



BEHIND THE SCENES

Issue 2

August 2007

THE INSIDE VIEW



On July 10-12, a team of three zoo experts from around the country converged on Denver Zoo wearing the proverbial white gloves.

They inspected every aspect of zoo operations including animal care, education and conservation programs, physical facilities, staff, finances, and governance among others. It was all part of the Associa-

tion of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) accreditation review.

Fewer than 10 percent of licensed animal exhibitors in the U.S. are accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. Earning the AZA's seal of approval is a rigorous process, but the thoroughness ensures that as a donor, you are supporting a zoo that provides the highest quality animal management and care. As zoos evolve and industry standards are raised, each facility must seek accreditation every five years.

Denver Zoo's accreditation process began in early 2007 when we submitted a several hundred page written submission to AZA and culmi-

nated in the recent three-day site visit by a team of experts who represent AZA's Accreditation Commission. Every aspect of Denver Zoo was evaluated against a rigorous set of standards established by AZA.

AZA's full Accreditation Commission will meet in September to review our application, the site inspection team's report, to meet with zoo executives, and, it is hoped, renew our status as an AZA accredited facility. Accreditation is one of the many ways we seek to earn your trust by showcasing our zoo's commitment to excellence.

MILLENNIUM MASTER PLAN UPDATE

You may have seen a recent article in *The Denver Post* regarding Denver Zoo's plans to build *Asian Tropics*, an expansive new habitat for Asian elephants, Indian rhinos and many other important Asian species. Guided by the Millennium Master Plan, which was adopted by the zoo's Board of Trustees in 1998, Denver Zoo is developing a world class zoo where visitors "journey" around the globe to learn about animals, man's responsibility to them and their benefits to humanity. With the completion of important master plan projects including Predator Ridge, the entry plaza, Lorikeet Adventure and the Bird Propagation Center, Denver Zoo is actively raising the necessary funds to build *Asian Tropics*. To date, we have secured 30 percent of the \$50 million needed to complete *Asian Tropics* through private donations and Zoo Improvement Bond funds, which match every private contribution dollar for dollar.

Thus far in 2007, the zoo has received several important leadership gifts including commitments from El Pomar Foundation, the Schlessman Family Foundation and the Helen K. and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation. With more than \$16 million yet to raise in private contributions, we are actively pursuing donations from individuals, corporations and foundations. We are hoping to break ground in early 2008 and anticipate a two-year construction schedule. If you are interested in learning more about *Asian Tropics*, please contact Janet McFarland at (303) 376-6707 or at jmcfarland@denverzoo.org.



A female Arabian sand boa recently laid seven fertile eggs; a first for Denver Zoo. Boas as a group are characterized by giving birth to live young rather than laying eggs, which may lead scientists to re-classify this species at some point in the future. Little is known about this snake, which spends much of its time buried in sand. It is one of several species zoo staff study and manage behind the scenes in *Tropical Discovery* and we hope the knowledge we gain will contribute to the understanding of this unique species.

To receive **Behind The Scenes** by e-mail, please send your name and e-mail address to jkraybill@denverzoo.org with the subject line "Behind The Scenes." If you wish to receive more Denver Zoo news about every other week by e-mail, please use the subject line "E-bulletin."

DONOR CORNER

Recently, Denver Zoo finalized plans to name the Preserve Plaza in the upcoming *Asian Tropics* exhibit "The Carolyn B. Vincent Preserve Plaza." The zoo is deeply appreciative of Carolyn Vincent's generous gift to the zoo's endowment through a bequest in her estate. Carolyn was a wonderful friend of the zoo and is greatly missed. Because Carolyn's bequest supports the endowment, her gift was matched dollar for dollar by Zoo Improvement Bond funds. The matching funds will support *Asian Tropics*.

Carolyn had a life-long career as a registered nurse. Additionally, in

1962, Carolyn joined the Pennsylvania and later the Wyoming Air



National Guard where she served as a flight nurse for 18 years. When she retired from the Colorado Air National Guard in 1985 as a Lieutenant Colonel, she was awarded the Colorado Meritorious Service Medal for her significant contributions. Carolyn continued as the nursing manager at the Denver

National Guard where she served as a flight nurse for 18 years. When she retired from the Colorado Air National Guard in 1985 as a

Westside Health Center through 1997 and was instrumental in developing and implementing preventative health care programs for the indigent.

Her good friends and zoo members, Nancy Joy and Bonnie McLaren, summed up Carolyn's life as "one of love, service and commitment to her family, to people in need and to her friends." Carolyn, along with over 100 Wildlife Heritage Society members, has helped Denver Zoo fulfill its mission of wildlife conservation, environmental education and scientific programs through legacy gifts. We are pleased to honor Carolyn's generosity with this named exhibit in *Asian Tropics*.

GIVING TRENDS

Major institutions, such as universities, plan for the preservation of their facilities and programs well into the future by building strong endowment programs. In 1959, Helen and Arthur Johnson established Denver Zoo's first endowment to help ensure long-term financial stability for the zoo. In order to strengthen and grow the endowment, in 1997 Denver Zoo established the Colorado Zoological Trust under the leadership of a board comprised of investment experts. Since that time, the value of the endowment has grown from \$3.3 million to almost \$14 million. In 2006, the zoo's endowment experienced growth of 18.5%, 2.5% better than its S&P 500 benchmark. In the first quarter of 2007, endowment growth was 2.7%, more than 2% better than the S&P's performance (even the zoo's brown bears love the recent bull market!). The concept of endowment giving has become popular to many who are interested in making a long-term impact on their favorite charities.

What is the Denver Zoo Endowment?

- The endowment was established to help ensure long-term financial success and stability for Denver Zoo.
- The principal donated to the endowment is never touched; only a portion of the income and investment growth can be used to support zoo programs.

Why do people give to the Denver Zoo Endowment?

- To ensure Denver Zoo remains a vital and vibrant center for wildlife education and conservation for generations to come.
- Any size gift to the endowment is matched dollar-for-dollar by Zoo Improvement Bond funds through mid-2009, with matching dollars designated for the construction of new animal habitats.
- To create perpetual, predictable income on which the zoo can depend year after year.

Meet one of Denver Zoo's newest arrivals!



An African species not seen at Denver Zoo in several years, gerenuk or "giraffe-necked" gazelle have returned. Look for these unique foragers to be grazing on their tip-toes in their exhibit west of Predator Ridge.