



BEHIND THE SCENES

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Written for and about the people who support Denver Zoo

THE INSIDE VIEW



I am pleased to introduce you to the newest member of our executive team, Dr. Kyle Burks, Executive Vice President and COO.

After traveling from Orlando to Denver, Kyle officially started his position with us on September 2, 2008. Before joining Denver Zoo, he managed a team of analytical consultants for Walt Disney World Operations, and he has a diverse background in animal behavior research, guest services, education and interpretive programs. Kyle will integrate all of these areas of experience in his current position with Denver Zoo.

A native of Huntsville, Texas, Kyle developed an interest in biology from a high school teacher. He went on to get his Bachelor's from Texas A&M University and then completed his Ph.D. at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He developed a special interest in gorillas and other primates while working at Zoo Atlanta and has chaired the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Gorilla Behavior Advisory Group.



Given Kyle's experience across so many fields, he's a great fit with our Denver Zoo family because he

values all areas of the zoo's focus. *"Animal care, conserving endangered species, educating visitors, serving our guests . . . they're all wrapped together. We have great work happening at the zoo, so we rely on quality service to our guests to carry out our conservation message. We can't be successful in one area without the others."*

Kyle misses the people he worked with at Disney, but is especially looking forward to the connection Denver Zoo has with the local community. He is eager to meet each of you, our supporters, and offers his thanks ahead of time, *"I hope at the end of the day, our donors are proud of their support of the zoo because there are new and exciting stories here every day and they're making that possible."*

Craig D. Piper, President & CEO



Denver Zoo has become a world leader in the care and reproduction of several hump-headed lizard species. Recently the Javan hump-headed lizards produced 7 hatchlings. Native to Indonesian rain forests, these brilliantly colored reptiles are found only in a few zoos around the world, because their

care is difficult. Keepers feed the lizards earthworms and crickets. These interesting animals can be found on display in Tropical Discovery.

GIVING TRENDS: IRA ROLLOVER CONTINUED!

Good news for donors 70½ or older! Congress just extended legislation for 2008 and 2009 permitting you to make current cash gifts from your traditional or Roth IRA to charity. These gifts qualify toward your IRA's required minimum distributions, but are not included in your taxable income, so you may reduce your tax payment. This is especially helpful for those who do not itemize on their taxes, those whose required minimum distributions from their IRA would move them into the next tax bracket, or those who are giving at 50% of their AGI. To make this type of gift, contact your IRA custodian for the necessary forms. IRA distributions must be made directly from your IRA account to the charity. This legislation is in effect through December 31, 2009.

This is not intended as legal or tax advice and it is, of course, important to consult your legal or tax advisor before making this type of gift.

DONOR CORNER

When long-time friend of the zoo, Betty Robertson, was asked why she chooses to support us, her answer is, "The animals – I love them all!" Betty is a true animal lover and has had connections with them all her life. Growing up in Illinois, her grandparents owned a farm with many animals, but it was the chance to ride a llama at the St. Louis Zoo when she was about 11 that got her permanently hooked. Later she and her late husband would own their own ranch near Conifer, where at one time they had as many as 46 llamas. Interestingly, they acquired their first llama in 1974 from Denver Zoo on Halloween day!

Many long-time residents know Betty from her days as a school

teacher in Jefferson County, where she taught 5th grade for 25 years.

Besides her affiliation with the zoo, Betty's other animal-related passions are the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Department, where she has helped acquire dogs for their canine officer program, and the Denver Police Mounted Patrol program, where she has helped them purchase horses since 1985. She visits the horses often and was especially proud of their service during the recent Democratic National Convention.

Betty's favorite zoo animals are the snow leopards, and she enjoys her visits to see the three new cubs, Bataar, Kisa, and Milenka. She has "adopted" many animals here at the zoo, including the striking giraffe sculpture seen here at the front entry plaza. Betty is a generous donor to many zoo pro-



grams, and her gifts include a major contribution to Asian Tropics. We thank Betty for her love of animals and the positive impact she's had on our work at Denver Zoo!

ASIAN TROPICS: SITE WORK UNDERWAY!

Denver Zoo currently is finalizing its plans for Asian Tropics, a landmark exhibit which will occupy 10-acres on the southern edge of the zoo. In order for this highly anticipated project to begin in 2009, the zoo is performing several preparatory measures. Because these are happening primarily in behind-the-scenes service areas,



A view of the new facilities that will be used to manage deliveries and storage.

you may not notice the activity taking place! The zoo must relocate or rebuild many of the service facilities currently housed at the future site of Asian Tropics. These include facilities for concession deliveries, waste manage-

ment, general storage, grounds equipment, and hay storage. All of these operations will move from their current location on the south side of the zoo to a new location bordering the northwest zoo boundary. Construction is scheduled to be completed on these buildings by late spring 2009. The zoo then will undergo a thorough "house-cleaning", moving existing operations to their new homes, and relocating all materials to new locations. This is an exciting step in preparing for Asian Tropics construction.