

- New Zoo Train On The WayUmbrella Cockatoo
- Interview With Thunder The African Bongo Lion Cub Undate

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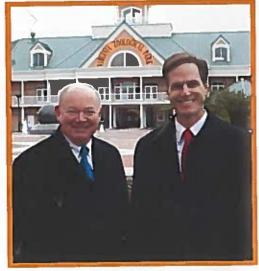
VIRGINIA ZOO REVIEW EDITOR Lori Cummings

From the Director

Hello Zoo lovers!

What an exciting time to be at the Zoo. In January, we announced the names of our lion cubs and officially released them onto public exhibit. Granby and Neka are enjoying their expanded territory and thoroughly enjoying their important job of entertaining Zoo visitors. Even before going onto exhibit, Granby and Neka became big cat celebrities thanks to the "cub cam." Now, we invite you to come to the Zoo and see our stars in person.

Other great milestones covered in this issue include laying the first track of the Norfolk Southern Express. The Zoo Train will carry visitors, adults and children, on a guided tour of the Zoo in style. The installation will be completed this spring. The Norfolk Southern Express is the first step in the exciting new expansion plans for the Zoo. This spring, we also will break ground on construction of "Trail of the Tiger," a new "footprint" of animal exhibits featuring Asian animals — similar in scope to our Africa exhibits. On page 10, find out more information about our Capital Campaign and ways you can get involved.



Greg Bockheim with Mayor Paul Fraim of Norfolk

We are so grateful for the support from our members and friends, because you make it possible for the Zoo to grow and deliver excellent care to our animals.

Don't forget Rock 'n Roar on Saturday, April 26. This rockin' event and fundraiser will feature live music by the band "Butter," unique auction items — including art by our own elephants — delicious food and more. It's Granby and Neka's first party, so come on out, support your Zoo and teach these cubs how to party.

I'll see you soon!

Greg Borkhein

Horticulture Happenings

HORTICULTURISTS TO THE RESCUE!

Garden "damsels in distress" in the path of the new Zoo train, have been stationed in safer locations throughout the Zoo. Lots of compost and liquid seaweed plant food have helped to ease transplant shock. Relocated from the hoofstock area, some of these shady



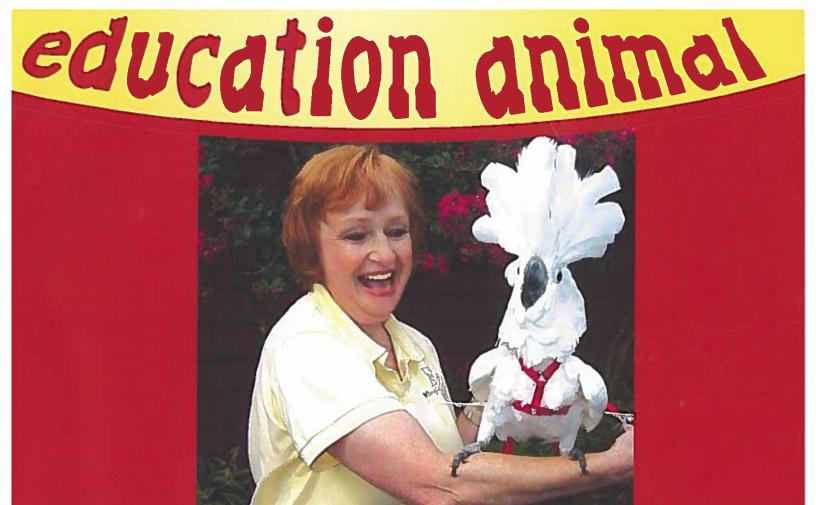


ladies might look a little stressed, but hundreds of pansies, violas, daffodils and tulips will be blooming full throttle this spring at the Zoo. Don't forget to pick up your "Garden Highlights" list in the membership office.

WHO AM I?

This is a photo of Greg Bockheim with baby kudu, born in February.





Umbrella Cockatoo

By Gale Lumadue

Meet our education animal for this issue — Casey, the cockatoo. Casey is an umbrella cockatoo whose ancestors come from Indonesia in the Moluccan Islands. Cockatoos, like others in the parrot family, live in large flocks. Their diet consists of berries, fruits and nuts found in the tops of large trees in the forests. You will also see cockatoos flying around farmland.

Because cockatoos are beautiful and intelligent birds, they are popular in the pet trade. Their status in the wild is classified as vulnerable, and laws have been put in place to protect them. However, illegal poaching still occurs and threatens the survival of this and other parrot species. This is the most important message that we want Casey to convey when we bring him to our programs. Birds are a lifetime commitment, as with any animal, but since they are likely to live 60 to 70 years, the purchase of any parrot is not one to be taken lightly.

In the wild, a parrot's natural inclination is to live socially in flocks of many other birds, so when we take them into our homes, we become their flock. If we do not preen, feed, bathe, play with them — and in general, be their almost constant companion — they will develop some pretty bad habits. These bad habits can include biting (remember, their bill is used to break open hard nuts!), screaming, throwing food, eating the furniture and even self-destructive habits, such as feather plucking.

Casey came to us four years ago, when he was just seven years old. We are his third and final home, so he'll be with us for many, many years. His first two owners loved him and gave him up reluctantly, but for every bird that finds a good, loving place to live, there are many others who end up abandoned, abused or given to rescue groups.

Casey is smart, funny, charming and affectionate and absolutely loves to entertain "his" public. During the warm months, he is often taken out in the plaza where you can visit with him. And, of course, if you book a program with us you may see him there, being the great ambassador that he is! Visit our website or call (757) 441-2374, extension 229, for more information.

Ages 6 & 7

Slithery, Slimy and Squirmy

Cute and cuddly they're not! Meet slithering reptiles, slimy frogs and squirmy insects and learn the cool things they do to help other animals—and humans too. Get up-close and personal with these squiggly guys, and find out why they're not that bad at all.

June 16-20, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Predators, Prey & Plants

Get to know our fierce predators (large or small) and prey animals (super fast or almost invisible). Some plants are also surprisingly fierce to certain small creatures, although we usually think of them as sources of food, shelter or natural beauty.

June 23-27 and August 4-8, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Power Paws and Fantastic Fliers

Who's the fastest of the fast, the strongest of the strong and whose tail is super long? Is it a bird? (Maybe) A plane? (No way!) It's an animal superhero! Learn about the fantastic things these animals do, which will be sure to amaze you.

July 7-11, August 11-15, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Extinction to Excess

Imagine a world without tigers or frogs, but too many turkeys and loads of llamas. What's going on? Investigate what humans might do that affect the animals around us, and discover what actions you can take to help our animal friends.

July 14-18, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Myth Busters

Can porcupines really shoot their quills? Can owls turn their heads all the way around? Find out the truth behind some well-known fables, stories and superstitions. We will do some myth busting of our own when we meet animals up-close to discover the animal truth. July 21-25, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

It's a Perfect Fit

Would the desert be the same without the camel's hump? Would the wetlands be the same without the frogs that jump? Come find out why animals and their habitats (or is it habitats and their animals?) fit together so well.

July 28-August 1, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Ages 8 & 9

Old Timers and Newcomers

Dinosaurs ruled the earth longer than any other group of animals. They're all long gone now—or are they? Come learn more about fascinating ancient creatures and meet some of their relatives that still roam the earth. June 23-27, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

It's All Connected

The bug is connected to the mouse, and the mouse is connected to the snake, and the snake is connected to the hawk, and ... did you know we're all connected? Really! We couldn't live without plants or even bugs. Come to the Zoo to see how all living things on our third rock from the sun depend on each other.

July 21-25, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Animal Myth and Majesty

Hippogriffs, eagles, dragons, cats, oh my! Are these animals real or imaginary, and why do we find them so fascinating? Join us to investigate creatures of mythic proportions as we look at animal legend and lore. August 11-15, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Ages to & II

Let's Sort It Out

A platypus lays eggs, but it's not a bird. An armadillo has a shell, but it's not a turtle. Salamanders look a little like lizards, but they're not. Are these animals confused, or is it just us? Come to camp to learn how the professionals have sorted all this craziness out! July 7-II, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

A Closer Look (Not your little brother's camp)

Do you want to travel to distant lands, meet fascinating people and work with amazing animals someday? Do you want to learn about the field biologists who are doing these things now and the important work they do? Then this is an experience for you. We will take a closer look at what it takes to study and work with animals in their environments and do some investigating of our own. July 14-18, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Ages 12-14

How Would I Build It?

Meerkats are happy in their holes; snakes are happy in the grass; monkeys are happy in the trees. Animals at the Zoo need homes like those in the wild. Learn how to think like an animal, and design a Zoo exhibit with the animals in mind.

July 28-August 1, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

How Can I Help?

Global warming, animal extinction and natural resource losses are buzzwords of the day. What can we do about these things? Come join us as we explore ways you can make a difference. Try out conservation jobs, make green decisions and have a positive global impact. August 4-8, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

For more information or to register, please visit our website, www.virginiazoo.org, or call (757) 441-2374, extension 229.

Virginia Zoo Education Programs

Zoo Tales

Family Story Time for children up to age 5 (with an adult)

Tuesdays from 10:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

What's better than a tail tale? A Zoo tale! Gather the kids for a fun story and a chance to meet an animal from the book.

Free with Zoo admission

March Titles

3/4 - "The Mitten" by Jan Brett

3/11 - "The Ant and the Elephant" by Bill Peet

3/18 - "The Day Jimmy's Boa Ate the Wash" by Trinka Hakes Noble

3/25 - "The Umbrella" by Jan Brett

Zoosplorers

For children ages 6-8 (parents drop off)

One Saturday a month from 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Member price - \$15; Non-member price - \$18

You haven't heard about zoosploring? It's the coolest new way to explore the Zoo! Enjoy hands-on investigations, animal encounters, fun crafts and so much more. Check out the topics below:

It's Easy Being Green

Saturday, March 22

Get caught "green-handed" at the Zoo. Explore ways to be active for animals and their habitats, and meet some of the animals you might be helping.

Animal Trackers in My Zoo

Saturday, April 26

Want to learn how to identify animal tracks and look for some around the zoo? Come explore with us, and meet some of those animals.

Wild Adventures

These adventures are for adults and children, ages 6-12

One Sunday a month, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Member price - \$25.00 per family (up to 3 children)

Non-member price - \$30.00 per family (up to 3 children)

Looking for a new way to have a wild time with the family? Come to the Zoo for a Wild Adventure. Enjoy a guided tour of part of the Zoo, meet some live animals and so much more. Check out the topics below:

Working for Wildlife

Sunday, March 9

Hey Mom and Dad, what do you want to be when you grow up? Come learn what it takes to work with the animals.

Animal Rehab

Sunday, April 27

We know where to go when we're hurt — but what about the animals? Usually wild animals can take care of themselves, but sometimes they depend on humans to intervene. Come learn about the special people who rehabilitate wildlife, and meet some rehabilitated animals here at the Zoo.

Sunrise Surprise Stroll

For our Senior Friends, 62+

Select Saturdays or Sundays, 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

Member price = \$5; Non-member price = \$7

Would you like to have the Zoo almost all to yourself? Would you like an experienced Educator for your guided tour through parts of the Zoo?

Would you like to get up-close and personal with some of the animals? Then take a stroll with us. Each month will feature a different Zoo theme and activities.

Sunday, March 30 - African Animals

Saturday, April 19 - Marvelous Mammals

Sunday, May 18 - Nocturnal Animals

For more information or to register, please visit our website, www.virginiazoo.org, or cali (757) 441-2374, extension 229.

SUMMER SAFARI 2008

Ages 4 & 5 (1/2-day camp)

Once Upon a Zoo

Come join us at the Virginia Zoo on a voyage into the world of adventure and make-believe. Journey with us and meet some of the amazing animals that make these old or new stories so appealing.

June 16-20 and July 28-August 1, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Tools of the Trade

Elephants' trunks, owls' feet and pythons' tongues all give these creatures unique abilities. Meet a variety of our Zoo animal friends large and small and find out how cleverly they survive in their wild homes. June 16-20 and July 21-25, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Backyard and Beyond

There are all kinds of amazing animals living in your backyard and neighborhood. Explore with us as we start an adventure in our own backyards and journey to backyards in places around the world. June 23-27, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Moving on Up

Humans have two legs, elephants have four. Snakes don't have any, and millipedes have WAY MORE! So how does everyone get around? On belly, foot, or wing, come discover how everything moves at the Zoo. July 7-11, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Antelope to Zebra

From antelope, baboons, and cornsnakes to wombats, yaks and zebras, the ABCs have never been this much fun! Join our friends at the Zoo to review the alphabet and learn exciting facts about the animals, too. July 14-15 and August 11-15, 9:00 a.m.-noon

Animal Opposites

Speedy or slow, large or small, the animal kingdom has got them all.

Spiny or smooth, thin or thick, cuddly and cute or squirmy and ick! Venture into the animal world to meet some critters who will show you that being different is not so bad!

August 4-8, 9:00 a.m.-noon





All Aboard!

This spring, the Virginia Zoo will unveil a new, exciting feature. It doesn't have fur or scales or feathers or petals, but the Norfolk Southern Express will enhance visitors' enjoyment of our animals and gardens. The addition of the new train represents the beginning of the first phase of the "Trail of the Tiger" expansion. The railroad tracks will loop around the Zoo, starting from The Beazley Foundation Station near the Zoo entrance.

Set to debut in summer 2008, this new train will carry riders in style and treat them to a narrated tour of the Zoo for only \$2.00 a ticket. Funds raised from the Norfolk Southern Express will help support future animal exhibits and renovations.

You can be part of the team bringing the train to the Zoo. The Marietta McNeil and Samuel Tate Morgan, Jr. Foundation out of Richmond, Virginia, has presented the Zoo with a challenge gift of \$25,000 to support our train. But in order to receive the gift we must raise an additional \$25,000. That's where you come in to play! We need your help in pushing us toward this goal. We have included an envelope for your convenience, just write "Train Match" in the memo of your check.

Arriving Soon - the Norfolk Southern Express

- · Detailed replica of an 1863 steam locomotive
- ADA compliant
- · Carries 60 to 70 passengers on a narrated tour of the Zoo
- · Journey includes a covered tunnel

have generously contributed toward the Norfolk Southern Express.

The Beazley Foundation
David and Susan Goode
Norfolk Southern Foundation
Kiwanis Club of Suburban Norfolk

Kiwanis Club of Suburban Norfolk The Marietta McNeil and Samuel Tate Morgan, Jr. Foundation Jane and Sam Webster Jean Old

We appreciate all of our donors who

Anonymous

Larry Brett, member of the board of directors, Deborah Wyld, Norfolk Southern Foundation, Judge Richard Bray, The Beazley Foundation, Erik Cooper, member of the board of directors, Mayor Paul Fraim, Greg Bockheim, executive director, Carolyn Betz, president of the board of directors, Sam Webster, Zoo Train donor

Interview

with Thunder, the African Bongo

Hi, Thunder. You're new here and have already made an impression, haven't you? I arrived a few months ago from the Blank Park Zoo in Iowa. After a quarantine period, I moved in with three resident females — Esi, Betty and Juni. I'm lucky to be the only male with three lovely ladies. My neighbor, Billy, the giraffe, has two girlfriends — I've got him beat, haven't I? You know, I am quite the ladies man.

Well, ladies man, what's your sign?

I'm an Aries - I'll be two years old this April. Aries are adventurous, energetic, and love romance and the chase. You may see me chasing the girls around the yard, so I think I am living up to my reputation.

How can we tell you apart from the ladies?

My horns are thicker and more widespread. My coat is also a much darker color, especially on my chest.

What is an average date meal like?

My zookeepers help me out with a gourmet meal of grain, alfalfa hay, produce and sometimes they'll throw in different types of browse, like mulberry or myrtle branches.

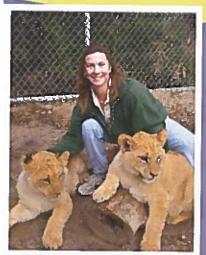
Do you have a favorite gal?

I wouldn't dare say I had a favorite. I do, however, get along with Juni, the youngest of the females, especially well. But I always say, age is just a number! Sometimes, I'll rub my face against the ground to leave my scent — this way, Juni will think of me even when I'm not around.



Meet a Keeper

Be sure to visit all four of our bongos, Esi, Betty, Juni and Thunder, this spring. Don't forget to wish Thunder a Happy Birthday in April!



Name: Charlene B. Wright String: 6 (rhino, zebra, lion, tiger, kudu) Title: Zookeeper

How long have you been at the Virginia Zoo?
Twenty years this June; three years volunteering in high school.

What is your educational background?

A.S. in Biological Parks Management from Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Florida.

What is a normal day like at the Zoo for you?

The first part of the morning is spent making rounds — checking on all of the animals, shifting and feeding animals, cleaning enclosures and also providing animal enrichment and training, and maintaining paperwork. In the afternoon, I work on projects or sometimes attend meetings. But really, when working with wild animals, there is no normal day. The animals have minds of their own, and I never know what they will do next.

Do any of the animals surprise you with the things they do, ways they relate to you, etc.?

The animals really know us! They can recognize us out in the Zoo mixed with visitors. They recognize our voices. I feel like all of the animals under my care are my kids.

What is your favorite memory related to your job at the Zoo?

Just recently, Zola, the lion, gave birth to two cubs. It amazes me that I was working on ultrasound training with Zola during her whole pregnancy and I did not know she was pregnant! She showed no signs at all. It just goes to show that she trusted me with the training and that she was willing to participate, even when expecting cubs.

What is one thing that you think might surprise the public about the animals in your care? Each animal has a distinctive personality.

What is your favorite Zoo animal and why?

Elephants. I worked with them for five years and learned a lot of animal training. They are sensitive, intelligent, personable and loving creatures, but are also very dangerous. Being an elephant keeper, you form a bond that is based on trust.











A goose is a goose — but a group of geese is called a gaggle. Match the animals on the left with the group names on the right.

> Pack Geese Lounge Lions Plague Elephants Prickle Monkeys Gaggle Fish Wolves Leap School Leopards Pride Locusts Barrel **Porcupines** Herd

FUN ANIMAL FACTOIDS

Lizards

A newborn kangaroo is about one inch in length.

A female mackerel lays about 500,000 eggs at one time.

A rat can last longer without water than a camel can.

Dolphins sleep at night just below the surface of the water.

Dragonflies are one of the fastest insects, flying 50 to 60 mph.

Elephants can communicate using sounds that are below the human-hearing range.

Large kangaroos cover more than 30 feet with each jump.

Macaroni, Gentoo, Chinstrap and Emperor are types of penguins.

Wolves-Pack, Leopards-Leap, Locusts-Plague, Porcupines-Prickle, Lizards-Lounge ANSWERS: Geese-Gaggle, Lions-Pride, Elephants-Herd, Monkeys-Barrel, Fish-School,



The Pride of Hampton Roads Goes On Public Exhibit

Hampton Roads — meet Granby and Neka! Lion cubs, born at the Virginia Zoo on August 19 last year, officially went on exhibit on January 17. In an event that included the announcement of their names, the playful cubs charmed their public by romping and tumbling through their expansive exhibit.

The cubs were kept off public exhibit after their birth to allow them time to grow big enough to safely navigate the outdoor exhibit and also have time to bond with their parents, Zola and Mramba.

One of their favorite activities is to harass their parents, including pulling at Mramba's mane.

When the cubs were born, the Zoo invited the public to suggest names. Over 600 names were submitted, which zookeepers and other staff whittled down to six choices. The Zoo then turned to the public again, inviting them to vote for their favorite name. Each vote included a \$1 donation, which raised over \$1,200 to support the Zoo's Conservation and Enrichment Fund. Granby, the name of the male, was submitted by Mary Beth Sherwin, and Neka, the name of the female, was submitted by Sandy Crook.

The staff of the Virginia Zoo thanks all who participated in the naming contest and invites everyone to come visit the Zoo and see Granby and Neka in action.

(left to right) Sandy Crook, Greg Bockheim, Tyler Sherwin (representing his wife, Mary Beth)

Help Us Bring Asia Our Way

The new millennium is bringing the magnificent continent of Asia to Virginia!

The Virginia Zoo is expanding. Africa was brought to you at the end of the last century. Now we're ready to grow again with the remarkable "Trail of the Tiger" — our new Asian exhibit. We are engaged in an ambitious \$15.5 million Capital Campaign to support "Trail of the Tiger," to bring the sights and sounds of exotic Asia to our visitors.

Imagine entering a bamboo forest and hearing whooping and hollering from playful primates filling the air while catching a glimpse of unusual creatures such as orangutans, Malayan tapirs and giant hombills. "Trail of the Tiger" will feature animals from the islands of Southeast Asia, China and India.

Construction begins in the spring of 2008 and should be completed in 2010. To date, our generous donors have contributed \$15,260,017 towards this addition. The City of Norfolk and Frank Batten, Sr. already have pledged \$6 million and \$7 million, respectively. Now, you can get involved, too.

The Zoo is a community, and it takes the support of special individuals, corporations and foundations to make dreams of Asia come true. With past support, we have created memorable adventures for children, families and neighbors inside our Zoo. Now, we are excited to partner with you again to bring the magic and mysteries of Asia and its special animals here.

Be part of the Asian adventure. We've enclosed an envelope for your convenience or you can get more information about the campaign and naming opportunities by calling our Development Office at (757) 441-2374, ext. 222.



Trail of the Tiger

Capital Campaign for the Virginia Zoo

Total Raised as of January 16, 2008: \$15,260,017
"Gifts Designated for the Zoo Train

The Pride (lions)

\$1,000,000 & above Frank Batten, Sr. City of Norfolk

The Herd (elephants)

\$250,000-\$499,999 Bank of America The Norfolk Foundation

The Cool Cats (Siberian tigers)

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Tom and Carolyn Betz

The Troop (monkeys)

Under \$500 The Scheffel Family Marva Smith Stephanie K. Sugioka Alison C. Till

We sincerely apologize if we have inadvertently omitted your name from our donor list.

Please contact us at (757) 441-2374, ext. 242 if you have any questions.

Thank you for supporting the Virginia Zoo

Gifts made between November - December 2007

100 - \$499

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AT HALF PRICE

Coupons cannot be used in combination with any other coupon, promotion or discount. Discount does not apply to sale items. Expires 6/30/08.

Code: SPRING08NEWS

NEW ZOO PARENTS

hent Chiropractic
UFP Kids
ne Alberth Family
Duie Berbert
fnun Brainerd
han Raymond Brandon
achary Casey
Dni Edwards
alph Edwards
atty Edwards

II Edwards

Lisa Gorawski
Elizabeth Rebecca Grady
Josh Harford
Stephanie Hathcock
Danyle & Daniel Lautenschlager
Ashley Moravek
Jason Neal
Annie O'Donnell
James Painter
Isaac & Bronwyn Philips Family
Michelle Rice

Jean Robinson
Ashley Scott
Heather Stimmel
Sylvie Tauzin-Neal
Aileen Tobias
Dale & Vivian Wanner
Caryn White
Mark Wilson
Virginia Wimer
Courtney and Mark Worrall

We sincerely apologize if we have inadvertently omitted your name from our donor list.

Please contact us at (757) 441-2374, ext. 242 if you have any questions.



Upcoming Events

Enrichment Extravaganza Day

Saturday, March 15, 2008, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Play like a lion and learn about the exciting animals and insects that lay eggs in this salute to spring. Attendees will get to play with new enrichment toys that eventually will be given to the lions, rhinos and other animals. Participate in a Scavenger Hunt that will take you on a tour of the Zoo as you follow clues to identify the egg-layers and win a prize. Live demonstrations by zookeepers and docents will reveal how special spices, toys and other tools help increase animal activity and promote natural behaviors through enrichment programs. Animal enrichment aims to improve the life experience and environment for the Zoo's animals while creating a more exciting visit for Zoo guests. Mark your calendar for this enriching experience.

- All programs and activities are included in regular Zoo admission



Rock 'n Roar

Saturday, April 26, 2008, 7:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.

GREAT FOOD. A ROCKING BAND. WILD SURPRISES. The second annual Rock 'n Roar. Hot music from local favorite band BUTTER. Delicious dishes from all the best restaurants. Casino tables. A silent auction featuring original animal creations. And yes, a COSTUME CONTEST. So, put on your most creative and elegant animal attire and come on out to ROCK 'n ROAR!

Tickets For Rock 'n Roar 2008 Are On Sale Now

Zoo Members: \$40 * Non-Members: \$50

City of Norfolk Government Employees and Active Duty Military with ID: \$40

Must be 21 years or older to attend. I.D. required upon entry.

Call 757-441-2374 ext. 253 for tickets today or visit www.virginiazoo.org for details and a downloadable ticket form. Tickets are limited.

For information on Education Programs, go to page 4.

Looking Ahead . . .

Put us on your calendar so you don't miss your favorite Zoo events in 2008:

- . Zoo Parent Picnic, May 17"
- . Member & Friends Night, June 12"
- * Breakfast with the Animals, August 16*
- · Member & Friends Night, September 23*
- · Zoo Boo, October 31, November 1 & 2
- Pancakes, Paws & Santa Claws, December 6, 7, 13, & 14

*These events are invitation only.







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