



*A natural for family fun.*

# CALDWELL ZOO's Letter

the newsletter for Caldwell ZooMembers spring 2006

## from the director

Dear Friends,

It is a very busy, exciting time at Caldwell Zoo. We have some dapper new residents arriving soon, as well as many special events and exhibits to keep your family entertained throughout the year.

The biggest news of the new year is the arrival of 10 African black-footed penguins, who will be taking up residence in the former home of our Nile crocodile. The penguins will debut on Wednesday, March 1, but our ZooMembers will get a chance to see them at a special members-only preview on Saturday, February 25, from 4:30-6:30pm.

Other special events slated for this spring include our annual Poison Jungle Safari, an Earth Day celebration and our Pachyderm Painting Premiere. Check the Zoo's Letter calendar for more information on these and other fun events.

With so many events and activities planned for the spring, make sure you don't miss out on all the fun — renew your ZooMembers membership today!

It has already been a year of accomplishments for Caldwell Zoo. In January, we received an award from the City of Tyler TREES committee for our contribution to the natural beauty of the community. In addition, our Zoo veterinarian Dr. Steve Wilson was honored as General Animal Practitioner of the Year by the Texas Veterinary Medical Association.

We hope that you can stop by this spring and enjoy some of the interesting exhibits and special events we have planned. Thank you again for being part of the Caldwell Zoo family. See you at the Zoo!

Hayes Caldwell  
Executive Director



## Penguin Premiere (Black Tie Optional) Special preview for members February 25

**T**en African black-footed penguins — the Zoo's newest permanent residents — will make their debut at Caldwell Zoo on March 1. But ZooMembers will have an opportunity to catch a sneak peek during a special preview on Saturday, February 25, from 4:30-6:30pm.

One of the 12 species of warm-weather penguins in the world, African black-footed penguins are native to the coast and coastal islands of South Africa. The penguins will be housed in the former enclosure of our Nile crocodile. The habitat has been remodeled to replicate the warm climate and cool waters of their native environment.

Our black-footed penguins, who come to us from the Maryland Zoo in Baltimore, average about two feet tall and weigh six to seven pounds.

Black-footed penguins are also known as jackass penguins, due to the loud, donkey-like braying sounds they make.

While the black-footed penguin population numbered in the millions as little as three decades ago, estimates place the current population in the wild at around 150,000 and falling, making the species vulnerable. The species is protected in Africa but still faces threats from habitat encroachment and oil spills.

The black-footed penguin is one of the few penguin species to be bred successfully in captivity, and zoos are playing a vital role in their conservation.

We hope you'll stop by and see our playful friends in their new home.



# calendar of events

SPRING & SUMMER 2006

## March 18

### Poison Jungle Safari!

This will be our third annual poison safari. The event is held in cooperation with the North Texas Poison Control Center of Dallas. Booths will be set up to alert adults and children to possible poison dangers in the home. 1-4pm

## April 22

### Earth Day

Reduce, reuse, recycle. Come enjoy special Earth Day activities at Caldwell Zoo. 10am-noon

## May 29

**Pachyderm Painting Premiere**  
Caldwell Zoo's elephants are budding artists — abstract, of course. Join us at the Uzuri Outpost for an elephant art premiere. You will have an opportunity to purchase a painting done by our pachyderms. Proceeds from the elephant paintings will go to African elephant conservation programs. 11am-4pm

## June 3

**Zoo and Aquarium Month**  
June is Zoo and Aquarium Month, and we are kicking it off with some zoo-riffic activities. 1-4pm

## Ed-ZOO-cation Ed-ventures

Choose the programs that interest you and join us for a real ed-venture at Caldwell Zoo. Classes are held in the African Huts across from the rhino house. **All programs require advance registration and payment.** We're sorry, but registrations cannot be accepted by phone.

### 3 YEAR OLDS

These classes, which include animal information, snack time, songs and finger plays, movement activities and games, are specifically designed for a 3 year old and an adult. Cost of class registration covers a 3 year old and one adult.

**Members: \$7 per class**

**Non-members: \$10 per class**

### WXYZ is for We Explore Your Zoo

Take a special trip through the Zoo.

*Saturday, April 8*

10-11am

### A is for Anteater

Meet our friend who snuffles up ants with a long tongue.

*Saturday, May 6*

10-11am

### B is for Bird

This ed-venture is a real "tweet!"

*Saturday, June 3*

10-11am

### C is for Cat

Purr-fect fun for you and your three year old.

*Saturday, July 8*

10-11am

### D is for Duck

This class is a "quack-up."

*Saturday, August 5*

10-11am

### 4-9 YEAR OLDS

These zoo classes are age-appropriate animal ed-ventures that include animal information, a walk on Zoo grounds, an art activity, songs, stories, games and snack time.

### Billy Goats Gruff

Hey, kids! Come see the Zoo's special kids.

### 4 & 5 year olds

*Friday, June 23*

9:30-11:30am

### 6-9 year olds

*Tuesday, June 27*

9:30-11:30am

### Jeepers Keepers

Discover what's involved in being a zookeeper.

### 4 & 5 year olds

*Wednesday, August 2*

9:30-11:30am

### 6-9 year olds

*Friday, July 7*

9:30-11:30am

### Picture That!

Bring your camera and photograph the Zoo during this special two-session class.

### 6-9 year olds

*Tuesday, August 1 and*

*Thursday, August 3*

9:30-11:30am

**Members: \$14**

**Non-members: \$20**

### SUMMER CAMPS

These summer camps are age-appropriate ed-ventures filled with zoo fun. Activities include animal information, time on Zoo grounds, art activities, stories, games, songs and close encounters with touchable small animals. A morning snack and drink will be furnished.

**Members: \$50**

**Non-members: \$60**

### 4 & 5 YEAR OLDS

#### What's Buggin' You?

This camp really won't bug you.

*Monday, June 12-Friday, June 16*

9am-noon

### Furry and Feathered

Meet the Zoo's furred and feathered critters.

*Monday, July 10-Friday, July 14*

9am-noon

### Home, Sweet Home

A tree, a pond or even a burrow — homes for animals come in all sizes.

*Monday, July 24-Friday, July 28*

9am-noon

### 6-9 YEAR OLDS

#### Large Scale Fun

Get acquainted with our scaly reptiles.

*Monday, June 12-Friday, June 16*

9am-noon

### Crafty Critters

Enjoy a creative, art-filled animal ed-venture.

*Monday, July 10-Friday, July 14*

9am-noon

### Home, Sweet Home

In the wild or at the zoo, animals need a home.

*Monday, July 24-Friday, July 28*

9am-noon

### 10-14 YEAR OLDS

**Members: \$90**

**Non-members: \$100**

ZSI (Zoo Scene Investigation)

Check out the Zoo from the inside out.

*Monday, July 17-Friday, July 21*

9am-3pm

## Caldwell Zoofari BIRTHDAY CLUB



## Celebrate your child's next birthday with the Caldwell Zoofari Birthday Club.

Reservations must be made at least 14 days in advance, and a deposit is required. Call Visitor Services at 903-593-0121 for more information.

# conservation corner

## Saving Animals for Everyone

Elephant populations in Africa have generally stabilized over the last decade, but the animals are quickly losing what is left of their natural habitat. With the human population growing at four percent annually, rural farmers have been increasingly encroaching on traditional elephant range, only 20 percent of which is protected.

As elephants and humans are forced into the same areas, problems arise for both people and animals. The elephants often destroy crops and compete with humans for natural resources. As more and more of the elephant's traditional habitat is converted to farmland, their very existence is threatened.

Traditional methods of deterring crop destruction by elephants — including beating drums, cracking whips and burning large fires — have become largely ineffective in recent years, as both humans and elephants have sought more land and resources.

But rural farmers in the Mid Zambezi Valley of southern Africa have discovered a natural means of protecting their crops from elephants. Chili peppers are unpalatable to elephants, and when grown as a buffer crop at the edge of farm fields, they serve as a hard boundary between elephant habitat and desirable crops. The peppers can also be used to make pastes for fences and in smokers to further deter elephants from entering human areas.

The Elephant Pepper Development Trust (EPD) was formed to help make chili pepper cultivation a long-term, sustainable solution to elephant conservation in the area. One way of accomplishing this is by introducing chilies as a cash crop to local farmers. Farmers are more willing to use the planting of chilies as a deterrent if they can make money from the sale of the peppers. The harvesting of the peppers, which must be performed by hand, also creates jobs in highly impoverished areas.

EPD purchases peppers from rural African farmers for use in the Elephant Pepper line of foods,

which includes hot sauce, jams and relishes. Caldwell Zoo hopes to begin selling these products in our gift shop as a means of supporting this innovative approach to elephant conservation. We're happy to support such a

worthy cause and hope you will try some of the delicious Elephant Pepper products when they arrive later this year. For more information on EPD or Elephant Pepper products, please visit [www.elephantpepper.org](http://www.elephantpepper.org).

## ZOO People



**Keith Mills** has served as Grounds Maintenance Manager for Caldwell Zoo for five and a half years.

**Keith Mills**  
Grounds Maintenance Manager

**What is your favorite part of working at Caldwell Zoo?** I enjoy working outside in a beautiful setting in close proximity to a fascinating assortment of zoo animals, as well as with co-workers who take an interest in their work.

**How did you first get started in horticulture?** I've had an interest in nature — especially horticulture — from the time I was about seven years old. I guess it started with my small backyard vegetable garden that my dad and I made. I also remember being fascinated at an early age with old black and white films on farming that were usually on TV early Sunday mornings. My first "real" job in horticulture was with the City of Tyler Parks and Recreation Department after graduating from college. I worked 22 years for the City of Tyler — my first six years were as Horticulturist in general park areas, and then I spent 16 years as Rose Center Superintendent at the Tyler Rose Garden.

**What lessons do you hope visitors to Caldwell Zoo learn about conservation?** I hope visitors take away with them a better realization of how closely connected we are with the natural world around us, how fragile those connections can be, and the strong impact that we have on the "health" of these connections.

**What kind of research do you do in picking plants for exhibits?** I generally start by talking with animal curators and keepers regarding the species in the exhibit. We discuss the species' native habitat, its natural behaviors and its typical use of plants in its habitat (i.e., food, perching, hiding/climbing, etc.). We also discuss any concerns that curators, keepers and I may have regarding safety issues such as plant toxicity and animal containment.

**Describe your typical workday at Caldwell Zoo.** I generally start the day with a quick stop at my in-house mailbox to check on maintenance requests from other zoo departments and continue on with an inspection of zoo areas and projects. I spend some time coordinating grounds maintenance operations with other zoo managers and supervisors. I will then typically spend time out in the zoo assisting grounds crews with projects. Later in the day I make follow-up inspections on works-in-progress, formulate plans for future work, order materials and arrange for assistance from other departments. The day finishes in the office with a bit of paperwork and phone calls.





Feeding the parakeets at the Wild Bird Walkabout.



All smiles at Caldwell Zoo's 2005 Boo at the Zoo.



Charting a course for fun!

# CALDWELL ZooMembers

## Application Form

Caldwell ZooMembers enjoy exclusive benefits, including:

- One year free admission during regular Zoo hours
- Invitations to exclusive members-only events
- 10% discount in the Zoo gift shop
- Discounts on classes and camps for children
- Free or discounted admission to other AZA-accredited zoos across the country (for details, visit [www.caldwellzoo.org](http://www.caldwellzoo.org))
- Caldwell ZooMembers photo pass card for each member
- Free subscription to Caldwell Zoo's Letter

**Renewal Membership**

**New Membership**

**Gift Membership**

**Membership level:**

**Individual \$20**

Unlimited admission for one adult member.

**Individual Plus \$35**

Unlimited admission for one adult member, plus one guest per Zoo visit. The guest must be accompanied by the member.

**Family \$45**

Unlimited admission for two adults living at the same address and up to four of their children and/or grandchildren age 18 and under. Families with more than four children may add additional children for \$5 each.

**Family Plus \$60**

Unlimited admission for two adults living at the same address and up to four of their children and/or grandchildren age 18 and under, plus one guest per Zoo visit. The guest must be accompanied by the member. Families with more than four children may add additional children for \$5 each.

**Please issue the membership in the name of:**

NAME ADULT MEMBER 1 (LAST, FIRST, M.I.) DATE OF BIRTH

NAME ADULT MEMBER 2 (LAST, FIRST, M.I.) DATE OF BIRTH  
(FOR FAMILY AND FAMILY PLUS MEMBERSHIPS)

ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP

DAYTIME PHONE

EVENING PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

CHILD'S NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

CHILD'S NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

CHILD'S NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

CHILD'S NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

CHILD'S NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

CHILD'S NAME AND DATE OF BIRTH

This membership is a gift from:

NAME

ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP

DAYTIME PHONE

EVENING PHONE

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Send membership to:

Giver  Recipient

Receive renewal notice next year?

Yes  No

GIFT SHOULD READ FROM

OCCASION FOR GIFT

DATE OF OCCASION

Payment Information:

Membership		\$
Additional Children	@ \$5 each =	\$
Total Amount Due		\$

Enclosed is my check made payable to Caldwell Zoo.

Please charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my

Discover  MasterCard  Visa

NAME (AS IT APPEARS ON CREDIT CARD)

CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT NUMBER

EXPIRATION DATE (MM/YY)

SIGNATURE

Please return your completed membership application and payment by fax to 903-597-1780 or mail to:

**Caldwell Zoo**  
**Attn: Visitor Services**  
**P.O. Box 4785**  
**Tyler, Texas 75712**



*Having a wild time at Boo at the Zoo.*



*Pachyderm painting at ZooMembers Open House.*



*Making some new feathered friends at Wild Bird Walkabout.*



# Experience Our Wild Bird Walkabout



While you're at Caldwell Zoo visiting our new penguins, don't forget to stop by our Wild Bird Walkabout to see some birds of a different feather. Our fun, educational free-flight aviary allows guests to interact with and feed brilliantly colored cockatiels and parakeets as they flit and flutter about their naturalistic habitat. We've recently added another 100 parakeets to the exhibit, so there are now more than 500 beautiful birds for you to enjoy!

## fun facts about penguins



- 🍃 All wild penguins live south of the equator.
- 🍃 There are 17 species of penguins in the world, only five of which live in cold-weather habitats.
- 🍃 Penguins have been recorded swimming up to 20 miles per hour.
- 🍃 Penguins can drink salt water. A special gland filters the salt out, and it is then discharged through their bills.
- 🍃 Penguins live 15-20 years in the wild.
- 🍃 The penguin's coloring serves as underwater camouflage — the white on their stomachs blends with the light coming from the surface, while the black on their backs blends with the darker water below.

**Do you enjoy the zoo?**  
Would you like to share your knowledge with zoo visitors of all ages? If you're over 18 and are interested in volunteering your time at Caldwell Zoo, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Linda at 903-593-0121, ext. 229.

# wanted: VOLUNTEERS

2203 M.L. King Blvd, P.O. Box 4785  
Tyler, Texas 75712  
www.caldwellzoo.org

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