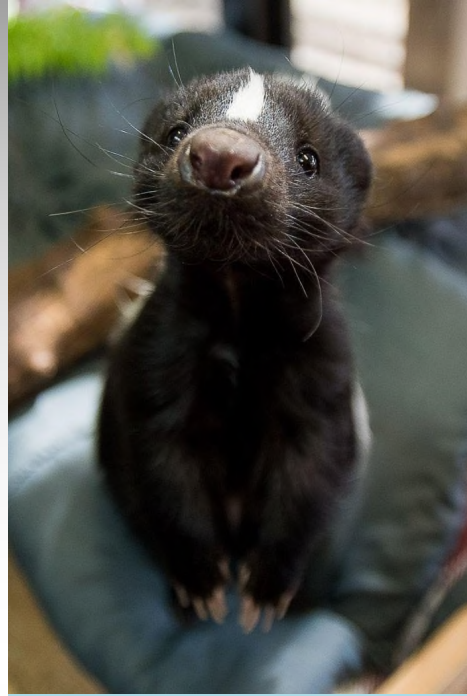


Remembering ...



Remembering Ginny



Remembering Fabreeze



Remembering Snowflake

Photo of Ginny courtesy of Cindy Wesney; photos of Fabreeze and Snowflake courtesy of Amanda Carberry, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

The first Tuesday night Zoom meeting for Animal Programs will be May 24 – mark your calendars!

Adventure Cove and Jack Hanna's Animal Encounters Village (AEV) residents will be participating in the first series of Enrichment Days presented by Nationwide during Eggs, Paws and Claws (Apr. 15-16). Guests can look at the schedule when it is published and follow the flag traveling with the interpreter throughout the Zoo to see the animals receive special treats!

Training continues for both the animals and the new staff members joining the area. In addition to the deck and sides of the Central and North Pools, you may see trainers in action with the **sea lions** in the street-level training space by the north window of the North Pool. The animals are receiving a variety of enrichment toys, so watch closely to determine whether the item you see is a provided enrichment item that resembles a water bottle or, in actuality, a small toy truck launched into the pool by a child.

There is a new, easy-to-read alphabetical listing of the pinnipeds in the binders that can be found within the tote bags. The list contains animal names, birthdates, genders and harbor seal tag colors. As a reminder, we are not utilizing radios for any back-and-forth inquiries about which animals are in the pools. A tip to help you learn the animals is to listen to the trainers calling them by name during training.

During Bodega sea lion's massage therapy, you may see him being sprayed with a blue disinfectant liquid. A tooth was removed from his mouth and the disinfectant keeps the area clean. Bodega voluntarily lets staff flush the liquid over the affected area every other day.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis

Later in the season, you'll notice AEV staff interacting with guests inside and outside of the building – training the animals and providing guests with defining moments – when the area is fully staffed. Residents of AEV will be the exclusive stars of the Dive into Adventure presentations that will be offered at noon and 4 p.m. on weekends from Apr. 30-May 27, daily from May 28-Aug. 14 and weekends only again from Aug. 15-Oct. 30. Training Tales presentations, in which the sea lions will star, will be offered at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. during the same dates. The behavior where the sea lions purposely create a splash section will be very refreshing this summer!

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Sadly, the Zoo will be missing its eldest **skunk**. The ever-charismatic Fabreeze was euthanized Mar. 14 due to rapidly declining health. Not only did he provide guests with the opportunity to see a skunk up close without fear of an odiferous spray, he was trained to participate in echocardiograms while conscious and loved to demonstrate natural behaviors in addition to being provided with treats.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis

Looking ahead into the year, Workouts for Wildlife on Aug. 27 will feature **penguins** while the popular yoga classes featuring our **sloths** will be held Nov. 5-6. Three sessions are scheduled for each day.

Though the **cheetahs** and other Watering Hole animals will continue to be cared for by the Animal Programs staff, docents will cover them as part of the Heart of Africa region for volunteering purposes. Look for updates about those animals in the Heart of Africa news.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Greetings from Asia Quest! Not a whole lot of news to share, but here's what's going on in the region:

Bandit **red panda** will soon be moving behind the elephant building as the langurs will want their outdoor yard back. Plans to introduce Madeline to the girls in the habitat are still in place but temporarily on hold so, for the time being, you'll still see just Kora and Santi in the panda yard.

Tiina **Pallas' cat** will be denning soon. Therefore, you'll start seeing Manda in the habitat space (probably by herself) as logistics make it difficult to transfer Moose while Tiina is denning.

Frankie **Asian elephant** weighed in at 969 pounds recently – won't be long before he breaks that half-ton mark! The staff was excited to get cooperative blood draws both from him and from Brian **greater one-horned rhino**. Frankie loves training and is making rapid progress.

In addition to opening soon, the **Asia Quest Aviary** will be welcoming two members of a new species this summer: Chinese hwamei. You'll also be able to see the Burmese mountain tortoises there. However, the **radiated** and **Aldabra tortoises** that have been wintering with the bats will be visiting their summer home in the Congo Aviary.



Photo courtesy of Lucie Blumenthal



Photo courtesy of Astrid Kreidl

Randhir and Heiderose **sloth bears** are back together.

Other than that, the rest of the region's animals have no news to share but look forward to your visits.

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Bob and Evelyn's Roadhouse will be closing for renovations at some point. There is not a definite date for the closing yet.

The Islands should open in early April, which is right around the corner! The birds are safely tucked away inside while patiently waiting for avian influenza to pass.

Kangaroos are now in the yard and the Walkabout should be open beginning of the first weekend in April – yay! Come volunteer and spend some time with our roos!



Photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliano



Photo courtesy of Alissa Chenetski

The **gibbons** and **siamangs** are loving taking turns in the courtyard on warm days.

Eggs, Paws and Claws enrichment will be with the **Tasmanian devils** on April 15 and 16 at 1:45 p.m. Please come see our cute little devils play with their egg treats!

All of the other animals in the region are doing well – come and visit soon!



Photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Harriet **red river hog** has some scrapes on her back that she is letting the keepers treat with A&D ointment topically. Even though she doesn't care for being brushed, she allows the keepers to apply it with a soft-bristle scrub brush.

After being inside all winter, the **gorillas** enjoyed being outside for the few nice weather days we had. Jamani will celebrate her 2nd birthday on April 15 and Tabibu will celebrate her 30th on April 30.

The **orangutan** building will be open for public viewing by the time these updates are distributed. Everyone is adjusting nicely to being back in the new building. Keepers are still seeing displaying from Sulango, which might increase a little when crowds start showing back up. He has been settling down nicely; he just likes to make sure everybody knows whose house they are in! You may see him rattle the sway poles and get grabby with the girls but everything so far has been very normal male-orangutan behavior. Additionally, staff are keeping a close eye on temperatures and preparing to start "yard season" again. Generally, they wait until temperatures are consistently warm before giving the orangutans outside access, which is different than some of our other ape species. Khali LOVES being outside and doesn't always want to shift back in, so staff want to make sure overnight temperatures will be warm enough should she choose to stay in the yard (with access indoors) for a few days in a row. Animals and keepers alike are looking forward to warmer weather!

Our **bonobos** are doing well. Keepers are working very hard on getting a lot of yard work done. When temperatures warm up consistently, the bonobos will be in the yard for everyone to view outside! Staff are also working on "awake-cardiac-scan" training with them and hoping to accomplish a lot with many of the bonobos within the next few months.

With the warmer temperatures upon us, the **mandrills** can be seen outside together when it is at least 45 degrees. Our two new ladies, Malaika and Hasina, are really enjoying going outside again. They are keeping busy with digging in the new mulch piles all around the yard. Mosi continues to get bigger every day and looks much bigger in the sun!



Photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

The **leopards** continue to do well and are enjoying the warmer temperatures and bathing in the sun!

Jif **colobus monkey** is doing great. He currently weighs 2 pounds and is loving his outside time, though he hasn't gotten a chance to explore the yard on his own – much too little for that yet! He loves jumping in circles around Jabari whenever they are on one of the structures and taking in all of his surroundings. The temperature range will be a bit different than usual for our group because of Jif. It has to be 50 degrees for them to be outside. Claire and Bernadette are taking turns caring for Jif when Jabari needs some “me time” and he is not shy about letting them know if he wants them to or not. Alloparenting is a totally normal behavior for colobuses. Jif is very much a mama's boy though and doesn't want to be held by Bernadette most of the time. His vocalizations can be quite loud and they can cause Sekani to react. This would be a great opportunity for docents to explain to the public about colobus alloparenting!

The **okapis** are also doing well. Hopefully, temperatures will be consistent enough to have them out on view for everyone to see soon! In the meantime, keepers have been working hard on doing hoof trims with all of the okapis, especially El Jewar and Miliki. Their progress is coming along nicely.



Photos courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Things are moving here in Heart of Africa! On March 17, Savanna introductions officially started. To date, the Care team has had **damas** and **Thomson's gazelles** in the ¼ yard together. Everyone has been doing great and having a LOT of fun running, pronking and enjoying the sun! **Slender-horned gazelles** have also been in the ¼ yard during the day and have enjoyed it just as much. This is the first year that Thomson's gazelle Cezeta and slender-horned gazelle Ed have been on the Savanna. So far, they are learning how to recall very well – fingers crossed that continues as their Savanna area expands!

By the beginning of April, staff hope to have introduced the smaller gazelles to the ½ yard and to quickly shift everyone to the full Savanna once that has occurred, which will enable them to get the **giraffes** (including the calves) on the Savanna as well. Hopefully, the weather continues to aid their efforts!

Heart of Africa will officially open to the public on Friday, April 15. Thank you in advance to everyone that will be helping in the region and with giraffe feeds.

The **vervets** are beginning to get opportunities to go outside too as the weather warms up.



*Photo courtesy of Amanda Carberry,
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

All of our **lions** are doing great!

The **ostriches** will be moved back to the hoof stock barn area very soon.



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Sloane and Georgeanne **swans** moved to a behind-the-scenes location with a lot of our other birds while we are currently dealing with avian flu entering Ohio.

The petting yard at **My Barn** is now open weekends only until the end of April – please come volunteer! Unfortunately, we lost Ginny cow. She will be deeply missed by everyone who knew her.

Mexican wolves are doing well. Staff continues to watch pack dynamics as they navigate our pups growing up into adult wolves.

Nothing new to report with Banjo **pronghorn**, the **bison**, **beavers**, **otters**, **lynxes**, **arctic foxes** or **black bears** Stevie and Joan – all are doing well.

Keepers decided it was in the **eagles'** best interest to keep them in their current habitat despite the threat of avian flu. Given their demeanors, they would not do well inside a building. The Care team is taking as many safety precautions as they can to ensure they are keeping the eagles safe.



Photo courtesy of Arnie Berger

The **aviary** will remain closed until it is deemed safe by the vet staff to put our birds back out.

Cougars Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are all back together now that Cal has recovered from his January surgery. They can be seen snuggling on their platforms or inside their dens on cooler days.

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** are also together again. The reintroduction went without issue; they were playing together within minutes of being in each other's company.

The **sandhill cranes** are getting along just fine inside.

Strawberry **moose** is doing well and weighed 457 pounds as of Feb. 16.

All of the **reindeer** girls have lost their antlers. Tours have started back up and are going well.

The **prairie dogs** are still predominantly sleeping in their burrows.

Brown bears Brutus and Buckeye are starting to wake up as the weather has been nicer. For who knows what reason, they have taken a strong interest in rearranging the various logs in their habitat, which the keepers are monitoring closely.

Polar bears Anana and Aurora continue to do well together.

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Flamingoes, nene geese and **penguins** continue to live inside due to avian influenza. They are doing well and getting a lot of enrichment to keep them occupied. We do have a penguin egg that is in an incubator in the penguin building. Fingers crossed that it is fertile!

If you are wondering why the roof in the manatee building is closed on warm days, staff are protecting our **pelicans** from avian flu.

It is wonderful to see staff and animals back in the **Touch Pool** and **Reptile Encounter** area. Thank you for making these areas so special for our visitors. It was great to see so many smiling faces during the trainings.

The **Aldabra tortoises** are making their way outside on warmer days. Keepers are hoping to get tortoise-snuggling docents back outside with them when the weather is consistently warmer.



Photos courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

Spring is officially here and several births have come with it. Three **takin** kids were born in March and are doing well. There really isn't anything else to report at this time but everyone at The Wilds hopes that you will visit soon!"



Photo courtesy of Lori Summers



Photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliano



Photo courtesy of Kathy Ragsdale