

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Summer is starting to wane, but the outside temperatures are still heating up. July was relatively quiet for most of the animals in Asia Quest.

A new bird has been added to the **Asia Quest Aviary**. His name is Spot and he is a speckled pigeon. Spot will only be in the Aviary for the summer as he is on a time-out from the Congo Aviary. The azure-winged magpies laid another clutch of eggs but they did not hatch this time.

Amur tiger Mara's collar will be removed the first week in August.

Cheetah Edward was euthanized in July as his health rapidly deteriorated. He will be greatly missed.

As the **elephants** are moved during the day, you will have to check the south yard, the north yard and the Elephant and Rhinoceros Building to identify which elephants are where when working or visiting the area. You may also notice an elephant(s) in the bull/breeding yard behind the wall in the north yard.

The female elephants will have reproductive exams in August (the Zoo is seizing the opportunity while specialists are in town for an elephant meeting). August is Asian Elephant Awareness Month – watch for more details.

Before the summer ends, be sure to check out the **Amur tiger** Keeper Talk at 11:15 a.m. and spend some time with our favorite **greater one-horned rhino**, Brian.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Guess what? Australia has four new animals! **Small-clawed otters** Dash and Flounder recently welcomed AEV otters Ying, Yang, Willie and Marlie to their habitat. This all-male group is just so much fun to watch, so stop by and check out the action. They will have access to the building, so don't be disappointed if they are not all out at one time; it's their choice. Otters Gus and Peanut will alternate with the boys.



Bucket o'otters

Construction in the **kangaroo** habitat is progressing well and on track for completion. The Animal Care staff is using a new well-being tool called Life Impact Assessment to determine if the kangaroos, as well as the other surrounding animals (i.e., **lorikeets**, **koalas** and the **Tasmanian devil**), are affected by the construction. So far, all of these animals are tolerating the changes.

The koalas will be rotating time outside – weather permitting.

All is well with the animals in the Nocturnal Building and Aviary. **Kiwi** Haka and **tawny frogmouths** Archie and Marmalade will be behind the scenes for a day or two while the dirt in their habitat is replaced. **Tree kangaroos** Cori and Luka have been observed breeding. Animal Care staff will be monitoring them.



Photos courtesy of Jessica Linek



Photo courtesy of Barb Emmets

The **kookaburras** will continue to have the curtain up in front of their habitat part of the day. Staff is working on a new training program to help desensitize them to staff presence inside the habitat during feeding. They seem to be acclimating to this change.

In the Congo Aviary, staff are making some appropriate diet changes for proper feeding and to help desensitize the birds to keeper presence while feeding.

The rest of the animals in the region are doing well.

Come on "Down Under" to Australia and the Islands; the animals look forward to your visits!

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

As you can imagine, the region has been a little busy with our newest unexpected baby. All of the babies are doing well. Marmalade **colobus** has turned into a big girl, black and white monkey. Bernard **mandrill** is still growing and running around like crazy while little Izzy mandrill is starting to become more independent as she spends time off of mom Hasina.

Okapi El Jewar's birthday is Aug. 26; he will be 28 years old. He and Damisi are still being bred. The okapis may not always be in their yards due to the noise and traffic associated with the construction on the new **bonobo** building.

Other August birthdays include:

- Leopard boys Jaime and Tyrion – 8/24/16
- Cassie **gorilla** – 8/16/93
- Kamina gorilla – 8/16/14
- Bila Isia bonobo – 8/14/01
- Jerry bonobo – 8/27/08



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



Photo courtesy of Chelsea Massaroni



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



*Photo courtesy of Joe Reams
and Karen Treadway*

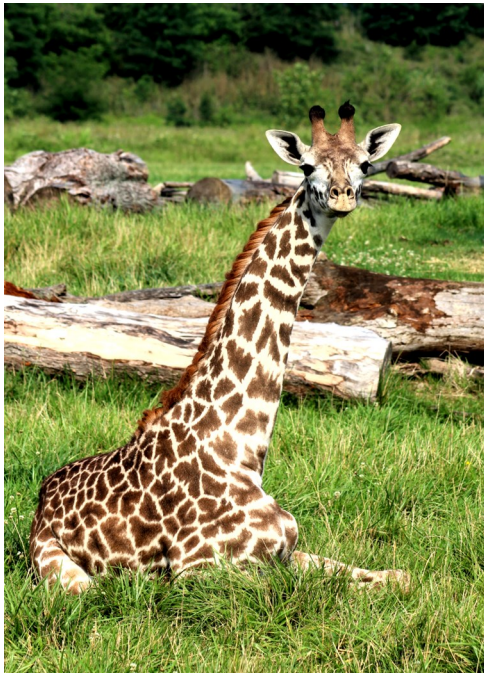
REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

There is not a whole lot happening in the region out of the ordinary – thank goodness!

The Zoo cohosted the Felid TAG from July 10-14. Melissa and Sam F. were participants in the meetings and have come back with some great energy and ideas. We look forward to seeing some of those ideas become a reality!

Giraffe James was castrated in June and, at the time of this writing, will be with the entire herd as of July 21. Both Bobbie and James have been introduced to the Savanna, so you will see them out there as well.

During the last two weeks of July, our **dama gazelles** will be moving around a bit, so people will see Kabili on the Savanna. In an effort to “time” breeding and births, Kabili has not been with the females for the season. Reintroducing him in July will hopefully result in births occurring late this winter, which will help conserve space in the barn during the colder months and give the babies enough time to grow to a point where they will be big enough to be introduced to the Savanna in the spring.



Photos from savanna tour courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

The following documents have been updated on the Portal:

- Aviary Census List 1.7.23
- “San Clemente Island Goats” document

Both **trumpeter swans** have been quite adventurous lately; you might see them venturing up into the tree line near the bridge. Be sure to look there if you don’t see them in the water.

Mexican wolves Winter and Storm are doing well and, by the time this is posted, will more than likely have received their first deer leg donation! Achieving that goal has been a big effort between a lot of different parties and staff are very excited to finally make it a reality. The deer go through an inspection process prior to being fed out and are documented so they can be tracked closely. The hope is to provide deer legs once a month to the wolves. However, since that will be dependent on how many can be provided to our facility, it may not happen regularly.

By the time you read these updates, **My Barn** may have a new resident named Lambo. Lambo is a Hampshire **sheep**, which is a new breed to our Zoo (see picture). He enjoys pets from people, so seeing him in the petting yard will be fun.

The **lynx** girls continue to do well. They participated in some training sessions during the week of Felid Tag and our keepers were able to make some great contacts.



Photos courtesy of Tiffany Rummer

Matt has been working hard on training Joan and Stevie **black bears** for voluntary blood collections and, recently, staff were able to get a voluntary donation from Joan! If you see Matt, make sure to tell him congratulations. Stevie is working hard on her own voluntary donation as well and staff are hoping for success in the coming months.

The **otters** have been more active lately and can usually be seen swimming in their pool in the morning hours.

Cougar Captain Cal had a large fan group that came through during Felid Tag. Our keepers and volunteers helped coordinate open house tours during the conference.



Photo courtesy of Tiffany Rummer

We welcomed two rose-breasted grosbeak chicks in the **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** earlier this summer. Both are almost fully adult sized now and are hard to tell apart from their parents. The recent repair that was made to keep chipmunks out of the aviary seems to be doing the trick as (knock on wood) none have been observed.

All of our **bald eagles** continue to do well. Cheyenne is the one you are most likely to see on the ground. She has some medical issues that are being monitored.

The **moose** didn't want to be left out, so keepers and volunteers also helped coordinate behind-the-scenes tours during Felid Tag. Attendees loved getting up close to a species that very few facilities have.

Staff are keeping a close eye on **reindeer** Sugar for ongoing, age-related issues. They have made some medication adjustments in an effort to make her more comfortable.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Both Alvar and Gui **wolverines** are doing well. The best time to see them up and active is in the early morning hours, particularly with the hot weather.

Brown bear Brutus seems to be on the mend. Both boys will still have access to the building on occasion, especially on the hotter days. Thus, if you can't find them, they are probably inside.

Polar bear Aurora is packing on the weight in an appropriate manner for this time of year. You might see her and Lee spending some time apart as we get closer to denning time.

Each **Arctic fox** is doing great. Keepers added a few new branches to their habitat to provide more climbing opportunities.

REGION NEWS—SHORES

You may have noticed a few new faces in the reef. A few new fish have moved into the lagoon, tide pool and main pool at Discovery Reef. Once they have settled in, more information will be provided about who is new and where.

The **flamingoes** have started nesting season.

Our **penguins** are enjoying their summer vacation while their habitat undergoes repair work and have started molting.

Unfortunately, Mrs. Beardy **weedy sea dragon** died earlier this month. She was 13 years old.

Chelsie Pawlak has accepted the terrestrial keeper position!



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

The Wilds Animal Management and Conservation Medicine teams just wrapped up this year's Dirty Wild Jobs Wildecamp session. The Conservation Education team brings a great group of high-school aged campers every year to learn more about how the animals are managed at *The Wilds*. One of the highlights this year was bringing the campers into the barn to observe team members working on a **Persian onager** female under anesthesia for a hoof trim. This camp is a great experience for kids interested in conservation and veterinary medicine.

We have a few additions to our herds. A new male **fringe-eared oryx** and male **banteng** are currently in quarantine and waiting in the wings for this year's breeding season. We also had two **Grevy's zebra** foals born in early July. The first foal is up and running with the herd. He has been very visible for tours since the herd likes to hang out under the shade shelter next to the road in their pasture. Staff had to move the second mom and foal into a holding area to give them more time to bond without distractions. They are doing well and will hopefully be back out in pasture soon.

Come out and see us this season. Open-air safaris are available every day. If you would like to enjoy an overnight experience, construction is almost complete on the new Grand Yurt. It is available for booking for later this season.

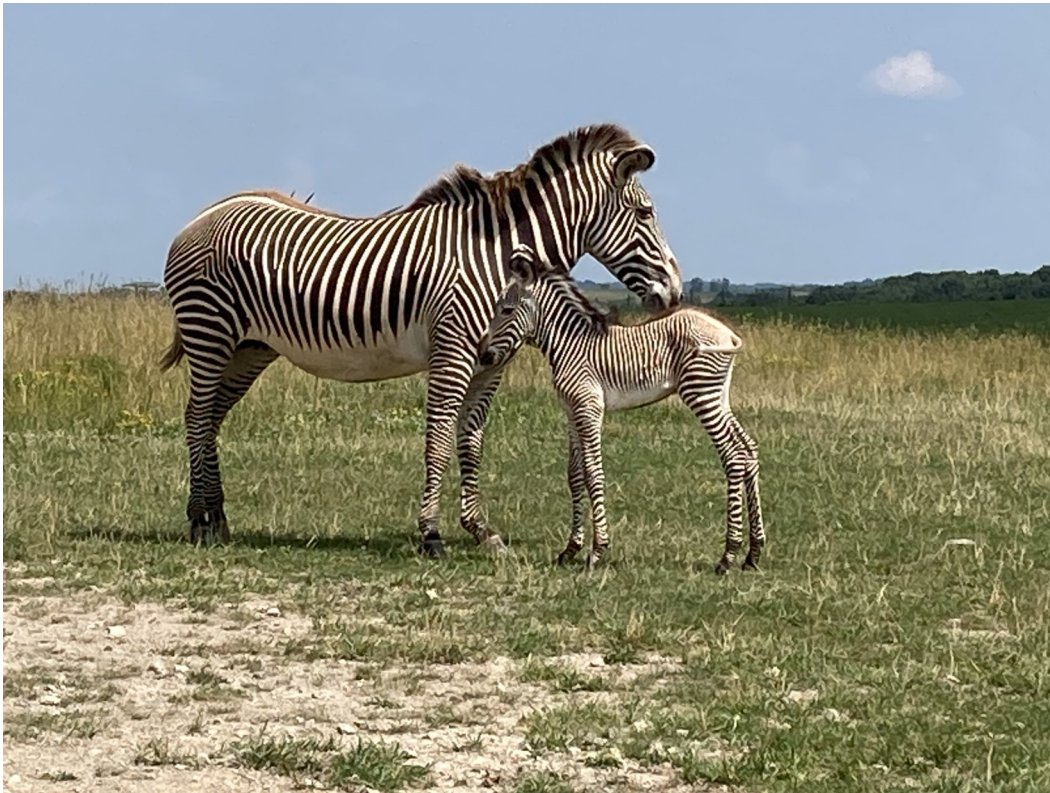


Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and The Wilds

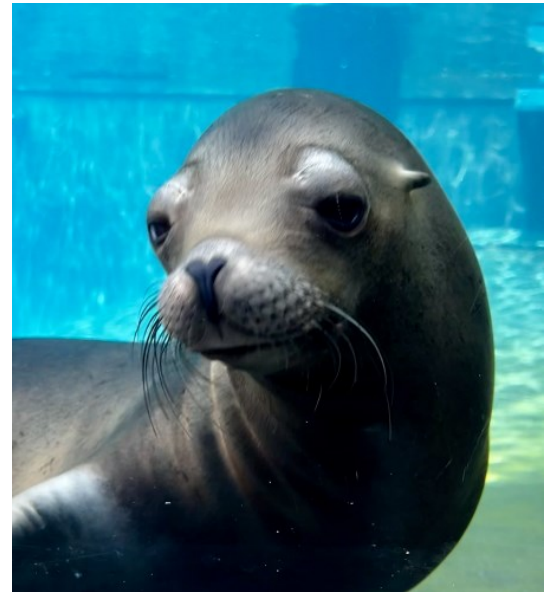
REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS

Beginning Aug. 14, the Training Tales presentation in the Adventure Cove Lighthouse Theater will be offered at 11 a.m. on weekends only through Oct. 30. Did you know that training has progressed so much that the **harbor seals** now make an appearance in the presentation? The Dive into Adventure program is being offered at 2 p.m. – also only on weekends.

Training and enrichment continue every day for all the animals throughout the day, whether it is Sunshine participating in training by the acrylic or Bodega rolling over on deck. At times, the animals do receive live fish for enrichment. FYI, this is the time of year when the pinnipeds seem to have built-in microphones with vibrant barking.

As of Sept. 5 on weekdays only, docents and adult volunteers may again sign up on Volgistics to spend time in the Adventure Cove Tunnel where, for the guests, “it’s OK to play” with pinnipeds.

The "Meet the Pinnipeds" document on the volunteer portal was revised to reflect the statistics for the three exterior pools as average depths of water in the Demonstration, Central and North Pools.



During the upcoming Association of Zoos and Aquariums conference, trainer Katelyn Nance will be a presenter on a panel highlighting hot animal management conversations. Her topic will be “What Are the Animals Telling Us? The Data Driven Program of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium’s Pinnipeds Team.” Dr. Priya will discuss the National Giraffe Plasma Bank during the same session.



The final Wild Encounters Zoom of the season will be Tuesday, Sept. 19 at 7 p.m.

The popular Slothvasana yoga sessions with special appearances by our animal ambassador **sloths** will be offered again Nov. 4-5 at 9 a.m. and noon and are virtually guaranteed to continue the sellout streak

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Thank you to the volunteer team for coming up with the idea of treat bags for staff appreciation, to the assembly line of volunteers that fulfilled the project and the docent leaders who delivered the goodies. Staff members really appreciated them – there was no clicker needed to coax them to accept bags of treats – and enjoyed trading snacks to gather their favorites. Several iPads were also donated by docents and volunteers to the Wild Encounters Village team to assist with their documentation, for which they are immensely grateful.

Above the pool, the shade cloth is providing some shelter from the sun. To surprise and delight guests and lessen lines, the Zoo sometimes opens a few minutes before the announced time. Therefore, it is important for the docent or adult volunteer registered for the first shift of the day to let the security rangers know when you're in place on the Adventure Cove Deck so the security screen can be retracted.

You never know when there will be a spontaneous gelatin toss or hose play session on the Adventure Cove Deck or an appearance in the Heart of Africa Watering Hole by adorable **aardvarks** cared for by the Wild Encounters Africa team. Stop by and enjoy your time with the animals and these added attractions when volunteering!



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis