



# BEHIND THE SCENES

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Written for and about the people who support Denver Zoo

## THE INSIDE VIEW



**D**enver Zoo is pleased to announce that we will break ground on Asian Tropics later this year!

In 1999, Denver citizens voted to authorize \$62.5 million in bond funds for Denver Zoo improvements. Denver Zoo committed to raise an additional \$55 million in private donations to provide a total of \$117.5 million for construction of the first two phases of the zoo's four-phase master plan. This innovative public-private partnership has allowed us to construct a number of improvements including the

parking garage, Congo Basin, Lorikeet Adventure, the bird propagation center, and the award-winning zoo entrance and Predator Ridge.

On June 1st, Denver City Council voted overwhelmingly to issue the remaining Zoo Improvement bonds to support Asian Tropics, the final project in the second phase of the master plan. Coupled with the



zoo's private donations to date, the zoo has secured \$40 million of the \$50 million needed for Asian Tropics. As we begin construction, we will be diligently working to raise the remaining \$10 million in private donations needed to complete the project.

While we focus on securing the remaining funds, Asian Tropics' initial construction will provide over 250 jobs for the local economy during the two year construction period.

After five years of intensive design, we're thrilled to start constructing the largest project in Denver Zoo's history, one that will be one of the world's most innovative facilities for elephant conservation.



Craig D. Piper, President & CEO

**C**heck out Denver Zoo's latest addition in Tropical Discovery. Cuttlefish, known as "chameleons of the sea", have a remarkable ability to rapidly change the color and patterns of their skin to blend with the color, pattern and texture of their surroundings.

The name cuttlefish is a misnomer, as they are mollusks not fish. The highly developed neural organs allow them to have an excellent capacity to learn and remember. Their intelligence ranks near that of their relative, the octopus.



**W**elcome the newest addition to the zoo family, four - count them - four red panda cubs born on July 9th. There are three males and one female who have yet to be named. This is the second litter for mom, Sophia, who is doing a great job of raising her four offspring.



This is only the fifth litter of quads reported by AZA zoos. Red pandas are endangered so this birth is very important to the species. The cubs won't be on exhibit until they are around three months old, so look for an announcement in September.

## DONOR CORNER

Denver Zoo recently lost one of our dear, long-time friends, Rollin D. Barnard. Rollie's impact on the Denver community was far reaching, in both business and civic activities. A Denver native, he graduated from Denver East High School before attending Pomona College in California. After marrying his wife, Patty, Rollie went on to become a decorated WWII veteran and later served as Assistant Postmaster General under President Eisenhower. He had an extensive career in banking before becoming Mayor of Greenwood Village from 1989 to 1993.

Many people learned of his big heart, sense of humor, and

love for animals through his community involvement. Rollie's affiliations and volunteer roles are too numerous to list, but included the Morris Animal Foundation, Western Stock Show Association, Boy Scouts, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Denver Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club of Denver, and Roundup Riders of the Rockies.

Rollie became a Denver Zoo Trustee in 1994 and was later named an Honorary Lifetime Trustee in 2005. Another great honor came in 1994, when Rollie was named Citizen of the West. Actress and animal lover Betty White was among those celebrating his legacy in carrying out the spirit of western tradition.

Rollie had a passion for animals, gardening, and nature in general. He and his wife raised

appaloosa horses at home, but Rollie also was committed to conservation of wildlife around the world. He believed Denver Zoo was in a unique position to share his love of animals with others in our community. He leaves a hole in our zoo family much larger than his belt buckle and we honor his tremendous efforts on behalf of Denver Zoo and all animals.



## ANIMAL ENRICHMENT

What is enrichment? Enrichment provides mental and physical stimulation for animals and encourages natural behaviors. Just like people, animals need things to do. Zookeepers enrich the lives of our animals through smells, tastes, sounds, sights and textures. Enrichment is done in a variety of ways; below are two recent additions to the program.



*Hay Ball Feeders*—Hay balls have been used for zebra and okapi at the zoo in the past, but were just recently placed in the giraffe yard. They allow the giraffes to display natural foraging behavior. These specialized feeders were imported from Europe and the giraffes love them! Thank you to the Redig family for funding the purchase of these new feeders.

*Live Fish*—One of the most recent additions to the enrichment program is the addition of live fish to the diets of some of our animals including jaguar, serval, bears, sea lions, and saddle bill storks. Guests may see animals hunting and eating fish at any time during the day.

