



**BLANK PARK**  
IOWA'S WILDEST ADVENTURE

**Blank Park Zoo Foundation**

7401 SW 9th Street | Des Moines, IA 50315

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DES MOINES, IA  
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## Be a part of the adventure!

Ever wondered what it takes to run a Blank Park Zoo event like Night Eyes? No matter the event, big or small, we couldn't do it without the help of our volunteers.

Join us in the fun! The Zoo is looking for volunteers to help at Zoo events—from Adventure Days to Night Eyes to Santa at the Zoo, there's an event for you! For more information and to get involved, email [events@blankparkzoo.org](mailto:events@blankparkzoo.org).

### Get Social With Us!

 [www.twitter.com/blankparkzoo](http://www.twitter.com/blankparkzoo)  
 [www.facebook.com/blankparkzoo](http://www.facebook.com/blankparkzoo)  
 [www.youtube.com/blankparkzoo](http://www.youtube.com/blankparkzoo)

The mission of the Blank Park Zoo is to inspire an appreciation of the natural world through conservation, education and recreation.

# Zoo Tracks

## Night Eyes

Your Sweet Halloween Adventure



You're invited to Blank Park Zoo's biggest fundraiser and the sweetest event in central Iowa...Night Eyes! Trick or treat through the Zoo as it is transformed into a world of lights, castles, storybook characters and fun! This merry, not scary, event returns to Blank Park Zoo from Oct. 20-23 and 27-30 to celebrate our 21st year.

Children and adults are invited to dress in their favorite costumes and trick-or-treat throughout the Zoo. Where else in Des Moines can you enjoy Halloween festivities among the gibbons, giraffe and goats? Join us for this sweet adventure! Find more details on Night Eyes on page 3.



## Uptown Hoedown

Goes Down Under

Put your boots and cowboy hats on as Blank Park Zoo's Uptown Hoedown takes you on a wild adventure to the land down under! Your Zoo passport will take you on an Australian walkabout that is sure to be a rip-roaring good time, all while you enjoy cocktails, great food by Johnny's Italian Steakhouse, entertainment from Brian Congdon and Pianopalooza and our fantastic Zoo family.

It is with sincere hearts that we honor the Kruidenier Family at this year's Hoedown for their generous support that has made the Zoo what it is today. Funds from the Uptown Hoedown go to support the educational programs at the Zoo as well as animal training, veterinary care and general operations related to managing our extensive animal collection. Join us for a gala like you've never seen before!

Uptown Hoedown  
Friday, Sept. 16  
5:30 p.m.

### TICKETS

\$65/member  
\$75/non-member  
\$150/VIP ticket

For more event information or to purchase your tickets, call 515.974.2584 or visit [www.blankparkzoo.com](http://www.blankparkzoo.com).

If you or someone you know would like to be involved with, or volunteer at, the Hoedown, please email [events@blankparkzoo.org](mailto:events@blankparkzoo.org).

## Night Eyes 2011!

### DATES

October 20-23 & 27-30, 2011

### HOURS

Thursdays & Fridays  
5:30 to 8 p.m.  
Saturdays & Sundays\*  
1 to 8 p.m.

\*The Zoo is open from 1-8 p.m. on these Saturdays and Sundays.

### TICKETS

\$3 Pre-sale tickets\*  
\$4 Member Tickets  
\$5 Non-Member Tickets

\*Pre-sale tickets will go on sale Oct. 1. To purchase yours, visit [www.blankparkzoo.com](http://www.blankparkzoo.com) or any metro area Dahl's, Fareway or Hy-Vee stores. To get involved with or volunteer at this sweet tradition, please email [events@blankparkzoo.org](mailto:events@blankparkzoo.org).



## Member Benefit: *The Iowan*

Blank Park Zoo is excited to announce our newest member benefit: a fifty-percent discount to The Iowan magazine! Since 1952, The Iowan has celebrated the best of Iowa with beautiful photography and captivating stories about people, communities, history, art, travel, nature, events and more. Enjoy the people, the places, the stories, and the life! Receive six issues of The Iowan for the one-year discounted subscription price of \$14.95 (plus sales tax). Simply use the promotion code BPZOO when purchasing your subscription by calling toll free 877.899.9977.



## What can you do for the Zoo?

While being one of the longest-lived animals on the planet, the Aldabra tortoise was once figured as a prestigious gift because of its size and longevity. Characteristically slow and cautious, these incredible creatures are capable of reaching appreciable speeds, tend to outlive their human observers, and are known to leave a lasting impression.

As a member of the Blank Park Zoo's Aldabra Society, you too can leave a lasting impression that will outlive generations to come. To learn more about leaving Blank Park Zoo in your estate plans, call Emily at 515.974.2547.

# Chimpanzee Monitoring

## A Blank Park Zoo Conservation Project

Blank Park Zoo is committed to conservation. The Zoo's Conservation Committee supports organizations and projects around the world dedicated to the same conservation ideals. One of these projects is the Chimpanzee Sanctuary & Wildlife Conservation Trust (CSWCT). CSWCT was established to promote the understanding, appreciation and conservation of chimpanzees and their habitats. CSWCT runs Ngamba Chimpanzee Sanctuary, caring for over 45 orphaned chimps. In 2008, they began a field program based in Hoima, the western part of Uganda, which is focused on community development, education, research and monitoring as well as forest conservation and restoration.



As part of the research and monitoring, a community-based habitat monitoring system was formed, where 25 chimpanzee monitors carry out field activities involving wildlife nest census, mammal surveys and chimpanzee tracking in local forests as well as monitoring the forests for human-wildlife conflicts. These surveys are crucial for the protection of chimpanzee populations as well as other mammal species.

Now, imagine trying to protect these amazing creatures without the proper tools and equipment needed to do the job: scrounging for paper and a pencil to record their findings; trekking through the forest without proper footwear; no bicycle to quickly transport them to the edge of the forest.

The chimpanzees of Uganda are at constant risk of not only further habitat loss, but of poaching and capture for the illegal pet trade. These youth monitors play an important role in protecting the chimps and their remaining habitat and are paid only in the form of food for themselves and their immediate family.

You can help these chimpanzees survive and their protectors thrive by supporting these young monitors working on the front lines. Blank Park Zoo's Conservation Committee is holding a donation drive to collect supplies to ship to the sanctuary in Uganda. Many of the items are difficult to find in Uganda.

You can help! For more information on the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary please visit <http://pasaprimates.org/sanctuary/uganda> or contact Jessie Lowry at [jrlowry@blankparkzoo.org](mailto:jrlowry@blankparkzoo.org).



## » Support the Chimp Monitoring Project

### DONATE MATERIALS

- » Data collection supplies (notebooks, writing utensils, etc.)
- » DVD Players
- » Nature DVDs (for educational 'movie nights' about conservation)
- » Arts and crafts supplies for school conservation projects (paint brushes, tempura paint, pipe cleaners, crayons, construction paper, yarn, scissors, glue, etc.)

Please bring your donated items to the collection bin at Zoo admissions during regular business hours through Oct. 1, 2011.

### MAKE A MONETARY DONATION

Other necessary items like uniforms, boots and bicycles are expensive and need to be purchased locally in Uganda but require monetary donations to do so. Please make checks out to "Blank Park Zoo Foundation" and indicate "Chimp Monitoring Team" in the memo section. You can also make a donation by calling 515.974.2584. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.



## Supporter Snapshot

Carissa Schmidt and Family  
New Blank Park Zoo member

A recent blog post by Carissa drew our attention, and we had to know more about why she loves being a member. Her post, titled *Six Reasons We Love Our Zoo Pass*, can be found at [carissaschmidt.blogspot.com](http://carissaschmidt.blogspot.com).

*Pictured: Carissa and Andrew Schmidt, along with their children, Henry and Hannah.*

### Why are you a Blank Park Zoo member?

*We have two young children and are always looking for fun-filled family activities to keep them busy on the weekends. The Zoo Pass was a great cost-effective option for us to accomplish this. It pays for itself in just a couple of visits and we get to bring two guests with us each visit as well. The kids enjoy animals and love to be outside; they get to do both at the Zoo.*

### What do you enjoy the most about being a member?

*We don't have to stand in a long line to get in, we get early arrival admittance [weekends between Memorial and Labor Day], and we get discounts at the gift shop, restaurant and our son's favorite – the train ride! The best thing about being a member is that we can stop by for just an hour or two and don't feel obligated to spend the entire day at the Zoo if time or the weather doesn't allow it. We know that we will be back and can take it in pieces, and we can still get the kids home in time for their afternoon naps.*

### What is your favorite thing at the Zoo?

*Our favorite animals at the Zoo are the giraffes and gibbons. Our son's favorite part of the Zoo is the train ride and our daughter loves to watch her brother run around to all the sites.*

### Why is the Zoo important to the community?

*Zoos give children the chance to learn and study animals that aren't around us every day. Zoos connect children and animals and provide parents with great educational tools and teachable moments. [Blank Park Zoo] serves the community by providing an attraction for families visiting the area as well as the families that live in or near Des Moines.*

### What do you want to see in the future?

*We would like to see the Zoo expand its hours to open earlier in the morning. The animals seem to be more active earlier in the morning than during the warmer portions of the day. Also, just seeing the finished product of all of the projects that are currently taking place is something we are looking forward to.*

### Why will you renew your Zoo membership?

*We plan to renew our membership for years to come. The Zoo allows our children to explore and learn with animals. The most important thing is that it allows us to spend time together as a family. Trips to the Zoo have become a summer tradition with our family that we will look forward to each year.*



## Sniffing Around

Police Dogs Train at Blank Park Zoo

In April, Blank Park Zoo was presented with a plaque from Des Moines and West Des Moines Police K9 units “in appreciation and recognition for your continued support” for allowing them to use the Zoo’s facilities for their dog trainings.

Since 2008, after their old training area was affected by the floods, police K9 units have been using Blank Park Zoo’s facilities to hold their twice-monthly trainings. “It’s a great place to train,” said Officer Larry Gilmore, who helps lead the trainings, as well as the yearly certification, which was held at the end of July. Out of the view of the public between the Zoo administrative offices and the historic Fort Des Moines buildings, trainings test the police dogs in agility, apprehension, obedience and more. The dogs search boxes and buildings for a suspect, practice bite and hold techniques and follow verbal commands.

To follow the standards of the United States Police Canine Association, K9 units are required to do 16 hours of training a month and certify dogs annually. The Zoo enjoys hosting the police K9 units and being a resource for their trainings. “We love being out there; it’s a nice place to get out and work the dogs,” Gilmore said.



### WHY DO YOU DO THE ZOO?

The Zoo is collecting funny and memorable Zoo stories. Do you love feeding the giraffe? Enjoy getting up close to the dinosaurs? Tell us about your Zoo experience, and get entered for a chance to win half off your Zoo membership renewal (good for Zoo membership only).

Send your stories to [development@blankparkzoo.org](mailto:development@blankparkzoo.org) or to Blank Park Zoo Development, 7401 SW 9th, Des Moines, IA 50315.

## Thank You

We acknowledge and thank our top corporate partners!



## New To The Zoo



### NEW ANIMALS

- Cassowary
- Baby Penguin
- Pigs
- Kids Kingdom Frog

### NEW ZOO STAFF

- Penny Madsen – Retail Manager
- Travis Wickersham - Animal Keeper

## Zoo Jumble

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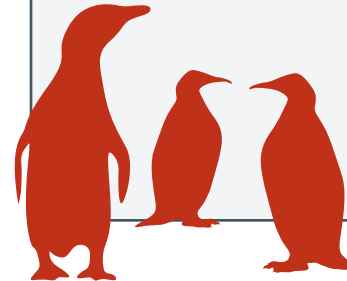
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### Can't get enough Zoo games?

Visit [www.blankparkzoo.com/games](http://www.blankparkzoo.com/games) and solve the riddle for your chance to win four Night Eyes passes! Or, play through your mobile phone by simply scanning our QR code (*Requires QR reader to be installed on your mobile device*).



Answer: kids kingdom, giraffe, Australia, lesser kudu, gibbon, snow leopard, great cats, cassowary, aquarium, flamingo