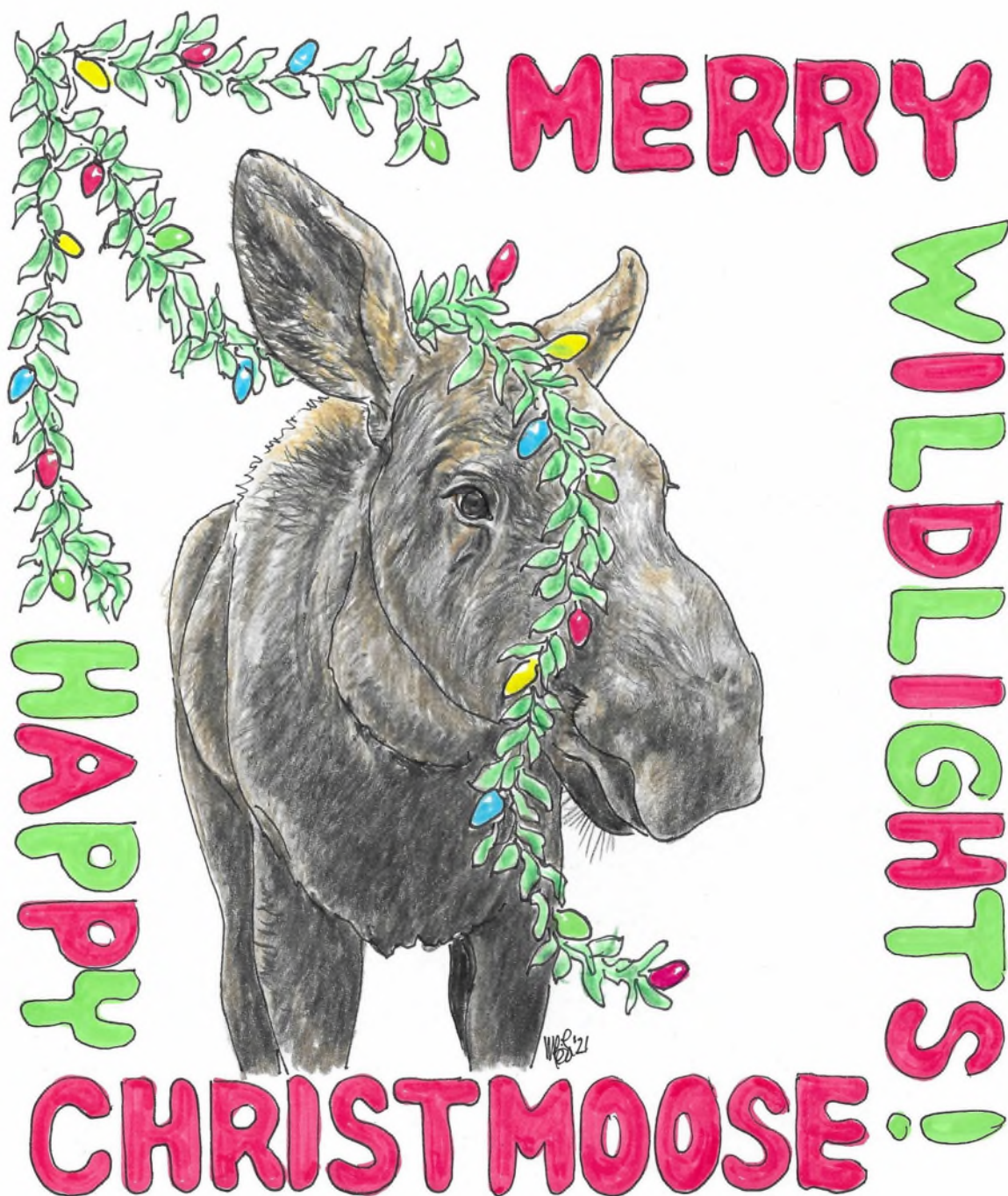


December 2021

The Columbus Zoo  
and Aquarium  
Volunteer Newsletter

# ZooNews





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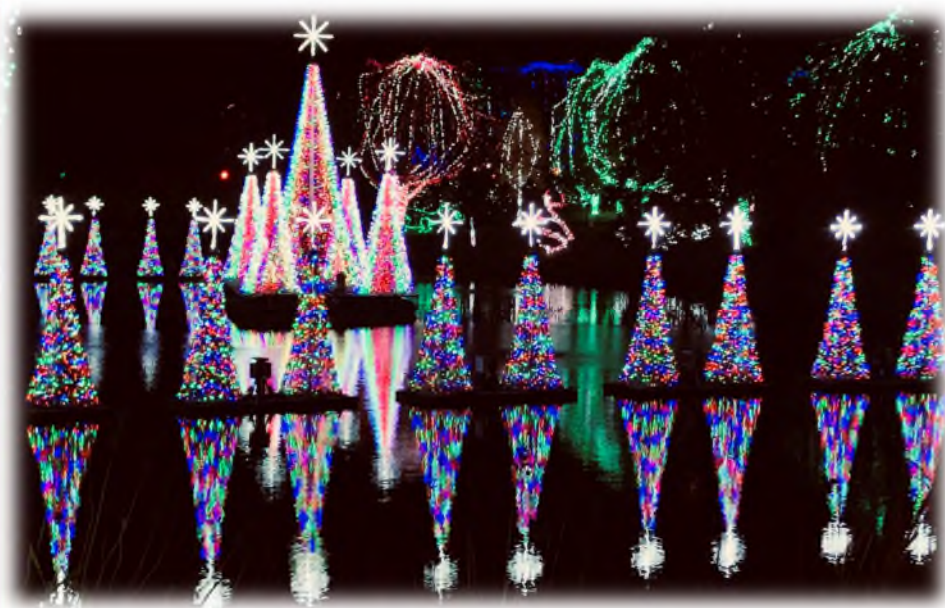
BARNEY WOLF

The mission of ZooNews is to promote awareness, education, preservation and conservation of our natural world.

To submit an article, please email us at: [cbuszooneews@gmail.com](mailto:cbuszooneews@gmail.com)

## this issue

|                                  |      |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Reflections from Jerry Borin     | 2    |
| Communiqué                       | 3    |
| Welcome Tom Schmid!              | 3    |
| 50 Years of Docenting            | 4-5  |
| Commitment to Conservation       | 6    |
| Moose Celebrate an Anniversary   | 7-8  |
| The Orangutan Building           | 9-11 |
| Happy Birthday!                  | 11   |
| No Cabin Fever for our Pinnipeds | 12   |
| 2021 Service Awards              | 13   |
| Thank You Contributors           | 14   |



## REFLECTIONS FROM JERRY BORIN



Hello, everyone. Thanks for your continued dedication and service. It was rewarding for me to reconnect with many volunteers and to meet many new individuals. Your skills and enthusiasm are so important to the success of the Zoo. Visitors often comment positively about their interactions with Zoo volunteers. You add so much to the guest experience.

The issues encountered in 2021 are mostly behind us. The appeal to AZA for a hearing on the accreditation decision is pending.

However, future opportunities are unfolding. New leadership is in place. The experience and character qualities of these individuals include honesty, integrity, professionalism, etc.

While there were several challenges, the staff and volunteers never wavered. Animal care, guest services and education programs combined made 2021 a very successful season.

As I step back from being Interim President and CEO, I strongly believe the Columbus Zoo will continue to be a leader in the global zoo community and will continue to provide the best visitor experiences.

Best to everyone,

Jerry Borin, Interim President/CEO

*"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give"*  
—Winston Churchill

*Jerry Borin photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones*



# Communiqué



2021 was a topsy-turvy year. We had some disappointments:

- The misuse of power by previous management
- The Conservation Game
- AZA Accreditation report
- The Delta Variant

We also had accomplishments we need to be proud of:

- Jerry Borin stepped in to lead us.
- The Zoo will end the year with almost 750,000 guests over budget (and nearly 1,000,000 guests over last year's attendance).
- Numerous healthy animal births
- We made it through five weekends of Boo at the Zoo!

Your dedication to the Zoo is evident and we are so thankful for your continued support. Through November, 873 people have volunteered and have accumulated 75,724 hours of service for an average of almost 87 hours per person. That is astonishing!



There are things to look forward to in 2022 as well:

- Tom Schmid, our new President and CEO will be here.
- Renovations to the Education Building
- Continuing Education will start again in mid-February via Zoom.
- Lorikeet Garden will open again.
- Fewer than five weekends of Boo at the Zoo!
- February 22<sup>nd</sup> falls on a Tuesday so it will be Tuesday, 2/22/22, which is just fun.

Thank you for all you do to help; we couldn't do it without you. Please know you are appreciated.

Happy holidays,

The Volunteer Team

## Welcome Tom Schmid!



*Tom Schmid—photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones*





# You've Come a Long Way.....

## 50 years of Docenting at the Zoo

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of docents "working" at the Zoo. Come travel back in time with me as we take a historical, maybe hysterical, look at what the Zoo and life were like in 1971.

### To Set the Scene

In 1971, Richard Nixon was in his first term as President, the Vietnam War was raging, gasoline costed a whopping \$0.36 cents a gallon and a woman couldn't get a credit card, regardless of education or income, without the approval of her husband.

### In the Beginning

The seed was planted in 1970 when Judy Birkey, a newcomer to Columbus, presented the idea for a volunteer organization to Zoo director Dr. James Savoy; she had worked in a similar organization at the San Francisco Zoo. Judy must have been persuasive, as the first docent training class was held in April 1971 with 25 charter members.

Women were what we were all about at the start. The first men, a very few initially, joined in the mid - 70's. The first male president of the organization didn't happen until 16 years later. The docent association did not become a part of the Education Department until 2012.

The earliest dress code required navy blue or black skirts, white blouses, red blazers and flat black shoes. It was amended to allow men to wear slacks when they joined. Women were allowed to wear slacks if working in what is now known as behind the scenes positions, but only "appropriate" slacks and no jeans.

Initially, our responsibility was giving tours to groups of school children. Tours were predetermined as to route and length, so we did not run into each other on the curvy paths, most of which weren't paved. Our duties quickly expanded to conducting puppet shows, riding on

the tour train, working in the gift shop, selling animal food at the Children's Zoo and marching in the kazoo band.



*Zoo Train, photo 1971*

Were we trendsetters? The creation of a docent program preceded:

- The erection of any animal buildings or regions on the east side of the Zoo. The first would be the pachyderm building, dedicated in 1975.
- The hiring of Jack Hanna as director by seven and a half years.
- Christmas with the Animals, a precursor to Wildlights, by five years.
- The creation of the Education and Photography Departments and Adopt an Animal program.

### The Zoo in 1971

It's hard to fathom what the Zoo looked like at this time.

- Delaware, Ohio was the closest "big city" to the Zoo. The 1970 census listed the population of Dublin at 681 and Powell at 374.
- Guests entered from Riverside Drive and parked where the gift shop and Zoombezi Bay are currently located.

*Continued on page 5*

- The Zoo entrance was at the east end of the "newly widened" tunnel under State Route 257. All animal habitats, called exhibits back then, were in the 30 acres now known as the west side.
- Children were charged \$0.25 admission for the first time. Adult admission was \$1.25.
- The Zoo was open seven days a week from April to November, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only during the colder months.
- The first Zoofari was held in June. The organizing committee cooked "for weeks and weeks" to prepare "safari snacks" and "cannibal canapés" such as elk sausage balls, venison ragout, bison bits, buffalo dolmas and elephant butter. The profits were to be used to purchase new animals.
- Toni, Colo's third child, was born late in the year. She was a "surprise," Dr Savoy stating staff did not know Colo was pregnant and would consult OSU obstetricians about her lack of symptoms. Toni was raised in the nursery like her brother and sister. She would go on to have seven children herself.
- The stern wheeler Scioto Belle began operating full time on the Scioto River.



Monkey A Frame, photo 1971

Just like today, a frequent question from guests concerned locating bathrooms. Our first training manual listed every Zoo bathroom, all four of them.

—Nancy Mulholand

Photos courtesy of Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Sources: Various *Docent Newsletters*, docents Jeana Price and Sue Allen, 1970 - 73 annual reports, *Columbus Zoo Manual*, *Columbus Dispatch* archives.

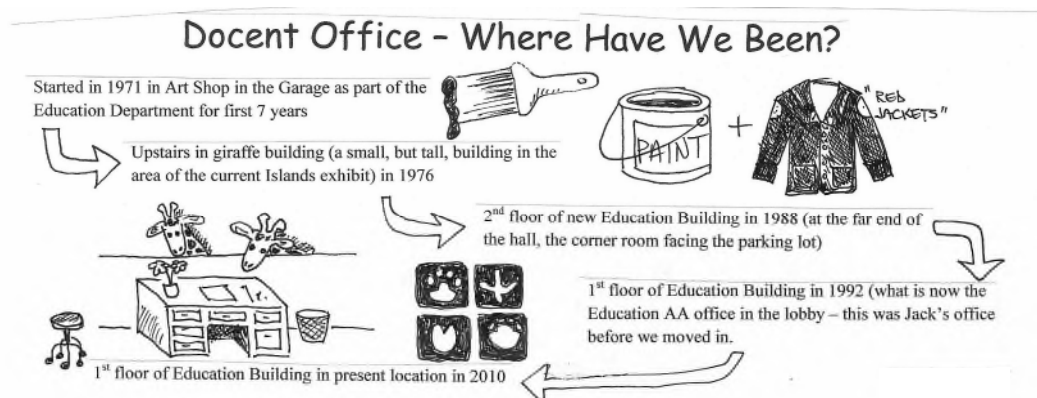


### Docent Logo

The logo that appears on our clothing and the masthead of *ZooNews* was introduced in January 1978. The design, which encapsulates the animals and areas of our work at the Zoo, was a *pro bono* gift from TriAdvertising, Inc (TriAd). Many thanks to docent Mary Keller and her husband Ken who were the impetus behind our organization having a design uniquely suited to us."

—Nancy Mulholand

Source: *Docent Newsletter* January 1978. A "Thank You" to Mary Keller for input.







# The Columbus Zoo Commitment to Conservation Award

In 2012, under the leadership of Dr. Joe Donovan, then Chair of Conservation Management Committee, and Becky Rose, Conservation Manager (now retired), the Columbus Zoo (the Zoo) established its biannual Commitment to Conservation Award to celebrate the Zoo's many contributions to wildlife conservation worldwide and to recognize the partners working in the field. Originally the Award was \$25,000 and it is now \$50,000. The Commitment to Conservation Award is presented by Kim and Steve Germain.

The awardee is selected using the following criteria:

- Career achievement of 20 years of work in the field
- Zoo support for 5 of the last 10 years
- Pledge to use funds for conservation project



*Rick Hudson—photo reprinted courtesy of the Turtle Survival Alliance*

This year, there were 45 eligible candidates and 15 of them were new to the eligibility list—an amazing number that just shows the impact the Zoo is making in conservation. This year's nominating committee, led by Dr. Mike Kreger, included staff members only: Dr. Jan Ramer, Dr. Randy Junge, Doug Warmolts, and Dan Beteem. Four individuals were nominated, and Rick Hudson of the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA) and International Iguana Foundation was selected as the 2021 Columbus Zoo Conservation Award recipient. He is also a member of the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group. The Zoo first supported Hudson's work in 1999 and will honor him at Wine for Wildlife in May.

Hudson is a long-term employee of the Fort Worth Zoo and started TSA in 2001 as an IUCN partnership network. He currently serves as its president and helps lead the network for freshwater turtles and tortoises. TSA conducts projects in Asia, Africa, and South America. In the United States, TSA operates the Turtle Survival Center which conducts a managed breeding program including 700 turtles of 30 species. The Zoo recently supported the Center after a major storm damaged the infrastructure.

Past Conservation Award recipients include:

- Claudine Andre (2013): Lola ya Bonobo, Democratic Republic of Congo
- Dr. Marc Ancrenaz (2015): HUTAN-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Program, Malaysian Borneo
- Dr. Patrícia Medici (2017): Lowland Tapir Conservation Initiative, Brazil
- Dr. Karen Eckert (2019): WIDECAST Sea Turtles, Caribbean Islands

—Mary Rose

Learn more about TSA: <https://turtlesurvival.org/>

# Moose Celebrate an Anniversary at the Zoo with a New Arrival

As the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium prepares to mark the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of receiving its first rescued moose, the North America Region recently welcomed Strawberry, an orphaned female Alaska moose.

Strawberry, who is estimated to be between five and eight months old, is the 22<sup>nd</sup> moose to call the Zoo home. She joins another orphaned Alaska moose, eight-year-old Bertha.

Moose, named for a word derived from the Algonquin term for “eater of twigs,” is the largest member of the deer family and is found only in a dozen northern hemisphere countries. The Alaska subspecies, or *Alces alces gigas* (giant moose), is the biggest variety.



*Strawberry—photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

## **It Began with Noah**

Zoo officials had considered adding moose to its mix of species as they prepared to open the North America Region in 1985. According to a docent newsletter at the time, the region launched showcasing bison, gray wolves, bobcats, cougars and river otters.

The first moose, male Noah, arrived in 1987 from the Toronto Metro Zoo, where he had been taken by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources after his mother was killed.

Noah, who shared a pen behind the scenes for several years with a Rocky Mountain goat, was an impetus for raising funds to build the Zoo’s moose habitat. That included a significant amount of money from many Loyal Order of Moose lodges in Ohio. Construction began in 1989.

Unfortunately, Noah died a month before the nearly one-acre habitat opened in June 1990.

“Noah helped raise over \$250,000 for the Columbus Zoo through the Adopt-an-Animal program,” Director Emeritus Jack Hanna wrote in the docent newsletter at the time. “His legacy will live on for many years to come, and I will miss him.”

The moose habitat “has had some modifications since it opened,” including filling in one of the two original ponds in the main yard and remodeling the bull yard, but the area and its barn, has remained largely the same, says retired North America Region keeper Lori Monska.

Nearly all the moose that have arrived at the Zoo since Noah have been orphans from Alaska. The only others, according to Shelly Roach, Zoo registrar, were Lily, who was born at the Milwaukee County Zoo, and Ojibwe, born and orphaned on Native American tribal land in Minnesota. Lily was one of two moose who also lived at The Wilds between 2001 and 2004.

*Continued on page 8*

### **Some Challenges**

Trying to raise orphaned moose calves has always been a tricky proposition due to their specific dietary and intestinal needs.

“It’s really hard to formulate the milk for moose calves” that would have been nursing, says Monska. “We worked with places that raised moose and used their formula, but everyone still had issues with that formula.” Getting the calves to eat solids later also was an issue.

“Moose are not like every other ruminant that you have at the zoo,” she noted. “Their diet is a lot more specialized toward browse. Their biology is so in tune to their habitat for what they consume that it is kind of hard to replicate with an artificial diet.”

The experience of working with moose of all ages and providing them with the best nutrition, including pellets and various browse and leaves, led Monska to author a 2001 research paper on nutrition in moose husbandry at the Zoo. It was published in a peer-reviewed journal, *Alces*.

While some orphaned moose calves at the Zoo did not survive a long time, several have exceeded the Species Survival Plan’s median life expectancy of 6.1 years for males and 8.9 years for females. The oldest was Edward, who reached 13 years of age.

“We have come a long way in learning the biology of the moose and how things work and how medicine has evolved,” Monska noted.

### **Habitat Improvements**

Parts of the Zoo’s moose habitat have undergone some significant improvements recently, said Assistant Curator Nikki Smith.

For instance, “We are replacing the fence across the pond that is underwater,” she stated, resulting in draining the pond so that work could be completed.

In addition, a quantity of exterior fencing in the big yard has been repaired or replaced, some areas of the habitat have been made accessible, two shelters were added with electricity and water for fans and misters, along with barn renovations and two automatic drinkers.



The habitat also saw “quite a few updates and modifications to the holding area,” Smith said.

The Columbus Zoo currently has the most southern environment of any zoo with moose. The zoo that is farthest south in latitude is Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, but that facility is at a much higher altitude and thus has a more temperate climate.

—Barney Wolf

#### **Sources:**

Smith, Nikki, assistant curator, North America Region

Monska, Lori, retired keeper, North America Region

Monska, Lori, Moose husbandry at the Columbus Zoo: The Nutrition Aspect, *Alces*, 2001

Roach, Shelly, registrar, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Docent Newsletter, June 1985 and June 1990

Franzmann, Albert W., and Schwartz, Charles C., editors, *Ecology and Management of the North American Moose*



# THE ORANGUTAN BUILDING

## New Digs Are a Win-Win for Orangutans, Keepers and Guests



Excitement builds as the opening of the Ken Cooke and Jerry Borin Orangutan Indoor Habitat approaches. (By the time this article appears, it may have opened.) That excitement will only increase as the orangutans, their animal care team, volunteers and docents, and most certainly guests have the opportunity to experience this new building. Chelsea Massaroni of the Congo animal care team met with *Zoo News* team members to share highlights and special features of the new building.

The orangutan exhibit is still located in the Australia and the Islands region of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium. The range habitat of orangutans is in the rain forests of the Southeast Asian islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Our Congo Expedition keepers care for the three Bornean orangutans here at the Zoo: Dumplin (female, born 1974), Sulango (male, born 1993) and Khali (female, born 2006). An SSP breeding recommendation is in place for Sulango and Khali, although she is on birth control until the situation is right for a baby orangutan to make its appearance.



New and unique features of this building benefit the orangutans, the animal care team and the volunteers who get to interpret all of it for our guests. Throughout the planning and building stages, the main consideration was **species welfare** and care. The new habitat will help to promote more natural behaviors from the animals. Our animal care team had a lot of input as to what was needed and wanted. Months of observation of animal behavior happened within the former surroundings. There will be observations of animal behavior in the new environment, and the observations will be studied and compared to note similarities and differences.



### The Biofloor

A new feature, the **biofloor**, is enhanced by three feet of mulch. Underneath the mulch is a concrete floor and a drain to allow moisture to escape. As the mulch breaks down, it turns into dirt, which creates the biofloor/living surface. Maintenance includes turning the mulch with pitch forks to help rotate the surface mulch with the mulch underneath, misting the mulch to keep it from getting too dry, and adding new mulch to the top as needed. The floor is cleaned

by raking up feces and leftover food, hosing down heavily urinated spots, and scrubbing/rinsing the other parts of the room as needed. It also helps to naturally maintain humidity in the space as well as provides a more cushioned surface for the animals to walk on. This benefits the orangutans as well as the keepers, as less time for cleaning means more time for **enrichment and other responsibilities**.

### Designed for Activity and Exploration

Fire hoses are a major feature of the indoor habitat. Pulleys in three of their locations allow for raising and lowering the hoses for added enrichment. These hoses can be rehung in various ways, and in several spots they hang freely so

*An announcement about the opening of the new Orangutan Building is expected soon.*

*Continued on page 10*



the residents can swing on them. What is more orangutan than that? Additionally, there are vertical poles that sway when climbed, simulating the ways orangutans move through high trees in the forest. The poles are firmly bolted to the ground beneath the mulch. Dumplin was apparently climbing everything her first day inside.

Among the numerous ways of offering enrichment is a ledge with mesh panels that provide more opportunities for the placement of enrichment up high. One of these held a military-grade touch screen that Sulango managed to “love” too much and broke the first day, so some features are in the process of being reworked.

Large columns serve several purposes. In some, there are holes and places for shelves that can be loaded with items like honey, peanut butter, oatmeal or blended vegetables that the orangutans can dig out with sticks. Formerly, the only browse available had to be very flimsy. Sturdy browse can now be offered for the animals to use in making utensils. This really could not be offered in their former habitat, as the sticks could be used to meddle with light fixtures and door cables.

One of these columns holds small touch sensors, each of which represents a different sound, such as rain, frogs, birds or children. The animals use the sensor to select the sound. Keepers are able to regulate how long the sound goes on and change the sounds out with a flash drive.

Three hammocks swing in the indoor habitat, as well as three in the behind-the-scenes sleeping area. Wood-wool, sheets and other fabrics are offered as choices for bedding. Dumplin, Sulango and Khali get along and can stay together overnight. They each choose to make a

separate bed in their own preferred location within that area.

### **More About the Building**

Behind the scenes are five different rooms, including a medical chute for use during procedures. The new setup offers many options for the animals and their care team. Space in the new building allows for a fission/fusion lifestyle for the inhabitants. They can all be together, or separated as needed in any combination. It also offers the capability and possibility of housing a young, maturing male.

The kitchen in this new building allows for Australian and African primate food to be prepared in separate areas. Formerly, food and enrichment for orangutans were

prepared in the gorilla kitchen, which opened the possibility for getting items confused. There is a large new refrigerator-freezer, allowing for the creation of larger ice treats for the orangutans as well as other Congo animals.

Dumplin, Sulango and Khali were housed in the new building for two weeks before they engaged in a deconstruction project of their own involving doors - thus, the delay in the opening of the building. Never forget that orangutans are very smart primates, and something new in their lives gets close scrutiny and often physical adjustment!

The guest viewing area in the new building sports overhead heaters for use during cold weather. On the inside and above the viewing windows are fans, hopefully for anti-fogging. There is a folding door that will be opened for demonstrations of painting sessions, training or keeper talks. All scenery is hand-painted, some professionally contracted and some in-house. All signage is new and updated with input from our keepers. A new interactive feature is a button for hearing Sulango’s long call.



Other things to note about the new building:

- Keepers have the ability to interact with animals all day – formerly when animals were in the yard, keepers had limited access to them.
- Pathways can be rerouted to promote arboreal movement.
- Each space has several doorways allowing the animals to move away from each other easily/as they choose.
- Curator Audra has a private office, and there is increased keeper space for lunch breaks and computer usage.
- All-year viewing is possible for guests.
- Windows add more natural light.
- Guests get to see more natural behaviors / movements.
- **Orangutan welfare** - that of our orangutans, others in human care and those in the wild - plays a huge part in all aspects of the building.
- Keeper routine can change – less time cleaning means time can be put to better use.
- Watch for a list of region “needs” from Chelsea, and her prediction is: Dumplin will hang out by the new inside viewing window.

—Cathy Shade

Thanks to Chelsea Massaroni for her enthusiastic and thorough sharing of information. Her love of orangutans is obvious and contagious. Thanks to Cindy Payne as my mentor.

*Photos of the building and orangutans courtesy of Graham S. Jones*

## Happy 5th Birthday Brian, 15th Birthday Anana and Aurora and 16th Birthday Asali!



*Anana and Aurora photo courtesy of Columbus Zoo and Aquarium; Asali photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand; Brian photo courtesy of Mindi Scott*



# NO CABIN FEVER FOR OUR PINNIPEDS

Activities will still be bustling in Adventure Cove even with the cooler temperatures. Because our pools are temperature controlled, our pinnipeds should spend about as much time inside and outside with one exception. They tend to fall asleep when the sun begins to set, so they will shift inside earlier during winter days. The central pool deck is heated, and the staff hopes the pinnipeds will spend more time lying out on it than last year as they are all more comfortable with their home now. They will have access to inside areas most of the time.

Young sea lion Lennie is still very tiny, so if she shows that she is uncomfortable in any way, she will have access inside always. She was scale-trained, using mom's nursing time as her reward. She has learned shifting by following her sister Sunshine and brothers Banana and Norval. Right now her trainers just want her to understand they are there to play and interact positively with her.

When she finishes nursing in early spring and is eating fish, she will start her husbandry and demonstration training.

If this sounds like the staff will have laid-back days, think again. They have a very young and large team, so they

are quite focused on staff and seasonal training. And training all our pinnipeds for new husbandry and all medical behaviors is their goal. They are working on some new experiences to touch the hearts of our guests. Other things that keep staff busy are Behind the Scenes Tours which are available daily at 2:30 for guests who

sign up online on the Zoo website. Staff are also developing two demonstrations for 2022: one in AEV and one in Sea Lions (Training Tales).

The most fun thing I found out about our sea lions and the weather is that some of them like to play with raindrops!

—Juliann Breeding



Lennie—photo courtesy of Pablo Joury

Source: Thank you to Pablo Joury, Animal Programs pinnipeds director, for this information

A note of hope: The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium supports the Marine Mammal Center near Sausalito, CA. Through research at the center, the scientists are able to predict with 86% probability which sea lions will

survive with treatment for leptospirosis which runs through populations in cycles off the coast of California, Oregon and Washington. Leptospirosis is a bacterium that leeches from animals and humans into the water and soil and attacks the kidneys. Check out the center at [www.Marinemammalcenter.org](http://www.Marinemammalcenter.org)

To learn more about pinnipeds go to the Volunteer Portal:

<file:///C:/Users/linda/Downloads/Adventure%20Cove%202021%20-%2003%202021.pdf> Pg. 63

# 2021 SERVICE AWARDS



## 5 Year Adult Volunteers

Charlene Bartholomew-Kerze  
Jennifer Errington  
Laura Geran  
Linda Miller  
Elizabeth Schwartz  
Carol Stroemer

## 10 Year Adult Volunteer

Lee Ann Ellsworth

## 10 Year Divers

Brad Blankenship  
Maryann Blankenship  
Tom Borchelt

## 15 Year Divers

Jeff Dye  
Jack Shinnock

## 30 Year Diver

Jim Clarke

## 5 Year Docents

Paul Bastian  
Hannah Cox  
Rebecca Cripe  
Charles Daily  
Christina Hochreiter  
Erica Loney  
Amy Manbeck  
Andy Moir  
Patty Owens  
Monica (Dorman) Tuttle

## 10 Year Docents

Bill Blair  
Alissa Chenetski  
Susan DeLong  
Linda Dreier  
Jeff Houck  
Marilyn Houck  
Krista Hyme  
Marcy Lichtesien  
Melanie Longbrake  
Sarah McCabe  
Bonnie McGowan  
Denny Sheehan  
Joyce Swayne  
Tina Toth  
Dorothy Yost—Emeritus



## 15 Year Docents

Lisa Carlisle  
Steve Hancock  
Barbara Pettigrew  
Anita Scalf  
Judy Shoemaker  
Susan Tabacca  
Raquel Thompson  
Jan Waters

## 20 Year Docents

Dick Horn  
Mary Ann Hudyk  
Dorian Norstrom  
Cindy Payne  
Kay Rietz  
Daniel Sullenberger

## 25 Year Docents

Deanna Johnson  
Michele Middleton  
Stephanie Reid  
Mary Stockman

## 30 Year Docents

Dave Ahnmark  
Susan Ford  
Barbara Morris  
Jeff Ramsey  
Trina Vannicelli  
Bev Fatig—Emeritus

## 35 Year Docents

Cathy Dally  
Claire Kitchen  
Mary D. Smith  
Sydney Dill—Emeritus  
Kathy Resor—Emeritus



## 40 Year Docents/Favorite Animal

Sue Allen—Flamingo  
Dury Sudduth—Gorilla  
Lois Criss—Emeritus—Okapi  
Dottie Dyer—Emeritus—Snake





