



IN THIS ISSUE

- FROM THE DIRECTOR
- NEW AT THE ZOO!
- LEAPING LEMURS!
- KID'S ZONE
- STAFF SPOTLIGHT

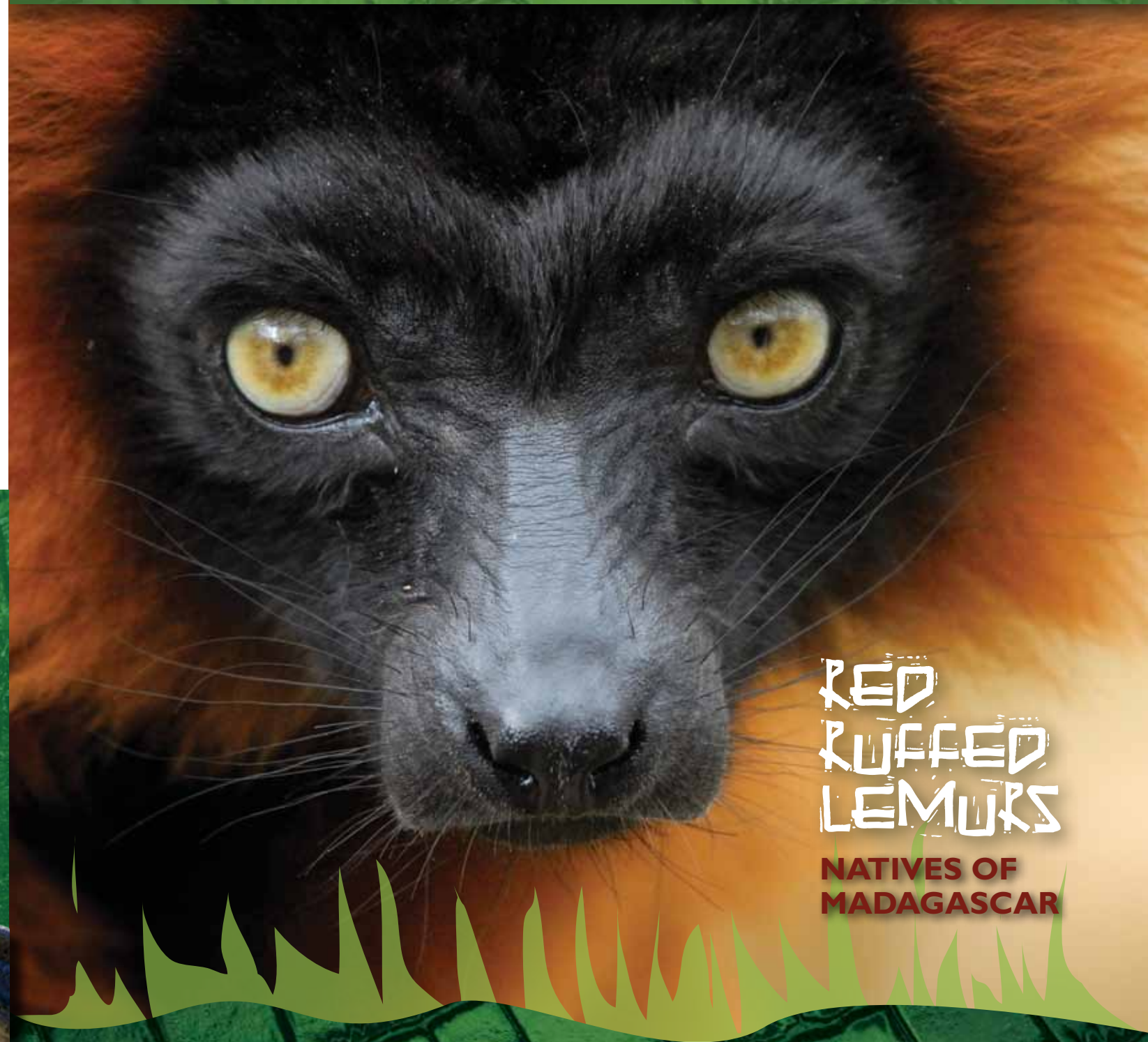


PRSRT STD
 US POSTAGE PAID
 ST. AUGUSTINE, FL
 PERMIT NO 40

THE INVESTIGATOR

SUMMER 2011

St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park Membership Newsletter



RED
 RUFFED
 LEMURS

NATIVES OF
 MADAGASCAR

Maximo is turning

40!

Come celebrate our large saltwater crocodile
 Maximo's 40th birthday all summer long with us!

Maximo, his girlfriend, Sydney, and some of their babies are currently on display enjoying their newly renovated exhibit. How can you join in the fun? Watch Maximo and Sydney jump to new heights in our feeding demonstrations, or take "Flat Maximo" wherever you go this summer and enter your favorite photos in to the contest to win great prizes! The celebration begins with feeding shows in May, partying throughout the summer and ending with a huge bash in October. Make sure you get to the St. Augustine Alligator Farm this summer to wish Maximo a Happy 40th Birthday!!



From the Director

John Brueggen • Director

Fun, new, big changes at the St. Augustine Alligator Farm! I'm not even sure what to start with. How about the fact that the Roseate Spoonbills that nested in our rookery last year were not just a fluke! At least seven pairs are nesting this year! And if you haven't seen, and heard, our new Red-ruffed Lemurs, you are missing out. They look like four of the cuddliest primates ever! They have settled in very well, and seem to enjoy watching the people playing above them on our new ropes course and zip lines. Crocodile Crossing is open to the public and has been a resounding success. If you are an adrenaline junky, then this is the adventure for you.

And next time you are here, don't forget to check out Maximo and Sydney's new home. Maximo turns 40 this year. To celebrate we created a new feed platform, painted the inside walls to look more like "home", and put some of Maximo and Sydney's babies on display down in the Underwater Viewing area. In addition, you can go to our website and

download Flat Maximo and enter our contest to see who can take a picture with Flat Maximo in the furthest location or with the coolest celebrity.

For those of you that live locally that are curious about the frogs and reptiles in your backyard, we have opened up a new exhibit highlighting Florida's native reptiles and amphibians. This coincides with the local FrogWatch chapter that we have started to help you learn how to identify frogs by their calls and help scientist know which frogs live in our area.

"We think the park looks better than it has in its 118 year history and we can't wait to share it with you!"

Learn more about what we are doing by checking out our website, following our new Rookery Blog, or following us on Facebook. We think the park looks better than it has in its 118 year history and we can't wait to share it with you! Don't forget to join us for St. Augustine Alligator Farm Day, May 20. This holiday was proclaimed by the Mayor in 1993!



THE INVESTIGATOR

VOLUME 3 • NUMBER 2 • SUMMER 2011

ZOO HOURS & RATES OPEN 365 DAYS A YEAR!

9AM - 5PM
Extended hours from Memorial Day
to Labor Day - Open till 6PM

HOW TO REACH US

General Information 904/824-3337
Membership ext. 10
Gift Shop ext. 14
Education ext. 29
Group Sales & Rentals ext. 10
Rookery Updates ext. 23
Reptile Department ext. 15
Bird & Mammal Department ext. 16

ZOO MEMBERS

General Public

- Adults \$21.95
- Children \$10.95 (ages 3-11)
- Children age 2 & under are admitted free
- Discounts available for locals, military, AAA, seniors and groups

Zoo Members • FREE Admission

CONTRIBUTORS

Editor & Curator of Education Katie Girvin
Director John Brueggen
Editorial Web Intern Lauren Belcher
Keeper II – Reptile Jen Walkowich

Newsletter Design Hybrid Design, Inc.

MISSION STATEMENT

To maintain the highest standards of zoological professionalism as it promotes wildlife conservation and education. Furthermore, the Alligator Farm is committed to promoting the appreciation of all animal and plant life, but specifically the living species of crocodilians and other animals in its collection.



What's New At the Z



Armored Addition

Ms. Pickles, a Nine-banded Armadillo has joined the education department animal collection! Nine-banded Armadillos are solitary animals that are mostly nocturnal. In the wild, armadillos eat ants, termites and other small invertebrates while here at

the zoo, Ms. Pickles dines on insectivore pellet, mealworms and crickets. Armadillos have a hard shell that covers their backs and sides. The underside has thick skin covered with coarse hair. Unlike the Three-banded Armadillo, Nine-bands cannot roll into a ball to protect themselves. Instead, they can jump 3 – 4 feet straight up into the air. This often presents a problem for them when they cross roads. Although Ms. Pickles will not be on display, Zoo Campers are sure to have fun visiting with her!



Cape Griffon Vulture Chick

The Bird & Mammal Department is proud to announce the significant hatching of a Cape griffon vulture chick on March 8th. Both parents are caring for the chick, which is growing exponentially on a healthy diet of skinned and chopped rats. Since this species is considered "Threatened" in its native habitat of southern Africa, this hatch will aid in building a stable captive population within North America.



LEAPING LEMURS!

By: Lauren Belcher, Intern



The lemurs are here!

The lemurs are here! On March 7, 2011, the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park welcomed four sibling Red-ruffed lemurs, *Varecia rubra*, into their new exhibit. The new group includes Levi, Junior, Eli and their sister Morticia.

The siblings were born on April 19, 2009 at Jackson Zoological Park in Mississippi. This species of lemur is endangered and considered to be a “flagship species.” Flagship species, like the Giant panda, are well-known animals whose presence creates a greater awareness in the public for preservation and protection of their population and habitats. In order to improve the conservation efforts of certain flagship species, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) established Species Survival Plans, or SSPs.

The SSP Programs are responsible for developing a Breeding and Transfer Plan, which ensures the sustainability of a healthy, genetically diverse population. Because of this plan, the Ruffed lemur SSP recommended that the Jackson Zoo loan the lemurs to our zoo. The lemurs are housed in what used to be the Spider monkey exhibit, which has been vacant since October.

The exhibit used to house long-term residents Linda and Charlie. But, after Linda’s passing in late May and Charlie’s transfer to the Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation animal sanctuary in Texas, the exhibit was left empty for the first time since its construction.

In order to prepare for the arrival of the lemurs, the Alligator Farm had to revamp the existing exhibit. Originally, we wanted to dig up

the concrete floors, but after finding five feet of concrete and welded wires, we decided to just give the floors a new coat of stain. One section of concrete was removed in order to plant a large palm tree within the enclosure. Since Florida weather is tough on outdoor structures, some of the older wooden platforms were restored with new cedar planking, and additional platforms were added. Thick braided ropes and large, swinging tree limbs were hung from the roof for exercise. Lastly, the indoor shelter was modified for four lemurs instead of just two spider monkeys. Future plans include renovation of the public boardwalk surrounding the front of the enclosure and the planting of additional palm trees.

In the wild, lemurs are indigenous to the island of Madagascar, Africa. As an island species, they are already at risk since they cannot vacate the island and adapt to a new region. This risk, combined with hunting and deforestation may eventually lead to their extinction.

“As an island species, they are already at risk since they cannot vacate the island and adapt to a new region.”



Red-ruffed lemurs are the largest members in the Lemuridae family. They have a long slender body and a long bushy black tail. They get their name from the woolly, chestnut-colored fur that covers their ears and most of their body. Their face is very narrow and comes to a point like a snout.

Their diet is typically a variety of fruits, leaves, nectar and seeds. Because of this fruit-filled diet, these lemurs live in the canopies of trees, where their predators are fewer. If threatened by a predator, the lemurs have an interesting way of scaring them off and alerting other lemurs in the area. They communicate through 12 distinct calls, one of which is as loud as a car alarm! This cackle-like roar is hard to miss and is understood by all other ruffed lemurs.

Looks like the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park just got a little bit noisier!





Across

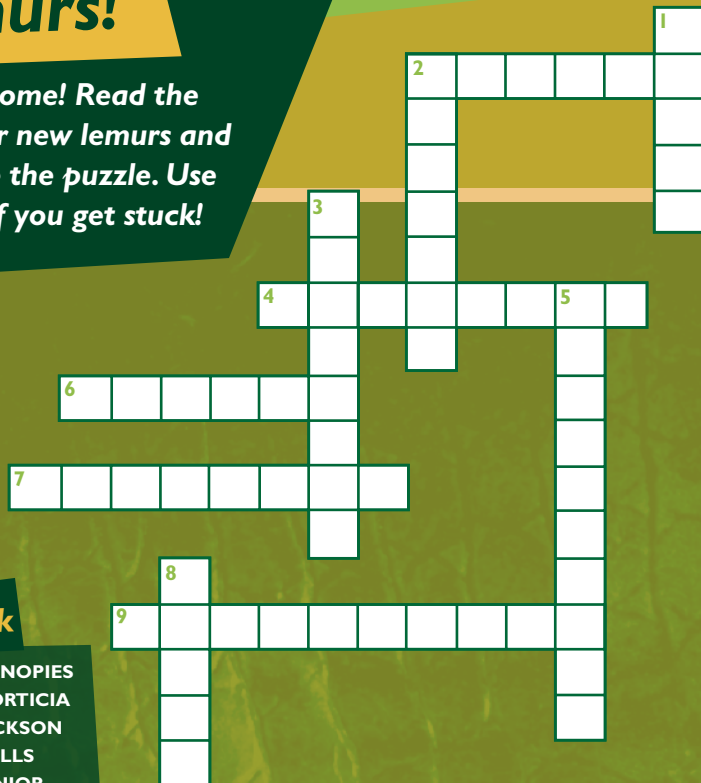
- 2. A brother lemur's name.
- 4. Lemurs like to live in the _____ of trees.
- 6. Another thing that lemurs eat.
- 7. The sister lemur's name.
- 9. Lemurs in the wild live here.

Down

- 1. Lemurs like to eat this.
- 2. The zoo that our lemurs came from.
- 3. Lemurs are a _____ species.
- 5. There are not many lemurs left.
This is called _____.
- 8. Lemurs communicate with _____.

Lemurs!

Lemurs are awesome! Read the article about our new lemurs and then try to solve the puzzle. Use the word bank if you get stuck!



Word Bank

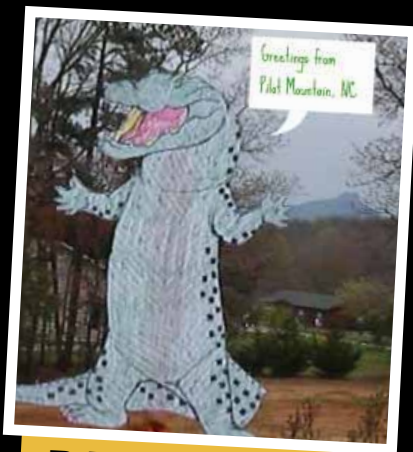
- FRUIT
ENDANGERED
MADAGASCAR
FLAGSHIP
LEAVES
- CANOPIES
MORTICIA
JACKSON
CALLS
JUNIOR

Flat Maximo Contest!

Last issue we announced our Flat Maximo Contest! These are some entries that we have already received. The contest is open to **EVERYONE** and you can enter as many photos as you like! Entering is easy. Just print out your Flat Maximo at www.alligatorfarm.com and get shooting!



Richie
Philadelphia
Airport



Pilot Mountain,
North Carolina



Amelia &
Ruben
South Haven
Pier, MI

SUMMER ZOO CAMPS!

REGISTER ONLINE @ ALLIGATORFARM.COM

ALL CAMPS include zoo tours, hands-on animal presentations, keeper talks, shows, crafts, games, themed activities and FUN, FUN, FUN! Summer Camp is open for students entering 1st through 6th grade. Morning sessions include a camp t-shirt and afternoon camps include a camp visor.

SUMMER CAMPS INCLUDE:

- BIRD NERDS
- FEASTS FOR THE BEASTS
- PRESTO CHANGE-O
- ZOONEY TUNES
- JUNIOR ZOOKEEPERS
- OUTBACK ADVENTURE
- ZOO DUNNIT
- HIDE & SNAKE

UP COMING ED•ZOO•CATION	
MAY	
Parents Night Out	May 13
JUNE	
Parents Night Out	June 3
Zoo Camp	
• Bird Nerds	June 20 - 24
• Feasts for the Beasts	June 20 - 24
• Presto Change-o	June 27 - July 1
• Zooney Tunes	June 27 - July 1
JULY	
Zoo Camp	
• Junior Zookeepers	July 4 - 8
• Outback Adventure	July 4 - 8
• Zoo Dunnit	July 11 - 15
• Hide & Snake	July 11 - 15
• Feasts for the Beasts	July 18 - 22
• Bird Nerds	July 18 - 22
• Zooney Tunes	July 25 - 29
• Presto Change-o	July 25 - 29

FOR MORE INFO:
CONTACT KATIE @
(904)824-3337 EXT 29
KGIRVIN@ALLIGATORFARM.COM

COST PER WEEKLY SESSION:
\$120/MEMBER
\$140/NON-MEMBER

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Meet Scott Brown. He has joined the Alligator Farm family as the Crocodile Crossing manager. Scott is originally from Jackson, Michigan. Fresh out of high school, Scott traveled to Germany,

Korea, Honduras, and Nicaragua as a member of the US Army. Scott was working as the Head Carpenter for Acrobranch (company that built the zip line course) when he was hired on here at the Alligator Farm. His wife, Deana, his son Steven, and his two cats moved here to St Augustine from Eustis, Florida. One of Scott's favorite parts about working here was the warm welcome he received from the rest of the staff. He also loves the Pygmy Marmoset (not currently on display) and getting to see and learn about the rest of the animals on a daily basis.

QUESTIONS?

Have questions about any of our educational programs? Please call our education department at (904) 824-3337 ext 29 or email at kgirvin@alligatorfarm.com!