see what it would look like if they were penguins looking from their nest into the exhibit. Then, the best part, the penguin exhibit door opens and the penguins have a chance to walk out into the hallway to greet tour participants. This is a super chance to get up close and personal with the penguins.

Not only has the tour format changed quite a bit, but the new arrival time of 10:30am to the penguin area gives Adventure Tour participants the ability to see some of the penguins receive their morning vitamin fish. This is a great opportunity to learn about the importance of vitamins and how we feed the penguins. Tour participants spend about 20 to 30 minutes in the penguin hallway before going around to the front of the exhibit at 11am to watch the penguins enjoy their morning feeding.

The bird department is very excited to allow people to immerse themselves in the penguin exhibit and share time with the birds we care so much about. We hope to see you at a Penguin Adventure Tour in the near future!

-Sarah Guaracini, Senior Bird Keeper





Mark Your Calendars

July
15 – Members' Night Out - Hop, Slither and Crawl

August
6 – Brew at the Zoo

September
17 – Enrichment Day
30 – Riverbanks ZOOfare

October
14-16, 21-30 – Boo at the Zoo

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

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THE GARDEN'S NEW BEST KEPT SECRET

You may think that Riverbanks Botanical Garden doesn't have much to offer kids. Well, that's no longer true, as guests now have the opportunity to discover the captivating Secret Play Garden. This fun, recreational space blends plants and play, and is sure to engage children and adults alike. With an oversized umbrella for shade, the play garden offers a number of interactive elements including a maze, sandbox and dozens of planters with living plants.

The play garden concept was the brainchild of longtime playground designer and local resident, Jim Mosteller. Mr. Jim (as he wishes to be called) wanted to develop a new kind of play area that would encourage the next generation of children to learn about gardening during play. The entire structure was custom designed, fabricated and installed as a donation to Riverbanks.

Now the hub of the Botanical Garden's child-themed areas (i.e., the playhouse, giant chair, Fort Mulberry and Discovery Garden), the Secret Play Garden is located across from the Rose Garden. The structure is not only a fun place to play but also an educational tool to inspire children to connect with nature.



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Visit www.riverbanks.org for details.



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travel the world from England to Vulgaria
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Ornamental Peppers

When people start thinking about annuals for their home gardens, they usually don't think about ornamental peppers. When you see these peppers at your local garden center, they generally look like unassuming green plants; but with a little more sunshine they will put on quite a show. The draw of these unique annuals is their fruit. They also have a wide color range from yellow, orange and red all the way down to deep glossy purple (some people even think they look black).

Ornamental peppers, while showy and directly related to edible peppers, are not to be eaten. Many of the little peppers pack a lot of spice into a tiny package, and others are just not as tasty as edible varieties. They are, however, cultivated in much the same way as the edible pepper varieties.

The best way to grow these wonderful plants is to start from seed. At Riverbanks, we found all of our favorites in *Johnny's Seed Catalogue* this year, but you can find them in most of the garden centers and seed stores around the area.

When growing from seed, it is best to sow indoors 2 months before the last spring frost, or you may direct sow after the threat of frost has passed. If sowing indoors, find a southern facing window with bright light and plant the seeds in containers about 1/4 inch deep. Lightly moisten the soil in the containers, but do not over water. Your peppers should be peeking their heads through in about 2 weeks.

Once peppers are established enough for transplanting, it is a good idea to pinch them back. Pinching back these plants will cause them to produce more branches and look fuller. Peppers, in general, tend to be a little lanky if not pinched back. When you pinch, just cut back the plant to a leaf axel point, where a leaf meets the stem.

After new leaves and branches start to come out, it is time to transplant to a warm sunny spot in the yard or in containers. Peppers like the soil to be slightly moist, but not wet—overwatering can easily kill a pepper plant.

Ornamental peppers make great summertime annuals in South Carolina. A few varieties that we like at Riverbanks are *Capsicum annuum* 'Chilly Chili', *Capsicum* 'Numex Twilight', *Capsicum* 'Purple Flash', and *Capsicum* 'Black Pearl'. 'Chilly Chili' has colorful fruit that transition in color from yellow to orange to bright red at maturity. 'Numex Twilight' also has colorful peppers, with colors ranging from purple to orange to yellow. 'Black Pearl' has a very dark glossy fruit paired with dark purple foliage that makes it stand out from other ornamentals. If you are looking for both fruit and foliage coloration, look no further than 'Purple Flash' with its glossy, dark fruit and variegated leaves.

I have to say my favorite pepper is the 'Purple Flash', which I have planted in a bed behind the climbing walls in the Carousel Plaza. I paired the peppers with white pentas, making the white in the pepper's leaves really pop. Peppers can spice up just about any landscape or yard. Try adding them to your garden for a hot new look.

Eric Shealy, Habitat Horticulturist



Capsicum annuum 'Chilly Chili'



Capsicum 'Numex Twilight'



Capsicum 'Purple Flash'



Capsicum 'Black Pearl'

A Few of Our Favorite Bulbs

Jazz up your garden next spring with these top picks by Riverbanks horticulturists



Narcissus 'Ice Follies'

Reliably hardy, extremely floriferous and the clump increases in size each year, Ice Follies is very early flowering, usually February, which makes it a great harbinger of spring.

— Melodie Scott-Leach,
Director of Habitat Horticulturist

Tulipa clusiana var. chrysantha

Tulipa chrysantha has smaller flowers than the usual annual tulip, but the flowers appear rather large when they open during the day.

These small bulbs multiply over time and are perennial in South Carolina.

— Eric Shealy, Habitat Horticulturist



Leucojum aestivum

Leucojum is one of the few spring bulbs that can take shade. The white dangling flowers are dainty and sweet.

— Brian Francis, Design Horticulturist

Tulipa 'Monsella'

Monsella is bold, gaudy and an altogether show-stopper. The bold colors really stand out in the spring garden.

— Andy Cabe, Botanical Garden Director



Allium schubertii

Basketball-sized flowers are just the beginning for this gargantuan allium. Let the flower stalks dry on the plant, and then spray paint them and place through the garden for a summer full of color.

— Diane Baker, Garden Horticulturist

CLEMSON EXTENSION

GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY-AUGUST

Maintaining Plants in the Heat of Summer

The intense heat of July and especially August requires special attention to watering landscape plants. Apply water between 5am and 9am to reduce evaporation. Avoid overhead watering of shrubs and bedding plants to reduce the formation of fungal disease. Most plants including lawn grass require 3 inches of water weekly or enough to penetrate the soil 8 inches. Give new plants adequate water during hot periods.

Frequent watering of container plants during the summer tends to flush away the nutrients in the soil. Apply a slow-release fertilizer to your potted plants during July and again in August, if necessary, to replenish needed nutrients.

Avoid feeding roses during high heat conditions; they lose their vigor during sustained high temperatures and do not benefit from fertilizer. Adequately watered roses displaying wilted foliage during intense heat of summer will benefit from the rigging of temporary shading from direct sunlight.

Annuals that are sickly or struggling in July or August should be removed.

Beat the heat by doing gardening chores in the relative cool of the morning.

Genesis of the Asian Garden

-Andy Cabe, Botanical Garden Director

Have you ever wanted to travel to another continent yet just can't seem to find the time or money? Well, Riverbanks is the next best thing. Not only do you get to see animals from all over the world, but you can also enjoy plants from far away places.

There is one particular spot in the Botanical Garden that showcases plants from the continent of Asia. Nestled between the Bog Garden Plaza and Treetops Bridge, there lies the beautiful and serene Asian Garden.

The genesis of this garden started in 2007 when we received a call from a member of the Ikebana Society (a group that focuses on the art of Japanese flower arranging) wanting to donate a single Japanese maple to Riverbanks in memory of the late Joy and Harlan Stoefer, who were passionate Ikebana members. We were honored to accept the donation and purchased an exquisite specimen maple for the Botanical Garden.

Fast forward several months, and the donation of one Japanese maple snowballed into many more generous gifts from the Ikebana Society. We suddenly realized there was enough funding to create a full-blown Asian Garden.

Spearheaded by Ikebana members Ida Belle Barker, Helen Churan and Helen Kliner, the idea quickly became a reality. First, Riverbanks Design Coordinator Brian Francis rendered a drawing of the Asian Garden concept. Then we selected an ideal, quiet location. At that point, we built a pond and wooden walkway and added a few boulders to create more visual interest. Following the construction of the hardscape, we planted the garden. Luckily there are many fabulous native Asian plants to choose from, which made the job of selecting plant material a breeze.

Well, the project didn't stop there. More money for the garden was raised by the Ikebana Society, which allowed us to expand across the sidewalk into a small bed adjacent to the restroom. There, we painted the restroom wall a bold Chinese red. While we wanted red, an entire wall covered in it seemed a bit too much. So, what better way to break up some of the color than by adding a decorative wall hanging? We decided to utilize the original gate panels that were part of the Zoo's entry way in 1974. Reiley's Body Shop in West Columbia kindly agreed to paint the gates a glossy, golden color. Two of the gates now adorn the red wall (and the two other gates now hang under the Treetops Bridge). This new area enhanced the overall theme of the garden and was dedicated to the founding members of Ikebana Chapter 182 and all of its deceased members.

In the short time since its unveiling in fall 2009, the Asian Garden has blossomed into an attractive and often used space. Guests can sit on a bench and listen to the gentle sounds of trickling water from the pond. It is not uncommon to see someone relaxing with a book while soaking in the tranquility of the space. Visitors also can find a number of interesting plants in this peaceful setting. One of the highlights is the Merlot Majik Mimosa, which has fine-textured purple foliage. Another fine-textured beauty is the *Acer palmatum* var. *dissectum* 'Orangeola', the original Japanese maple that became the seed for this lovely flower we named the Asian Garden.





5 Elements of an Asian Garden:

Wood

Fire

(often symbolized by the color red)

Earth

(e.g., sand, stones)

Water

Metal

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Riverbanks Society recognizes the following individuals and businesses for their generosity through cash donations, in-kind donations and support through Gold level memberships between May 1, 2010 and April 30, 2011.

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PONY CLASSES

Pony Pals

Meet our Shetland ponies up-close and personal!

Sure to be an unforgettable experience for young pony lovers, participants get a chance to feed, brush and ride the ponies.

Parent participation is required for children ages 3 to 7.

Pony Bath

Join us while we bathe our Shetland ponies!

The program starts with a pony ride, and then we unsaddle the ponies for their rinse, wash, condition and squeeze. Once they are all clean, we release them into the corral and watch them roll.

Parent participation is required for children ages 3 to 7.

FAMILY ON SAFARI OVERNIGHT

Ages: 5 to adult Cost: \$39 members \$44 general public

Experience the zoo that few get to see, the Zoo at night! Riverbanks staff are your guides on an unforgettable night of activities and behind the scenes tours. Families should bring their own sleeping gear, tents and sense of adventure. Price includes light snack, light breakfast and entry into the Zoo.

SUNSET SAFARI NIGHT ADVENTURE

Ages: 5 to adult Cost: \$30 members \$35 general public

Looking for a nocturnal adventure without the sleepover?
The all-new Sunset Safari is the perfect choice for your family.

Meet education animals up close, take a look at some out-of-sight places with zookeepers, discover what animals are actually sleeping on a night hike and enjoy a light snack.



COME DISCOVER THE NIGHTLIFE AT RIVERBANKS ZOO AND GARDEN!

Check out www.riverbanks.org for available dates and times or to register.

Questions? Call 803.978.1113



GARDEN PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS

String Up Your Garden

September 10, 10am-noon Cost: \$15

Create a blooming sphere with a special mix of clay and soil that can be hung from a tree or arbor for a one-of-a-kind garden look. Expect to get dirty as we dive into this hands-on project.

Growing Greens for the Winter

October 15, 10am-11:30am Cost: \$15

In South Carolina, vegetable gardening is a year-round event. Mild winters are the perfect environment for some of the freshest, crispest greens you can imagine. Learn all about growing winter vegetables and ways you can use them in cooking.

Vermi-Composting

October 29, 10am-noon Cost: \$20

Stop throwing away kitchen scraps and start composting the lazy way! Let worms eat your trash and reap the rewards with the nutrient rich worm castings. Everyone will make a worm bin from readily available materials after learning how to care for and maintain a vermin-composting system.

Questions about Garden Programs? Call 803.978.1131



ZOO CAMP

AT RIVERBANKS ZOO AND GARDEN

IT'S THE WILDEST CAMP IN TOWN

Interactive Activities • Keeper Talks
Animal Encounters • Tours and More
FOR AGES 4-12

To register or learn more visit:
www.riverbanks.org

ZOO CAMP ENROLLMENT FORM

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ Parent's Name: _____
 Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Member #: _____ Email: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work/Cell: _____

T-SHIRT SIZE ☐ Child S (6-8) ☐ Child M (10-12) ☐ Child L (14-16) ☐ Adult M ☐ Adult L ☐ Adult XL
T-shirts MUST be worn every day of camp. Each child receives one complimentary T-shirt. Additional shirts can be ordered for \$15 each.

SELECT YOUR SUMMER PROGRAM

☐ Sprout Camp (ages 3-4) ☐ KinderCamp (ages 4-5) ☐ Zooper Heros (ages 6-7)
☐ Riverbanks Rangers (ages 8-9) ☐ ZSI: Zoo Scene Investigators (ages 10-12)

SELECT YOUR ENROLLMENT WEEK

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

☐ Week #1 June 6-10 ☐ Week #2 June 13-17 ☐ Week #3 June 20-24 ☐ Week #4 June 27-July 1 ☐ Week #5 July 5-8
☐ Week #6 July 11-15 ☐ Week #7 July 18-22 ☐ Week #8 July 25-29 ☐ Week #9 Aug 1-5 ☐ Week #10 Aug 8-12

CALCULATE YOUR ENROLLMENT FEE

	Members	General Public	Fees
Sprout Camp	\$84 per week	\$114 per week	\$_____
KinderCamp	\$120 per week (Holiday week \$96)	\$190 per week (Holiday week \$152)	\$_____
Wild Weeks	\$185 per week (Holiday week \$148)	\$255 per week (Holiday week \$204)	\$_____
Extended Stay & Play	\$75 per week (Wild Weeks)	\$25 per week (KinderCamp)	\$_____
** Holiday Week	\$60 (Wild Weeks)	\$20 per week (KinderCamp)	\$_____
Make checks payable to Riverbanks Zoo and Garden.		Total Enclosed	\$_____

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 and group placement as other families, please make a note on your medical consent form and return it two weeks prior to the start of camp.
 Written cancellations MUST be received no later than two weeks prior to camp date to receive a refund (minus a \$30 processing fee).

SEND FORM AND FULL PAYMENT TO: Riverbanks Education Department Attn: Summer Camp - PO Box 1060 - Columbia, SC 29202-1060 Application available at www.riverbanks.org

Leather Sea Star *Dermasterias imbricata*

Status in the Wild

Common

Where's Home?

The leather sea star is a cold water lover and can be found along the West Coast of the United States, from Alaska to Baja, California. Specifically, leather stars prefer rocky habitats, from the shallow intertidal areas down to 300 feet deep.

Digs at the Zoo

Inside the Rocky Shores Gallery of the Aquarium-Reptile Complex, in the pot-bellied seahorse exhibit

Best Time to See Me

Anytime

What's for Dinner?

Sea stars have healthy appetites and often can be seen crawling around their tank looking for food. Leather stars are carnivorous and in the wild prey upon other critters found in rocky areas, including sea urchins, sea cucumbers, and even sea anemones. At the Zoo, leather stars consume a variety of seafood including clam, shrimp, krill, herring and mackerel.

Did You Know?

Leather stars belong to a large group of marine invertebrates known as Echinoderms. This phylum contains animals as diverse from one another as sea stars, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, brittle stars and sand dollars. Although they look different from one another, these animals have similar characteristics. In fact, the common features that Echinoderms share are easily seen on the leather stars at Riverbanks, so be sure to spend some time looking for these traits the next time you visit the Zoo.



Keeper's Note

The leather sea star gets its name from its texture; thick mucus secretions make it feel like wet leather to the touch. Also called garlic star, on occasion this invertebrate emits a garlicky or slightly sulfurous odor, which might be a result of a defensive chemical secretion designed to deter would-be predators.

— Jennifer Rawlings, Aquarium Supervisor

Three Common Echinoderm Traits

Feathery Projections

Known as papillae, these tiny protrusions extend in rows along each arm and aid in respiration.

Pentamerous Radial Symmetry

While five similar parts can be difficult to distinguish in some species of Echinoderms, leather sea stars are a clear example of this body shape.

Tube Feet

These strong "suction cups" on the underside of the sea star help it to remain attached to rocks where the wave action and water movement is high and can pry apart bivalve prey such as clams and mussels.



Status in the Wild

All subspecies of tigers are endangered. Loss of native habitat and poaching are considered the biggest threats to tiger populations; other factors include human-tiger conflicts and decreasing prey populations.

Where's Home?

Asia. Tigers typically reside in areas with thick forest or dense grasses. Amur tigers occupy the Russian Far East. Their habitat is thick and lush in the summer but cold and snowy during the winter, providing lots of food for prey and good cover for hunting.

Digs at the Zoo

Tiger exhibit near Carousel Plaza

Best Time to See Me

Tigers nap about 18 hours a day (both in captivity and in the wild). They can be seen at Riverbanks snoozing on the ledges at the rear of their exhibit almost anytime of day. While the tigers are generally more active during mid-morning, that is not a guarantee. Your best bet is to visit often!

What's for Dinner?

In their native habitat, tigers spend time hunting multiple species of deer and wild pigs. Here at the Zoo, they receive a specially prepared diet of raw, ground meat; once a week, they receive a delicious bone.

Did You Know?

Tigers spend much of their time traversing their large territories, which can span 30 to 100 square miles. Although adult wild tigers are solitary (except for female tigers with cubs), their home ranges often overlap a bit so that they can find one another for breeding. Tigers communicate through scents and scratch marks left on tree trunks. These scents are a mixture of urine and scent gland secretions that help tigers identify one another while judging general health and reproductive status. At the Zoo, we make use of the tigers' keen interest in scents by providing things for them to smell and enjoy. Perfume, oregano and poultry seasoning are favorites when sprinkled on a log for the tigers to claw and destroy.



Keeper's Note

The tigers at Riverbanks Zoo are very special to us, particularly the females. Kisa was born at Riverbanks in 2003 and hand raised by the staff. Anya was born here in 2005 and raised by her mother. Although Anya has never left the Zoo, Kisa left in 2006 but recently returned in December. We are proud to have both female tigers reside at Riverbanks. Due to their solitary nature, you will only see one tiger out on exhibit at a time—they prefer it that way. If you can't find them easily, take a look on the ledges in the back of the exhibit (Kisa's preferred place) or look at the caves in the back right (Anya's favorite hideout). Riverbanks also has a handsome male tiger, Dmitri, who frequents the exhibit and is often seen hanging out in the pool. Next time you're at the Zoo, see if you can spot our stripes!

— Stacy Hitt, Mammal Swing Keeper

Show us your Wild Side
Sponsor a tiger today.
www.riverbanks.org/donate/wildparent.shtml

The Great Ape Initiative Part II

-Ed Diebold, Director of Animal Collections & Conservation

In the March/April issue of *Riverbanks*, I shared exciting news about a significant conservation initiative launched by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) Ape Taxon Advisory Group (TAG). Nearly 40 AZA-accredited zoos, including Riverbanks, joined together to provide critical funding to eight field conservation programs for endangered apes—one for each of the great ape species and two for siamangs and gibbons. As a result, Riverbanks made a 3-year financial commitment to support three of the eight projects, thanks to the Riverbanks Conservation Support Fund.

In the last issue, I provided an update on one of the three projects that are being supported by Riverbanks—the Goualougo Triangle Ape Project with a focus on gorillas and chimpanzees. Today I am pleased to share with you information about the second of the three projects, one that focuses on the bonobo.

The bonobo is the least known of the great apes and the last to be described by science. Its limited range lies completely within the Democratic Republic of Congo, a fact that arguably makes it the species most likely to become extinct if not afforded adequate protection. Formerly known as the pygmy chimpanzee, the bonobo shares some 98% of its genetic material with humans, similar to the closely related chimpanzee. However, unlike the highly aggressive chimpanzee, the bonobo conforms to a "make love, not war" lifestyle and, in my humble opinion, there is no creature on Earth that is more human-like.



The Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI):

Preserving the Bonobo in the Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

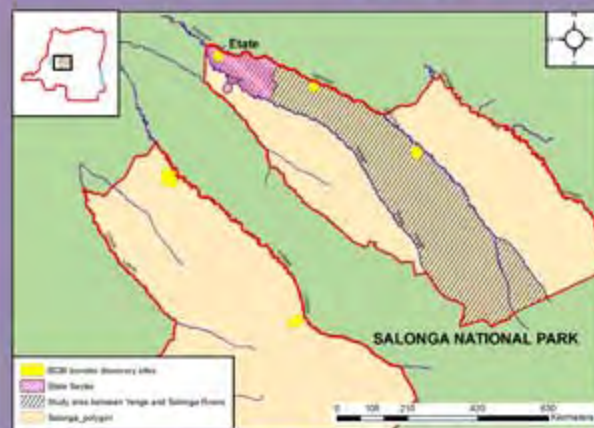
Now in existence for more than 15 years, the BCBI is a holistic conservation program that is supported by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) and led by Dr. Gay Reinartz. The program's roots lie in the AZA's Bonobo Species Survival Plan[®], which adopted BCBI as a field project to assess bonobos in Congo's Salonga National Park, the only national park in which the species is found. It is believed that Salonga is home to some 40 to 70% of the world's bonobo population.

In 1997, the ZSM worked with national park authorities to initiate a series of surveys that confirmed the importance of Salonga as a conservation site for the bonobo. Initial surveys discovered five sites that were heavily used by bonobos and determined that bonobo distribution in these areas was influenced by forest type and hunting. The surveys also revealed that the national park suffered from years of neglect and lack of operating resources. Poaching was determined to be the greatest threat to bonobos in the park, yet park guards received no salary for their services; nor did they have access to rations, basic field equipment, weapons or adequate training to combat the heavily-armed poachers.

In response, the BCBI has developed a multidisciplinary conservation strategy that includes ecological research and population monitoring, park support and guard training, and community empowerment components. Ongoing surveys help to identify important conservation areas, detect poaching hotspots, form the basis for guard surveillance routes and provide an understanding of which habitats are most likely to harbor bonobos. The project provides equipment and training for the guards who are responsible for patrolling the largely uncharted forest that spans more than 500 square kilometers. The presence of the guards and project leaders provide critical protection for the approximately 500 bonobos that live there.

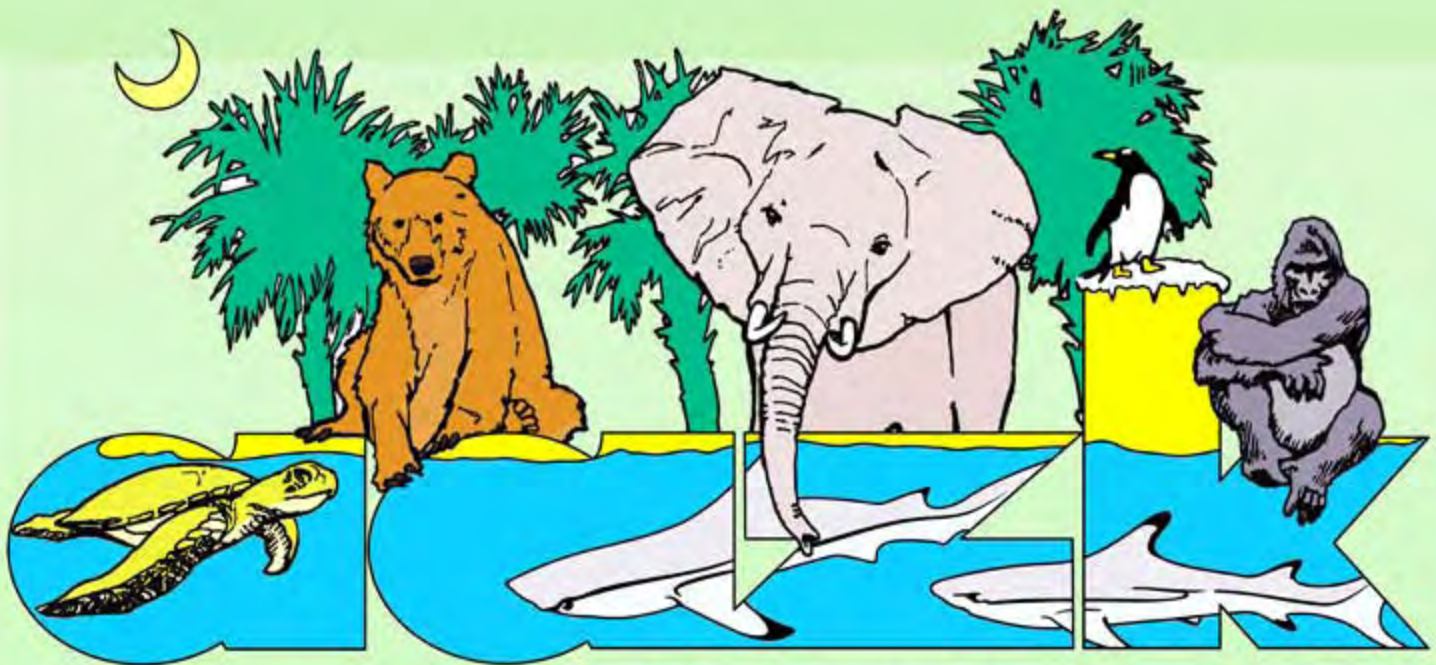
Nevertheless, the support of communities located in and around the national park is key to successful park management and the conservation of bonobo populations. By providing support for a farming cooperative and training in agricultural techniques, the BCBI provides local villagers with economic alternatives to hunting. In addition, the BCBI assists primary school teachers, offers an adult literacy program and provides local communities with opportunities to improve their quality of life overall. To date, program results have been remarkable. A nearly complete cessation of poaching has been achieved in the area, and the transfer of knowledge and skills to the local inhabitants will provide long-lasting benefit to both the people and the bonobos.

Riverbanks is proud to support this outstanding conservation initiative. Stay tuned for details about other ape TAG conservation programs in future issues of *Riverbanks*.



Photos courtesy of the Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI)

Reference: The AZA Ape TAG Conservation Initiative 2010-2012 Awardees' Project Descriptions submitted by Tara Stoiniski



The Resurgence of the Riverbanks Chapter of AAZK

The American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK) is a nonprofit, volunteer organization made up of zoo professionals who are dedicated to animal care and conservation. While many zookeepers around the country are members of AAZK, the ambitious and dedicated staff at Riverbanks wanted to do more. Last February, we reignited the Riverbanks Chapter of AAZK, allowing us to directly contribute to conservation, both locally and globally.

Members of our AAZK chapter are a very ambitious and dedicated group that have already accomplished quite a bit. Since February, we have run two very successful programs called "So You Wanna Be a Zookeeper?" The programs invited high school students to meet a panel of zookeepers, discuss zoo careers and how to get into the field, and see an area where keepers work. Our chapter also recently donated more than \$300 to zoos in Japan that were affected by the tsunami and earthquake. Year-round, the group plans to clean up trash on the river trails and help remove invasive plant species from under the power lines on the Zoo's property.

Thanks to the overwhelming support of the Zoo staff and Riverbanks members, reviving our local chapter of AAZK has been a great success. As we continue to grow, we hope to give back to Riverbanks through fundraisers, educational programs and conservation projects.

Please join us at our next exciting event: Bowling for Rhinos on Saturday, July 23, from 6pm until 9pm at Anchor Lanes in Irmo. All proceeds support rhino conservation!

Thank you in advance for your support.

- Christine Talleda
President, Riverbanks Chapter of AAZK

Riverbanks Chapter of AAZK Mission Statement

It is our mission to advance the care of captive animals, educate our community, and contribute to global and local conservation through fundraising and direct involvement. We also endeavor to promote and support the professional development of the animal care staff and other zoo professionals at Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. We will meet this mission through fundraising, in-service training, public presentations, and various projects that increase awareness and action.



Bowling for Rhinos

Saturday, July 23 * 6pm until 9pm *
Anchor Lanes * Irmo, SC

- Roll a strike • Purchase animal art •
- Participate in a silent auction •
- Save endangered rhinos •

Tickets (including lane rental and shoes):
\$12 in advance, \$15 at the door

Proceeds directly support rhino conservation projects around the world.

Email AAZK@riverbanks.org for tickets.
To learn more about Bowling for Rhinos, visit www.aazkbfr.org/

For updates from the Riverbanks Chapter of AAZK, become a fan of Riverbanks Zoo on Facebook: www.facebook.com/riverbankszoo

Elevating the Discipline of Restraint

The giraffe is a study in extreme animal engineering. It is the tallest animal on Earth with large males towering over 18 feet tall and weighing more than 2,500 pounds. A giraffe's legs alone are longer than the average human is tall, and its highly dexterous tongue measures an astounding 18 inches in length!

The next time you marvel at one of these wonders of nature, I encourage you to think about the challenges that the Riverbanks animal care and veterinary staff face when a giraffe is in need of special care, such as a radiograph or a hoof trim. Because of its enormous size and weight, chemical immobilization of a giraffe is challenging and potentially dangerous to the animal. Therefore, through many years of experience working with giraffes, zoo professionals have taken the discipline of giraffe restraint to new heights.

Restraint chutes are commonly used in the day-to-day management of domestic hoofed stock around the world, and commercially built chutes are readily available. However, until very recently a commercially built giraffe restraint chute did not exist. For this reason, after much research and feedback from colleagues in zoos around North America, accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, Riverbanks designed and worked with a local contractor to build our first giraffe restraint chute in 1997.

As with any piece of equipment of this sort, the design for a giraffe chute has steadily improved in response to our expanding knowledge of the species' needs. Inevitably, a company named Fauna Research, Inc. has incorporated all of the combined knowledge about giraffe chutes into an "off-the-shelf" model. In order to provide the best possible care for our giraffe herd, Riverbanks is currently working with Fauna Research, Inc. to acquire and construct this new chute technology at Riverbanks. We anticipate that the upgrade will be completed by summer's end!

Until the next time...

— Ed Diebold, Director of Animal Collections & Conservation



You're Invited to the Wildest Party in Town!

RIVERBANKS Friday, September 30th • 7pm



• Stroll through the Zoo • Explore out-of-sight places • Sample savory cuisine • Enjoy live entertainment •

Bid on one-of-a-kind auction items

- Party with the Penguins • Dine "Under the Sea" in the Aquarium • Get the Ultimate Backyard Makeover •
- Host a Kid's Birthday Party in the Zoo • Take a Grand African Safari—here at Riverbanks • And much more!

Tickets go on sale August 1

\$50 Riverbanks members, \$60 general public • Proceeds support conservation and education programs at Riverbanks

Winning Notes

Ms. Jan Mathias, long-time Zoo member, donor and volunteer, won the rights to name a baby gentoo penguin during the 2010 Riverbanks ZOO FARI live auction. While names like Tux or Flipper might immediately come to mind for some, Mathias chose to name the penguin Chillen Jillen. "Right away I thought of naming it Jill, after my sister who passed away with cancer in 2008," Mathias explained. "Well, her daughter Kaylee reminded me how much my mom had loved penguins, too, and she passed away with cancer in 2000." Reflecting on her mother Helen, Mathias continued, "She loved penguins so much they were everywhere in the house." So after further thought, Mathias blended the two names – Jill and Helen – together to come up with Jillen. "Chillen was just a word that describes my sister," Mathias said. "Laid back and chillin'. I love and miss them both and this is my tribute to them."





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AUGUST 6TH

7:00PM - 9:30PM

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Make plans to pick up your bulbs on any of our three designated pick-up days and your order will be ready and waiting for you. Plus, you'll save money, packaging and time!

First pick-up day:

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Not the right fit?

We ship. Just add an additional 15% to your total order, or a minimum charge of \$5 and a maximum of \$25.

Order online today: www.riverbanks.org/garden/bulbsale.shtml

FIVE BASIC STEPS TO BEAUTIFUL, BLOOMING BULBS

Bulbs can be some of the easiest and most rewarding plants in gardening, yet many people can be intimidated by them. Here are a few tips that will ensure your bulbs bloom beautifully.

- 1 Plant late. Timing can be everything. It's best to plant daffodils no earlier than mid-November and tulips even later, from December all the way up until February. The cool soil temperatures in late fall and winter are more conducive to good bulb performance.
- 2 Plant in the right location. Make sure your bulbs will get the proper amount of sunlight. Many want plenty of sun to grow.
- 3 Plant at the proper depth. The general rule of thumb for most bulbs is to plant them 2 to 3 times as deep as the bulb is tall. Planting bulbs too shallow or too deep can reduce performance.
- 4 Plant upright. Don't forget that bulbs have a top and a bottom, and the top should always point up. With bulbs like tulips and daffodils, the top is usually tapered to a point; the bottom is typically larger and there may be roots showing. If a bulb's orientation is in question, plant it on its side—it will find its way to sunlight.
- 5 Trim when yellow. Resist the urge to cut back foliage immediately after the flower blooms. While foliage with no blooms may be somewhat unsightly, leaving it is necessary so the leaves can photosynthesize and make food to build the bulb up next season. Once the leaves have yellowed, it's time to cut them back.

Riverbanks Celebrates National Zookeeper Week

Join us the week of July 17–23 as we recognize the dedicated staff members who take care of the animals at the Zoo. While you're at it, try practicing some zookeeper skills at home!

Have you ever wondered what it takes to be a zookeeper at Riverbanks?
Here is a list of just some of the skills that our zookeepers use every day.

Observation Skills

This game will help you practice your observation skills.



Here are photos of three different big cats, but which one is the magnifying glass looking at close up?



Record what you see!

Next time you are outside, grab a pencil and a notebook and start a simple nature journal to keep a record of your experiences outdoors. Don't forget to write down what you hear, see and smell. You can even draw a picture or write a poem.

Animal Knowledge

Learn as much as you can about animals by reading animal books and taking classes at the Zoo, museum or a nature center. For information on the Zoo's education programs, visit www.riverbanks.org/education/

To share what you've learned, make a simple Jeopardy-style game to quiz your friends. Include different animal categories such as animal coverings, communication or defenses.

Responsible Animal Care

Before bringing a new pet home, read as much as you can about how to take care of it and how much time it will take. Once your new pet is home, ask your parent/guardian how you can practice being a reliable and loving pet owner.

Science and More

Whether you want to be a zookeeper, artist, teacher or chef...there is a job for you at the Zoo! There are many different careers at the Zoo, so keep your options open and do well in all of your school subjects—not only science and math.

What is the best part of being a zookeeper?



Beth Fusco
Mammal Keeper

For me, the best part is just being able to be with and caring for the animals. Seeing how wonderful they really are, and being able to teach visitors about them.



Sarah Guaracini
Senior Bird Keeper

The best part about being a zookeeper is being able to make a difference in animals lives.



Stacy Hitt
Swing Keeper Mammal Department

My ability to connect people with a part of the animal world that they would normally never get to see. I love to share my enthusiasm for animals and the environment with others.



Beth Berry
Aquarist

The best part is the interaction with the animals. It is a very physical job, but it is rewarding when you can form a bond with an animal and get to know their personality. Even fish have personalities!



SKY HIGH ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

The top half of the poster features a prehistoric landscape with a large T-Rex in the foreground, a long-necked sauropod in the middle ground, and a Triceratops on the left. The background shows a hazy, mountainous horizon under a blue sky with small birds.

DINOSAURS

GIANTS OF PATAGONIA

NOW SHOWING
IN THE 3D ADVENTURE THEATER

nWave Pictures

TURTLE 3D Vision

Get ready for the Dive of your Life

The bottom half of the poster shows an underwater scene. On the left, a large sea turtle with a green and brown patterned shell is swimming. In the center, a young, light-green cartoon turtle with large blue eyes is looking forward with an open mouth. On the right, a grey cartoon turtle is peeking out from behind a large rock. The background is a deep blue ocean with various small fish and coral.

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