

Scientific Research



Elephants

We're analyzing fecal samples to see how the herd is responding to the introduction of Kosti and how it affects their stress level.

Giraffes

We're looking into if commercial pregnancy detection kits can be used to determine pregnancy in our hoofstock using saliva, blood, or fecal samples.



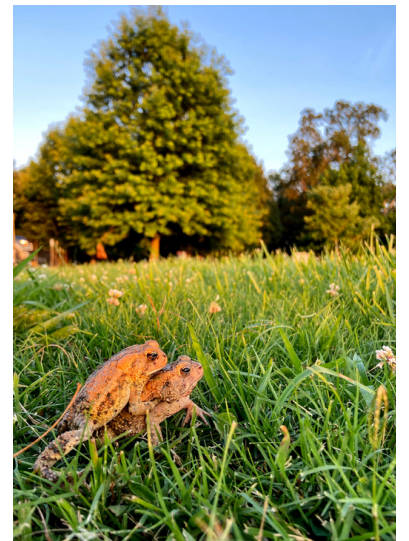
Turantula

We acquired two species of Brazilian tarantulas from import confiscations this summer and are working on semen collection, storage, and analysis techniques with our new residents.



Zoo-Museum Alliance

We're leading an effort to connect zoos with natural history museums across the US, since both our organizations are focused on animals and on conservation & education. See the [Washington Post article](#) highlighting this initiative!



Fowler's toads

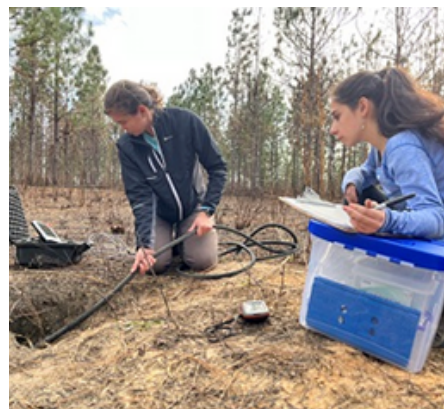
We're examining hereditary effects of adult stress in amphibians and seeing how it affects the growth, develop, and survival of captive-bred and released tadpoles out at Shelby Forest, where we use soft-release mesh cages so that we can monitor the tadpoles in natural ponds.

Conservation



Louisiana Pine Snakes

This year we have released 25 snakes into the wild (300+ snakes have been released in total since 2010!), bred 19 pairs naturally, performed artificial insemination on 6 females, and had 46 hatchlings (the largest number in Memphis in one year!). See [ZOO VIDEO](#) about LPS Release



Dusky Gopher Frogs

We've completed 6+ months of field monitoring of our captive-release population down in Mississippi (funded by the AZA Conservation Grant). See [ZOO VIDEO](#) about our frog work

Traning future conservationists

Rhodes College

- We have students receiving course credit for Academic Internships and Biological Research who are working on endocrine/physiology, science communication, husbandry, and computer science.

Arkansas State University

- Read the recent [ZOO BLOG](#) about Ph.D. student Jen Terry and her work with the turtles in Teton, China, and Herpetarium pond.

Community



Spreading the word

We're always happy to talk to people about the research going on at the zoo. In the past few months, we've given talks at: AZA Amphibian Tag, Zoo docent meetings, iDigBio's Digital Data Conference, U of TN Vet Medicine Club, and Swarthmore College's Conservation Biology Class.



Upcoming Event!



Frog Con (this Saturday)

- Allison Bogisich will be talking about our Amphibian Conservation work to an audience of frog enthusiasts. The talk will be live streamed online and is open to everyone!
 - Time: Sat 10/15 at 9am
 - Link: [here](#)