Friends of the Pana’ewa Zoo

Inside the Work of Charlene Lofgreen

Our zoo is remarkable. It showcases a variety of animals as well as a botanical garden. There is even a playground for the kiddos. You might say it is a boutique zoo - small, but mighty. There is another reason to visit the zoo. From the moment you reach the entrance to the zoo, the artwork of Charlene Lofgreen appears. There are her richly colored murals painted throughout the zoo, but it is the many benches created by Charlene that draw visitors to marvel at the realism she depicts of the zoo’s fauna and flora.

Back when the lava flow was licking the outskirts of Pahoa, I had the opportunity to visit Charlene at her studio in the homestead land by Pahoa.

She begins with a sketch. She gathers found objects to create the base of the bench. In the case of the spider monkeys, she used an old ironing board and 2 metal chairs. Chicken wire is used to shape the bench. Then she applies thinset mortar and paper tape to add the “meat” to the work. Once this is done, she adds the paint and sealant.

I have simplified the procedure, but each bench she creates is truly a one-of-a-kind masterpiece.

Dawn Garlich
Editor
What’s New in the Zoo

Frogs, Frogs and more Frogs! Blue, yellow, orange, green and all the colors in-between! Our new frog collection is simply amazing in the variety of patterns and colors they display. Can you guess from looking at these photos which one is the Bumblebee dart frog (Dendrobates leucomelas) and which is the Red-eyed tree frog (Agalychnis callidryas)?

Unfortunately, if you’re trying to find the Red-eyed tree frogs during the day, it’s kind of an exercise in finding Waldo! They camouflage themselves on the leaves in the exhibit by tucking their limbs in underneath their bodies and closing their eyes. See the mirror image of two Red-eyed tree frogs on each side of a single leaf on page one. You can barely tell they’re frogs!

Meet our new Aldabra tortoise “Darwin”. On December 15, 2016, Darwin took several long flights from Cincin- nati, Ohio to Hilo, Hawaii to become our newest zoo resident. This beautiful exotic tortoise was generously donated to Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo & Gardens by Berell McClellan. The Aldabra tortoise is native to the Aldabra Atolls in the Seychelles northeast of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean. They are one of the largest tortoises in the world next to the Galapagos tortoise and have a lifespan well over 100 years. At 20 pounds and 5 years young, Darwin has lots of room and time to grow here at the zoo.

Darwin is still taking time to get acclimated to our Hilo weather, but with temperatures dropping to record lows at night, he is not always on exhibit in the zoo. He is brought in under heat lamps and shelter to keep him warm and dry during this adjustment period at night and also if the days are cold and wet.

Our Emus decided to surprise us with an amazing first clutch of avocado like eggs! The first egg (weighing in at .915 pounds) was discovered on November 23, 2016 and a new egg appeared every few days until the last of 14 eggs (weighing in at 1.22 pounds) was laid on January 14, 2017. These eggs were not fertile, but they varied in color, texture and weight over the 7 ½ weeks eggs were randomly laid in the Emu yard.

Spring is around the corner and with it those April showers and lots of beautiful flowers. Please come by and visit us soon.

Pam Mizuno
Zoo Director

Frog photos courtesy of Zoo Keepers Kyle and Linda.
Come Play and Feed the Guinea Pigs at the Petting Zoo on Saturdays

Did you ever wonder what Guinea pigs like to eat? We know that they love fruit and their guinea pig food. But they also like to munch on their Guinea Pig Grass during Zoo Day, Saturday.

We have a variety of Guinea Pigs. Cleopatra and Mark Antony are the proud parents of Chip & Dale. Although brothers, Chip has short fur and Dale has long fur, like his dad.

Our newest members to our Guinea Pig family are 3 curly haired brothers: Larry, Moe and Curly.

Our Guinea Pigs do like to play. If you ask nicely, Vickie, Julia or I will give you some grass to feed these cute animals. Sometimes they will play Tug 'O War with you. The guinea pigs have pretty strong jaws for such little creatures.

The purpose of eating the grass is for the teeth to stay short. If the guinea pig does not grind its teeth, the teeth would grow like your nails. What a funny sight that would be.

So, come to the Petting Zoo on Saturdays between 1:30 and 2:30. Stop by the guinea pigs and ask, "May I please feed the Guinea Pig some of that delicious grass?"

If you ask nicely, then the answer is YES......the grass we give to you. We know that grass is safe for our cute bundles of fur.

Barbara Walsh
Volunteer

Caught Having Fun!

Jayden, Kailee, Braxton and Jaelynn Cortez enjoying the reptile bench created by Charlene Lofgreen.
The Animal Enrichment Team prepared special treats for the animals at the zoo this past holiday season. Some animals get toys and others get special food items.

The monkeys get their treats and toys in wrapped packages, which they quickly tear open to see what is inside. Tigers just like to tear their boxes apart. All the animals get some kind of treat.

Favorite food treats include watermelon, sweet potato and corn on the cob. We consult with the zoo staff to make sure each animal receives appropriate food.

It is a fun day for the animals, volunteers and the public.

Above: Spider Monkey enjoying a banana. Right: Lemur enjoying a box of raisins.

Tzatziki playing with his box.
The Face Behind Our Facebook Page

Shirley Howard loves anything that has to do with books. She once owned her own used bookstore. She volunteers with Friends of the Library. She reads a real book rather than a Kindle. So it shouldn’t be a surprise that she is so good with posting to the Friends of the Zoo Facebook page.

Shirley has lived in Hawaii since 1979 and in East Hawaii since about 1989, when she first came to our First Petting Zoo with her son. She visited the Zoo intermittently for the next two decades but it wasn’t until she took the 2009 docent training class that she got really interested in learning more about the animals that called Pan'a'ewa Zoo home. Since then she has been an active member of the Animal Enrichment Team and the Petting Zoo staff. She has fostered three Nigerian Dwarf goats from newborns to 2 months, when they were weaned. She has a menagerie at her home, with a dog, two cats, a number of ducks and chickens, all of them rescue animals or individuals that wandered on to her 3 acre house site.

Almost every day Shirley adds a new post to our Facebook page. In addition to fun videos and photos of the zoo’s stars she regularly post a lengthier informational photo about other inhabitants including the name of the animal, it’s native habitat, its food preferences and its endangered status so that those interested will know more about the creatures in our jewel of a zoo. She also lets us know the animal’s given name, such as Spunky the Colobus Monkey, Jake the Snake, and Lilo and Stitch, our American Alligators. Another Zoo Super Volunteer, Barbara Thomason, about whom we will learn in a future story, suggested that Shirley might enjoy working on our Facebook page. Shirley agreed to try and has been posting since January 2016.

We are so lucky to have such a dedicated Facebook person in Shirley Howard. We thank her for her continued interest in posting photos and stories about our animals. She says it is a labor of love. That love really shows through in her work on our Face Page. Thank you so much Shirley for taking care of another Book for us!

Pat Engelhard
FOZ President

Plant Sale

Friends of the Zoo’s annual plant sale is Sunday April 30 from 8:00 to 2:00. It will be in the Equestrian Center parking lot at the entrance to the zoo. Plant vendors will be offering a variety of plants. Please come by and support local growers and the zoo.

Plant vendors will be offering many varieties including bamboo, vireyas, palms, daylilies, orchids, herbs, water plants, fruit trees and lots more.

Interested in participating? Contact Barbara Thomason at 933-9694.

Ways to Help

Amazon Smile: FOZ is now included in the charities able to participate in Amazon Smile. When a customer chooses us we will receive .5% of their order. Use the following link and send it to your friends: http://smile.amazon.com/ch/99-0248039.

Recycling: Designate FOZ as the beneficiary when you recycle your HI-5 items at The Arc of Hilo, Mr. K's Recycle and Atlas Recycling Centers.

Adopt any animal at the Zoo for a year. For a donation of $25 you receive: adoption certificate, fact sheet and photo of your "adoptee."
The Chinese Year of the Rooster

We thought we’d celebrate the Chinese Year of the Rooster by showcasing a couple roosters that reside at our zoo. Below is an image of Zorro. He is a Silkie (sometimes spelled Silky) is a breed of chicken named for its atypically fluffy plumage, which is said to feel like silk and satin. The breed has several other unusual qualities, such as black skin and bones, blue earlobes, and five toes on each foot, whereas most chickens only have four.

The handsome fellow above is Brad Pitt. He is a Serama rooster, also called the Malaysian Serama. The breed is in the bantam category and these are among the smallest chickens. They are characterized by their upright posture, full breast, vertical tail feathers held upright and tight up to the body and vertical wings held down nearly touching the ground.

A Plethora of Palms Abound at the Zoo

The Hawaii Island Palm Society has close to 150 different palms at the zoo. When you visit the zoo, be sure to check the door of the gift shop for a guide to the palms. Included is a numbered location map with the palms listed in numerical and alphabetical order, as well as by common name.