

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Spring brings plenty of warmer opportunities to volunteer in the region and the Asia Quest Aviary. We can't say it often enough – thank you for volunteering in the region! A few happenings in Asia Quest:

Markhors Florence, Rosalyn and Gambit are the three remaining markhors in the habitat as younger females Phoenix and Storm have moved to the Calgary Zoo.

Did you ever wonder why planters were placed in front of the **sloth bear** window or why **Amur tiger** Mara paces more when you watch her from the boardwalk? It has to do with the visual proximity of people to the animals. Studies have shown that carnivores are more likely to pace when they are in close proximity to people. Sloth bears also react to close visitors at their window.

Amur tiger Natasha moved to the Milwaukee County Zoo.

How are our **Asian elephants** reacting to the UNEXTINCT Exhibit? They don't seem to mind it. In fact, young Frankie seems to love it. He appeared to be mesmerized by the projection of the elephants onto the wall of the north yard. He would stare at the images and try to touch them with his trunk.

The **Pallas' cats** may shift at the end of April. A male and a female will likely be in the habitat together while another pair will be behind the scenes – more details later.

You may have noticed a few changes in the region. There are new fire hose swings in the **langur** habitat, a new sign on the boardwalk that talks about limiting the view of the wolves and new black curtains (for UNEXTINCT) behind the fences of the tiger overlook that may limit some viewing.



Photo courtesy of Mary Hiser



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Even though the days are getting longer and the spring flowers are blooming, the animals in the region are still in winter mode but doing well.

Animal Care staff are busy making plans for “Movin’ and Shakin’” in the region. Animals will soon be changing to their summer habitats. There is no time frame on when the moves will take place nor on where animals may be moving, so stay tuned for more information!

Bird shipments are coming and going in both the **Nocturnal Aviary** and the **Congo Aviary**. Staff will report changes there when appropriate.

It was reported that Lili **mouse deer** would be moving to the region but it has since been decided that she will remain in the Asia Quest bat habitat where she presently resides. However, as noted previously, Tony **pangolin** and Sienna **white-handed gibbon** will both be leaving for other facilities.

New faces are appearing in the region as seasonal staff begin to return but there is also one new full-time staff member on board. Please extend a warm welcome to Kevin Kollar (Shores) who has taken the open Animal Care staff position.

As we look forward to the changes to come, we encourage you to spend some time visiting the animals “down under.”



Photo courtesy of Marcie Anderson

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

We will be celebrating several birthdays this month: Matoke **okapi** (4/12/12); Jamani **gorilla** (4/15/2020); Tabibu gorilla (4/30/92).

The **okapis** are all doing well and, with the official arrival of spring, we should be seeing them venturing out into the yards! Miliki and El Jewar have swapped stalls in the barn, so don't be surprised if you see Miliki roaming around in Y1. Huge training milestone: Staff successfully performed a radiograph procedure on El Jewar. The purpose behind it was to gather information so staff can continue to monitor his mobility closely. El was very patient and the images came out beautifully. Congrats to all involved!



Photo courtesy of Pam Hancock

Our **orangutan** family is still doing great together. A few weeks ago, they were given the opportunity to explore the yard for the first time since last fall (due to Khali's pregnancy and Clementine's birth). They were all very happy to get some direct sunshine and Clementine held on confidently to Khali as they traversed the yard. They are currently on a yard hiatus however as a result of potential raccoon activity. Once a solution is found, they will have access to the yard on days when it is at least 45 and sunny.

Clementine is chewing on everything and extremely interested in all of the items Khali eats, so keepers suspect we may start to see some teeth soon! Clementine has had the opportunity to observe Mom participate in a voluntary blood draw last month! Staff are working with Khali on positioning Clementine near the mesh where she can be given her baby vaccines soon. Khali is executing wonderfully and Clementine seems quite comfortable with the training.

Dumplin is absolutely loving being an "auntie" and spends much of her time near Khali and Clementine. Dumplin has also been feistier toward Sulango if a skirmish breaks out, which keepers believe could be due to Clementine's presence. The old gal still has it!

Sulango continues to be an all-around good boy. Multiple play sessions have been observed between he and Khali recently, and he is very respectful of Clementine. Staff have also caught him and Clementine just gazing at each other when Khali is sitting next to him – so sweet!

Reminder: Staff only need to be informed if you see Khali plug the Lixits on the upper level. If those are plugged, they flood the upstairs area. Staff will eventually unplug the lower ones when they enter the space or ask Khali to do so. That being said, she is rather adamant about plugging them up again. She seems to really enjoy the sound of the water running and the ability to easily interact with the water.

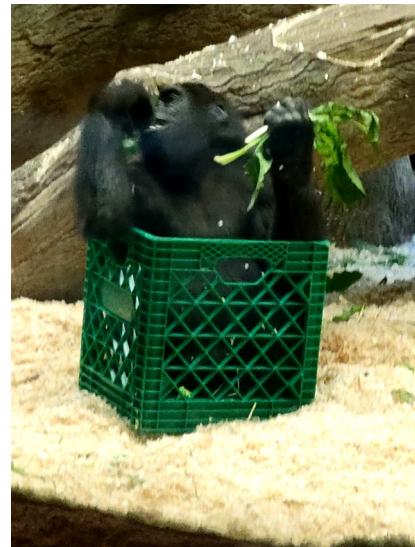


Photo courtesy of Hannah Gebhart

Khali currently weighs around 155 pounds with Clementine on her (post pregnancy/lactating weight), Dumplin is approximately 160 pounds and Sulango is about 237 pounds. On average, baby orangutans are 3-4 pounds at birth. The **colobus monkeys** are doing well. They have greatly enjoyed spending time outdoors when the weather has allowed. Little Marmalade had her 1st birthday last month on the 16th. She spent much of the day outside playing with Jif and enjoying the sun!

Bonobo baby Bob is growing like a weed and is beginning to reach new milestones every day. Keepers observe him off of Faith more and more each day. He has also been spotted hanging onto the mesh on his own. Bob has several teeth and is exploring mouthing on enrichment items and biscuits.

All of the bonobos are enjoying the sunshine and warmer weather. Staff are rotating them through the outside yard as often as possible and brainstorming ways to optimize yard time for each bonobo once they are in the new building. This will most likely include mid-day group swaps of the yard.

Bertie is maturing and thriving as an independent, young female bonobo. She is very comfortable being away from Susie and has spent several weeks at a time being in a different group than her mom! Bertie enjoys spending time with Ana Neema's family. She particularly likes playing with the boys, Bila Isia and Wilber.

The **gorillas** are enjoying the warmer weather and love getting to spend more time in the outside habitat. Baby Kwame is now 15 pounds and getting more confident all the time. She loves climbing to the very top of the indoor rooms whenever mom Sully will let her. Kwame is still healing some small wounds on her head. The adults like picking her scabs occasionally, but they do not bother Kwame and keepers are working on distracting her family from picking at her.

Staff are continuing to do observations on **leopard** Tyrion to see if they can identify why his tail struggles to fully heal. There was a training workshop for Columbus zookeepers in March and one of our keepers, Karen, was highlighted for some of the work she has been doing with the leopard boys. She has done a great job with a "CAB" (Calm, Attentive Behavior) where the leopards have to be calm and focused on the keeper in order to be rewarded. This is a great way for staff to communicate to the animals that they are present and ready for a training session. Then, if the animals would like to participate, they need to be calm and attentive.

The **mandrills** are a lot of fun to watch right now. Bernard seems to enjoy seeing what he can get away with near Mosi. While Mosi is usually understanding, sometimes he does have to remind Bernard that he cannot do whatever he wants. Some dominance interactions have been seen among the mature females that all, including Mosi, are handling appropriately. The group is starting to get outside more regularly as the weather gets nicer. The Landscape department has been consulted about getting new tree-fall features added/replaced in the habitat with trees and tree parts from all of the tree removal happening in North America during construction.



Photos courtesy of Hannah Gebhart

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

The region is gearing up for spring! Staff are planning to move slowly with Savanna introductions due to the construction of the new shelters on the Savanna. However, as of now, the gates to the entire region are still scheduled to open on April 12 – fingers crossed!

Excitingly, there have been a few births over the last couple of months. Sasquatch, a male **slender-horned gazelle**, was born on Feb. 4 and Nessie, a female, was born on Feb. 19. On March 16, a male **dama gazelle** joined our herd but has yet to be named. His parents are Kix and Kabili. All of the babies and moms are going great! The “slenders” have been outside to one of the yards behind the scenes and did really well. As soon as there is access to the Savanna, staff will begin introducing them to it.

You may start seeing **donkeys** Cocoa and Melon in their habitat more often. If day temperatures and conditions are good, staff walk them down in the morning and bring them back to the **giraffe** barn in the late afternoon.

All of the other animals in the region are doing great and looking forward to your visits.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Keepers have been working at switching up yard occupancy at **The Barn** to keep things more exciting for the goats, sheep and cows. When the yard isn't open, you might stop by and see the cows in the petting yard while the goats and sheep are in the cow spaces.

We recently welcomed two orchard orioles and two goldfinches to the **North America Aviary**. Staff are hopeful to have a busy nesting season this year, so stay tuned for any successful hatches.

The Zoo is holding the inaugural **Wolverine** Keeper Workshop from April 1-4. There will be close to 30 attendees (both in person and over Zoom). Everyone is excited to talk about wolverines with people from all over the United States and a few from Europe.

Sadly, the difficult decision was made to euthanize Guillotine recently. She was recently diagnosed with Addison's disease. Unfortunately, Animal Care staff weren't able to get her to a stable level and her health declined. While this disease is pretty well known in some dog breeds, trying to manage it in a wolverine in which invasive medical care isn't as easy was a big challenge. We ask that nobody share this publicly yet until it is officially announced by the Zoo. She will be dearly missed.

Moose Violet recently injured her eye and had to undergo a Gunderson flap surgery. Some of you might remember that wolverine Gui and **cougar** Jessie and the same surgery. Violet is recovering well and her eye is healing. However, in order to ensure she gets the medication she needs, there may be times when you don't see her or Scarlet in the big yard.

All is status quo with the rest of the region's animals.



REMEMBERING WOLVERINE GUI

REGION NEWS—SHORES

The **Chitra softshell turtle** had an exam and CT recently. She is recovering from an infection and doing well in an area behind the scenes.

Unfortunately, our puffer fish in **Discovery Reef** was humanely euthanized due to irregular buoyancy. On March 19, 0.0.25 diamond fish were introduced to the habitat.

Two female **southern stingrays** are recovering at Stingray Bay after being spayed. These surgeries were performed as a proactive measure to reduce their chances of having issues related to their reproductive health in the future. This type of surgery must be completed when a stingray is within a certain size range. Both girls are doing well and will recover in the smaller, fenced off area for several weeks.

The **Manatee Coast** gift shop work is complete; it is now called “Uncharted Waters.”

Courtship behavior has been observed in the **weedy seadragon** habitat.

Last but not least, we had two **basilisk's** eggs hatch!



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS

The team is starting to practice with the pinnipeds for a new presentation. The stage will be opened to guests randomly to help practice with noise in the bleachers, and kids running around, but also to create interaction between the guests and animals. Presentations will be on weekends only from May 4-19 before becoming a daily occurrence effective May 25 (see schedule below).

In other pinniped news, staff are currently doing an observation study on **harbor seal** Hillie to understand why she is clacking her mouth after being fed. Our observation seasonal will be spending time observing Hillie to collect data.

Harbor seals Ferris and Keaton underwent dental surgery last month and are recovering well. Keaton had a root canal and Ferris had four unhealthy teeth removed.

The **Capybara** Experience has been selling like crazy and is already almost full for the summer. Fun is had by both capybaras and guests alike as the “capys” benefit from treats and scratches. They show staff that they appreciate the tactile opportunities through body language, such as hair standing up!

A few other exciting things from Animal Encounters Village:

- Columbus Crew 2 visited recently to receive their capybara painting. Local media along with Crew media was there to document. Our capybaras handled coming into the tour space beautifully. There were about 30 people in there, the most there has ever been in a Capybara Experience. The team got to hang out with both Marsh and Delta for close to 30 minutes.
- Staff are still ramping up the public aisle guest-experience program. Caitlin McNaughton and Jackie Espinal (seasonal) continue to put the final touches on a bilingual rainforest encounter in our public aisle.



REMEMBERING BAT EARED FOX IVY

The 2024 schedule for **cheetah** runs and presentations is as follows:

WILD ENCOUNTERS 2024				
Area	Event	Time(s)	Dates	Additional Details
Animal Encounters Village	Dive into Adventures Presentation	12:00pm 2:00pm	May 4 – 19 – weekends only @ 2:00pm May 25 – Aug. 11 – daily @ 12:00pm and 2:00pm Aug. 17 – Boo at the Zoo – weekends only @ 2:00pm	AEV animals only
Animal Outreach	Wild Africa	1:00pm	May 24 – Aug. 11 on Fridays – Sundays	15 min. penguin talk – Africa stage
Pinnipeds	Training Tales Presentation	11:00am	May 4 – 19 – weekends only May 25 – Aug 11 – daily Aug. 17 – Boo at the Zoo – weekends only	Pinnipeds only
Wild Encounters Africa	Cheetah Runs	12:00pm 2:00pm	May 4 – 19 – weekends only @ 12:00pm May 25 – Aug. 11 – daily @ 12:00pm and 2:00pm Aug. 12 – Nov. 3 – weekdays @ 12:00pm; weekends at 12:00pm and 2:00pm	

The lanyard card listing dates/times for Wild Encounters presentations and cheetah runs can now be found on the portal.

WILD ENCOUNTERS PRESENTATIONS (Lighthouse Theater) 5/4 – 5/19, weekends only: 11:00am Training Tales (pinnipeds) 2:00pm – Dive into Adventures (AEV animals) 5/25 – 8/11, daily: 11:00am – Training Tales (pinnipeds) 12:00 & 2:00pm – Dive into Adventures (AEV animals) 8/17 – Boo, weekends only: 11:00am – Training Tales (pinnipeds) 2:00pm – Dive into Adventures (AEV animals)	WILD ENCOUNTERS AFRICA – CHEETAH RUNS 5/4 – 5/19: weekends only @ 12:00pm 5/25 – 8/11: daily @ 12:00 & 2:00pm 8/17 – 11/3: 12:00pm weekdays; 12:00 & 2:00pm weekends 
---	---

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

It was another fairly quiet month at *The Wilds*. Stella, our hand-raised **greater one-horned rhino**, was able to meet the rest of her herd and they all got along well. The youngest **white rhino** calves have also been introduced to their herd and are thriving.

The first two **takin** kids have hit the ground and are in the Pasture with the herd. A few more takin kids are expected this year.

There are still lots of opportunities to come see our newest additions on a Winter Wildside or Rhino Barn Tour. The winter season will not last much longer though; staff are already making plans to get animals back out to pasture for the new tour season.



NEW TOUR FOR 2024: BEHIND-THE-SCENES SAFARI

Get a unique look at The Wilds alongside the Animal Care team and learn about their daily routines, animal care, and more in this customized adventure!

[LEARN MORE](#)