

SUCCESS ATA GLANCE



Fort Worth Zoo
Year in Review

08

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ALL THINGS NEW



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Zoo Friends,

If we could select a theme for this fiscal year, “All Things New” would certainly be the most fitting. From new exhibit openings, multiple animal births and a new special events site to the **Museum of Living Art (MOLA)** coming to life, the Zoo has been bursting at the seams with growth this past year.

In early 2008, the Zoo proudly announced its new accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). To be accredited, the Zoo underwent a thorough investigation to ensure it has and will continue to meet ever-rising standards, which include animal care, veterinary programs, conservation, education and safety. Every five years, AZA requires zoos and aquariums to successfully complete this rigorous accreditation process in order to be members of the association. Our accreditation helps further assure you, our guests, that we are committed to maintaining our superior standards as an educational, family-friendly attraction and a leader in the zoo community.

In the spring we unveiled *Penguins*, a newly constructed exhibit brought back by popular demand after a six-year hiatus. It currently houses 17 African black-footed penguins. Soon to follow was a virtual “baby boom” including reticulated giraffes, a bongo, African lions, Malayan tigers, kudu, several species of critically endangered reptiles and more!

Steadily through the year, MOLA has taken shape before our eyes. The foundation and structure of the building are nearly complete, and work will begin soon on the interior. Set to open in 2009, MOLA is poised to become a gem of the city of Fort Worth, and certainly the premier Herpetarium among our nation’s zoos and aquariums. Opportunities will soon become available allowing you to join us in saving the world’s amphibians from extinction and enhancing the Zoo’s history of excellent care and conservation of some of the world’s most unique reptiles and amphibians – all of which will take place in MOLA. Stay tuned this spring for more information about contributing a gift to the *Museum of Living Art*.

On behalf of the entire Zoo family, thank you for your tremendous dedication and support this past year. Take a moment to glance at the many ways your generosity helped further the Zoo’s mission of conservation, education and entertainment. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Sincerely,

Michael Fouraker
Zoo Executive Director



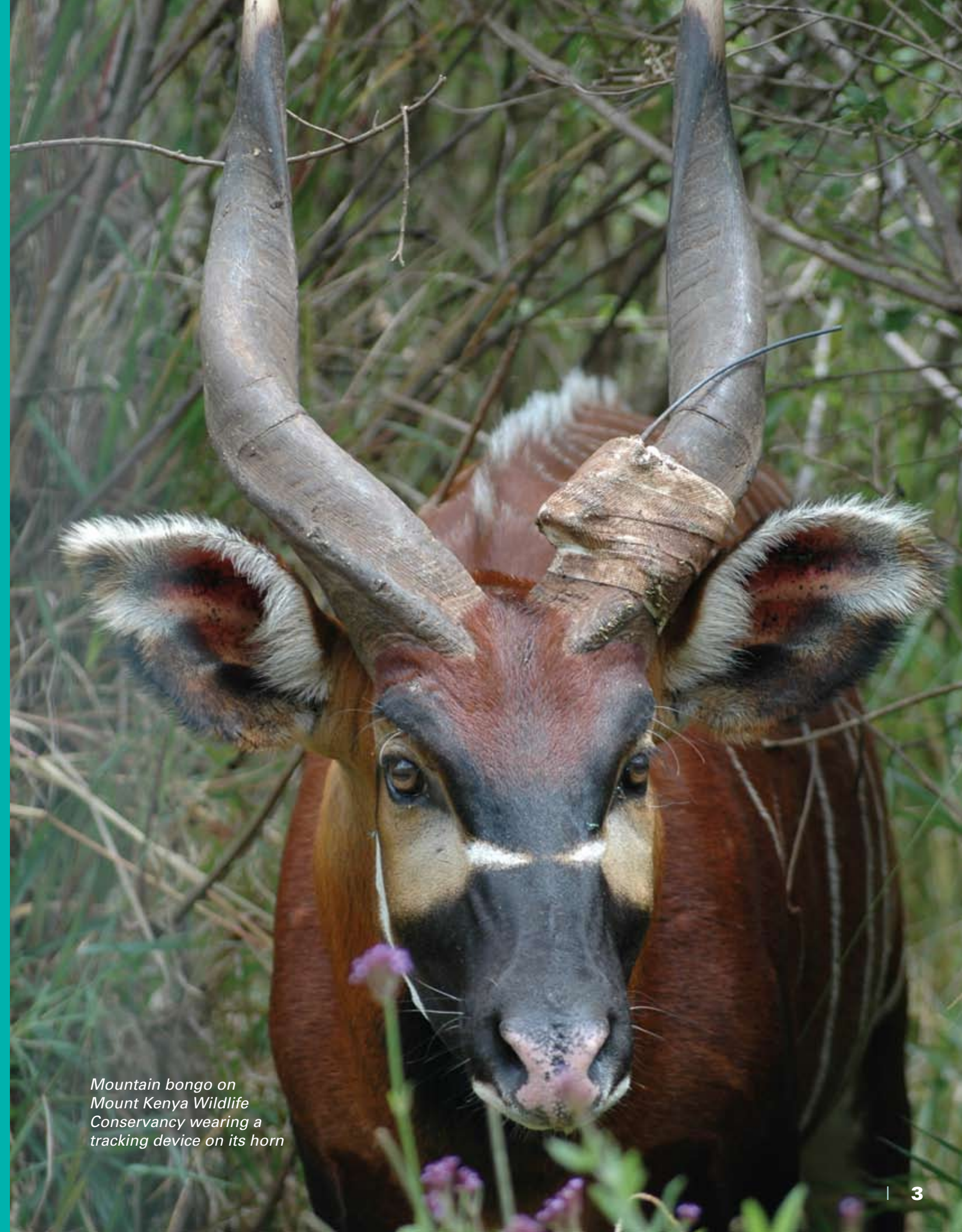
The Zoo's Asian elephants participate in an original study examining how physical activity relates to sexual reproduction.



Reddish egret project funded through the Arthur A. Seeligson, Jr. Conservation Fund

CONSERVATION

- > The Zoo's Nutritional Services Program is a participant in the ground-breaking study examining physical activity in Asian elephants and how it relates to the species' reproduction. In preliminary studies, staff used Global Positioning System (GPS) devices to record the normal activity of our Asian elephants. The study now focuses on examining fat and muscle levels using ultrasound.
- > The Zoo's Animal Collections Director Ron Surratt spearheads the Bongo Species Survival Plan, a program leading efforts to repatriate mountain bongo to their native habitat in the mountain forests of Kenya. In 2002, 18 American-born bongo were transported to the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy. Now, the conservancy manages a combined herd of 52 native Kenyan and American-born bongo. The Zoo's successful calf birth in 2008 plays a key role in these conservation efforts.
- > The Zoo awarded three grants to support conservation of the Houston toad, red-cockaded woodpecker, and reddish egret through the **Arthur A. Seeligson, Jr. Conservation Fund**. Since its establishment in 2001, the Seeligson Conservation Fund has dedicated more than \$35,000 to native species conservation in Texas.



Mountain bongo on Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy wearing a tracking device on its horn



Jamaican iguana

- In an effort to save the species from extinction, the Fort Worth Zoo-based **Turtle Survival Alliance** (TSA) coordinated the transport of the world's last known female Yangtze giant softshell turtle (only four are known to exist worldwide) for a breeding attempt in China. She was successfully introduced to the male and later laid 100 infertile eggs in two clutches. Breeding attempts will be made again in spring 2009. Listed at the top of the World Conservation Union's Red List, the Yangtze giant softshell turtle is the most critically endangered turtle in the world.
- Diane Barber, the Zoo's Curator of Ectotherms, received the **2008 Outstanding Service Award** from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for her contribution and leadership during the national Year of the Frog campaign. A leader in the global effort to save amphibian species from extinction, Barber serves as the chair of the AZA's Amphibian Taxon Advisory Group.
- In February 2008, the Zoo coordinated the reintroduction of 15 **Jamaican iguanas** to the island country – bringing the total number of reintroduced specimens to 100 since 1996. In total, the Fort Worth Zoo has provided more than 4,000 hours of staff service in partnership with Jamaica's Hope Zoo. The majority of this time was spent working to conserve the critically endangered Jamaican iguana.

CONSERVATION



TSA and World Conservation Society biologists help the female Yangtze turtle enter the water to join her male companion.



Panamanian golden frogs are facing extinction under the impact of the global amphibian crisis.



BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS



> The Zoo's **reticulated giraffe** breeding program celebrated three successful calf births in January, May and July 2008 – the most calves ever born and exhibited at one time at the Zoo. Native to the savannahs of Africa, giraffes have spotting unique to each individual, like a human fingerprint.



> In April 2008, the Zoo's adult female **Malayan tiger** gave birth to three female cubs. The births marked the third litter born at the Fort Worth Zoo. Malayan tigers are listed as critically endangered by IUCN, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.



> The Zoo “roared” into summer with the births of four **African lion** cubs in July 2008. The cubs’ births, the third litter born at the Zoo, contribute to the population of African lions in zoos maintained as a hedge against extinction. African lions are listed as threatened by IUCN.



Texas horned lizard hatchling

➤ Twenty-nine tiny **Texas horned lizards** hatched from eggs the size of jellybeans in July and August 2008. Listed as threatened in Texas and Oklahoma, the Zoo's successful breeding program is vital to any potential efforts to reintroduce them to the wild. The Zoo is partnering with Texas Christian University and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to explore ways to study genetic history and conservation efforts for this native species.

BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS



Puerto Rican crested toad and toadlet

➤ This year, the Zoo saw continued success in its efforts to conserve the **Puerto Rican crested toad**. In December 2007, 100 tapoles hatched, while 57 hatched in April 2008. Diane Barber, Curator of Ectotherms, spearheads conservation efforts of this critically endangered amphibian as chair of the Puerto Rican Crested Toad Species Survival Plan. Efforts include the successful release of thousands of tadpoles in Arecibo (northern Puerto Rico) and the Guanica National Forest (southern Puerto Rico).





Mountain bongo calf

MORE SIGNIFICANT BIRTHS AND HATCHINGS

- 1 bongo (Near Threatened)
- 5 lesser kudu (Threatened)
- 2 African crested porcupines (first-time Fort Worth Zoo birth)
- 28 Roti Island snake-necked turtles (Critically Endangered)
- 9 Pan's box turtles (Critically Endangered)
- 4 Forsten's tortoises (Endangered)
- 1 radiated tortoise (Critically Endangered and only the second Fort Worth Zoo hatching)
- 2 saddle-billed storks (first-time Fort Worth Zoo hatching)



The Zoo's adult male lion receives an annual dental exam.

COLLECTION NUMBERS

	Species	Specimens
Amphibians	27	318
Birds	134	859
Fish	50	77
Invertebrates	21	800
Mammals	61	229
Reptiles	134	573
Zoo Collection Totals	494	3,550

ANIMAL CARE AND NUTRITION

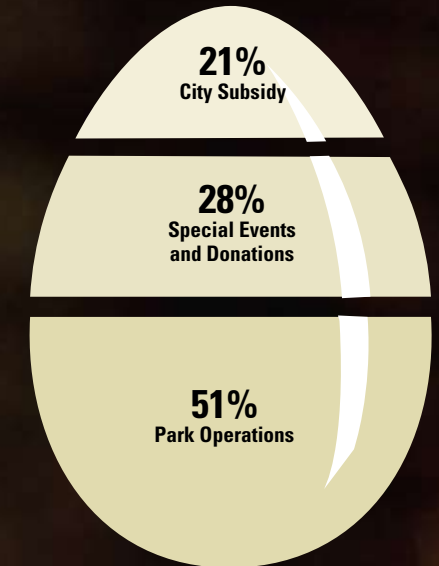
Each year, the Zoo commits nearly \$1.79 million to veterinary care and nutrition. This year, **Nutritional Services** staff served 328,500 meals to the Zoo's animals, including 32 gallons of formula made to hand-rear American flamingos. The Zoo welcomed six chicks this year. American flamingos, also known as Caribbean flamingos, are the most brightly colored

flamingo species. This species is native to the Caribbean and Galapagos Islands.

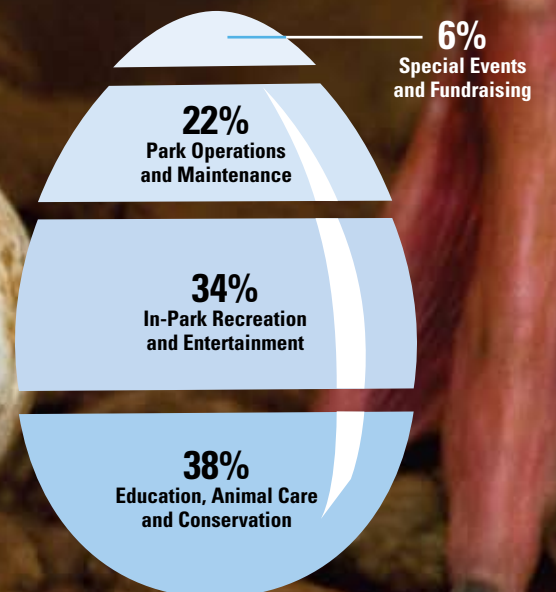
The Zoo's **Animal Health Department** includes three full-time veterinarians and cares for the entire Zoo collection from its 13,588-square-foot animal hospital. This fiscal year, staff filled 2,645 prescriptions while caring for the Zoo's animals.

2007-2008 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

ANNUAL APPROXIMATE REVENUE



ANNUAL APPROXIMATE EXPENDITURES



American flamingo



EDUCATION

> Sixty-five high school students gained more than 4,940 hours of Zoo knowledge during three sessions of **Zoo Careers Camp** this summer. Zoo Careers Camp is a unique opportunity for high school students interested in zoological sciences and animal-related careers to get a behind-the-scenes look at the daily activities of the Fort Worth Zoo. Participants spend the night at the Zoo, learn about animal care, husbandry and maintenance and training, accompany animal staff on daily schedules, participate in animal care activities and attend presentations given by Zoo staff.

> More than 500 gallons of lemonade were served by 120 Volunteers to 1,200 **Summer Zoo Camp** participants to help quench the Texas heat. Summer Zoo Camp is a wonderful opportunity for children, from three year olds to sixth graders, to explore wildlife through interactive classroom activities, trips into the Zoo, zookeeper chats and live animal presentations.



MORE EDUCATION ACTIVITIES:

- More than 113,560 students visited the Zoo on class field trips
- More than 2,100 kids participated in the Zoo Overnight programs
- Nearly 2,100 children participated in the Zoo's biannual Home School Day



ENTERTAINMENT



> **Zoo Run Run** – The Zoo hosted 4,958 runners in April’s 11th annual *Zoo Run Run*, and 200 awards were given out to timed runners in both the 5K and 10K events. This ever-growing event is now the third-largest run in Tarrant County, behind only the Komen Race for the Cure and the Cowtown Marathon.

> **Beastro** – More than 1,400 people took in 1,600 food samples from 16 area restaurants and 21 bars while they enjoyed the music of Charlie Robison and danced to the rhythms of Emerald City Dance Band. The party, held in June, was set up throughout the Zoo grounds with the headline stage in *Texas Wild!*

> **Zoo Ball** – 900 attendees. 100 stage lights. 1 timeless rock star. *Zoo Ball* continues to be the most successful of all the Zoo’s fundraising events and has gained a reputation for being one of the most sought-after party tickets of the year. Chairpersons for the 23rd annual *Zoo Ball* were Ramona Bass, Mary Ralph Lowe and Cheryl Hodge Marxen.

> **Boo at the Zoo** – Zoo staff, backed by 750 volunteers, hosted the 17th annual Halloween event. More than 4,000 pounds of pumpkins and 500 bales of hay surrounded 25,000 visitors, who received 15,500 pounds of candy.

> **Zoo members** enjoyed early-morning viewings during Member Appreciation Month in June and November. The Zoo opened an hour early on five Mondays in June and four Saturdays in November, and 7,248 members and their guests enjoyed breakfast treats, keeper chats and Wild Wonders animal programs. The Zoo’s membership program currently boasts approximately 10,000 member families, which represents about 30,000 people.

> **The Zoo’s Wild Wonders Outreach Program** travels throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex bringing an interactive, up-close-and-personal wildlife experience to schools, civic groups, hospitals, churches and more. This year, the program reached nearly 180,000 people with its live, educational animal presentations.



Zoo Annual Fund donors Kathy and Cecil Eppers and family pause for a photo at a Boo at the Zoo donor party.



Wild Wonders staff brought “the wild” to patients at Cook Children’s Medical Center.

PENGUINS

> Penguin Exhibit

In April 2008, the Zoo unveiled its new *Penguins* exhibit. Always a crowd-pleaser, the colony of African black-footed penguins settled into a 1,600-square-foot exhibit featuring above- and under-water viewing, which provides visitors an up-close experience with the 15" tall birds.



- Decked with natural-looking rock fixtures, the exhibit also includes a 4-foot-deep diving pool.
- The Fort Worth Zoo participates in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums African Black-footed Penguin Species Survival Plan, which manages breeding efforts of endangered species in zoos and aquariums across the country.
- *Penguins* was constructed from the generous donations of the Brown-Lupton Foundation, Once Upon a Time..., the Burnett Foundation and the David McDavid family. The exhibit was dedicated in honor of Mr. Harry Tennison, a lifelong champion of the Fort Worth Zoo and wildlife conservation.

SPECIAL OPENINGS

> Chesapeake Pavilions

This fall, the Zoo unveiled its spectacular new special event site, the Chesapeake Pavilions. The 30,000-square-foot covered site will be available to businesses, families and groups throughout the Metroplex for a variety of special events, including corporate and private parties, picnics, class reunions, black-tie galas, wedding receptions and more. The site was constructed thanks to a generous donation from Chesapeake Energy.



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