

NALZS NEWS

Summer 2022

North Alabama Zoological Society
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NALZS.org

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*Above and below: Scenes from
our 2022 "Be a Little Wild"
Nature Camps*

NALZS Happenings

Wondering what the North Alabama Zoological Society has been up to? Here's a rundown of recent NALZS happenings.

NALZS Reads and Nature Camps

NALZS has had a great time hosting summer reading events. We've made stops in area libraries throughout Madison and Limestone Counties in Alabama, as well as in Giles County, Tennessee. During these visits, kids have gotten to listen to book readings, spend time with Twickenham the tortoise, and make crafts like animal-shaped masks. We appreciate everyone who's come out to the NALZS Reads events!

Summer is also nature camp season at NALZS, and this year's four day camps were full of fun and hands-on learning. We hosted one camp alongside the Land Trust of North Alabama.

Learn more in our EdZOOcation News section!



Collins Aerospace Donation

NALZS couldn't be more grateful for the recent \$17,000 gift from Collins Aerospace. Tom von Eschenbach, Col-

lins' program management director, presented the check during this year's final summer camp session. We're putting \$12,000 toward our education programs, including scholarships for camps, plus equipment such as LED microscopes. The rest of the money is being used for our day-to-day operations.

A Note From the Executive Director



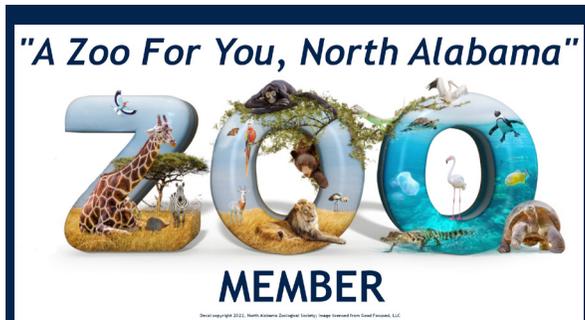
I hope everyone has been keeping cool and having fun this summer. The North Alabama Zoological Society has enjoyed spending time with you all over the past few months, especially at our “Be a Little Wild” Nature Camps and library reading events.

I’d like to take a moment to address the recent reports about our proposed zoo property going off the market. Despite what some headlines have suggested, Lansing Companies and other prospective developers still have our zoo in their long-term plans. That means we remain in play for the proposed zoo site, and even if we’re not able to purchase that portion of the property, we’ve identified great backup locations to pursue.

Bringing a zoo and aquarium to North Alabama is a big project, and big projects like this have hiccups from time to time. But we are meeting these challenges and making progress. In fact, we had productive and successful meetings this past spring with the State and many members of our legislative delegation. We also want to assure you that contributions toward the goal of obtaining the zoo property are being securely held in an account designated solely for that purpose.

NALZS continues to move forward as planned, and we remain committed to “A Zoo For You, North Alabama!” We appreciate all your support.

Ethan Woodruff
Executive Director



Join the Club!

Sign up for our NALZS Palz membership program, and you’ll receive a variety of perks and gifts, including the nifty decal shown above.

Individual memberships start at \$250 and are available for just \$25 a month. Learn more at NALZS.org/nalzspalz

ConZOOvation News

Want to know what’s happening with the NALZS Conservation Team? Keep reading!

FrogWatch

The conservation team has relaunched our [FrogWatch USA](#) program and is in need of volunteers! FrogWatch is a research-based conservation program that helps track the environmental health of our local communities through amphibian indicator species. Volunteers can attend a training event on August 26, September 12, or October 13, and can work at one of the 10 monitoring locations throughout Madison County. Visit the NALZS website or Facebook page to regis-

ter for training and join the FrogWatch team.

Fall Aquatic Cleanup

In support of local amphibians, reptiles, and aquatic animals, we will be holding a cleanup event in conjunction with the City of Huntsville’s Green Team. Cleanup events will take place throughout the year to promote environmental awareness of our aquatic communities. The date and location will be posted to the NALZS website and social media accounts.

Bats!

Stay tuned for exciting developments from the conservation team on a new bat conservation program.

EdZOOcation News

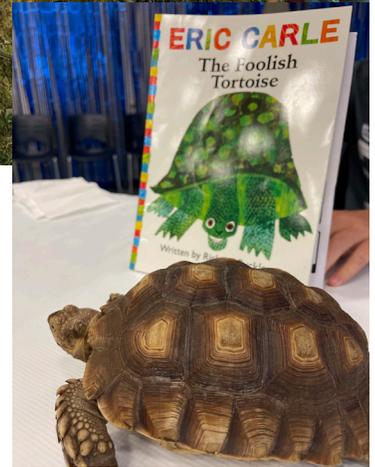
Summer 2022 has been a busy one for the NALZS Education Team! This year we held four camps for children ages 6-14 years old. “Be a Little Wild” 2022 had 65 campers, 10 of the best youth camp counselors, and five great staff leads.

At our camps for 8-11-year-olds, we were able to build and hang both kestrel and owl boxes, construct shoebox animal habitats, learn about animal classification, explore Limestone Creek, make pollinator paper, and dissect owl pellets. Our little guys (6-7 years old) learned about life cycles, explored the creek, played tag “prey vs. predator” style, and made slime. We also held a Bio-Quest camp for 12-14-year-olds in partnership with the Land Trust of North Alabama. During that camp, we explored Limestone Creek in two different locations, and compared and contrasted both the macro- and microorganisms; learned the distinction between restoration, conservation, and preservation; and studied biology at new levels.

A huge thank you goes out to our Visionary Sponsor, Collins Aerospace, and our Explorer Sponsors: Rogers Group Inc., the Kiwanis Club of Decatur, and Walmart. NALZS would also like to thank David Stefaniak of Athens Kona Ice for helping us stay cool in the Alabama heat.



Above: NALZS summer camp participants explore nature; Right: Tortoise mascot Twickenham sits beside the book NALZS read at local libraries



When we weren't at the camps, NALZS Education could be found in local libraries as part of our NALZS Reads programming. Our mascot Twickenham made many new friends, as he was part of the support staff for “The Foolish Tortoise,” the Eric Carle book we read to kids. We loved being part of the summer reading series through the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library and Athens-Limestone County Public Library.

Looking ahead, our Junior Zoological Society is gearing up for another great school year. We are excited to welcome the new chapters!

Did You Know?

You can support NALZS by shopping at Kroger and Amazon! Scan the codes below to get started with Kroger Community Rewards and AmazonSmile, and help us reach our goal of getting 30% more subscribers. Best of all, it's free to sign up!



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nalzs.org/ClaimYourSpot



Board Member Highlight

Jennifer Graham, DVM, DABVP, DACZM; NALZS Advisory Board Member

Why did you get involved with this organization?

I am a veterinarian who is a board-certified specialist in zoological medicine and am thrilled about the potential for a zoo in Huntsville. I grew up in the area and am excited to help make this dream a reality! I have been practicing [veterinary] medicine at specialty clinics for over 20 years and ran the ex-



I enjoy fly-fishing (although I rarely catch anything), hiking, and camping. Since moving back to Huntsville earlier this year I have taken up gardening. I have a very large garden and spend a lot of my free time on outdoor projects. I also enjoy lecturing nationally and internationally to veterinarians on various zoological companion animal topics.

otics program at Tufts University from 2012-2022. I have been fortunate to work with multiple zoos over the years and feel I have a lot of knowledge I can contribute to NALZS.

How do you like to spend your time outside of NALZS?

What is your favorite animal, and why?

Unicorns – because I apparently never grew out of my childhood obsession! In veterinary practice I have a special love for working with rabbits and chickens.

Upcoming Events

Visit NALZS.org and our social media pages to see the latest event info

- **Virtual Volunteer Orientations:** August 18 from 8-9 pm, October 22 from 9-10 am
- **FrogWatch Trainings:** August 26, September 12, October 13
- **Zoo Habitat Contest:** August 27 and September 17 from 10-11 am at the Madison Public Library
- **Scarecrow Trail:** September 3-October 31 at the Huntsville Botanical Garden
- **Fundraising Night:** September 20 at Original Valentina's Pizzeria & Wine Bar in Madison
- **Madison Street Festival:** October 1 in Madison
- **STEAMfest:** October 29 at the Von Braun Center in Huntsville

Volunteer Highlight

Olivia Conville, NALZS Volunteer and Youth Camp Counselor

Photo by Amy Conville Photography



Why did you decide to be a NALZS camp counselor?

I decided to be a NALZS camp counselor because I wanted to teach kids about the importance of conservation. I also wanted to teach them about the roles of animals and how important they are not only in the animal kingdom, but in the human world, as well.

How do you like to spend your time outside of NALZS?

Outside of NALZS I love to spend time with my family, friends, and pets. I love horseback riding, traveling, attending church, and being involved in anything that has to do with animals.

What is your favorite animal, and why?

I love all animals and I've always had trouble picking my favorite one, but if I had to pick it would be a dog. I might be biased because I have two of them, but they're my favorite animal because they are so loyal, intelligent, kind, and they will love you unconditionally. They can easily become your best friend, and you will become theirs, too.

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Join the NALZS Zoo Crew!

We're looking for volunteers to help out with fundraising, projects, events, and more.

Learn about our volunteer opportunities at NALZS.org/volunteer

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