Lincoln Children's ZOO tracks

THE GREAT AMERICAN ZOO PROJECT SPECIAL: SUMMER CAMPS ISSUE **BY JOEL SARTORE** PAGE 8 **SAVING SPECIES ONE AT A TIME BY JOHN CHAPO** PAGE 9 **KID'S CORNER ACTIVITY PAGE PAGE 6-7** *PHOTO COPYRIGHT JOEL SARTORE / JOELSARTORE.COM



Learn firsthand.

Lincoln Children's Zoo 1222 South 27th Street Lincoln, NE 68502 402.475.6741

Mission
To enrich lives through
firsthand interaction
with living things.

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John Chapo

General Manager Evan Killeen

Zootracks Magazine

Editor Ryan Gross

Designer Kristin McCoun

Contributing Writers Joel Sartore & John Chapo

Contributing PhotosJoel Sartore

On the Cover Ring-tailed lemur from the Lincoln Children's Zoo

Photo by Joel Sartore

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AQUARIUMS

The Lincoln Children's Zoo is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums



Lincoln Children's Zoo is a member of Community Services Fund.

Learn more at:

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A PASSION FOR ADOPTION

BY RYAN GROSS

As we drive to Janet Coleman's home, Zoo President and CEO John Chapo tells me of a kind woman who, as he puts it, "simply loves adopting Lincoln Children's Zoo animals." John tells me how she has been adopting our animals for years. I ask him why, and about the time he starts to answer I see a woman wearing a purple sweater, standing on her porch. It's Janet and we pull into her driveway where she quickly offers us a warm greeting.

On this day, Janet has welcomed us into her home to tell us why, over the past couple of decades, she has adopted dozens of Zoo animals. As we enter her home we are instantly greeted with numerous pieces of artwork hanging on her walls. One large piece, which looks to be 8 feet long and 5 feet tall covers an entire wall. John asks her who created it and she tells us the artist is her son, John.

We take a seat and talk to her about the artwork. She begins to tell us why there are so many pieces of art in her home and it turns out that is where her story in Lincoln, NE begins.

In 1963, Janet and her husband Thomas moved to Lincoln from Kansas. He had received a position in the art department at the University of Nebraska. Janet tells us that many of the pieces of artwork in her home were done by Thomas. As you look around, it is difficult not to be amazed by his talent.

The conversation moves from art to John asking Janet when she first visited the zoo. She recalls it was many years ago. Her relationship with

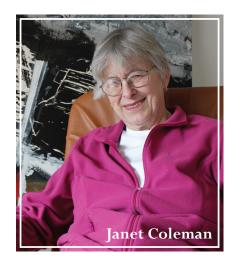
our Zoo goes back to the summer of 1966 when Janet, her husband, and young son made their first visit to the Lincoln Children's Zoo.

"Back then you would often see Mr. Folsom planting flowers or working in the gardens around the zoo," Janet remembers. She tells us how her children loved the town square that once existed. How her children reacted when they first saw our animals. She painted a wonderful picture of what the Zoo was like in its early years.

John then asks her when she first started adopting animals. "Oh, it was so long ago I don't remember. I do know they were only 10 dollars then," she proclaims. I started buying them for my children when they were in college. Eventually they grew up and had children of their own so I started adopting animals for my grandchildren. I thought it was a much better gift for them than something that will get played with a few times and forgotten.

Janet's children and grandchildren all live out of state. "I like to buy them an adoption package for Valentine's Day and then when they come to visit in the summer they can go to the Zoo and see their animal." Janet said.

She goes on to tell us many stories of her granddaughters, Willow and Rosalie, on their trips to the Zoo. "They get so excited seeing their animals," noted Janet. Recently, Janet asked Rosalie what animal she wanted to adopt next. Rosalie responded with an excited, "surprise me!"



For Janet, buying adoption packages isn't just about giving a gift to her children and grandchildren. It is about making a difference at our Zoo. From being on the board for the People's Health Center, to bringing motivational speakers to local high schools, she is a person who likes to do things that make a difference.

As we leave Janet's home I thank her for her time and take one last glance at two pieces of art on her walls. One is a large sketch of her daughter Kathryn as a baby sleeping in her crib and the other is of her daughter Cynthia. These two beautiful pieces of art are full of love. They reside in a home that reflects a person who has an infinite passion for her children, her grandchildren, and her community.

That is Janet Coleman.

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT ADOPTING

Adoption packages range in price from \$25 to \$100. (special pricing and packaging for penguins)

Some adoption packages allow for private meet and greet opportunities with your animal.

All packages come with an adoption certificate.

Get to know your animal with an adoption fact sheet.

All adoption proceeds go to care for your animal.

For more information, or to purchase an adoption package, call Kayla at 402.475.6741 ext. 131. or visit www.LincolnZoo.org



UNLEASH YOUR CHILD'S SUMMER 2012 SUMMER CAMPS



HALF-DAY CAMPS

3-4 YEAR-OLDS + PARENTS \$70 MEMBERS | \$85 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.							
June 18 - 22	Playful Penguins						
June 25 - 29	Down on the Farm						
July 16 - 20	Wake-Up the Train!						
July 23 - 27	Playful Penguins						

4-5 YEAR-OLDS \$90 MEMBERS | \$105 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A	.M NOON	AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.					
June 4 - 8	Hip Hop with Frog and Toad	June 4 - 8	Dino Dig				
June 11 - 15	Wake-Up the Train!	June 11 - 15	Mission to Madagascar				
June 18 - 22	Penguins Have Happy Feet	June 18 - 22	Animal Super Powers				
June 25 - 29	The Great Disappearing Act	June 25 - 29	Tail Spin				
July 9 - 13	Mission to Madagascar	July 9 - 13 Penguins Have Happy Feet					
July 16 - 20	Animal Super Powers						
July 23 - 27	Penguins Have Happy Feet	Sign up for morning & afternoon sessions to make it a full-day camp.					
July 30 - Aug. 3	Tail Spin						

6- YEAR-OLDS \$90 MEMBERS | \$105 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A	.M NOON	AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.					
June 4 - 8	Things with Wings	June 4 - 8	Down Under				
June 11 - 15	Penguin Plunge	June 11 - 15	Animal Planet				
June 18 - 22	Critter Keepers	June 18 - 22	Wild West Wrangler Camp				
June 25 - 29	Wild West Wrangler Camp	June 25 - 29	Wet n' Wild Animals				
July 9 - 13	Down Under	July 9 - 13 Penguin Plunge					
July 16 - 20	Animal Planet	July 16 - 20 Critter Keeper					
July 30 - Aug. 3	Wild West Wrangler Camp	Sign up for morning & afternoon sessions					
		to make it a full-day camp.					

8-10 YEAR-OLDS

\$90 MEMBERS | \$105 NON-MEMBERS

MORNING: 8:30 A	.M NOON	AFTERNOON: 1:00 - 4:30 P.M.					
June 4 - 8	Penguin Planet	June 4 - 8	What's for Dinner?				
June 11 - 15	Care of Magical Creatures						
June 18 - 22	Zoo Scene Investigators (ZSI)	June 18 - 22	Down Under				
July 9 - 13	Penguin Planet	July 9 - 13	Care of Magical Creatures				
July 23 - 27	Zoo Scene Investigators (ZSI)	Sign up for morning & afternoon sessions					
July 30 - Aug. 3	Animal Survivor	to make it a full-day camp.					

FULL-DAY CAMPS

\$180 MEMBERS | \$210 NON-MEMBERS

FULL DAY: 8:30 A.	M 4:30 P.M.	6 - 7 YEAR-OLDS
July 23 - 27	Care of Magic	cal Creatures

FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M 4:30 P.M. 8 - 10 YEAR-OLDS						
June 11 - 15	Jr. Zookeeper					
June 25 - 29	Animal Care					
July 16 - 20	Jr. Zookeeper					
July 23 - 27	Animal Survivor					

FULL DAY: 8:30 A.M 4:30 P.M. 10 - 12 YEAR-OLDS						
June 25 - 29	Animal Care					
July 9 - 13	Jr. Zookeeper					
July 16 - 20	Care of Magical Creatures					
July 23 - 27	Jr. Zookeeper					



DESTINATION CAMP

\$995 MEMBERS | \$1095 NON-MEMBERS

Expedition: Florida

July 30 - August 4 | Ages 14 - 18

Expedition Florida is a once-in-a-lifetime adventure through some of the world's rarest animal habitats. Students will begin their journey at Heartland Scuba Center and learn the principal skills of diving. Next, board a plane to the Atlantic Coast of Florida for the opportunity to study with animal biologists at Marine Lab research facility in Key Largo and kayak through the African exhibit at Brevard Zoo. This true-life adventure concludes with an exciting, behind the scenes experience at Disney's Animal Kingdom.







WORD SEARCH

CAN YOU FIND ALL OF THE WORDS?

BOBCAT	V	В	F	P	Y	Т	н	0	N	S	Y	н	V	н	W
BUTTERFLY CHAMELEON	D	U	В	0	В	С	A	т	A	P	0	т	т	E	R
DUCK	U	т	K	U	P	E	A	C	0	C	K	R	I	D	т
EAGLE GECKO	С	т	G	R	н	K	J	R	0	X	L	R	В	G	K
GIBBON	K	E	т	0	R	т	0	I	S	E	Z	A	L	E	A
HEDGEHOG KANGAROO	G	R	K	G	I	В	В	0	N	В	т	т	E	н	N
LEMUR	E	F	C	I	M	E	A	E	A	G	L	E	M	0	G
LEOPARD MILLIPEDE	С	L	E	0	P	A	R	D	P	U	L	P	U	G	A
MOUSE	K	Y	L	K	0	A	U	N	Ε	E	D	G	R	V	R
OTTER PEACOCK	0	Z	W	A	L	L	A	В	Y	E	N	С	A	A	0
PENGUIN	С	н	A	M	E	L	E	0	N	J	Н	G	Y	A	0
PYTHON RAT	N	Z	C	K	J	U	т	A	R	A	N	т	U	L	A
SCORPION	М	I	L	L	I	P	E	D	E	R	Z	G	F	I	I
TARANTULA TORTOISE	Z	C	E	A	M	0	U	S	E	F	P	G	т	E	N
WALLABY	I	U	Q	T	L	S	C	0	R	P	I	0	N	N	L

THE GREAT AMERICAN ZOO PROJECT



*Photo copyright Joel Sartore / joelsartore.com. Joel Sartore is a photographer, speaker, author, teacher, and a 20-year contributor to National Geographic magazine. Joel's stories and collection of photos can be found at joelsartore.com

BY JOEL SARTORE

Right now there are hundreds of species among us that are hovering near extinction, species like the Amur leopard and the white-handed gibbon that future generations may only get to know through photos. I wanted to do something to preserve these animals through photographs so I created the Biodiversity Project.

What is the Biodiversity Project?

It's a series of portraits using studio lighting that serves as a witness to all creatures great and small. Using black and white backdrops gives all species equal weight and importance. It is designed to get you to look all species in the eye and discover the wonder in them.

The hope is that these photos will help viewers to understand all creatures have intrinsic value and have a basic right to exist. To date I've photographed about 1,870 species this way. I add more every month.

Zoos and the Biodiversity Project

I've traveled to many zoos throughout the country and have photographed thousands of animals in my life. Zoos are one of the few places the public can see live animals these days, including those that are so rare they may never be seen in the wild again. The animal keepers at zoos do everything they can with the limited resources they have to save these animals.

Zoos like the Lincoln Children's Zoo house many species that may be extinct some day.

Their staff works hard to breed these species. If an animal successfully breeds, the offspring will often be sent to other zoos with the hope of creating a larger gene pool, with the eventual hope of re-releasing some into the wild if the habitat is there to support them.

The Big Picture

Even with zoos doing their best to breed these species, they cannot all be saved in captivity. There is not enough room on the Ark. Zoos, aquariums and other captive breeding centers simply do not have the funding or the space to save them all. Difficult decisions must be made: they now must choose which ones to let go.

To complicate things further, when the population of any animal gets down to a few, it gets increasingly difficult to fight inbreeding and keep the captive flocks and herds healthy. With humans expanding out into virtually every space on Earth to consume resources, it's now a race against time to see what can be saved.

To me, each of the animals I photograph is a living work of art, no matter how small. Indeed, it is the tiniest species that run the planet and most deserve our attention and respect. Why is it we so treasure paintings and sculptures in museums that we'll surround them with armed guards, but we'll allow species to vanish each and every day and not utter a word? What will it take for us to finally wise up?

It is up to all of us. What will we cherish enough to take with us into the future? The good news is that if enough of us care, we can turn things around for many of Earth's species. It is not too late. But first we must actually think about all this, learn what we can do to save the world, and then, most importantly, act. The fact that you're reading this is an excellent start.

How You Can Make a Difference

First, make your voice heard. Study the issues, form an opinion and make that known. Perhaps more importantly, know that every dollar you spend matters. And above all, support organizations like the Lincoln Children's Zoo.

Beyond zoos and aquariums, there are many other groups that are doing great work, from preserving intact landscapes to making sure our laws protect endangered species. I like Defenders of Wildlife so much, for example, that I actually joined their national board of directors.

So please, support organizations that work to save species. And remember that every time you break out your purse or your wallet, your purchasing decisions matter tremendously, from the kind of vehicle you drive to the furniture you buy. Truly, the power to save the world resides right in your pocketbook.

SAVING SPECIES ONE AT A TIME

HOW THE LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO IS MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

BY JOHN CHAPO

For nearly 50 years, millions of people have visited Lincoln Children's Zoo. Many come to take a mid-day stroll and interact with their favorite animal. Our Zoo has come to be part of the community and part of people's lives. However, many people don't realize their favorite animal may be endangered and may not be around for future generations to enjoy. Our Zoo here in Lincoln, Nebraska is vital to future existence of many species of animals.

Many species of animals here at the Zoo are endangered. Twelve of these species are part of the Species Survival Plan known as SSP. The SSP program was established by members of the American Zoo Association (AZA) with the goal of saving endangered animal species from extinction.

Saving a species from extinction is quite complex, detailed, and expensive. Lincoln

Children's Zoo collaborates with other members of AZA to efficiently and scientifically save animals from extinction. An example of an SSP at work is the Humboldt penguins finding a home here at the Zoo.

About five years ago it was determined only a dozen American zoos and aquariums would be involved in saving the Humboldt penguins. The SSP asked zoos across the country to add Humboldt penguins and help ensure their future. We, at the Lincoln Children's Zoo, decided to take part in saving them.

Much work went into acquiring the Humboldt penguins. Zoo staff had to determine what kind of habitat the penguins would need, what they would eat, what special veterinary care would be needed and many other issues. After analyzing everything needed to house the penguins, the Zoo sought permission to bring them to Lincoln.

The Lincoln Children's Zoo was given permission to receive five pairs of Humboldt penguins and in October 2010 the new exhibit was opened to the public. This is just one example of how your zoo is part of something special. We are currently in the process of helping other species including the Ring-tailed lemur.

What we have done with the Humboldt penguins and now with the Ring-tailed lemurs makes a world of difference for the future of these species. We do this in the hope that future generations in Lincoln will have the opportunity to take a mid-day stroll and gaze at their favorite animal.

LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO'S SSP ANIMALS

*PHOTO COPYRIGHT JOEL SARTORE / JOELSARTORE.COM



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THINGS TO DO AT THE LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO

March 31 & April 1 | Spring Cleanup

To volunteer, call Adam at 402.475.6741 ext. 129 or email arhoads@lincolnzoo.org.

April 6 · May 11 | Wild Cooking Class

Children ages 3-5 and their parents or adults will love this two-hour cooking adventure. Make some fun food, listen to stories and more.

Members: \$20 per session | Non-Members: \$25 per session

OPENING DAY

Saturday, April 14

April 21 | Earth Day Celebration featuring activities from the Groundwater Foundation

April 22 | Artistic Rain Barrel Auction at Antelope Park

This fundraising event features an auction of rain barrels painted by local artists. A great way to support the Zoo and environmental conservation.

May 12 & 13 | Train Expo

Learn all about trains at our annual Train Expo. Featuring specials on train rides, demonstrations by the Lincoln Area Model Railroad Club, train safety activities and the annual "Conductor for a Day" contest.

May 13 | Mother's Day Celebration

Mom's receive free admission and train rides.

May 18 | Camel Ride Experience Opens

May 19 | Adopt a Lifelong Friend Day

Meet Lincoln's cute and cuddly animals that don't live at the Zoo. Featuring animals from the Capitol Humane Society and Golden Retriever Rescue, this event teaches community members how to adopt and care for pets.

May 25 | Laura's Butterfly Pavilion Opens

Join our email list at LincolnZoo.org and "like" us on facebook to get exclusive Zoo updates.

May 26 | Safety Fun Run

The 29th annual Zoo Fun Run/Walk, organized by Lincoln Fire & Rescue, is an annual event that promotes healthy lifestyles and creates awareness of emergency services in the Lincoln area. The Fun Run is open to all ages and is a mile course around the Zoo. Registration begins at 9 a.m.

WHAT'S NEW AT YOUR ZOO

New arrivals brough to you by: + CATHOLIC HEALTH

Saint Elizabeth Regional Medical Center



Peccaries Arriving this May

Two male collared peccaries will be joining the Zoo this summer. Peccaries are a medium-sized wild species of pig. They are found in Mexico, Central America, and South America.

Wrangler Roundup

Come on down to the Zoo and saddle up for one exciting ride. Little ones and even older folk will love this new horse ridin' experience. We hope to see ya'll real soon at Wrangler Round-Up.





Be on the Lookout for a New Red Panda

The Zoo welcomed a new red panda named Sophia. In November, Sophia made the trip from the Denver Zoo. Red pandas are native to the eastern Himalayas and southwestern China.

New Additions to the Ring-tailed Lemur Family

The Lincoln Children's Zoo added two male ring-tailed lemurs in late 2011. Zookeepers are watching the ring-tailed lemurs closely, hoping for a birth in April or May.





Flying Squirrels

In February the Zoo welcomed two new baby flying squirrels. These flying squirrels came from Texas and will now be part of the Critter Encounter station in the Zoo. Guests will be able to get up close and meet these two new additions named Orville and Wilbur after the Wright Brothers.

CAMEL RIDE ADVENTURE

COMING TO THE LINCOLN CHILDREN'S ZOO THIS SUMMER

An unforgettable experience awaits guests this summer at Lincoln Children's Zoo. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, for a limited time, the Zoo will be offering guests the chance to ride a camel. In February, the Zoo agreed to work with an organization from Ohio to offer this incredible experience.

For \$5 guests will ride the 2,000 pound animals through a scenic pathway around a portion of the zoo. The rides

will be located next to the Zoo's permanent camel boardwalk.

Zoo President and CEO, John Chapo said, "This is an exciting opportunity for the Zoo and the community, it's not too often you get this close to a camel and ride one."

Riders will be assisted by expert camel trainers while they ride the 8 foot tall animals.

Camel rides will be available Memorial Day to Labor Day during regular Zoo hours.





FACTS ABOUT CAMELS

- Contrary to popular belief, a camel's hump does not store water, but is made of fat.
- There are two species of camels: Dromedary (1 hump) and Bactrian (2 humps).
 An easy way to remember this is by thinking of the 1 hump in the letter "D" and 2 humps in the letter "B".
- Camels can drink up to 40 gallons of water in one go.
- Camels have a third eyelid that moves sideways, front to back, and acts like a windshield wiper, brushing the eye clean of sand.



THE MOST UNIQUE RENTAL SPACE IN TOWI

The most unforgettable event and rental space in the area is at Lincoln Children's Zoo.

Where else can your guests encounter animals from around the world while enjoying a party?

Guests can snack on appetizers while watching a leopard perch on a rock or drink a cold beverage during a penguin show. The Lincoln Children's Zoo has multiple indoor and outdoor locations that will work for nearly any size of gathering. Rental events can be held during open hours or private events can be held after normal operating hours.





- Private events can accomodate up to 2,000 guests Rentals are completely customizable
- Train & horse rides are available
 - Have a zookeeper talk about the animal of your choice Get up close to animals during Critter Encounter
 - Catering available

For more information or to book your event, call Michelle at 402.475.6741 ext. 132 or email mcartwright@lincolnzoo.org.

ZOONIQUE BOUTIQUE



The wildest store in town is the Zoonique Boutique located at Lincoln Children's Zoo. A visit to Zoonique Boutique allows guests to take home their zoo experience. Guests will find a variety of plush animals, wild toys, and unique finds. All proceeds from Zoonique Boutique help maintain the Zoo and care for the animals.

The store is open daily at 10:00 a.m. when the Zoo is open and on select days during the winter months.

NEW TO SAFARI CAFE

SAFARI CAFE PIZZA!



Safari Café is centrally located in ZooVille Square. Guests will find ample seating while enjoying excellent food at affordable prices. The menu ranges from cheeseburgers to grilled chicken sandwiches with a great variety of sides, including healthy options for children and adults. Most combo meals are under \$6 for adults and under \$4 for children, creating an affordable lunch or snack during your visit to the Zoo. This year, Safari Café will also be featuring new 2012 souvenir cups that children and adults will love. Safari Café opens daily at 10 a.m.

Safari Café is owned and operated by Lincoln Children's Zoo. All proceeds help maintain the Zoo and care for the animals.

YOUR HAND, YOUR ZOO

A NEW WAY TO SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR YOU ZOO











Starting in April, drivers on Capital Parkway will see a new, larger than life zoo sign near the southeast portion of the Zoo property. Twelve foot letters spelling the word "ZOO" will be constructed on the current camel exhibit boardwalk.

The new sign will have two main purposes, President and CEO, John Chapo said. "One will be to bring awareness to the Zoo from travelers along the roadway and trails and the other is a unique fundraising opportunity." Guests will be able to support the Zoo by purchasing metal cut-outs of hands with their family name on them. These hands will be placed on the inside of the zoo sign. "This will be a great way for families and individuals to leave a lasting impression at the Zoo," Chapo said.

The letters for the sign may become the largest in town. "I think this will be one of the most unique ways for people to support the zoo and be part of something so iconic in town," Chapo said.

TMCO and SignCo. of Lincoln assisted the Zoo in design and construction of the sign. "This sign and other Zoo projects are not possible without the support of organizations, generous individuals, and businesses," noted Chapo.

Hands can be purchased for fifty dollars per hand and all proceeds go to maintain the Zoo and care for the animals. Individuals, families, and organizations can purchase hands online at LincolnZoo.org, by calling Kayla at 402.475.6741 ext. 131, or by visiting the Zoo.



THE WILDEST PARTY IN TOWN!



For 47 years, your Zoo has been delighting, teaching and enriching children — all without receiving any city, country or state tax support. The generous support the Zoo receives from our community makes it possible for the Zoo to fulfill its mission - *To enrich lives through firsthand interaction with living things*.

Friday, June 8th, 2012 at 6 P.M.

Tickets: \$75 | Corporate tables of 8: \$1,000

Tickets will be available online on Monday, March 19 at LincolnZoo.org, or by calling Kayla at 402.475.6741 ext. 131







Youth volunteer program.

One of the most successful youth volunteer programs in the country

Each year nearly 400 students gain important life and job skills through volunteering at the zoo.

Learn and care for animals
 Help in conservation efforts
 Participate in daily Zoo operations

Students entering grades 7 through 12 will choose to specialize in education or husbandry. Education students will interact with the public, present animals, and share general information. Husbandry students will specialize in animal care, perform wellness checks, and daily cleanings.

For more information visit LincolnZoo.org, call Stephy at 402.475.6741 ext. 150, or stop by the zoo.

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS































