

# RIVERBANKS

JULY-AUGUST 2006





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Riverbanks Zoological Park and Botanical Garden is accredited by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association and the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.



**ASSOCIATION  
OF ZOOS &  
AQUARIUMS**

Front cover: Portuguese Squill  
Photograph by Andy Cabe

## THE OBSERVATION DECK



In the spring of 2003, Riverbanks' Education Department established an exciting program for local teenagers called ZooTeens, under the guidance of Director of Conservation Education Chris Gentile. The program, founded on a partnership between Riverbanks Zoo & Garden and the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands, reaches out to underserved youth ages 14-17 in the Midlands

community. Participants can explore career opportunities in zoos and aquariums while learning practical animal care and environmental education skills. They are encouraged to use the life skills gained through the program and at Camp Sunshine (a special needs summer camp of the Richland County Recreation Commission) to reach out to special needs groups in their community. The overarching goal of the ZooTeens is to learn about the interconnectedness of all living things through a full circle concept of community and environment.

An instant success in its inaugural year, the ZooTeens program quickly gained attention and was honored with the 2004 Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Education Award, the highest award given for zoo and aquarium conservation education in North America. During that same year, a rather remarkable young man, D'Angelo Malloy, became a ZooTeen.

D'Angelo is a team leader at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands where he was nominated as "Youth of the Year" for 2004-2005 (winning both the local and Midlands titles). He rose quickly through the ZooTeen ranks and has since become one of two ZooTeens selected to be an instructor in the Knight Foundation after-school program. And even though he has now graduated from the ZooTeen program, his Riverbanks "career" continues. This summer he is teaching other ZooTeens, and he is a full-fledged instructor in the Zoo camp program. But D'Angelo isn't finished yet. We have just learned that he has been named as one of eleven members of the Jane Goodall Institute Roots & Shoots National Youth Leadership Councils.

Roots & Shoots, founded by Dr. Jane Goodall in 1991, engages and inspires youth through community service and service learning. Since then, Roots & Shoots has spread rapidly to more than 7,500 groups in more than 90 countries. This global program emphasizes the principle that knowledge leads to compassion, which inspires action. All Roots & Shoots groups show care and concern in three areas: the human community, animals and the environment. Members of the Youth Leadership Council (YLC) serve as "dedicated youth ambassadors working to strengthen the national Roots & Shoots community by providing leadership and guidance."

In the past year, members of the YLC have been involved in such activities as leading and participating in youth conferences in South Africa, Russia, Peru, and across the USA; speaking at numerous United Nations events in New York City; representing Roots & Shoots in the media through MTV's Web site, *National Geographic Kids* magazine, and on Discovery Channel's Animal Planet network.

D'Angelo reflects on his appointment to the YLC, "I am especially thankful for this opportunity of sharing the experience of this Roots & Shoots program." This is quite an honor for Riverbanks and D'Angelo, and we know that he will go on to bigger and better things.

In his spare time, D'Angelo enjoys reading, writing, poetry, spending quality time with his family and playing basketball, baseball and football. His favorite motto is, "With God, Nothing is Impossible." An Honor Roll student at Columbia High School, D'Angelo plans to attend the University of South Carolina to major in electrical engineering. We are especially proud of D'Angelo—and all of our ZooTeens—and appreciative of our ongoing partnership with the Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands. We look forward to growing many more young leaders like D'Angelo in the future.



Satch Kiantz

### MISSION STATEMENT

**It is our mission to foster appreciation and concern for all living things.**

**We are dedicated to providing:**

- ◆ the highest standards of care for our animal and plant collections.
- ◆ a diverse educational and high-quality recreational experience for all Riverbanks visitors.
- ◆ all the resources at our disposal for the conservation of the earth's flora and fauna.



# IT'S GOOD TO BE QUEEN



By – Sue Pfaff, Assistant Curator of Mammals

Gnawing, tail sweeping, nudging... Poking, break dancing, leap frogging.... Yep, I've seen it all. After 21 years of being part of the Riverbanks animal care team, one of my all-time favorite species has finally arrived—mole rats! I must say, that it has been well worth the wait.

On April 20, ten Damaraland mole rats (*Cryptomys damarensis*) arrived at the Columbia Metropolitan Airport all the way from the Houston Zoo. Mammal curator John Davis and I waited eagerly at the Delta cargo facilities for the small crate to be unloaded from the plane. After a long wait (ah...finally), the kennel was in our possession. As we peered through the mesh, we saw ten velvety, chocolate- and cream-colored mole rats. They were rather small, each about the size of a Twinkie and weighing between 85 and 150 grams. We almost wanted to reach in and give them a little rub—but those buck teeth kept us at bay!

Noisily bustling around their shipping crate (a plastic Rubbermaid storage container dotted with air holes, covered in wire mesh and set inside a larger sky kennel),

it appeared that the mole rats were playing some sort of funky game of Twister. We could hardly control our excitement! All ten (four males, three females, and three juveniles with unknown genders) were extremely busy chewing, squeaking, pushing, shoving, burrowing, chirping, and eating—all at the same time. We listened to their commotion for the next two hours as we drove them back to the Zoo and placed them in their new exhibit inside the Education Center's terrarium. John and I found it difficult to peel ourselves away for the evening, but it was nearing 9pm.

When we returned the following morning, we were amazed that all of the mole rats were still scurrying around their new home. As they wrestled through the exhibit's transparent tunnels that connected the five separate chambers, we couldn't decide if they had more resemblance to the Three Stooges or the Keystone Cops.

Looking at the mole rats, you may wonder who they are related to and where they fit into the scheme of things. Damaraland mole rats are one of the 12 species of rodents that share the Bathyrids family; their closest

relatives are porcupines, guinea pigs and chinchillas. They are distributed throughout sub-Saharan Africa ranging from the red Kalahari sands of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. These regions have an unusually harsh and dry environment.

Mole rats live underground in rodent versions of a bee-hive. Their main mission is to dig tunnels in search of tasty tubers (large plant roots). And oh boy, are they equipped with a set of chompers! Two sets of incisors protrude outside of their lips and are perfect tools to excavate tunnels through hard substrates. These extra heavy-duty teeth assist with the consumption of their favorite tuber and are sometimes used to simply yank one of their buddies backwards down a tunnel for a couple of feet. If you're lucky enough to observe a keeper servicing the mole rat tunnels and chambers, you will definitely notice that it's always hands off. We will not risk the temptation to stroke the mole rats due to their ever-present incisors. They would definitely leave a mark! One morning, a little girl (who had a full set of braces of her own) commented that the mole rats needed to go visit her orthodontist. With a set of daggers like that, I couldn't imagine the look on an orthodontist's face if the mole rats showed up at the dental office, could you?

The Damaraland mole rats have other unusual characteristics, too. Their eyes are so tiny that it is difficult to even see them. Living a subterranean way of life, and in complete darkness, they simply don't use them as a visual aid. Instead, mole rats use their eyes as air flow detectors by gauging air pressure in their tunnel network. This sensitivity assists with identifying tunnel breaks caused by predators or other environmental changes. Mole rats are also specially adapted to detect vibration using bristles that cover their feet and tails by simply feeling the ground. They do have tiny ear openings, but lack any external ear pinnae. Ear flaps would just get in the way of their busy schedule of digging and moving dirt. Needless to say, they do have excellent hearing.

Damaraland mole rats have a unique social structure where they actually have "family values." It is similar to that of termites and bees. They live in large colonies presided over by a queen. Living in a eusocial society, the queen is the only female who breeds, while the remaining females—often members of the same family—work together to raise young and to maintain their underground domain. The only other mammalian species that is known to be truly eusocial is the smaller cousin of the Damaraland mole rat, the naked mole rat. The bossy queen rules her colony with brute force, often using her nose to shove and prod other mole rats into action. It is good to be queen!

As unbelievable as they may seem, there's more. Other cast members in a mole rat colony have quite distinct roles with varied division of labor. Some mole rats are always very busy and stay constantly active. They are considered to be the "work horses" (frequent workers) of the colony. Their main purpose is to excavate tunnels. The designated "digger" mole rats stay at the front of the line using their incisors to break through the new soil.

Directly behind the line leader is a "sweeper" whose main job is to sweep the soil back using its furry feet. These busy bodies are also individuals that you may see doing the "worm." It reminds me of a new dance craze! They flatten out their bodies and move up and down in an "S" fashion in order to circulate air throughout the tunnels. Then there are always those "chilled out" mole rats that are destined to be couch potatoes (infrequent workers). They conserve their energy until their presence is mandatory during a major tunnel break or while looking for "love" in all the wrong tunnels (so to speak).

Whether a mole rat is a "Type A" mole rat who performs 95% of the work, or a lazy-bones mole rat who contributes the remaining 5%, every mole rat plays an important role. Which caste would you fit into? I must admit that I would probably be a part of those high strung 95% frequent workers! But, don't get me wrong, those 5% slackers sound pretty good, too.

Haven't you always envied those who are always extremely organized and super productive—and make it look easy? Amazingly, mole rats fit this category. They are very well organized and able to maintain separate chambers for eating, raising pups, going to the bathroom and sleeping.

My favorite chamber is one that I have christened the "mole rat café." They visit the café throughout the day munching on sweet potatoes, carrots, romaine lettuce, banana, apples, rice baby cereal and their favorite—green peas! Okay, these may not seem to be the exact replica of their native tubers, but they appear to be most enjoyable to the colony at Riverbanks.

Believe it or not, mole rats do not require any water. They obtain all of the necessary moisture directly from their diet. They eat continuously because they use a lot of energy dragging substrate from one chamber to another. I get exhausted simply watching them!

In another chamber, they gather shredded paper towels, recycled paper bedding, dried grasses and cardboard chip substrates to make the perfect soft and cozy sleeping chamber. The latrine has been designated for those discrete tasks and really keeps the tunnel system clean. We can't even refer to them as "you dirty rat." You've got to love a rodent who takes pride in cleanliness!

So, be sure to take a few extra minutes before going to see the 3-D showing of *Wild Safari* or *SOS Planet*, and probably even a few additional minutes after the show, to watch these Keystone Cops in action. Lip smacking, mole-rat piling, wrestling, pushing... Shoving, leap frogging, teeth grinding, tail pulling.... Yep, you'll see it all.



## PLAN YOUR VISIT

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

#### July

- 6 First Thursdays in the Garden featuring acoustic favorites with Barton & Julia
- 5 Wedding Symposium - "Cooking Up a Menu without Burning Down the House"
- 13 Members' Night Series - In the Club Kids' Carnival (*reservations closed*)
- 27 Members' Night Series - Concert Night in the Garden featuring the high-energy blues of Elliott & The Untouchables (*reservations closed*)

#### August

- 3 First Thursdays in the Garden featuring the acoustic sounds of Ruby
- 5 Brew at the Zoo - An Extraordinary Tasting Event
- 13 Enrichment Encounter

#### September

- 6 Wedding Symposium - "Travel Agency: Planning Your Honeymoon"
- 7 First Thursdays in the Garden featuring folkadelic rock by Westbridge

#### October

- 4 Wedding Symposium - "Bridal Gowns: What's Hot and What's Not"
- 5 First Thursdays in the Garden featuring acoustic favorites with Barton & Julia
- 7 Riverbanks ZOOafari - A Night in Africa
- \* Boo at the Zoo
- \* 13-15, 20-22 & 27-30

For more information about these and other upcoming events, visit [www.riverbanks.org](http://www.riverbanks.org).



## RIVERBANKS ZOOAFARI

### *A Night in Africa*

### The Wildest Fundraiser in Town!

Fabulous Food ♦ Libations ♦ Entertainment ♦ Silent & Live Auctions

Saturday, October 7 ♦ 7:00–11:00pm

\$75 members ♦ \$85 general public

Tickets go on sale August 1

[www.riverbanks.org](http://www.riverbanks.org)

Proceeds will support the building of a new African observation point.





Introducing an extraordinary  
tasting event...

Saturday, August 5  
7:00–9:30pm ♦ Rain or Shine

- ♦ Discover a new brew
- ♦ Sip an old favorite
- ♦ Sample specialty & domestic beers
- ♦ Learn the cold facts from  
an Anheuser-Busch Brew Master

\$25 Riverbanks Society Members  
\$30 General Public

803.779.8717 ♦ [www.riverbanks.org](http://www.riverbanks.org)



Budweiser of Columbia will be offering their VIP cab program, Alert Cab, at Brew at the Zoo. The Checker Yellow Cab Company will be standing by for all participants on August 5 from 7 to 10 pm. Budweiser of Columbia will pay the first \$10 of fare to Richland or Lexington County; private residences or hotels. Alert Cab encourages responsible consumption.

Must be age 21 and over.

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- Complimentary Managers Reception
- Shuttle to and from Zoo ♦ Deluxe Breakfast for Two

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# THE GLAMOUR OF ZOO KEEPING

## *Unearthing the Inside Scoop*



Matt with white-faced saki

### **An Interview By – Monique Jacobs Manager, Riverbanks Society**

It's funny how excited people get whenever they learn I work at Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. "You work at the Zoo? How cool! So how are the monkeys? Do you get to work with the animals?" No, not really. I work in membership and fundraising, under the umbrella of the Marketing Department. At this point, there's typically a pause, and then, "Oh. That's nice. It must be fun...." Well, yes, it can be, but I can see how most folks would think endless hours of face-time with the computer and ear-time with the phone simply isn't as glamorous as caring for tigers, elephants or gorillas—even if it does involve scooping poop.

Wanting to unravel the mystique of a career that was all too unfamiliar to me, I decided to ask a few mammal keepers something everyone is eager to know: What is it like to be a zoo keeper?

One muggy May afternoon, I sat down with keepers Cheryl Lutz, Lynn Yakubinis and Matt Goeben, all of whom are responsible for about 20 different species at Riverbanks, roughly 60 animals, including all the small mammals that reside in Riverbanks Conservation Outpost (RCO), plus ring-tailed and red-ruffed lemurs, meerkats and gorillas. What I learned from each of them was not only enlightening but heartfelt.

**Q:** How long have you been a keeper?

**A:** Cheryl: I've been a keeper at Riverbanks for two years, and it's the animals that keep me coming back each day.

**A:** Lynn: I've been a keeper for six years—all of them here at Riverbanks.

**A:** Matt: While I've worked as a keeper for a total of six and a half years, I've only been a senior keeper at Riverbanks for five months.

**Q:** Have you had keeper experience anywhere other than Riverbanks?

**A:** Cheryl: My experience includes internships at several zoos: Jacksonville Zoo, where I learned how to take care of great apes; Philadelphia Zoo, where I observed animal behavior and worked in education; and Santa Fe Teaching Zoo (Gainesville, FL), where the students are literally the keepers and I kept a variety of animals from venomous snakes and birds to large and small mammals.

**A:** Lynn: I interned at the Greenville Zoo and at Riverbanks, but Riverbanks was my first keeper job. I've been here ever since.

**A:** Matt: Before being hired at Riverbanks, I worked at Disney's Animal Kingdom for three years. Before that, I was a keeper for two years at Jacksonville Zoo and one year at Central Florida Zoo.

**Q:** Wow! There must be quite a difference between Disney's Animal Kingdom and Riverbanks.

**A:** Matt: Each zoo is different in size and philosophy, so each brings a different learning environment to the table. Disney is a corporate, for-profit industry focused on the visitor experience, so the overall mentality is completely different than the mission-driven, not-for-profit, educate-our-visitors approach we have here at Riverbanks.



**Q:** What events, interests or schooling inspired you to pursue this career?

**A:** Cheryl: My fifth grade teacher introduced me to humpback whales. We did a project that helped raise funds for the adoption of a whale. After that, I just knew I wanted to do something with animals.

Ultimately, I pursued, and earned, an associate's degree in zoological technologies (encompassing animal nutrition, training, restraint and habitat) as well as a bachelor's degree in zoology from SUNY Oswego.

**A:** Lynn: I've always enjoyed animals so, naturally, I thought I would follow a veterinary career track. I quickly realized during my zoo internships, however, that working with zoo animals was much more interesting to me. Luckily, I was able to create my own interdisciplinary major at Furman University, and I now have a bachelor's degree in animal behavior (a combination of biology and psychology), which helped me secure a keeper position at Riverbanks.

**A:** Matt: I grew up in Baltimore, Maryland, where we were fortunate to live near—and visit often—Baltimore Zoo, National Aquarium in Baltimore and National Zoo in Washington, DC. We also had a household full rabbits, dogs, cats and hamsters. So being around animals and zoos throughout my childhood really set the tone for my future. I worked at a veterinary clinic for four years between the ages of 14 and 18; but by the time I went to college, I wasn't sure that path was for me. Being the first person in my family to go to college, I really didn't know what was out there. I studied biology at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina and volunteered at the Western North Carolina Nature Center where I discovered a world of opportunities for biologists and scientists. When I graduated, I landed my first keeper job working with primates at the Central Florida Zoo.

**Q:** Describe your typical day at Riverbanks.

**A:** Matt: Between 8:00 and 8:15am, our team picks up our [walkie-talkie] radios together so we can walk to our stations as a group and download any necessary information from the day before, making any decisions about animal care for the day. The first few hours consist of a lot of observing, reacting and cleaning.

**A:** Cheryl: Once we arrive at our stations, we check each exhibit, do a visual head count to make sure the animals are where they should be and begin turning on lights in their holding areas to help them adjust to the time of day. We typically clean the public side of the RCO exhibits first, and we're finished with gorillas by 11:30am so that they are ready for their daily interpretive presentation for the public.

**A:** Lynn: Any animals that need to be shifted onto an exhibit are shifted out right away so we can begin to clean their holding areas and prepare their diets. Cleaning and feeding normally takes place up until lunchtime.

**A:** Matt: Mid-afternoon is reserved for special projects, repairs, meetings and specialized animal training.

**A:** Cheryl: Special projects can range from the very tedious, like removing duckweed (a type of algae) from the pond in front of lemur, to the fun and

creative, like creating animal enrichment devices or changing exhibit props.

**A:** Lynn: I find that creating enrichment devices is rewarding because you know you're making something that will give the animals something productive to do. Training animals to step on a scale or into a crate is a bit more challenging but a lot of fun and rewarding as well.

**A:** Cheryl: Specialized training is very gratifying. We are currently practicing injection training where the gorilla presents a body part up to mesh caging and is rewarded with food. I get to do this with Mike as his primary trainer, and even though he often behaves like a class clown (he's been known to wrap himself in paper towels like a sumo wrestler), he has been very amenable to this training.

**A:** Matt: Keepers really have to understand a lot about nutrition and behavior, what's normal and what's not. We maintain daily logs for each animal to track patterns in feeding and behavior, as well as training progress. The afternoons are focused on preparing evening diets and shifting animals back to their holding areas.

**Q:** What's the best part of being a keeper?

**A:** Cheryl: I love interacting with the animals. It's amazing to observe their behaviors and rewarding to share what we learn by educating the public.

**A:** Lynn: Definitely interacting with the animals is the best. It's neat when they take an interest in the enrichment devices we make and respond positively to the training exercises we practice.

**A:** Matt: It's really satisfying to see the animals thrive in a captive setting and know that our efforts at the Zoo are helping to make their lives richer.

**Q:** What's your biggest challenge as a keeper?

**A:** Cheryl: Differing human opinions can be challenging. And certainly when an animal is transferred out to another zoo, or when we lose an animal, it can be heart wrenching.

**A:** Lynn: Sick or dying animals are always tough. It's difficult to interpret an animal's behavior. While we can't really tell what an animal is feeling, through observation we can determine when it is acting differently and try to figure out what that change means.



Lynn with DeBrazza monkey in holding area

**A:** Matt: Interpersonal relations and creating team atmosphere are important in this field, but maintaining positive attitudes amidst differing opinions can be a challenge.



Cheryl with ring-tailed lemur

**Q:** What professional affiliations and/or personal interests do you have?

**A:** Cheryl: I am currently the president of the Riverbanks Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), so I'm involved in a lot of fundraising for the organization. After hours, I supervise some of Riverbanks' overnight programs, which fulfills my

need to be involved in education. In my spare time, I enjoy road trips, music and taking care of my two cats. I'm also training for a half-marathon.

**A:** Matt: I'm a member of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), as well as AAZK. I served as the Vice President of the Jacksonville Chapter of AAZK when I was in Florida. At home, I stay busy taking care of animals that I don't work with at the Zoo, including a conyer, tortoise, 15-year-old iguana, cats, dogs and finches.

**A:** Lynn: A member of the AAZK, I'm also active in the AZA as the studbook keeper for the Hoffman's sloth and the Didactylus sloth. When I'm not working on the studbook, I enjoy spending time outdoors, hiking, playing basketball and tennis, and going to the mountains.

**Q:** So how did you become a studbook keeper and what does that entail?

**A:** Lynn: I applied for the studbook keeper position through AZA. I wanted to get involved in the bigger picture of working with animals, not only at zoos but also globally. I have an interest in sloths because they are unusual. Did you know all of their organs are upside down? It makes sense, since it's the same direction they hang! Keeping a studbook involves gathering information from other zoos to trace bloodlines and recommend breeding. It's kind of like working on a detective story, looking for clues that indicate where the animal came from in order to ensure the success of the species.

**Q:** What's one of the most interesting keeper stories you'd like to share with our members?

**A:** Cheryl: When I interned at the Philadelphia Zoo, I worked with gorillas Chaka, Kimya and Mike. Little did I know when I came to Riverbanks that they would end

up being transferred here, and I would have the fortune working with them once again! Interestingly, I was assigned as Mike's primary trainer, and although it took me several months to gain his trust, he's been playful ever since—playing tag with his foot to the mesh and tap, tap, tapping his hand whenever he can get it in water. It's like things came full circle for me right here at Riverbanks.

**A:** Matt: One of the most memorable experiences I've had was working with a male gorilla, Kijana, at Disney. He had been walking around with curled toes, indicating to us something was wrong with his foot, but it was against his nature as a dominant gorilla to show pain or weakness around his troop. Thanks to his willingness to perform previously trained behaviors like putting his foot up to a mesh cage, veterinarians discovered a splinter deep in his foot. With some additional training, he underwent successful treatment, and eventually a foot doctor recommended physical therapy. After training the gorilla to present his foot for therapy, he cooperated in a manner that made us realize the therapy felt good to him. The realization that we were able to find and fix Kijana's wounded foot with his help was extremely rewarding.

**A:** Lynn: I had the fortune of working with Riverbanks' first group of gorillas and was especially fond of Kumba. She was a persnickety old lady—it was difficult to get her to do anything. When it was time to prepare the group for the trip back to Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, I was assigned to train her to enter a crate. She wouldn't have any of it. So for two or three months, I made a game out of entering and exiting the crate, and she finally caught on. Kumba and I built a relationship out of trust that made it tolerable for her to enter the crate and easy for me to shut the doors, just in time for the transfer. After the 17-hour road trip to Chicago, I was there to open the doors for her to return to her original home. She recognized me and appeared to be happy to be back on familiar turf. It was neat to know that she was able to trust me through training.

**Q:** What are your long-term goals?

**A:** Cheryl: I would like to continue to focus on conservation projects and educating people on the importance of conserving animals worldwide while reinforcing that animals in zoos are truly the keystone animals that provide the resources for us to help save their counterparts in the wild.

**A:** Matt: I plan on following this career path, possibly going to school to better understand zoos as a business. There are so many important aspects to zoos in addition to keeping the animals.

**A:** Lynn: I want to remain hands on. I wouldn't mind working as a senior keeper or operant conditioning trainer. Beyond that, you begin to lose touch with the animals. I've discovered there are opportunities for independent operant conditioning consultants that might be a good fit for me in the future. For now, I enjoy what I'm doing, helping enhance the lives of these amazing animals.





# IN THE KITCHEN WITH CHEF MARCUS



*This is an exotic kabob that will have your family and friends in awe. And it's as simple as 1, 2, 3!*

## Simmering Chicken Strawberry Kabobs (African Chicken)

- 1 cup lemon juice
- 1 (12 oz) can pineapple chunks, with juice
- salt and pepper to taste
- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 3 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cubed
- 1 cup butter, melted
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 24 whole strawberries

- 1 In a shallow glass bowl combine lemon juice, juice from pineapple can, salt, pepper and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Mix together. Add cubed chicken and marinate for 1 hour in the refrigerator. Preheat grill to medium heat.
- 2 In a small bowl combine the melted butter, 1 teaspoon cinnamon, brown sugar and nutmeg.
- 3 Lightly oil grate. Using metal or soaked wooden skewers arrange chicken, pineapple chunks and strawberries on each stick (approximately 4 to 6 pieces of each item per skewer). Brush kabobs with butter or margarine mixture place on grill and cook, turning on all sides, until chicken is cooked through and strawberries are sizzling. Approximately 8 to 10 minutes.

Makes 6 to 8 kabobs. Enjoy!

## COUPONS FOR OUR MEMBERS

**\$5.00 Off**

\$5.00 off any gift shop purchase of \$15.00 or more. Present at any Riverbanks gift shop. Limit one coupon per customer. Valid: July 1–31, 2006.

**Free Kid's Sipper**

Free Kid's Sipper with the purchase of Souvenir Kid's Meal. Present at Kenya Café or Ndoki Pizza. Limit one coupon per customer. Valid: July 1–31, 2006

**\$5.00 Off**

\$1.00 off regular size Dippin' Dots ice cream. Present coupon at Dippin' Dots kiosk in Palmetto Plaza. Limit one coupon per customer. Offer good August 1–31, 2006.

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--- Redeem for a chance to win ---  
A purchase of \$20 or more at any Riverbanks gift shop enters you to win a \$200 shopping spree in any Riverbanks gift shop. Limit 1 entry per qualifying purchase with a coupon. Valid: August 1–31, 2006

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# BREW AT THE ZOO IS BORN:

## *An Inside Look at What It Takes to Introduce a New Zoo Event*



**By – Rachel Beanland**  
**Public Relations Manager**

With a name like Dusty Broadway, it's easy to imagine why folks don't often forget her name. Spend a day in her shoes as she plans Riverbanks' signature special events like Lights Before Christmas and Boo at the Zoo and you won't forget her work either.

Broadway, who got her start planning events for Columbia-based Bobbin Blenheim and owned her own event planning business, Signature Events, in Atlanta before moving back home to Columbia in 2002, is remarkably good with details and eerily calm under pressure.

With an events staff of three and a radio permanently attached to her ear, she's thinking Christmas in April and Halloween in December. On her computer there's a running to-do list organized by date; right now she's working about 10 months out. Staff members will often find her sitting at her desk on the opening night of an event when most people would be scurrying around, attending to last minute details. With Broadway, every item on her to-do list has already been checked off.

Two years ago when Broadway was hired on, Riverbanks had begun taking a serious look at its special events calendar—emphasizing the long-standing events that Zoo members loved and nixing the small-scale events that drew low attendance. Broadway was an asset Zoo management didn't want to squander.

"We began looking at the events we already did really well along with events that had proven successful at other zoos across the country," said Tommy Stringfellow, Riverbanks' director of marketing who sits down with Broadway once a week to analyze the Zoo's events. "We wanted each event we did to be memorable. And we wanted a variety of large-scale events scattered throughout the year so that we'd appeal to as many of our members as possible."

At the time, the Zoo was just coming off Boo at the Zoo's introductory year and the staff was staggered by the event's popularity.

"We wanted to take Boo's momentum and bottle it," Stringfellow said.

At around this same time, Riverbanks introduced its first Wine Tasting, an event that showcased the

park's spectacular gardens. Again, the event received rave reviews.

Over the next two years, Broadway focused on four main events: Lights Before Christmas, Boo at the Zoo, the Wine Tasting at Riverbanks Botanical Garden and a long-time favorite, Wild Things Safari (this year's Riverbanks ZOOafari), a casual autumn gala that raises money for Riverbanks Society.

Last fall, Broadway and Stringfellow's weekly meetings began to take a turn. Both were pleased with the direction in which the Zoo's events were headed, but something was missing. With the Wine Tasting in May and ZOOafari not until October, both felt like the summer months were languishing.

"It's ridiculously hot in Columbia in July and August, so lots of places have steered clear of events in the heat of the summer," Broadway said. "But we started to think, 'What if we could find something that worked with the heat.'"

The answer turned out to be simple. Ice cold beer. Broadway already had a great model to follow—the Zoo was headed into its third annual Wine Tasting. Substitute wine for beer, change the venue to the Zoo instead of the Garden and basically turn the event upside down. A natural? Not really, but for Broadway it'd be a walk in the park.

First, Broadway had to put her vision down on paper with dollars and cents to back up her proposal for the new event.

"With events, rule #1 is, 'first, do no harm.' If the event's going to cost more than we're going to bring in, it's a no go," Broadway said. The best case scenario is that an event brings in enough profit to not only contribute to the Zoo's bottom line but to justify the expense of having a special events staff. "Everything after that's just icing on the cake."

With a price model in place and a vision in her head, Broadway launched stage 2—bringing other people on board and selling the idea of a beer-themed event to Riverbanks' staff and other key stakeholders.

Coming up with a name for the event was easy. People already loved Boo at the Zoo, so with a slight twist on an



adult version of the name, Brew at the Zoo was born.

A few days in the hands of Riverbanks' art director Dixie Allan, and the new event had an official look and feel. Playing on long-necked beer bottles and long-necked giraffes, Allan created a logo featuring one of Riverbanks' well-known giraffes and a tagline that read, "Where the Long Necks Are."

Next, Broadway sat down with Riverbanks' public relations department to talk about potential media partners. A new event like Brew at the Zoo was going to need buy in from local media who could in turn get the general public excited about the new event.

"For Brew, it was like connecting the dots," Broadway said. "It made sense to partner with media outlets like Free Times because their audience and Brew at the Zoo's audience so closely intersect."

Media partners on board, the next stop was calling in the beer experts. In the Midlands that meant Budweiser of Columbia. If there's any one company that's got expertise in serving beer in large quantities, it's Anheuser-Busch. With a map of the Zoo to guide her, Broadway laid out the event step by step, beer by beer.

"We thought about all of the Zoo's geographic features and where it made sense to serve beer. Were there certain areas that leant themselves to a particular kind of beer? Were there large stage areas where music lovers would spend a large quantity of their time? Did all the traditional favorites mix well with newer and less traditional beers?"

What Broadway came up with were nine beer stations scattered throughout the Zoo and a concept that gave guests a 4 oz pilsner glass when they walked in the gate. Guests could taste test as much as they wanted using their pilsner glass and when they found a beer that they wanted to stick with, they could always request a regular 12 oz drink.

Budweiser volunteered to fly in a professional Brew Master who'd make presentations to beer lovers at Riverbanks' Adventure Theater. And for safety considerations, the company also volunteered to pay the first \$10 of anyone's cab ride home.

Reassured that there'd be more than enough beer at her beer festival, Broadway moved on to booking a band for the event. The South, an alternative-meets-country band that had played for an enthusiastic crowd at this year's St. Patty's Day in Five Points fit the bill.

And just like that, in typical Broadway fashion, things began falling into place. Tickets went on sale June 15 and sight unseen, the event was already a success. What began as a rough sketch is slowly being filled in with vivid colors, and by Saturday, August 5, the image of Brew at the Zoo that was in Broadway's head for so long will be as clear and as bright as any photograph. And in between enjoying a beer and listening to great music, if you look for Broadway, you'll probably find her at her desk already busy planning for whatever comes next.

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- ◆ Inscriptions are limited to 18 characters per line, up to 3 lines per brick. Characters include spaces, punctuation, ampersands, etc.
- ◆ For each brick ordered, a formal Certificate of Engraving suitable to give as a gift will be mailed to the brick donor.
- ◆ A formal Certificate of Installation will be mailed to the brick donor for each brick that has been placed. Time frame for installation cannot be guaranteed.
- ◆ Brick donations support the Riverbanks mission: to foster appreciation and concern for all living things.
- ◆ Bricks may be ordered online at [www.riverbanks.org](http://www.riverbanks.org) or you can call 803.779.8717 x1111 to request an order form.

# WHAT'S THIS I HEAR ABOUT ELEPHANT EARS?

By – Melodie Scott-Leach, Director of Horticulture

The elephant ear is easily one of the most recognized of plants—after all, with a name like that it's got to be enormously popular! Children can spot it readily and seem to know the name of this plant as well as they know a cow or horse. However, elephant ears as a group are made up of several different genera which have distinct differences.

*Alocasia* is the genus of the “upright” elephant ear and is commonly the largest of the group. The huge leaves of *Alocasia* are in the range of 2 feet wide by 4 feet long depending on the species. *Alocasia macrorrhiza* is growing in the Old Rose Garden and regularly reaches 8 feet in height with 4-foot leaves. *Alocasia* originates from southern Asia but is found growing throughout the South Pacific. As with elephant ears in general, *Alocasia* likes moisture and thrives in full sun. Maximum water and compost result in the largest leaves.

*Colocasia* is probably the best known of the elephant ear group and truly resembles the pachyderm's ears due to its floppy nature. The leaves of *Colocasia* are smaller than *Alocasia* but make up for their lack of size with interesting leaf color, venation and variegation. Many of the *Colocasia* species prefer a little more shade than *Alocasia*, and many can thrive in shade.

*Colocasia* is also known as taro and is an important staple food in developing nations of Asia. The taro corm (underground stem) is boiled or baked, and the young leaves are a principal vegetable throughout the Pacific Islands. Perhaps the best known form of taro is poi. Poi is a taro paste made from the cooked corm of the plant. Taro has been grown for centuries and is attributed to the overall good health of past peoples who consumed the plant as a key part of their diet.

American tropic elephant ears are mainly in the *Xanthosoma* genus. The corm is comparable to the starchy potato but is much easier to digest. The *Xanthosoma* plant, also known as malanga or tannia, has made its way to West Africa where it is widely produced as a food crop.

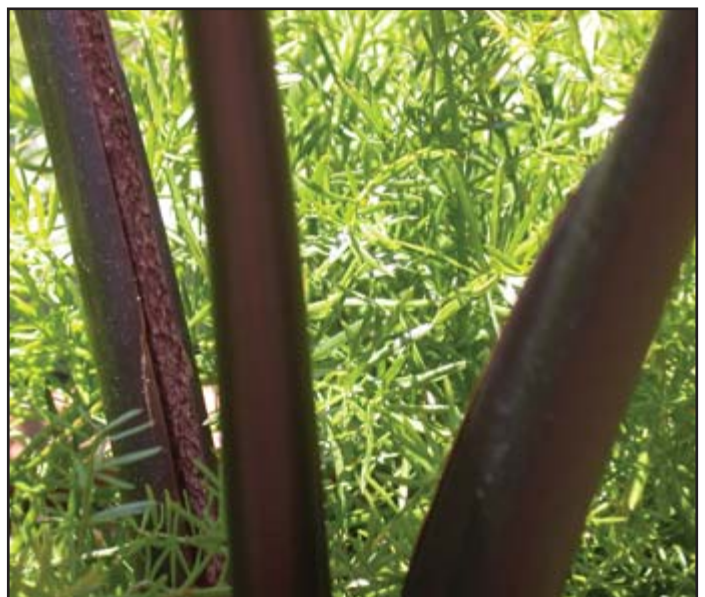
*Xanthosoma* differs from other elephant ears in that it prefers the soil to remain somewhat dry and cannot tolerate permanently wet soil. Although found as an understory plant in the wild, *Xanthosoma* should be planted in full sun as a crop and ornamental plant.

Many of the species and cultivars of elephant ears are hardy in the midlands of South Carolina. Over the years, Riverbanks has tested and put together an interesting collection of elephant ears. Some have been successful as garden plants, while others are best wintered indoors. We invite you to learn about some of our favorites...



***Colocasia esculenta* 'Coffee Cups'**

Coffee Cups is a very new find in elephant ears. Great black stems give rise to heavily cupped leaves. When watering, water fills the cup, dumps and then fills again. Plant in full sun with plenty of moisture and nutrients, and Coffee Cups will reach 5-6 feet.



***Colocasia esculenta* 'Fontanesii'**

This is the elephant ear we have chosen to plant in containers along our fountain. We love the black stems and the 7-foot height. The leaves can reach 3 feet long.





**Alocasia macrorrhiza**

You can't go wrong with this elephant ear. Always reliably hardy for us, it is a knockout in the Rose Garden where children are dwarfed by its large size.



**Alocasia 'Frydek'**

The dark, velvety green leaves with bright white ribbing make this a striking plant. Frydek only reaches 24 inches and is one of the smallest of the alocasias. This plant may need to be dug up over winter or brought inside as it is not reliably hardy.



**Colocasia esculenta 'Black Magic'**

Black magic is one of the best known of the floppy elephant ears. Grown for the rich burgundy of the leaves, black magic is good for the middle of a garden as it reaches only about 3 feet.



**Alocasia macrorrhiza 'Lutea'**

The bright yellow stems of this elephant ear are a standout in the garden. Place this large, 5-foot plant against a dark background to make the yellow stems pop!

## Garden Education Programs

### July Garden Classes:

#### Silly Reflections: A Children's Writing Workshop

(10-14 years old)  
July 6, 10am-noon  
The Garden is full of inspiration for children with plants like Flying Dragon, Turtlehead, and Mermaid Rose, to name a few. Riverbanks poet Dr. Ed Madden will lead a creative writing workshop for young writers. Class is limited to 10 participants.  
\$10 members, \$16 nonmembers

#### Beyond Eden: Spiritual Writing in the Garden

(18 years and up)  
July 15, 10am-noon  
As meditative spaces and metaphor, gardens have long been central to spiritual reflection. Explore the possibilities of spiritual writing with poet Dr. Ed Madden.  
\$15 members, \$21 nonmembers

#### Bug Hunt

(5-8 years old)  
July 22, 10am-11am  
Kids will explore a variety of bugs and insects on this wild and fun bug hunt through the garden.  
\$7 members, \$13 nonmembers

### August Garden Classes:

#### Make Your Own Brew

August 5, 10am-noon  
Discover the joy of brewing your own special beer. Riverbanks Horticulturist Chris Spearen will discuss growing and cultivating hops, different types of beer and the process of brewing in this workshop.  
\$15 members, \$21 nonmembers

#### Not Your Mother's Hallmark Card

August 19, 10am-noon  
Explore sensuality in the Garden through this poetry writing class. USC professor Dr. Ed Madden will guide participants through a variety of senses and help them create poetry through their experiences.  
\$15 members, \$21 nonmembers

#### Bug Hunt

(5-8 years old)  
August 26, 10am-11am  
Kids will explore a variety of bugs and insects on this wild and fun bug hunt through the garden.  
\$7 members, \$13 nonmembers

### September Garden Classes:

#### Beginners Landscape Design

September 9, 10am-noon  
Riverbanks Horticulturist Brian Francis will share the basic principles of landscape design for the average homeowner. By creating a design in the fall, the homeowner is taking the first step to a beautiful landscape in the spring!  
\$15 members, \$21 nonmembers

### Popular Perennials for the South

September 16, 10am-noon  
Discover the best performing perennials for this area, as well as what is hot and new on the market. Director of Horticulture Melodie Scott-Leach will discuss the perennials that can take the heat, as well as long blooming species.  
\$15 members, \$21 nonmembers

#### The Specialty Garden

September 23, 10am-noon  
Creating gardens designed for fragrance or to be enjoyed at night adds a whole new dimension to the landscape. Find out how to infuse a specific theme in a garden space and to build garden rooms focused on particular functions.  
\$15 members, \$21 nonmembers

#### Historical South Carolina

September 30, 10am-noon  
Explore the history of our state at Riverbanks through a walk to the first water-powered textile mill, and a look at the site of Sherman's march. Participants will see cotton and soybeans growing and learn the different ways these South Carolina crops are used.  
\$10 members, \$16 nonmembers

## ZOOventure Programs Summer Adventure Series

Take a break from the heat and join us for fun and educational toddler programs. Classes meet four times a month on Tuesdays or Thursdays and last approximately 45 minutes. Children will have a chance to meet new friends, see animals up close, create art to take home and relax with a story. Choose Tuesdays if your child is 2 years old, or Thursdays if he/she is 3-4 years old.  
\$7 members, \$13 nonmembers

### July Classes:

#### Five Senses Series

##### Seeing Is Believing

Learn about animals that have amazing eye sight.

##### What Big Ears You Have

Find out why hearing is so important for survival.

##### The Nose Knows

Discover how animals find food using scent.

##### A Tasty Treat

We will end our Five Senses study with a special party that is sure to please.

### August & September Classes:

All Zoo classes are \$7 for members and \$13 for nonmembers, unless otherwise noted in description.

#### Flamingos

(3-4 years old)  
Join us as we discover the fabulous flamingos that make their home at Riverbanks Zoo and Garden.

#### Gator Tales

(2-4 years old)  
Join us as we learn more about this amazing reptile!

#### Giraffes

(2-4 years old)  
Imagine being 17 feet tall! Come learn about these "giants".

#### Lions

(2-4 years old)  
Come join our pride for a roarin' good time and learn about this amazing cat.

#### Pony Care 101

(6-12 years old)  
Join us at the farm to meet our Shetland ponies. If you want to know more about basic pony care, including grooming and feeding, then this is the class for you!

#### Family on Safari-Overnight Camp

(ages 6-adult)

Experience the zoo that few get to see, the Zoo at night! Riverbanks staffers are your guides on an unforgettable night of games, activities and behind the scenes tours. Families should bring their own sleeping gear, tents and sense of adventure.  
\$35 members, \$40 nonmembers  
Price includes light snack & continental breakfast.

#### Teacher Safari

Join us at Riverbanks Zoo on Friday, September 15 for our Teacher Safari! This will be an opportunity for teachers and student teachers to experience what it's like to spend the night at the Zoo. The Safari starts at 6:30pm and lasts until 9am the next morning and will focus on animal adaptations for survival. Please eat dinner before you arrive.

**Who:** Teachers across the Midlands (30 maximum)

**When:** Friday, September 15, 2006

**Where:** Riverbanks Zoo & Botanical Garden

**How:** Call the Education Department to register at 803.779.8717 x1140 or email dschumaker@riverbanks.org

**Cost:** \$35 per participant, includes a COOL Glow-in-the-dark T-shirt with the slogan, "I Survived the Night at Riverbanks."



## PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Registrant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Member #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # (h): \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Riverbanks Zoo & Garden. Mail completed form and payment to:  
Riverbanks Zoo & Garden  
Attn: Education Department  
PO Box 1060  
Columbia, SC 29202-1060

Program(s)	Date	Time	Fee	Program(s)	Date	Time	Fee



JULY						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	12:30pm Seeing Is Believing (2 years old)		12:30pm Seeing is Believing (3-4 years old) 10am Silly Reflections (10-14 years old)		8
9	10	12:30pm What Big Ears You Have! (2 years old)		12:30pm What Big Ears You Have! (3-4 years old)		15
16	17	12:30pm The Nose Knows (2 years old)		12:30pm The Nose Knows (3-4 years old)		22
23	24	12:30pm A Tasty Treat (2 years old)		12:30pm A Tasty Treat (3-4 years old)		29

AUGUST						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						10am Make Your Own Brew
6	7					12
13	14					19
20	21					26
27	28					29

Zoo programs are printed in Black ♦ Garden programs are printed in Green

SEPTEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
3	4					2
10	11					9
17	18					23
24	25					30

### Class Registration

- 🦒 Preregistration is required for all activities.
- 🦒 Please complete the registration form.
- 🦒 No registrations will be accepted by phone.
- 🦒 Register early. Space is limited.
- 🦒 Upon receipt of registration and payment, a confirmation will be mailed.
- 🦒 If an activity is filled, your check will be returned.

### Cancellations and Refunds

- 🦒 Written cancellation must be received at least two weeks before the scheduled program date in order to receive a refund or reschedule your reservation.
- 🦒 No refunds will be issued for cancellations made less than two weeks before the program date.
- 🦒 Riverbanks reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any activity.
- 🦒 A full refund will be issued if Riverbanks cancels any activity.

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It is the mission of Riverbanks Zoo & Garden to foster appreciation and concern for all living things. Contributions to Riverbanks Society provide support for key projects at Riverbanks, ranging from building exhibits and improving habitats to assisting with medical care and supporting conservation research. You can make a difference by contributing to one of our many donor opportunities and programs:

- Annual Zoo Fund
- Carousel Animals
- Classroom Critters
- Community Partners
- Conservation Support Fund
- Entrance Plaza Tribute Bricks
  - Event Sponsorship
  - General Gifts
  - Giving Tree
- Honorary and Memorial Gifts
  - Library Wish Fund
  - Matching Gifts
- Rockers and Gliders
  - Sabal Palmettos
  - Wild Parents

For more information on how you can help make a difference at Riverbanks, call 803.779.8717 x1240, email [societyinfo@riverbanks.org](mailto:societyinfo@riverbanks.org) or visit [www.riverbanks.org](http://www.riverbanks.org) and click on Support the Journey.



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## HERE KITTY, KITTY!

Go to [scegzooview.com](http://scegzooview.com) to see this furry feline for yourself beginning in August '06.

**COMING SOON!**  
 African Lions - September  
 Grizzly Bears - October

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[www.riverbanks.org](http://www.riverbanks.org)   
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## LIBRARY WISH LIST

**R**iverbanks staff members have included the following books on their wish lists for the Library Wish Fund. (All the books needed by the Zoo & Garden are not shown here. For a complete listing, call the number below.)

- Marine Algae Control Secrets \$11
- Art of Being a Lion \$18
- Uncommon Fruits for Every Garden \$20
- Giant Perennials \$22
- Natural Habitat Garden \$22
- No Turning Back: The Life & Death of Animal Species \$25
- Photographic Guide to Birds of SE Asia \$30
- World Atlas of Great Apes \$33
- Plantfinder's Guide to Early Bulbs \$35
- Ecosystem Management \$43
- Guide to the Reptiles of Pakistan \$50
- Crustacea Guide to the World \$62
- Handbook of Small Animal Gastroenterology \$65

- Temperature Dependent Sex Determination in Vertebrates \$65
- Tropical Foliage Plants \$65
- Crocodiles Inside Out \$70
- Veterinary Procedures & Emergency Treatment \$75
- Essentials of Conservation Biology \$85
- Aquarium Plants \$90
- Behavior and Physiology of Fish \$105
- Restoration of Boreal & Temperate Forests \$120
- Large Animal Internal Medicine \$165
- Handbook of the Birds of the World \$175
- Birds of Prey: Medicine and Management \$180
- Manual of Diagnostic Tests & Vaccines \$190
- Encyclopedia of Aquaculture \$425

To donate, or for a complete list of books available for sponsorship, please contact the Riverbanks Society Office at 803.779.8717 x1240 or x1111, or email us at [societyinfo@riverbanks.org](mailto:societyinfo@riverbanks.org). Help make a wish come true!



# THE ZOO IS SUCH A COOL PLACE IN THE SUMMER



**By – John Davis, Curator of Mammals**

Are you looking for a cool place to hang out this summer? Riverbanks offers a number of places where you can enjoy an amazing diversity of wildlife in air-conditioned comfort. One of my favorite places to catch a cool break at the Zoo is the Birdhouse. I can't think of a better way to escape from the unbearable South Carolina heat than to relax and admire the always-active penguins at the Penguin Coast exhibit. There's something most refreshing about being inside an air-conditioned building surrounded by natural bird vocalizations and watching the therapeutic waves of the penguin pool as these amusing birds cruise effortlessly through the water. I can almost feel a cool, relaxing sensation come over me just thinking about it.

While the Birdhouse happens to be one of my favorite

indoor retreats, the Aquarium Reptile Complex (ARC), Gorilla Base Camp and Education Center also provide enjoyable respites from the heat. The new Damaraland mole rat exhibit in the Education Center atrium is not only a cool viewing opportunity but also an entertaining and educational diversion while waiting to get into Riverbanks' new 3-D movie *Wild Safari—Elephants and White Rhino*. And there's no need to worry about the heat ruining your dining experiences. Both Kenya Café and Ndoki Lodge provide opportunities to dine in air-conditioned comfort.

There are clearly plenty of opportunities to visit the Zoo without being seared by the blistering heat. Yet one question we are frequently asked by Riverbanks guests is, "How do the animals cope with the extreme summer



heat?" Well, a lot of planning occurs among the staff to make sure that the animals remain just as comfortable as our guests during the high temperatures, and most of this planning happens long before the sweltering heat arrives.

Well-designed animal exhibits and holding areas are critical to ensuring the physical and psychological well being of the animal collection during the summer months. It is vital that all relevant husbandry standards are addressed during the design of every new exhibit at the Zoo, and husbandry standards differ from species to species. Shade structures, air conditioning units, ventilation and water features, to name a few, are specified for each species and integrated appropriately into each animal's environment.

It is sometimes a challenge to provide appropriate environmental conditions for certain species. For example, consider the equipment necessary to chill the air and water temperature to below 50 degrees Fahrenheit in the penguin exhibit. The durability and maintenance of these chilling units must be carefully considered as well for it is guaranteed that they will run continuously throughout the summer. Or, try to wrap your mind around how large of a pool must be provided for 3 to 4 full-grown African elephants to inhabit at the same time, and you will begin to understand the challenges inherent in keeping our animals comfortable in the heat of summer.

In addition to ensuring excellent exhibit design, the body condition of the animals is closely monitored prior to the extreme summer temperatures. A grizzly bear entering the heat of the summer 100 pounds overweight will not be as comfortable as a fit and trim bear. Animal diets are adjusted in order to reduce body fat accumulated over the winter (sound familiar?), and it is common practice for the animal care staff to monitor the animals' weights throughout the year. The animals are often trained to routinely and voluntarily step onto a scale to ensure that their weight is in the appropriate range.

Daily keeper routines are also adjusted during periods of extreme heat. The keeper's main afternoon priority is monitoring the animal's behavior and respiration for signs of heat stress. Fresh water is provided throughout the day and freezers are filled with ice blocks and frozen fruit to be distributed for a refreshing mid-day treat. The ice blocks range in size from regular ice cubes for small primates to 55-gallon ice boulders for bears, tigers and elephants. The keepers get very creative with ice block presentations and will hang them in the animal exhibits with ropes, offering an enrichment opportunity for the animals as well as a spectacular display of animal activity for the guests.

Guests will also see sprinklers running from the tops of the animal exhibits. In fact, a big summer attraction for visitors is when keepers use a fire hose to cool and bathe the elephants. The elephants take turns standing in front of the water cannon, strategically positioning themselves to cool their massive bodies. The routine is not complete, though, until they mix the resulting mud to the ideal consistency and cover themselves from head to foot with their trunks ending in a SPLAT! This muddy armor protects their skin from sunburn and those pesky summer biting insects. Now that is a remarkable adaptation to cope with the summer heat.

So if you're looking for some cool summer activities, give the Zoo a try. Riverbanks is well equipped to meet the

needs of our guests, as well as the animal collection, during the extreme heat of summer. Aside from the air-conditioned buildings, fans and refreshing water misters are distributed throughout the park allowing visitors to cool off during their outdoor journey. As the temperatures increase, so do the number of snow cone, ice cream and bottled water stands along the Zoo's pathways providing additional creature comforts for members and guests during their visit to the "coolest" place in town. We hope you will join us!



"Cool kids" keeping cool



Photo by: Robert Busbee

By – Ed Diebold, Director of Animal Collections

### Farewell, My Friend

For me, May 4, 2006, was a day that was both joyous and sad. On the evening of May 4, over 100 people gathered in the Birdhouse at Riverbanks to honor Bob Seibels upon his retirement after 33 years of distinguished service to Riverbanks. I have



personally known Bob for over 25 years and consider it an honor to count him among my friends. Bob, I miss you already and wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors. The week before his retirement, Riverbanks staff member Susan Dewey wrote an article about Bob that I found to be very insightful and moving. Susan's words do a wonderful job of summing up Bob as a person, a community member and a Riverbanks employee. I know that Susan will not mind my sharing it with you here:

*The Seibels family is truly part of Columbia history, just as Bob Seibels is a pillar of Riverbanks Zoo history. There are Seibels' graves in the old Granby cemetery dated in the 1700s, so Bob's roots here go very deep. His family started the Seibels-Bruce Insurance Corporation, which was one of the largest employers in Columbia and the southeastern USA in the early twentieth century. His father, Gren, was part owner and newscaster with radio station WMSC (the S stands for Seibels) in the 1940s and 1950s. In the 1950s, Gren moved on to write and deliver the newscast, weather and sports on WIS Television. Long-time Columbia residents will remember 'Terrible Tall Sidewinder' and know exactly who Bob's dad was.*

*Bob's grandmother was a founder of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) in Columbia, and traveling around on calls with her as a small boy first aroused Bob's interest in animals and their welfare. He followed his family tradition by attending the University of the South (Sewanee) in*

*Tennessee, where he majored in psychology (a brand new department then), specializing in animal behavior. Almost immediately after graduation in 1969, he was drafted into the army (remember that these were the Vietnam years). Bob executed a skillful maneuver or two during training, and he wound up enlisting for an additional year to qualify for Atomic Demolition School. As a result, instead of Vietnam, he spent a 13-month tour in Korea.*

*In 1972, when Riverbanks Zoo was in its infancy, Bob was hired as a horticulturist but was asked to wait eight months before starting work because Riverbanks Zoo could not yet afford him! He finally started work in May 1973 and progressed quickly to Head Bird Keeper. In 1976, Bob was promoted to Curator of Birds. Bob's history of 30 years in the same zoo as Curator of Birds is probably a world record and most certainly is a national record.*

*The highlights of Bob's years at Riverbanks must be his wonderful successes with the Bali mynah and toucan breeding programs. The Bali mynah breeding program originated in the 1970s at the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center, headed by Guy Greenwell. When Guy retired in 1981, Satch "volunteered" Bob to carry on the program. It continued to expand under Bob's guidance; he made 14 trips to Indonesia over the years and the very existence in captivity of these lovely white birds largely is a result of his work. Tragically, the social and economic conditions in Indonesia almost certainly have brought these birds to extinction in the wild. The first successful captive Toco toucan breeding took place in 1976 and Bob rightfully is proud of the fact that more species of toucans have been bred right here at Riverbanks Zoo than at any other zoo in the world.*

*Anyone familiar with Bob knows that his retirement will not be a time of rest and relaxation... quite the contrary. He is a talented furniture-maker, a passionate gardener and an enthusiastic hunter and fisherman, and that is just for starters! He is looking forward to not having to ration his time amongst his activities. One of the first trips of his retirement will be to a Maryland azalea grower, where Bob will pick up some extremely rare, cultivated azaleas to add to his prized collection. In fact, one of the things that he will really miss is not being present on-site at Riverbanks to see what new plants are being added to the Park and Garden.*

*For all your years, Bob, for all your work and enthusiasm; for all your successes and for the pain of the failures, Riverbanks Zoo thanks you deeply. Your mark upon this organization is indelible and you will be missed profoundly.*



## The Kenya-Columbia Connection



For the past six years, the Riverbanks Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) has sponsored fundraising events in support of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya's Nairobi District. For two days in late April, two representatives from Lewa, Camp Manager Anne-Marie Muchura and Assistant Manager Peter Kiaa visited Riverbanks. During their visit, Anne-Marie and Peter gave well-attended special presentations to Riverbanks employees and guests, raising awareness about their very important ongoing conservation work. Peter's presentation included a series of spectacular photographs of Lewa and its outstanding array of native wildlife. But, Peter himself was a show-stopper. Peter is a member of the fabled Maasai tribe, and he arrived at the stage in resplendent, traditional Maasai garb. The audience was mesmerized by Peter and by the compelling story that he had to tell.

Lewa began as a cattle ranch established in Nairobi's Lewa Downs area by the Craig-Douglas family in 1922. In the 1980s, poaching in Kenya had led to drastically decreased populations of a number of species of iconic Kenyan wildlife. Black rhinoceros populations were particularly hard hit. The number of black rhinos fell

from around 20,000 in the mid-1970s to only a few hundred by 1986. At this time, Lewa was transformed into a safe haven for the remaining rhinos by creation of the high-security Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary. By 1993, Lewa had expanded both its space and its mission to include other endangered Kenyan wildlife, and the Craig family officially turned the ranch into a non-profit organization—the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Since then, zoos across the country have collaborated to raise funds to support Lewa's mission, primarily through the national charity event Bowling for Rhinos. Led by AAZK chapter president and small mammal keeper Cheryl Lutz, Riverbanks has participated in Bowling for Rhinos and, last year, created a new event, Spaghetti for Rhinos, in order to generate funding support for Lewa.

This year's Lewa fundraising effort took on yet another shape. On the evening of May 12, the annual Riverbanks employee and volunteer spring fling was themed Conservation Casino! Riverbanks staff and volunteers enjoyed an evening of casino games (with funny money, of course), great food and drink, music and dancing. Most importantly, a silent auction was held, including all sorts of rare and interesting items, the proceeds from which were designated for the benefit of the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. I want to thank Cheryl and the rest of the Riverbanks AAZK Chapter as well as all of the staff members and volunteers who helped to make the night a success. I am pleased to announce that over \$1,800 was raised in support of Lewa... yet another great example of how zoos can effectively contribute to the conservation of wildlife in range countries.

## Scarlet Macaw Arrives for Bird Show

A beautiful, hand-raised scarlet macaw was recently added to the Riverbanks bird collection. It will soon begin to make appearances on the Palmetto Plaza Bird Stage (located in the Riverbanks entrance plaza) during the

daily 1:30 pm free flight bird demonstrations. After a period of training, Riverbanks guests will eventually be able to enjoy this large, bright red parrot as it free-flies around the plaza during the show. If you have visited the Zoo recently, you may also have noticed that a bird holding area has been erected adjacent to the bird stage. This new structure will soon serve as on-site housing for the birds starring in the free flight demonstration.



Until next time....

# Riverbanks Fall Bulb Sale

Saturday, November 11, 9am to 2pm

Botanical Garden Visitors Center  
On the Terrace

Brighten up your garden with Riverbanks' finest selection of spring bulbs! Complete and return the order form today, and you'll have first choice on these premium bulbs. Shipping costs are an additional 10% of the total order or a minimum charge of \$5 and a maximum of \$25, but you can save money, packaging and time by planning to pick up your advance order on the day of the sale.

**Your order will be ready and waiting for you!**

Of course, there will also be bulbs available on the day of the sale if you prefer to do your shopping in person.

For more information, contact Melodie Leach at 803.779.8717 x1129 or [mleach@riverbanks.org](mailto:mleach@riverbanks.org)

## DAFFODILS

Check out this special selection of daffodils. These are some of our top choices – great for the South Carolina climate! 10 bulbs/bag

Narcissus 'Pink Charm'-Large-cupped daffodil. Ivory white petals with a lovely pink colored cup. (midseason, 14-16") \$7.00



Narcissus 'Ice Follies'-White with a yellow, flat-fringed cup. A classic. (midseason, 18") \$5.00



Narcissus 'Dickcissel'-Jonquil type with yellow petals and a white cup. Has 2-3 flowers on each stem. (early midseason bloom, 16-18") \$5.00



Narcissus 'Serola'-Bright yellow with orange-red cup. (midseason, 16-18") \$7.00



Narcissus 'Erlicheer'- Beautiful clusters of 6-8 small, double flowers per stem. Flowers are white with creamy-yellow centers. (early bloom, 16") \$7.00





Narcissus 'White Lion'-Beautiful double flowered variety. Creamy-white mixed with yellow in the center. (late, 14-16") \$5.00



Narcissus 'Dutch Master' Large, golden-yellow trumpets. Nice old-fashioned style daffodil. (midseason, 18") \$5.00



Narcissus 'Barrett Browning'-Pure white petals with a reddish-orange cup. An old favorite making a return from our very first bulb sale. (midseason, 14-16") \$5.00



**TULIPS**

Even though these selections are annuals in the South, tulips are a sure sign that Spring is on its way. These varieties are sure to brighten up your garden. 10 bulbs/bag

Tulipa 'Monsella'-Giant double blooms of yellow with red streaking. For those who want to be bold (or gaudy). (mid-late bloom, 12-16") \$5.00



Tulipa 'Toronto'-Salmon pink flower with yellow interior. (midseason, 12-14") \$5.00



Tulipa 'West Point'-Golden yellow lily flowered tulip. Long lasting flowers. (mid-late bloom, 20-24") \$6.00



Tulipa 'White Emperor' Large, pure white blooms. (early, 14-18") \$5.00



Tulipa 'Pink Impression' Large, creamy pink blooms. (midseason, 20-22") \$5.00



**SPECIES TULIPS**

Perennial tulips? Yes, it's true! These varieties will bring joy to your garden for years to come. 20 bulbs/bag

Tulipa 'Lady Jane' - Petals are red with a white edge. Flower opens to a white interior. One of last years' best sellers! (8-10") \$8.00



Tulipa clusiana 'Cynthia' - Mid-season bloom. Red, exterior petals with chartreuse edges and a purple base. (8-10") \$5.00



Tulipa clusiana var. chrysantha Red exterior with a contrasting bright yellow interior. (8-10") \$5.00



Tulipa saxatilis 'Lilac Wonder' Formerly named Tulipa bakeri 'Lilac Wonder'. The blooms are lilac with a yellow base. (6") \$5.00



**MISCELLANEOUS BULBS**

A choice selection of some of our favorites at Riverbanks.

Scilla peruviana - Blooms in spring with a baseball-sized, 18" tall flower, which is a beautiful blue. Space 12" apart. 3 bulbs/bag - \$10.00



Allium hollandicum 'Purple Sensation' Baseball-sized globe filled with amethyst-violet flowers. Looks great in containers or in the ground. (24") 5 bulbs/bag - \$4.00



Allium schubertii - Volleyball-sized globe which has rose/purple flower. Makes a great dried flower. Try spray painting them for decoration! (12") 3 bulbs/bag - \$4.00



Gladiolus communis ssp. byzantinus Small purple flowers adorn 2-3' foot stalks in Spring. An old timey glad that is seen around old homesites. 10 bulbs/bag - \$6.00



Crocus tommasinianus - Lilac flowers with white hearts. Squirrel resistant! (6") 20 bulbs/bag - \$4.00



Hyacinthus orientalis 'Gipsy Queen' Large salmon colored flowers. Extremely fragrant. (midseason, 10") 10 bulbs/bag - \$6.00



Anemone coronaria 'Hollandia' - Red flower atop ferny foliage on a 10" plant. Plant in fall after soaking overnight. 10 bulbs/bag - \$3.00



Hyacinthus orientalis 'City of Haarlem' - Large primrose yellow flowers that fade to ivory. Extremely fragrant. (midseason, 10") 10 bulbs/bag - \$6.00



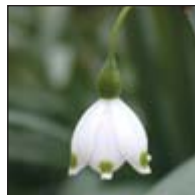
Anemone coronaria 'Sylphide' - Violet-rose flower atop ferny foliage on a 10" plant. Plant in fall after soaking overnight. 10 bulbs/bag - \$3.00



### CRINUMS

An old-time treasure in the Southern garden. One of the most durable and reliable bulbs you'll ever find. Crinum are in limited availability. Order early! 1 bulb/bag

Leucojum aestivum - Pendulous white flowers in mid-spring. Great for naturalizing or planting en masse. Will take light shade. (15") 5 bulbs/bag - \$4.00



Crinum 'Ellen Bosanquet' - This two foot tall plant flowers in June and continues through the summer. Red flowers. One of the best. \$20.00



Sparaxis sp. (mix) - Known as the Harlequin Flower. Sword shaped leaves with star shaped flowers are red, orange, white, copper and purple in late spring. Plant as late in the year as possible for best results, as Sparaxis can be damaged by extreme cold. Treat as an annual. (10-14") 20 bulbs/bag - \$4.00



Crinum 'Mystery' - smaller, tighter form than most typical Crinum. Offsets at a rapid rate. Needs ample moisture for best flowering. Pink blossoms in summer. \$20.00



Arum italicum - Green and white variegated foliage in winter, followed by a flower and cluster of red berries borne on a single stalk. Great for shade! 10 bulbs/bag - \$8.00



Crinum bulbispermum Flowers in early spring and early fall. Bluish foliage to two feet in height. Flowers range from pink to red with white mixed in. \$20.00



Triteleia laxa 'Queen Fabiola' - blue bell-like flowers appear in late spring. Needs good summer drainage. Great cut flowers. (18-24") 20 bulbs/bag - \$4.00





**ORDER FORM – RIVERBANKS FALL BULB SALE – NOVEMBER 11, 2006**

	# Bulbs per bag	Price per bag	# Bags	Total
<b>DAFFODILS</b>				
Narcissus 'Pink Charm'	10	7.00		
Narcissus 'Ice Follies'	10	5.00		
Narcissus 'Dickcissel'	10	5.00		
Narcissus 'Serola'	10	7.00		
Narcissus 'Erlicheer'	10	7.00		
Narcissus 'White Lion'	10	5.00		
Narcissus 'Dutch Master'	10	5.00		
Narcissus 'Barrett Browning'	10	5.00		
<b>TULIPS</b>				
Tulipa 'Monsella'	10	5.00		
Tulipa 'Toronto'	10	5.00		
Tulipa 'West Point'	10	6.00		
Tulipa 'White Emperor'	10	5.00		
Tulipa 'Pink Impression'	10	5.00		
<b>SPECIES TULIPS</b>				
Tulipa 'Lady Jane'	20	8.00		
Tulipa clusiana 'Cynthia'	20	5.00		
Tulipa clusiana var. chrysantha	20	5.00		
Tulipa saxatilis 'Lilac Wonder'	20	5.00		
<b>MISCELLANEOUS BULBS</b>				
Scilla peruviana	3	10.00		
Allium hollandicum 'Purple Sensation'	5	4.00		
Allium schubertii	3	4.00		
Crocus tommasinianus	20	4.00		
Anemone coronaria 'Hollandia'	10	3.00		
Anemone coronaria 'Sylphide'	10	3.00		
Leucojum aestivum	5	4.00		
Sparaxis sp. (mix)	20	4.00		
Arum italicum	10	8.00		
Triteleia laxa 'Queen Fabiola'	20	4.00		
Gladiolus communis ssp. byzantinus	10	6.00		
Hyacinthus orientalis 'Gipsy Queen'	10	6.00		
Hyacinthus orientalis 'City of Haarlem'	10	6.00		
<b>CRINUMS</b>				
Crinum 'Ellen Bosanquet'	1	20.00		
Crinum 'Mystery'	1	20.00		
Crinum bulbispermum	1	20.00		

<b>(State sales tax is included in price of bulbs) Shipping \$5 Minimum or 10% of order</b>	<b>Bulb Order Total</b>	
	<b>Shipping</b>	
	<b>ORDER TOTAL</b>	

May we substitute similar bulbs if necessary? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
 Orders accepted up to October 31, 2006

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up Nov 16   
 Pick up Nov 17   
 Have order shipped

Method of Payment: (Payment is due with order) Cash  Check  MC  VISA  AMEX  Discover

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name On Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)

Check(s) payable to: **Riverbanks Zoo & Garden**

**Mail to: Riverbanks Bulb Sale, PO Box 1060, Columbia, SC 29202-1060**

**Questions: 803.779.8717 x1129 email - mleach@riverbanks.org or visit [www.riverbanks.org](http://www.riverbanks.org)**

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**Brew at the Zoo**  
A new tasting event

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