

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

As the weather cools for the remainder of the year, there is a simpler heating system arranged by Erin Schuler of the Education Department for the Adventure Cove Deck. You'll find laminated directions in the Adventure Cove Deck tote bag, but you simply insert the plug in the designated outlet to activate the heater. The Facilities Department will monitor the propane tank supply level and fill it as necessary. During Wildlights evenings, the Adventure Cove Deck will not be open. After Jan. 1, the deck will be closed until March. However, you'll still be able to view the **sea lions** and **harbor seals** from the Adventure Cove Tunnel all year!



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

The new Spooktacular presentations highlighting sea lion adaptations were a big hit and have concluded. November brought six sold-out Slothvasana sessions that delighted the participants getting to interact with the special guest **sloths**. Due to the popularity of the programs, adding a second set of sessions in the spring is being considered to accommodate demand. If you missed the event, you can still purchase this year's sloth T-shirt designed by the Zoo's graphic artist to benefit the cause. Look for ordering information on the portal.

Enrichment Days included Halloween festivities involving pumpkins and spooky Jell-O and will conclude for 2022 with Flurry of Fun in December when the animals receive their edible and enriching presents.

Our **servals** in Animal Encounters Village are in need of more scent enrichment so, if it makes sense for you to part with some of your own fragrances, please place the bottles in the box marked "Perfume" in the volunteer break room. The cats are partial to Calvin Klein products, but are willing to expand their fragrance collection.

Sunshine, our 2-year-old sea lion, is particularly fond of interacting with trainers and guests at the acrylic. Pablo Joury assures us that this is not something we want to discourage because it is a great enrichment opportunity for Sunshine and she has total control of it. If she wants to leave, she can. If she wants to continue to play, she is free to do so. She knows that fish rewards are not involved and she is not interacting with her trainers.

Sunshine is by far the sea lion that interacts most with enrichment items. She was raised with a lot of enrichment, which makes her really curious about her environment unlike all the sea lions from China who never interacted with enrichment and don't really pay attention to their environment. We want to continue to encourage Sunshine to be curious, play with her environment and be a sea lion. If guests can have fun while she's doing it, that is excellent according to the trainers. Sea lions have multiple interaction opportunities, including mental enrichment through training sessions, with guests and habitat enrichment involving the tunnel, acrylic, birds, wind, rain, toys, etc. What applies as appropriate for sea lions may not pertain to animals in other regions, so please ask your region leader or the Volunteer Team if you have any specific questions regarding guest behavior.

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When needing to contact the Pinnipeds team on the radio about an animal well-being concern, please continue to try Channel 2 first. If you do not get a response, try Channel 5. The team often uses Channel 5 to communicate about animal shifting moves, so that is a good secondary option.

Though official presentations have concluded for the year, training has ramped up for staff development and a plan that includes 141 different behaviors to be learned by the animals has been assigned. They include a shoulder X-ray presentation for Bodega, Toby learning to recycle, speed swims and spins to name a few. As Katelyn Nance mentioned in her presentation in the region's final Zoom of 2022, animal husbandry and well-being are of utmost importance. Animals are trained for mouth, eye and full-body checks, X-rays, ultrasounds, vaccines, blood draws and eye-drop administration. Fun fact: Sea lions have a black coating on their teeth that helps protect them from fish bacteria. Additionally, sea lion flippers have the same bone construction as human hands; they're just a lot bigger.



The harbor seals are undergoing training as well – learning open mouth cues, receiving eye drops and going to the Demonstration Pool.

As you watch our animals and the spontaneous training sessions, remember that our grouping of sea lions may be the most complicated in the country since it is composed of sexually intact adult males, sub-adults, females and pups. Most facilities have one grouping of sea lions for viewing and another trained for presentations. Our incredible staff works with one group of fabulous animals doing both.



Stevie **red fox** of Animal Encounters Village recently moved to the Ohio Wildlife Center. January 2023 will bring the departure of sea lions Toby and Banana, who will be moving to Oceans of Fun facilities. Try to stop by and see them this month!



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Katy **koala's** joey continues to grow and be more visible every day. Keep checking to see if Katy is in a prime location that will enable you to see the cuteness for yourself as the little one is poking its head out from time to time. Animal Care staff have not determined the sex of the joey yet and are letting Katy be her best-momma self right now. She is doing a great job as expected!

Our five **lorikeet** chicks continue to do well and are all flying. Thus, life has become much more exciting for keepers during feeding and cleaning routines with them frequently and unpredictably taking flight.

We recently sent 3.0 **Asian small-clawed otters** (Eric, Sebastian and Scuttle) to Fresno Chafee Zoo and 0.1 **bettong** (Fajita) to Charles Paddock Zoo, both are located in California.

Rashid and Tamarack **siamang** are adjusting well to life without Olga.

The Islands loop will be closing for the season soon. Currently, there are very few animals out.

All of the animals in our nocturnal building are continuing to do well during construction, which is really moving along.

All the birds, even the **cranes**, are inside now for the winter and doing well.



Remembering Olga

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

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Our **bonobos** are settling into their winter routines. Max is doing okay with the loss of his mother. He is particularly close to bonobos Amelia, Bertie, Susie and Gander and all have been spending time with him. Keepers were very excited to have a positive pregnancy test from Faith (Gander was the sire) but, unfortunately, she miscarried just a few weeks into her pregnancy. They are working with the vets to determine what the next steps will be since Faith has had miscarriages previously at the same stage (though she has successfully carried a baby to term too). In the meantime, they are still hoping for a Susie-Gander baby – keep your fingers crossed for a positive test this winter!

The construction project has been pushed off until spring, so the bonobos will be visible all winter. There are several birthdays to celebrate this month. Jimmy will turn 43, Donnie 29, Wilbur 12, Gander 9 and Bertie 6. The bonobos always enjoy having visitors, so please stop by when you can!



Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Keith has been working with Sulango **orangutan** to encourage movement by asking him to touch a laser pointer dot. Recently, he succeeded in getting Sulango to climb all the way up to the ceiling to touch the laser pointer. Sulango really seems to be enjoying the interactive sessions. The vending machine is currently broken but staff continue to challenge our orangutans cognitively through the use of new puzzle feeders that help keep them engaged indoors. Keep an eye out for these and see if you can figure out what they have to solve!

The orangutans are enjoying being able to see the public year-round. Nevertheless, staff are monitoring them closely through this first full winter. As a reminder, the building closes at 5 p.m. and there will be stanchions put up to prevent guests from coming in when the lights are off.

El and Damisi **okapis** are still being bred and keepers are hopeful for a pregnancy soon. Sarah recently had the opportunity to attend a virtual girrafid conference held at the London Zoo. In addition, many members of the Congo team have been doing keeper exchanges with staff from other zoos in Ohio and Sarah spent the day working with okapis at the Cincinnati Zoo. Both opportunities sparked a few ideas for new husbandry practices and things to make for their winter housing. Matoke and Miliki have switched stalls at the barn and both are enjoying their new spaces.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Our **leopard** boys have access to the yard when it is above 32 degrees, so look for them outside having fun. Recently, they have been enjoying the new cylinder enrichment devices as well as piles of leaves that our Zoo School teams raked out of the okapi yards. Tyrion's tail wound continues to heal but is not fully resolved yet. Please let the team know if you see him messing with the tip of his tail.

The baby **mandrill** has been named Bernard after the elf in the *Santa Clause* movies. *He is starting to play with enrichment and spend time off of mom. His favorite food is zucchini and egg whites, possibly because that's about all the adults will let him access. Mosi is being bred with Matilda and Hasina so, hopefully, Bernard will have some siblings in the future.*

Jamani **gorilla** likes visitors, so be sure to come and say hello – just remember that our males tend to display if there are too many docents gathered in the building at one time. The groups will be rotated between the buildings. Therefore, on any given day, you won't know who you are going to see. It may even be both groups, though one will have access to the back rooms in that scenario.

The keepers have noted seeing Kinyani and JJ starting to play and are now leaving out bigger enrichment items for multiple days so the gorillas have them to use for displays, which is a natural behavior that is good for the animals. Nia will be celebrating her 29th birthday on Dec. 21.

Jif **colobus** likes to play in the hanging buckets. If we are lucky, Bernadette is pregnant and Jif will have a friend soon too. The colobuses are our most cold tolerant primates, so look for them to be out enjoying the sunshine when the temperatures are in the mid-40s.

Please welcome Katherine Holupka to our Animal Care team. Katherine came to us from Erie Zoo where she was a full-time keeper. She has experience with many animals and is very excited to work with primates as she worked with lemurs at the Erie Zoo and really enjoyed it.

Happy Holidays to all – have a safe and healthy New Year!

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Keepers have been trying to get everyone situated for the winter. The **wildebeests** will continue to have access to the Savanna every day while also having access to their stalls in the hoof stock barn. Meanwhile, our **kudus** will be on the Savanna when it is sunny, above 45 degrees and there is no ice on the ground and the **zebra** will be out of the public eye in their holding yards. Although the **vervets** are tucked inside, they will have outdoor access at 45 degrees or above.

The **giraffe** herd is finally all together! There will be no new arrivals until at least spring.

Our **lions** will continue to have access outside as long as there is no ice or subzero temperatures.

No new **dama** calves, but both Susie and Raisin are looking big, so fingers crossed for those ladies.

In keeper news, Nov. 22 was Madison Denison's last day as she is looking for new adventures. It is not yet known who will earn her spot but, hopefully, we will find out very soon! We wish her the best!



Photos courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Swans Sloane and Stella just got back from their vacation in Heart of Africa. They can now be seen on the pond at the front of the region.

My Barn is all ready for the holidays. With Wildlights starting, the barn is now open late every night. Stop on down and visit the cows, goats, sheep and chickens. In other news, Luna gave birth to a male calf, Russet, on Thanksgiving Day.

Our **Mexican wolf** girls just underwent hormone implantation since they will not be bred in the near future. Unhappily, it created some pack-dynamic issues again, so staff are monitoring everyone closely.

Hermie **bison** and Banjo **pronghorn** seem to be in a new routine now without Clover around. They can usually be found spending time close to each other whenever they are out on the hill.

Everything is status quo with **otters** Paso and Catori, the **Arctic foxes**, **eagles** and **lynxes**.

The **aviary** just reopened – swing in and catch up with your feathered friends! Unfortunately, we lost our male merganser last week but the rest of the flock seems to be doing well.

Black bears Joanie and Stevie were reintroduced a few weeks ago. Like typical sisters, they love each other but are not each other's best friend at the moment. Nonetheless, they are working out their differences.

Stevie can normally be found in the den in the yard while Joanie is inside the building. Joan continues to recover well from her embolism and mobility of the leg continues to improve.

Cougars Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are doing great.

Denning season is coming up quickly for the **wolverines**. If they haven't already, keepers are planning to move Alvar in the coming weeks as they have done in the past. This time though, they are modifying the yard behind the lynx habitat (former bobcat yard) to be his new bachelor pad. They're hoping he will enjoy the new space as much as they have enjoyed preparing it for him!

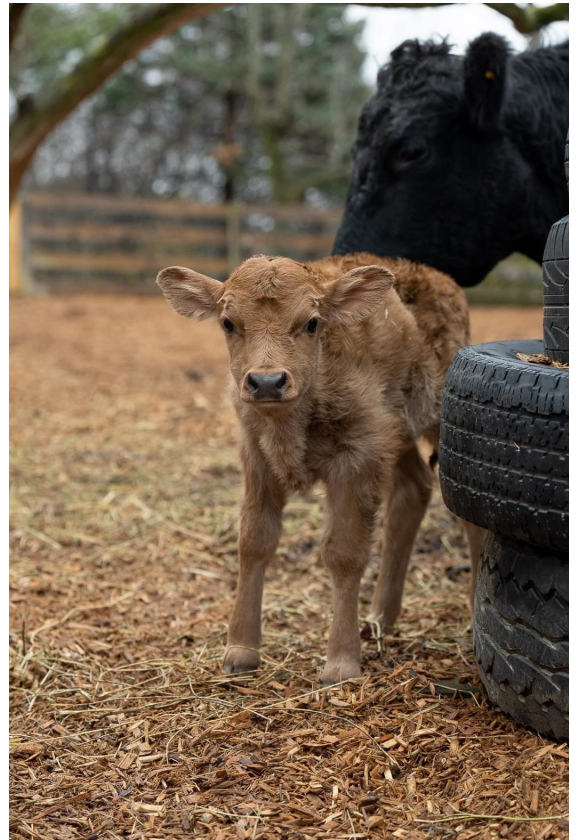


Photo courtesy of Amanda Carberry and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

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The **moose** calves are growing like weeds. In pounds, Violet weighs 244, Scarlet 262, Bert 360 and Strawberry comes in at 735. Violet has some ongoing medical issues with her back fetlock, so she is currently in the bull yard with Scarlet. In order to not delay Bert further, the keepers put Bert and Strawberry together. The intro was uneventful and both can be seen in the big yard together daily.

The **reindeer** are getting ready because it's their time to shine. Wildlights is their season and they know it. Make sure to book your reindeer tour so you can come catch up with Sugar Plum and Abby!

Our **prairie dogs** have moved homes and are now living behind the aviary.



Brutus and Buckeye **brown bears** are doing well snuggling in their cave. Brutus's tendency to steal all the bedding is well underway as winter rapidly approaches.

Polar bear Aurora continues to move closer and closer to her den... fingers crossed!

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—SHORES

The **flamingoes** and **Aldabra tortoises** are doing well in their winter areas. As it happened, the start to November was so warm that the Aldabra boys were still going outdoors!

Alligator “Girl” has left for a new home. Girl had been trained to voluntarily go in her crate and went right in despite the cold temps on the morning she left!

Our **penguins** are back outside and the lower viewing area is open again. However, it is closed off around 4:30 p.m. daily for Wildlights.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the **Komodo** watches. There was a lot of promising breeding behavior observed.

We have a new resident in the Reptile Building, a **freshwater stingray** (*Potamotrygon*) is now in one of the large pools. His name is Mermaid Man and he came to us from the Kansas City Zoo. The **leaf-tailed geckos** are now in the area where the Calabaria (African burrowing python) was previously viewable.

All three **pelicans** at Manatee Coast are participating in scale training.

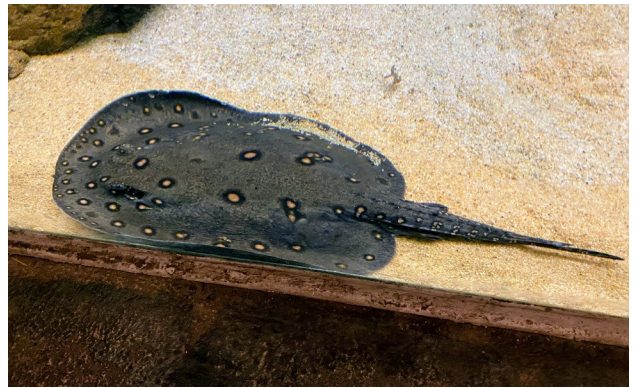


Photo courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire



Remembering Dill Prickle

Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

You may have noticed some new additions with the **seahorses** in Discovery Reef. Ten **red cleaner shrimp** were recently added to the habitat. There will be a Santa diver in Discovery Reef Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 7 p.m. throughout Wildlights.

All the **stingrays** at Stingray Bay had their barbs trimmed recently. Staff were able to do 77 stingrays in a little under 2 hours!

Each **tortoise** in Asia Quest was moved in anticipation of a substrate change but are now moving back into the bat habitat.

Did you know that our Zoo is involved in a project that helps **zebra sharks**? Eggs from our zebra sharks are sent to researchers who study their reproductive cycles. Since 2021, the Zoo has sent out over 200 eggs. Scientists are looking to repopulate zebra sharks in their native range in Indonesia, and you can help! If you happen to see one of our zebra sharks laying an egg, call keepers on channel 2. Bonus points if you can point out which shark laid the egg!

Thank you to everyone who helped spread some holiday cheer by decorating our public areas!

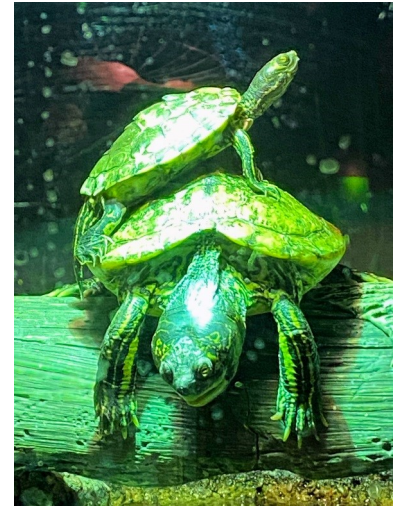


Photo courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire



REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

The Wilds team has been busy shifting into winter mode at the end of the regular visitor season and has moved all of the animals that need additional heat and shelter into their winter holding areas.

Most of our news this month comes from the **rhino** barns. A research team from Cincinnati's Center for the Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) was here for two days to assist with the annual exams of three of our rhino bulls as part of the American Institute of Rhinoceros Science (AIRS project). We also had a rhino dental specialist from the University of Georgia's College of Veterinary medicine here to perform a thorough exam on the white rhinos.



We received a new breeding male white rhino named Bernard at the end of October. He hitched a ride here from the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas with two of their staff members coming to The Wilds for a Conservation Centers for Species Survival (C2S2) meeting. Bernard will be replacing Roscoe, who will be transferred to Fossil Rim next spring. Roscoe came to The Wilds in 2014 with no breeding experience but now has seven offspring in the population. We also added another new male to our herd with a birth on November 17. The new mom is Kali, who was born at The Wilds in 2013. This is her second calf. Baby and mom are separated from the herd in a maternity stall for now but staff expects both to be with the main herd by the end of December.

If you want a chance to meet the newest additions to our white rhino herd, you can reserve a spot on one of our winter tour options. Check The Wilds website for details.

WINTER AT THE WILDS

From November through April, see your favorite animals from a truly unique perspective on this one-of-a-kind safari!

