



BEHIND THE SCENES

Issue 5 ► May 2008

Written for and about the people who support Denver Zoo

THE INSIDE VIEW



The plight of elephants in the wild and our responsibility to help ensure their future is foremost on our minds at Den-

ver Zoo. Not only are we raising funds to build the planned Asian Tropics exhibit, we've also entered into a partnership of global importance. The National Elephant Center was begun as a cooperative effort among zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and is being supported by other individuals and organizations that care deeply about elephants. This year, Waste Management helped make the plan a reality by providing land for The National Elephant Center in Okeechobee, Florida.

For over a decade, the zoo community has realized the need for a facility to provide short- and long-term solutions to help manage the nation's nearly 290 elephants that live at 77 different AZA-accredited institutions. An extensive search was launched to locate potential sites for the center. Ultimately, a team of elephant experts

selected property offered by Waste Management in central Florida. Waste Management donated the use of 300 acres of grasslands, wooded areas, and waterholes. It is adjacent to land they maintain as a natural area for threatened Florida sandhill cranes and other species.

The National Elephant Center, along with Asian Tropics, is integral to our efforts to preserve elephants by providing population management support in North America. Currently, the captive elephant population in North America is not self-sustaining due in large part to facility constraints. Many institutions have stopped breeding elephants due to a shortage in the number of facilities equipped to house bull elephants. Asian Tropics will play a key role in this effort by providing space for as many as 12 bull elephants as well as being a site for a future breeding program. While other AZA institutions upgrade their elephant facilities, the Center will

be able to provide short- and long-term holding for elephants and short-term residency when herd dynamics change.

As a member of the Center's Board of Directors, I am actively involved in detailed design and hiring staff. We plan for the Center to be operational with elephants onsite in 2009. Once the elephants arrive from various AZA institutions, the Center will operate as a training site for keepers, curators, veterinarians and other professionals that work with elephants, and will facilitate research to help aid Asian and African elephant populations in the wild. Together, Denver Zoo's Asian Tropics exhibit and The National Elephant Center will work in tandem to ensure that elephants have a future beyond our generation.

Craig D. Piper, President & CEO



To learn more, visit: TheNationalElephantCenter.org

Emperor tamarins Cute and Yana recently gave birth to a male infant named Paddy. Though not on exhibit to the public, this is an important birth for the species. Cute's genes had not been represented through any offspring. This is the first successful birth of this species at Denver Zoo.



Are you interested in the zoo's latest conservation work? Go to denverzoo.org/donations/publications.asp where we've posted recent updates from our researchers. This month's posting discusses grassland ecosystems right in our backyard as well as the latest on the amphibian crisis in Peru. Your support makes these efforts possible!

DONOR CORNER

“Sweet baby animals.” That is what Jean Hash kept repeating when asked why she loves Denver Zoo. Simple as that. Animals are her favorite “people,” she says, so giving and innocent. A zoo member for over 20 years, Jean has become even more involved over the last few years, naming the zoo in her will and making wonderful donations supporting the veterinary hospital, in memory of jaguar Jorge, and to help build Asian Tropics. She is happy to fill a need at the zoo when she sees one. About a year ago, when visiting the zoo’s hospital and hearing of Dr. Kenny’s desire for a digital x-ray machine,

Jean stepped in to help purchase this state-of-the-art equipment, and was excited that she could be a part of the fascinating work of our zoo vets.

Jean plans to get more involved with the zoo in the near future by becoming a volunteer. The new Lorikeet Adventure exhibit is where she is hoping to volunteer her time, which is quite a turn around considering just a year ago she had a complete fear of birds! She credits Denver Zoo’s Lorikeet Adventure and the Wildlife Show for helping her conquer this fear. When she stepped into Lorikeet Adventure and the lorries ate out of her hand instead of dive-bombing her head, she figured they couldn’t be all bad. Now

the lorikeets are some of her favorite animals. But, when asked to name just one favorite animal she quickly says cats, all kinds of cats. The feline houses are her favorite exhibits. Jean also loves to hear Krueger, one of Denver Zoo’s male lions, “preach his sermon” as she calls it, from his heated termite mound in the center of his exhibit.



We thank Jean Hash for her generosity to Denver Zoo and for her commitment to all animals.

Denver Zoo’s spotted hyena clan leader, Ngozi, gave birth to two cubs in early March. Zookeepers have collected blood samples to determine the sex of the new cubs, as males and females appear almost identical. They are born with their eyes open and teeth already erupted, making them excellent predators. In areas of the wild where hyenas co-exist with lions, the two species are direct competitors for food. They will be on exhibit this month.



GIVING TRENDS

Are you worried about the declining rates on your certificates of deposit? In an unsure investment market, many Americans today are turning to charitable gift annuities to lock in a guaranteed rate of return for life, while also receiving other charitable benefits.

How do charitable gift annuities work? You receive a fixed dollar amount each year for life by making a gift of \$5,000 or more to establish the gift annuity. As an example, someone age 75 would receive \$710 per year for the rest of his/her life by donating \$10,000 to a charitable gift annuity.

Today’s Denver Zoo supporters are finding great benefits from establishing a gift annuity because of the high, fixed rate, partially tax-free payments and charitable deduction -- while at the same time supporting zoo programs promoting wildlife education and conservation around the world. Also, the charitable portion of the gift annuity is matched dollar for dollar by a Zoo Improvement Bond fund supporting Asian Tropics.

For more information on these or other types of charitable investments, please contact the Development Office at 303-376-4860 or send an e-mail to plannedgifts@denverzoo.org.