

# wild things



Spring 2015 newsletter published by the Greenville Zoo



## NATURE NOOK

A new children's area at the zoo



## CHECK-UP TIME

Scarlett goes to the dentist



## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Year-round programs are available for all ages

## Baby Siamang born

Ella and Oscar are the proud parents of a baby Siamang Gibbon, born on March 14.

# Spring

By Jeff Bullock, Zoo Administrator

Spring is in the air, and the animals are ready to enjoy the warmer season. The Greenville Zoo has an exciting year planned with new exhibits, animals, fun-filled educational programs and special events.

The redesigned South American Aviary Exhibit has been a great addition to the zoo. The exhibit showcases a variety of birds, and we will continue to add to the collection throughout the spring and summer months.

The zoo also constructed a new Nature Nook play area that features unstructured play activities for young children. Benches in and around the area also make it a fun, comfortable break for parents.

The largest change leading into this year will be the addition of the South American Mixed-Species Exhibit, which will utilize the same space as the former Elephant

Exhibit and turtle pond. The project was funded in part through the sale of individual spaces for a new digital mosaic that will be displayed within the exhibit. The digital mosaic will be crafted from over 1,000 individual pieces of artwork and will honor the zoo's late elephants, Joy and Ladybird. The exhibit will feature giant anteaters, rheas, large flightless birds that are similar in appearance to the ostrich, and mara, large South American rodents.

The zoo is also celebrating the arrival of its first siamang in 21 years. Born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March, the offspring is the first for parents Ella and Oscar. Ella is relatively new to the zoo, moving from the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City, Kansas to the Greenville Zoo last summer as part of a breeding recommendation by the Gibbon Species Survival Plan (SSP). Oscar was born and raised at the Greenville Zoo. Zoo staff will allow the family

time to bond and will determine the gender over the next few weeks. Stay tuned for more details as to how you can help name the new baby!

We look forward to an exciting spring and hope you will make plans to join us!

*Pictured (L to R): South American Aviary, Nature Nook, construction on the new South American Exhibit*



Sun Conures in the South American Aviary

## Nature Nook

The zoo constructed the Nature Nook play area located just past the South American Aviary Exhibit that features unstructured play activities for young children. The idea of natural play areas seem to resonate with parents. The concept reflects a growing worry that today's children don't spend enough time outdoors. A natural play area is a safe place for unstructured play created to spark the imagination and encourage

physical activity. The enclosed area will provide simple tools and objects for children to creatively use. This nook area, tucked away in a corner of the zoo, has been a hot spot for families to take a moment to engage and explore. The Nature Nook was made possible through a grant from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, the Children's Nature Network, and the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA).

## Greenville Zoo Staff

### Administration and Office:

Jeff Bullock  
*Zoo Administrator*  
Beth Rusch  
*Zoo Business Administrator*  
Keith Gilchrist  
*General Curator*  
Helen League  
*Accounting Technician*  
Olitsia Marshall  
*Membership and Volunteer Coordinator*  
Valerie Murphy  
*Administrative Assistant*

### Animal Care:

Dr. Christy Belcher  
*Secondary Consulting Veterinarian*  
Barbara Foster  
*Reptile Curator*  
Sarah Schwenzer  
*Zoo Veterinary Technician*

### Zookeepers:

Wendy Barrickman  
John 'Ben' Cooper  
Christine Dear  
Karen Dolasin  
Jennifer Fair  
Greg Garcia  
Dindy McDaniel  
Jennifer Stahl

### Education:

Lynn Watkins, *Education Curator*  
Jennifer Kinch, *Instructor*  
Chandler Lattimore, *Instructor*  
Mandy Watson, *Instructor*

### Maintenance:

Erik Moore, *Supervisor*  
James Riley, *Technician*  
Ira Agans, *Technician*

### Public Services:

Carlesia Fenske, *Public Services Coordinator*  
Erika Peraza, *Attendant*  
Elga Rogers, *Attendant*  
Brandyn Shoemaker, *Attendant*  
Ferris Ward, *Attendant*  
Cherish Lawrence, *Attendant*

# Friends of the Greenville Zoo

## 2014-2015 Board of Directors

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Amanda Osborne- Executive Director  
*Friends of the Greenville Zoo*

The Board of Directors of the Friends of the Greenville Zoo has grown tremendously in the past year, adding new community leaders with a passion for the mission of the Greenville Zoo. Special thanks to each and every member of the Board for their dedication and their gifts of time, talent and treasure.

## Animal Update

Caring for exotic animals is never without its challenges, and zookeepers at the Greenville Zoo constantly strive to find innovative ways to meet their needs. From building new enrichment devices that promote natural behaviors to using positive reinforcement techniques that challenge and stimulate the lives of the animals, zookeepers are always seeking new opportunities to enhance the lives of the incredible creatures they care for year-round, rain or shine.

One such innovation, discovered by Greenville Zoo Zookeeper Jenn Fair, was recently published in the nationwide publication for the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK). It's an innovative idea that could potentially open a window into the lives of our animals previously closed to us.



Oz and Evita, the Greenville Zoo's resident ocelots, are cared for by Jenn. As part of the Ocelot Species Survival Program (SSP), staff hope that Oz and Evita will produce offspring valuable to the survival of their species. Being mostly nocturnal animals, Jenn often wondered how she could glimpse into the lives of Oz and Evita when staff and visitors were not there to observe any behaviors that might tell us whether

they are a successful pair. The answer Jenn found was a Trail Cam. Typically used by hunters, Trail Cams are motion activated, all-weather cameras used to identify species that are active in a specific location. By using the Trail Cam, Jenn was able to capture both video and still images of Oz and Evita playing, exploring, stalking and displaying other behaviors that staff were never able to observe in such detail. Over numerous nights, Jenn collected data and shared her findings with the larger zoo community, which was ultimately published in *Animal Keeper's Forum* by The Journal of the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. Jenn and the zoo staff were excited when shortly after the article was published, she was able to capture images of Oz and Evita breeding for the very first time!

Since the ocelot Trail Cam project, the Trail Cam has been used across the zoo to monitor animals in a number of different ways, from how animals explore a new habitat to how newly introduced animals are getting along. It is innovations like Jenn's idea that are helping zoo staff better understand the lives of our animals and provide the very best care for the animals that call Greenville Zoo their home.



# Summer Fun

Greenville Zoo Camps turn lazy summer days into knowledge and fun!

It's never too early to starting planning for summer! Why not join us for one of our fun, exciting and educational summer camps? Each age-appropriate session is filled with up-close animal encounters, hands-on activities, games, investigations and zoo exploration. Campers will also be introduced to the extraordinary world of animals, nature and science. There are multiple camp themes, and you can select from one or more half-day experiences. Opportunities for full day camp sessions are available as well. Visit [greenvillezoo.com](http://greenvillezoo.com) for more information and to register online. Space is limited.

Looking to keep your 14 to 17 year old busy this summer? Teens can apply to volunteer with our zoo summer camps to earn volunteer hours, gain education and animal knowledge, and enjoy a fun-filled summer at the zoo!



## TailsUP!

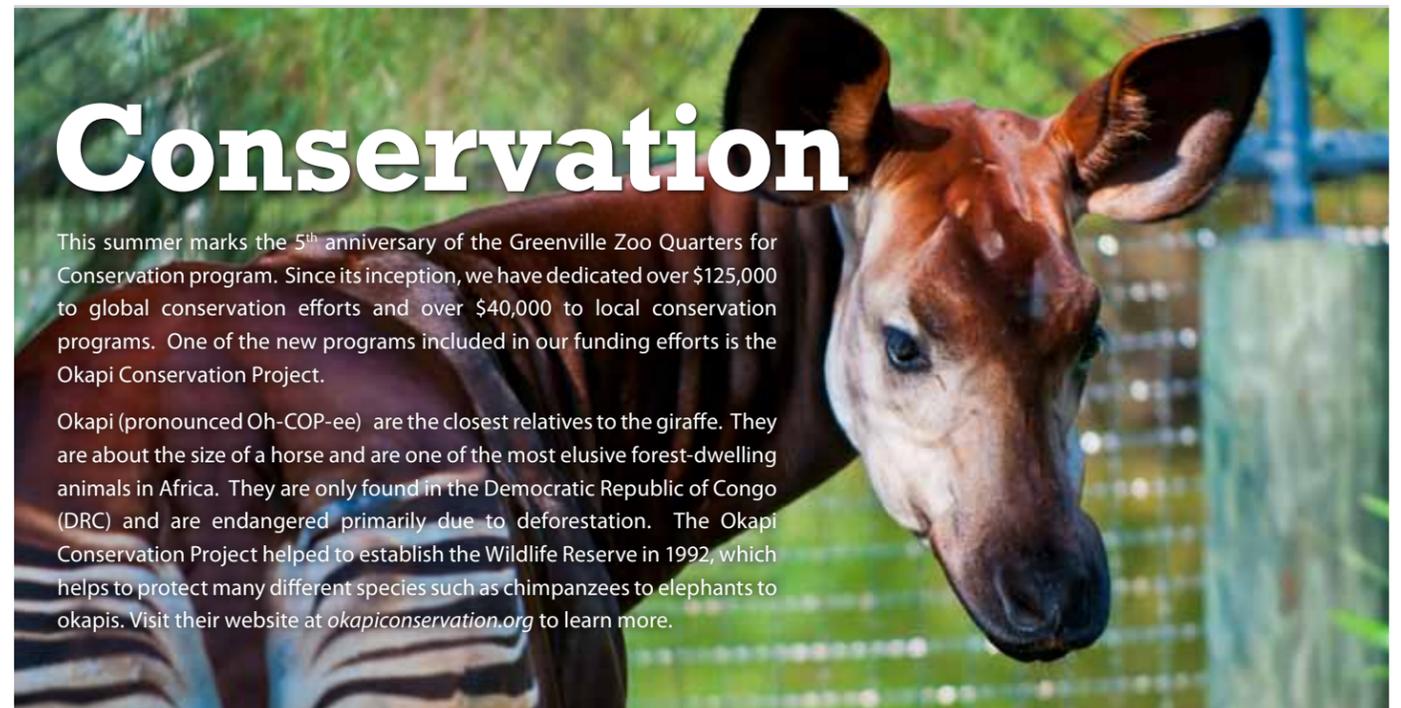


The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) recently launched TailsUP!, a fun mobile app funded by the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, designed to get kids, families and adults excited about wildlife, nature, zoos and aquariums and raise money (through in-app purchases) for wildlife conservation. The app and a Nature Play web presence on [animalsinc.net](http://animalsinc.net), is all part of Nature Play Begins at your zoo and aquarium, funded through the Disney grant, to design programs at AZA Member Institutions that promote exploring the outdoors. Download the TailsUP! App today – iPhone: [itunes.apple.com](http://itunes.apple.com); Android: [play.google.com](http://play.google.com)

# Conservation

This summer marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Greenville Zoo Quarters for Conservation program. Since its inception, we have dedicated over \$125,000 to global conservation efforts and over \$40,000 to local conservation programs. One of the new programs included in our funding efforts is the Okapi Conservation Project.

Okapi (pronounced Oh-COP-ee) are the closest relatives to the giraffe. They are about the size of a horse and are one of the most elusive forest-dwelling animals in Africa. They are only found in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and are endangered primarily due to deforestation. The Okapi Conservation Project helped to establish the Wildlife Reserve in 1992, which helps to protect many different species such as chimpanzees to elephants to okapis. Visit their website at [okapiconservation.org](http://okapiconservation.org) to learn more.



## Special Events

### Party for the Planet – April 18, 9 am – 2 pm

Zoo-goers are invited to celebrate Earth Day at the annual Party for the Planet celebration. The zoo invites local conservation organizations from across the Upstate to help us share information about recycling, reusing and conserving our resources. Guests will also learn some simple things that they can do at home to help protect our planet and how to show others that they can make a difference for the future of our planet and for the animals that call Earth home.

### Princess and Pirate Save the Frogs Day presented by Future Scholar 529 – April 25, 10 am – 2 pm

Children are invited to enjoy a special day of make believe at the Greenville Zoo's annual Princess and Pirate: Save the Frogs Day. The event features a princess and pirate themed party, educational activities, and frog-inspired arts and crafts and contests. This event is an effort to raise awareness of the rapid disappearance of frog species worldwide and a portion of the proceeds from the event go toward conservation efforts for amphibians. Adding a special twist to the event, princess and pirate characters will be strolling the zoo grounds, and telling stories. Children, ages 12 and under, who attend the event dressed in costume will receive half price admission.

### Princess and Pirate Day: Save the Frogs Brunch sponsored by Jelly Beans Hair Designs

Be sure to reserve your spot from 9 am to 10 am for a special brunch and exclusive early access to your favorite princesses and pirates. The special brunch ticket price of \$15 for members, \$20 for non-members, includes admission to the zoo, sparkle station, photo opportunities and a visit from one of our animal ambassadors. Register online at [greenvillezoo.com](http://greenvillezoo.com).

### Brew in the Zoo presented by RJ Rockers May 29, 6 pm – 9 pm

The Greenville Zoo invites zoo-goers to tap into the wild at the annual Brew in the Zoo. The evening provides adults 21 years old and older an opportunity to sample an assortment of beers while exploring the zoo during its after-hours. Brew in the Zoo promises a fun evening, with beer provided by RJ Rockers, along with food and live musical entertainment provided by Broadcast. All proceeds benefit various programs throughout the zoo. Tickets go on sale May 1.

### Ice Cream Social – June 20, 11 am – 1 pm

Cool off at the zoo at the annual Ice Cream Social. Children can choose a cup or cone of ice cream, an ice cream sundae or float. Event features free entertainment for the kids and fun for everyone – including face painting and more!

## What's up Doc?



The Greenville Zoo veterinary staff teamed up with the Education Department and the zookeepers in late 2014 for the first ever Greenville Zoo Vet Winter Camp. The camp was a huge success with participants ages 10-14 years old learning a variety of teamwork skills related to the zoo veterinary field. A few of the activities included going on zoo rounds to treat animals, learning how zookeepers obtain weights of animals, learning how to calculate dietary requirements, reading radiographs, using a stethoscope to listen to animal heart sounds, bandaging broken wings and bones, learning how to suture for surgery, attending classroom veterinary lectures and yes, there was even a written test. Everyone passed the test with flying colors! We hope to offer this camp again in the future.

In January, Scarlett, one of the zoo's red pandas, had a recheck dentistry exam. Previously, she had some changes in her gum tissue that are normally seen with age-related changes. To better look at the root structure of her teeth (underneath the gum tissue), she had specialized veterinary dental radiographs with Dr. Heather Duncan, a board certified veterinary dentist at Upstate Veterinary

Specialists. Fortunately, she did not have any teeth extracted and she had a thorough dental cleaning and tooth polishing.

During the month of February, some of you may have noticed Owllice, the great horned owl, was temporarily off exhibit. She developed a corneal ulcer (a scratch on her eye) and had been undergoing daily treatment by the Greenville Zoo. A series of ophthalmic examinations, including a microscopic evaluation of the corneal tissue and microbiological assays to detect bacteria and fungus were performed. While awaiting the test results, she immediately started to receive several daily eye medications. A bacterial infection was detected in a microscopic culture of her eye tissue. According to test results, the medications should resolve the infection. Because the ulcer wasn't healing as quickly as expected, zoo staff consulted with Dr. Sony Kuhn, a board certified veterinary ophthalmologist at Upstate Veterinary Specialists, and learned that bird corneas may take up to six months to heal completely. While the infection has been resolved, staff will continue to monitor Owllice for any changes in her behavior or feeding habits.

Pictured (L to R):

*Greenville Zoo Vet Camp participants display their variety of veterinary animal bandaging techniques; Scarlett, Red Panda's dental radiograph; Great Horned Owl receives specialized ophthalmic examination*

## Membership has its benefits!

Your membership provides a full year of special access and other great benefits at the Greenville Zoo. There are a variety of membership choices available, tailored to meet your family size and visitation habits. Find out more at [greenvillezoo.com](http://greenvillezoo.com).

## Join the Frog Chorus

FrogWatch USA volunteers learn to identify local frog and toad species by their calls during the breeding season and how to report their findings accurately. By mastering these skills, volunteers gain increased experience and control over asking and answering scientific questions which, in turn, augments science literacy, facilitates conservation action and stewardship, and increases knowledge of amphibians. Volunteers register a wetland site and make multiple evening visits from February through August to collect data on the calls of frogs and toads. Participating individuals and families learn about the wetlands in their communities and help conserve amphibians. To become part of FrogWatch, visit [greenvillezoo.com](http://greenvillezoo.com).



FrogWatch researchers of the Greenville Zoo (F.R.O.G.Z.) Chapter coordinator Barbara Foster mentoring two Frog Watch USA volunteers in the field. Featured in the CONNECT Magazine February 2015 [www.aza.org](http://www.aza.org)

**F.R.O.G.Z.**  
FROGWATCH  
RESEARCHERS OF  
GREENVILLE ZOO

## Behind the Scenes Tours

Have you ever wondered how to fix a meal for a family of orangutans? Or where the giraffes sleep at night? Do you know how to train an African lion? Take a peek at the lives of your favorite Greenville Zoo residents as you are taken into the world of zookeepers.



Education specialists will be your guide to answer all questions and provide a unique experience on your tour. Hurry, these sneak peeks are for a limited time only! Tours are held on select Saturdays and Wednesdays at 2:00 pm. All explorers must be at least 5 years old and those under 18 must be accompanied with a parent or guardian. Visit [www.greenvillezoo.com/pages/tours.aspx](http://www.greenvillezoo.com/pages/tours.aspx) for details. Pricing and dates vary depending on the tour.

## Family Programs, Overnights, and Birthdays – Oh my!

The Greenville Zoo's Education Department offers lively hands-on programs and activities sure to engage your children. To find out more about these programs, visit [greenvillezoo.com](http://greenvillezoo.com)

### Zoo Tots - Parent/Child Programs

- 2 to 3 years old
- Classes combine "on your own explore time" with a more structured "animal time."
- Themes change monthly

### Saturday Safari

- 4 to 8 years old
- Classes combine a lesson with crafts, activities, trips into the zoo and animals in the classroom.
- Themes change monthly
- Register online

### Birthday Party

Let your child have a wild birthday party at the Greenville Zoo! Parties are designed for children turning 3 to 11 years old. Visit our website for more information and scheduling.



### Overnights

See the zoo in a different light – join us for an overnight adventure! As part of your visit, your group will enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour, animal encounters, activities, crafts, games and a flashlight safari.



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# Adopt the Siamang Gibbon Family



Help us welcome our first Greenville Zoo baby of the year by becoming a wild parent!

For \$45, receive a personalized certificate of adoption, animal fact sheet, stuffed animal or two guest passes and a 5x7 photo of the siamang family.

Don't miss out on this special opportunity. Adopt an Animal today to support your favorite wildlife animal.

## Current Wild Parents

### Champion

Cherisa Kline – Amur Leopards

### Guardian

Nancy & Bill Stah – Siamang Gibbons

### Loyalist

David Bivens & Stephanie White – African Lions

### Supporter

Elizabeth Baly – Masai Giraffe

Cokus Kathy – Masai Giraffe

Kristina Grayson – Great Horned Owl

Catherine McElhany – Gulfodulcean Poison Dart Frog

Ellie Mioduski – Amur Leopards

Talya Pashuta – Masai Giraffe

Oliver Reiss – Spider Monkey

Lexy Schmidt – Potbellied Pig

Shelby Waling – Aldabra Tortoises

### Keeper

Avril & Calder Adams – Ocelots

Alexis P. Bouffard – Pot-bellied Pig

Ian Grove – Masai Giraffe

Nathan Moseley – Amur Leopards

David & Antoinette Pizzino – Aldabra Tortoises

Brigham, Tatum & Pierce Simon – Amur Leopards

Luke Sterrett – Red Panda

Dylan Sterrett – Masai Giraffe

Emily Sterrett – Spider Monkeys