



BEHIND THE SCENES

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Written for and about the people who support Denver Zoo

THE INSIDE VIEW



One of the primary reasons I'm both honored and pleased to have been named the zoo's President and CEO

is the passion and dedication of our loyal supporters. In my ten years at the zoo, I've had the opportunity to meet many of you and hear what motivated you to invest in our wonderful institution and its mission. Your zoo stories and experiences, some of

which span generations, inspire me to maintain and grow our legacy as a cornerstone of the community.

I want to thank each of you for your steadfast support during what was a difficult year for us in 2007. Our staff, trustees, and volunteers appreciate the concern and kindness you've offered. We will continue to earn your trust by focusing on the values we all share and by improving the zoo, our service to the community, and our education and conservation mission.

We have much to accomplish in the year ahead and need your continued support to achieve our goals. Two of the articles in this newsletter

focus on some of our major initiatives. Wildlife conservation is more critical than ever, and we're partnering with other zoos and aquariums around the world to celebrate "The Year of the Frog" as a means of drawing attention to a global amphibian crisis. Additionally, we continue to evolve our business practices to reflect our commitment to protecting the environment.

I look forward to an ongoing dialogue with you in the coming months about our work and welcome your feedback and involvement in our vision for Denver Zoo.

Craig D. Piper
President & CEO

THE "GREENING" OF DENVER ZOO

Denver Zoo is a champion of the environment through its mission of conservation and education. Our work protecting animals and understanding their role in our natural world is what often comes to mind. You may not realize, however, that Denver Zoo long has been a leader in being a "green" organization. In addition to the over 360 conservation projects we've conducted around the world since 1996, we feel very strongly about doing everything we can here at Denver Zoo to conserve resources and be a leader in the community. Here are just a few initiatives we have undertaken at the zoo in recent years:

- ◆ Denver Zoo used "green" building materials in its new entrance that opened in 2004.
- ◆ Since 1999, the zoo has reduced its water use by 50%, saving more than 150 million gallons a year. We also completed the first phase of a reuse water program that will eventually be campus wide.
- ◆ Denver Zoo's latest capital development project, *Asian Tropics*, will become the first large animal exhibit complex to be LEED® certified.
- ◆ Denver Zoo is on the cutting edge of renewable energy through its in-depth research into a state-of-the-art, waste-to-energy gasification system that will provide heat and electricity for *Asian Tropics*.
- ◆ All of the utensils, plates and cups at the zoo's concession stands and restaurants are bio compostable and come from renewable resources.

Denver Zoo welcomed two new gorillas: Curtis (right) and Charlie (left). Curtis and Charlie are brothers who came to us from the North Carolina Zoo. Charlie is 11 years old and Curtis is 13. They are the first bachelor troop of gorillas in Primate Panorama.



In addition to the many things we do every day to be environmentally responsible, we believe that the zoo's greatest contribution is our ability to inspire a larger number of people to conserve natural resources. Here at Denver Zoo, we are striving to be a leader in our community and in the country for responsible and sustainable practices.

Help conserve paper! To receive *Behind The Scenes* by e-mail, please send your name and e-mail address to jkaybill@denverzoo.org with the subject line "Behind The Scenes." If you would like to check out more animal photos and zoo news by e-mail, please use the subject line "E-bulletin."

DONOR CORNER

Dick and Sandy McCray now think of the zoo as so much more than just a great place to spend a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. The McCrays first became passionate about Denver Zoo when bringing their grandchildren to visit. Then the realization hit, they didn't need to bring their grandsons with them to enjoy the zoo!

The more they read and learned about the wonderful education and conservation work of the zoo, the more they wanted to get involved and help in any way they could. So in addition to getting to know Denver Zoo's animals, Dick and Sandy have spent some time learning more about the zoo's programs and staff. A retired professor of astrophysics at University of Colorado, Dick has enjoyed meeting education staff and

learning about the variety of education programs the zoo offers, including Young Scientists and school outreach programs. He is truly passionate about youth education. And Sandy enjoyed hearing about the zoo's conservation programs across the globe. That is why Sandy and Dick decided to include the zoo in their estate plans to benefit the zoo's education and conservation endowment. They also recently adopted the gerenuk sculpture at the zoo's entrance (photo below).



When pressed to name a favorite animal, Sandy didn't hesitate to name the zebra. The zebra is prominent in many of her creative tile mosaics. Sandy is not an artist by trade; it is a hobby that occupies much of her time since her retirement from practicing law. It was a bit harder for Dick to name his favorite animal, but in the end he chose the hyena. "I was amazed that you (Denver Zoo) could train the hyenas to come over to receive an injection. I also was amazed to learn that a young female would dominate a mature male. And, maybe I take the hyenas because they are the underdogs – I don't think many people would say that hyenas were their favorite."

We thank Sandy and Dick McCray for their generosity to Denver Zoo and for their commitment to the environment and educating young people.

NEW AT THE ZOO

Have you heard that Denver Zoo is launching 2008 as the **Year of the Frog** in conjunction with Leap Day on February 29th? This is a multi-faceted effort to bring attention to global amphibian conservation issues in partnership with Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) institutions across the country, the Amphibian Ark, and others.

By now, many people have heard that amphibians are in extreme peril around the globe. Because it can be difficult to determine beyond any doubt that an animal is extinct, scientists use the term "possibly extinct" for those animals believed to no longer exist in the wild. Currently, 208 species are listed as possibly extinct, 122 of which are amphibians.

Denver Zoo is working to help amphibians on many fronts. In coordination with numerous other zoos, we are maintaining populations in our own collections with the hope that species can be returned to the wild at some time in the future. On an international level, Denver Zoo keeper Tom Weaver is working with staff at the University of Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima, Peru by establishing a holding facility and research center for confiscated Lake Titicaca frogs. In addition, Denver Zoo staff are hoping to forge an educational partnership in 2008 with zoos in Peru. Though most of us are aware of the amphibian crisis, few Peruvians are. We believe by partnering with local zoos, we can help them educate and inspire their visitors to take responsible action in their own country.

What can you do to help? Learn about what's happening to amphibians and encourage your kids or grandkids to learn as well. Visit the conservation area on www.denverzoo.org or www.aza.org/helpfrogs to learn more ways to be a friend to frogs. Your annual financial support enables Denver Zoo to remain involved in these important conservation efforts. Should you wish to make a specific gift to help these projects, you can designate your gift to "amphibian conservation." Thanks to donations from people like you, AZA zoos and aquariums have donated \$1.1 million to the amphibian crisis since the year 2000.