



BEHIND THE SCENES

Issue 1

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THE INSIDE VIEW



Welcome to ***Behind the Scenes***, Denver Zoo's newest newsletter, especially designed for our closest and most

generous friends.

As you know, Denver Zoo is a beloved and important community asset that touches the lives

of nearly two million people each year. Our animal collection, our educational programs, and our conservation efforts here and around the world all enhance wildlife and its positive effect on people across the globe. Because of your generous support, our good work is made possible, and we want you to feel connected and up-to-date on zoo happenings and initiatives.

Three times a year, we will keep you informed on the progress of our ambitious and critically important Millennium Master

Plan building program, on various staff accomplishments, on significant animal births or acquisitions, and most important, on how Denver Zoo makes positive impacts on our community and on wildlife preservation.

On behalf of the Denver Zoological Foundation, I thank you for your generous support of our work, and we welcome your feedback on *Behind the Scenes*.

MILLENNIUM MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Although much of Denver Zoo's Millennium Master Plan is comprised of large projects like Predator Ridge that take years to plan and execute, we work continually on smaller projects that have a major impact on visitor experiences and animal care. One example is the zoo's new Lorikeet Adventure, generously funded by the Pauline A. & George R. Morrison Trust, which opened last summer. Lorikeet Adventure gives visitors an up close and personal view of colorful



A view of the east side of Bird Propagation Center under construction. Zoo visitors will be able to view outdoor exhibits on this wing, while the nonpublic interior of the building will be "just for the birds."



Denver Zoo recently received two pairs of secretary birds from Tanzania; they received thorough veterinary exams upon arrival. This new species to Denver Zoo will be moved to an outdoor exhibit at Bird Propagation once out of quarantine.

and friendly birds in an open-air aviary where the birds fly freely. Since opening last summer, more than 119,000 guests have visited this new interactive exhibit.

The zoo also is nearing completion of its new Bird Propagation Center. Located on the south side of the zoo, this facility will greatly enhance the zoo's bird conservation program by providing the space and environment for the breeding of endangered birds. After construction is completed within the next two months, the building will be ready to receive its first residents. Although much of Bird Propagation Center is behind the scenes and not open to the public, small exhibits on the perimeter of the building will be viewable to help visitors understand the importance of bird conservation and how Denver Zoo is helping to save endangered species around the world.

DONOR CORNER

Cliff and DeVee Lushbough have witnessed a lot of change at Denver Zoo since they started visiting in the 1960s. They keep coming back because of the animals, and they're excited about the zoo's plans to build new habitats. Cliff and DeVee decided to



make a distribution from their IRA late last year to help with our next major exhibit, Asian Tropics. Recently they spent a morning at the zoo, and Mimi and Dolly had an opportunity to say "thanks" – both for the apples and for helping build new elephant "digs."

Cliff and DeVee spent over 30 years working in the Aurora Public School District, and now enjoy traveling the globe to see both new places and the interesting animals that live there. One of their favorite trips was to the Galápagos Islands, where DeVee was thrilled to see blue-footed boobies among all the other wildlife. When at home in Aurora, Cliff is busy adding to his collection of antique scales or

spending time at the Adams County Museum, where he helped renovate an 1887 Victorian home now on exhibit.

Though hard-pressed to name just one favorite animal, their decision to support Asian Tropics came much easier. Cliff said when his financial advisor explained the new IRA gift law, he saw that the tax benefits were excellent and he wanted to be able to see the positive effects of his donation rather than leaving it in his estate. The Lushboughs are looking forward to watching the construction of the elephants' new home and in the meantime, it looks like a trip to Churchill Bay to see the polar bears might be on the horizon.

GIVING TRENDS

Q & A: Tax Incentives for Charitable IRA Rollovers

Q: Who is qualified to rollover funds directly from their IRA to charity?
A: Anyone 70½ or older qualifies.

Q: Why give to Denver Zoo through your IRA?
A: IRA rollover gifts to charity are not included in your taxable income for Federal Income Tax purposes, therefore reducing your overall taxable income. Charitable IRA rollovers qualify toward your required minimum distributions.

Q: Who benefits most from giving through their IRA?
A: Individuals whose required minimum distributions from their IRA would move them into the next tax bracket, non-itemizers, or those giving at 50% of their adjusted gross income (AGI).

Q: Is there a minimum/maximum gift amount I am allowed to rollover?
A: Minimum amounts vary with each IRA, so check with your IRA custodian - amounts range in size anywhere from \$500 to \$100,000.

Q: How do I make a gift from my IRA to charity?
A: Contact your IRA custodian for the necessary forms. IRA distributions must be made directly from your traditional or Roth IRA account to a qualified charity.

Q: When does this legislation end?
A: This law is currently in effect only through December 31, 2007, so act now to take advantage.

This is not intended as legal or tax advice and it is, of course, important to consult your legal or tax advisor before making this type of gift.

Meet one of Denver Zoo's newest arrivals!



This one-lined leaf-tailed gecko just hatched on February 1st. The birth was a first for Denver Zoo, and zookeepers are monitoring its growth behind the scenes in Tropical Discovery.