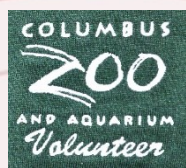


December 2023

The Columbus Zoo and
Aquarium Volunteer
Newsletter

ZooNews





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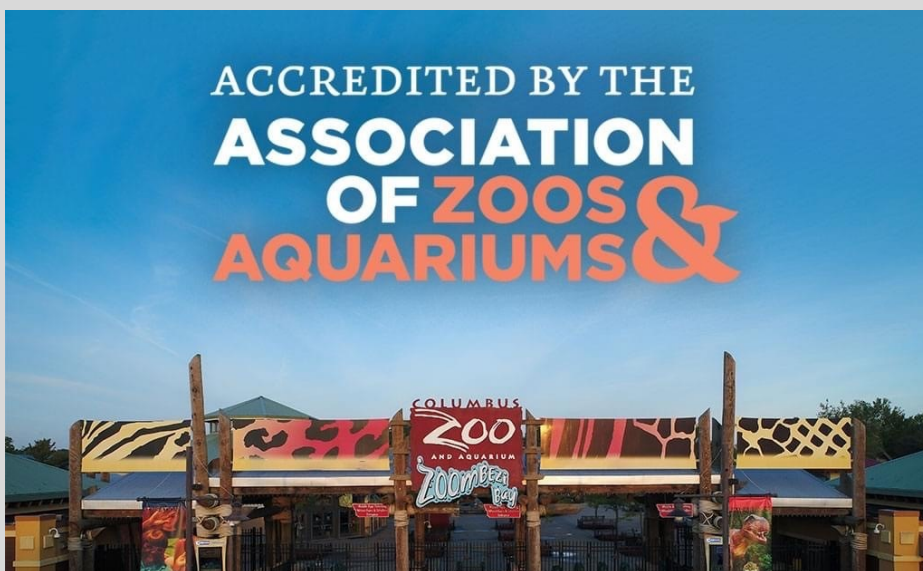
SALLY RUDMANN

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

To submit an article, please email us at: cbuszonews@gmail.com

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Zoo Spotlight

Endangered Species Act --- Enacted 50 years ago

Enacted: December 28, 1973

The Endangered Species Act establishes protections for fish, wildlife, and plants that are listed as threatened or endangered; provides for adding species to and removing them from the list of threatened and endangered species, and for preparing and implementing plans for their recovery; provides for interagency cooperation to avoid take of listed species and for issuing permits for otherwise prohibited activities; provides for cooperation with States, including authorization of financial assistance; and implements the provisions of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).



— U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Fish and Wildlife web page

<https://www.fws.gov/law/endangered-species-act>

Remembering Colo's Birthday—December 22, 1956



Art by Katie O'Brien



Giraffe Feeding

Did you know that a group of giraffes is called a "tower"?



New Program to Help Asian Elephants



The Columbus Zoo has formed a partnership with the Wildlife Trust of India and the IUCN Species Survival Commission to establish a Center for the

Survival (CSS) for Asian Elephants based in India and supporting international efforts for Asian elephant conservation in all 13 countries.

This endeavor is unique in many ways. Currently there are 17 other CSSs around the world, all of which are housed in leading conservation organizations, such as zoos and aquariums. CSS: Asian Elephant is the first to focus on only one animal and the first to be based in the species native range. Each partner offers a unique role in the overall success of the program.

- The Wildlife Trust of India will create and host the CSS team, work on range country planning and action initiatives, provide resources and administrative support.
- The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium will provide full funding for the CSS for the first five years, ensuring the successful launch of the center. The Zoo has also committed to long-term sustainability, offering staff expertise and engagement. The Zoo is a full partner and will be part of all decision making including strategic planning and CSS operations.
- As part of the world's largest environmental conservation organization, IUCN SSC (Species Survival Commission) will support connections between the SSC Asian Elephant and the wider SSC network providing training, tools and communication support for all 13 range countries.

The partners, along with government representatives from the 13 Asian range countries will work on a shared work plan, sustainable strategy and stakeholder engagement to achieve key objectives including:

- Creating a range-wide resource hub to share scientific information and conservation solutions.
- Building capacity by conducting in-country efforts on topics of high priority such as human-elephant coexistence and census techniques.
- Offering education and community programs to serve as a model for interpretive experiences, education for tourists, local communities and students.
- Hosting workshops and training programs.
- Establishing a grant fund emergency response such as in human-elephant conflict mitigation.



On Columbus Zoo news release

The population of Asian elephants continues to decline. Researchers estimate the species' habitat has dwindled to just 15% of its historic range. Sixty percent of the estimated 45,000 animals live in India.

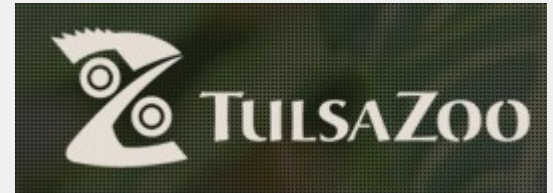
Only three of the 13 range countries have a population of more than one thousand individual animals. CSS Asian Elephant is set to become a beacon of hope for the conservation of this iconic species and a model for collaborative species survival programs worldwide. This partnership highlights the shared commitment to these organizations to safeguard the future of Asian elephants and their habitats.



Source: Columbus Zoo Press Release 10/26/2023: Global Powerhouses Unite to Launch the First Ever Center for the Survival for Asian Elephants in India.

—Nancy Mulholand

To learn more, please visit the IUCN SSC's website.
www.iucn.org/ssc



Fun in Oklahoma City 2023 AZADV CONFERENCE

The 2023 Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents and Volunteers (AZADV) conference was held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The conference itself was October 5-7, with Pre-Trips on October 3 and 4 and a Post-Trip on October 8. Five docents from the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium attended. Two of our Columbus Zoo docents were asked to help plan the conference (Cathy Shade and Steve Hancock) and did so with over 38 Zoom meetings over the previous 13 months. Pam Hancock, served as our delegate.

Pre-trips and post trips were great and very educational. They included the Tallgrass Prairie in Osage County, the Oklahoma City Memorial and Museum, the Museum of Osteology, the Tulsa Zoo and the Oklahoma Aquarium.



2023 Conference Planning Committee
from AZADV website

The opening session started with a greeting from the Director of the Oklahoma City Zoo. The keynote speaker was the executive director, Inger Guiffrieda, of WildCare Oklahoma, the largest wildlife rehabilitation center in Oklahoma and one of the largest in the US. Over 7000 animals representing more species than one can imagine are admitted and cared for annually at their wildlife hospital.

Zoo Day, a trip to the local, sponsoring zoo, is always a favorite. Oklahoma City Zoo did not disappoint and was highlighted with behind the scenes tours of the carnivore building, the brand new giraffe barn, and the elephant barn, cassowary feeding and a delicious barbeque lunch.

On the day of presentations there were choices for everyone across many topics including "Birth and Growth of Twin Asian Elephants," "The Natural History of Animal Vision," "Somaliland and the Cheetah Conservation Fund" and "Wrestles with Wolves: Saving the World One Species at a Time."

Some that were interesting included:

- The Amur Leopard breeding program at the Pittsburgh Zoo. Amur Leopards are the largest of the common leopards. (Snow Leopards are in a separate category.) Amur leopards are critically endangered with less than 100 left in the wild.

Continued on page 6

- The Rosamond Gifford Zoo docent talk about the birth and growth of twin Asian elephants. The zoo is 43 acres in Syracuse, NY. On October 24, 2022 twin male Asian elephants were born. The first born was Yaad, who was 220 lbs. at birth, Tukada was born 10 hours later. He had medical issues to start but now is doing great. Elephant twin births are less than 1% of elephant births. The twins have tripled their birth weights and the hair on top of their heads is 8 inches long.
- The reintroduction of red wolves into the wild. Interesting fact is that the American red wolf is the only wolf found only in the USA. Historically they were found from the east coast to Texas. Now they are only in the wild in North Carolina. At one point when they were gathering them all up so the species could be saved there 400 wolves but of those only 14 were purebred. The rest were hybrid with coyotes. Red wolf pups have a very high mortality in the first year for unknown reasons.

The post trip was a day featuring the Tulsa Zoo and the Oklahoma Aquarium, both of which laid out the red carpet for conference attendees.

Other happenings during the conference included the Ice Breaker with live music, a Silent Auction, the Wildside Vendor Room with fantastic shopping and Forensic Night which offered teams of 4-5 people the assignment of a mystery case. Through a hands-on investigation to participants learned to “read” the features of a human skull to determine the subject’s age, sex, trauma or pathology disease.

As of September, membership of AZADV was at 882 individual members and 51 organizational members. More members are always welcome! Dues are \$20 per year. Membership includes educational opportunities, reciprocal admissions, a private Facebook group, Symbiosis newsletter and of course, the conference.



Steve Hancock at Tulsa Zoo
Photo courtesy of Pam Hancock

Five CZA docents (Jennifer Davis, Susan Fromkes, Pam Hancock, Steve Hancock and Cathy Shade) attended. Any of these people would be happy to share information about conference attendance or general organization information. It would be great to increase membership as well as conference attendance.

All and all the conference is an educational and fun experience with both learning in presentations and trips. The social interaction with volunteers from other Zoos is enjoyable and enlightening. An experience to remember.

—Pam Hancock



Museum of Osteology
Photo courtesy of Cathy Shade

Where to Find Animal Information on Zoo Web Pages

Blog: <https://www.columbuszoo.org/blog>

Exploring the Columbus Zoo's Koala Family: A Close Look at Our Fuzziest Residents
September 29, 2023

Columbus Zoo Fall Planting Tips for your Home Pollinator Garden September 29, 2023

The Southern Hairy-Nosed Wombat: A Fuzzy Star at the Columbus Zoo October 9, 2023

The Watters Aquatic Conservation Center Marks the Beginning of an Exciting New Chapter in
Freshwater Mussel Conservation October 25, 2023

We're "Gibbon" You The Scoop on Gibbons October 24, 2023

Training Tales: Guest Engagement with Columbus Zoo Animals November 3, 2023

Making History: Mac and Mo turn 40. October 26, 2023



My Barn

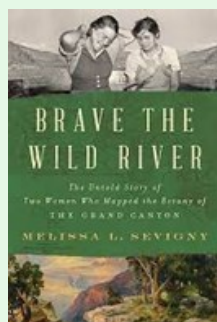
Did you know that Angora goats' hair (mohair) can be used for scarves, sweaters and coats?



Best Nature Books 2023

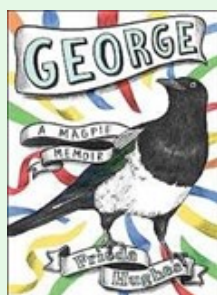
Books Published in 2022 & 2023

Alien Worlds: How Insects Conquered the Earth & Why Their Fate Will Determine Our Future by Steve Nicholls. Princeton University Press, 2023. A truly gorgeous book that sheds light on the origins and diversity of insects; discusses how insects first took to the air and colonized the far corners of the planet; explores the sensory world of insects; explains the remarkable success of social insects, from termites and ants to bees and wasps.



Brave the Wild River: The Untold Story of Two Women Who Mapped the Botany of the Grand Canyon by Melissa L. Sevigny. Norton, 2023. In 1938 no one had yet surveyed the plant life of the Grand Canyon. Botanists Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter were determined to be the first. Science journalist Melissa L. Sevigny has written this adventure tale and a dual biography using letters and diaries of the two women. During their forty-three-day journey down the river, these two women “meticulously cataloged the thorny plants that thrived in the Grand Canyon, chased a runaway boat, ran the river’s most fearsome rapids, and turned the harshest critic of female river runners into an ally. Clover and Jotter’s plant list, including four new cactus species, would one day become vital for efforts to protect and restore the river ecosystem.”

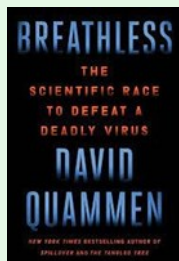
Find More Birds: 111 Surprising Ways to Spot Birds Wherever You Are by Heather Wolf. The Experiment, 2023. Even experienced birders will find something here, including beautiful photographs of some of your favorite birds and even some you’ve never spotted.



George: A Magpie Memoir by Frieda Hughes. Avid Reader Press (Simon & Schuster imprint), 2023. When George is the sole survivor of a nest destroyed in a storm, the author unexpectedly becomes his rescuer. This is her diary of her experiences with a very badly-behaved George and how it changed her life. illustrated throughout with her pen-and-ink drawings. (Author Frieda Hughes is the daughter of Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes.) Recommended to fans of *H is for Hawk* by Helen Macdonald.

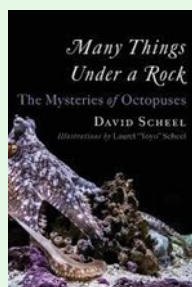
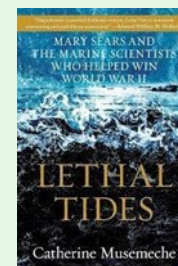
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Heartbeat of the Wild: Dispatches from the Landscapes of Wonder, Peril, and Hope by David Quammen. National Geographic, 2023. A collection of essays originally published in National Geographic magazine and updated for today by David Quammen, one of the world's top nature and science writers. The stories... "read as though Indiana Jones joined forces with scientist-ecologist Edward O. Wilson."- according to *Booklist*.



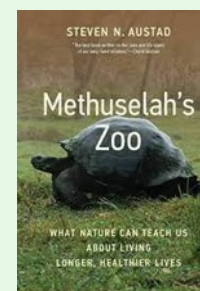
Quammen is also the author of **Breathless: The Scientific Race to Defeat a Deadly Virus** published in 2022, a finalist for the National Book Award. Here he uncovers all sorts of details about the efforts to investigate the spread of COVID and tracing its source. He interviewed nearly one hundred scientists, including leading virologists in China and around the world.

Lethal Tides: Mary Sears and the Marine Scientists Who Helped Win WWII by Catherine Musemeche. Morrow, 2022. Mary Sears was the first oceanographer of the U.S. Navy. She and her team "analyzed ocean currents, made wave and tide predictions, identified zones of bioluminescence, mapped deep-water levels where submarines could hide and gathered information about the topography and surf conditions surrounding the Pacific islands and Japan." She and her team's groundbreaking research is said to have led the U.S. to victory in the Pacific theater during World War II. "Reads like an action novel."

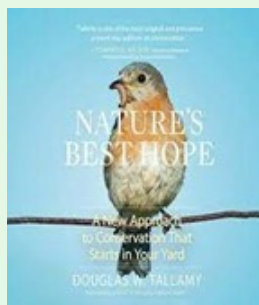


Many Things Under a Rock: The Mysteries of Octopuses by David Scheel. W. W. Norton (2023) Behavioral ecologist, David Scheel, has been studying octopuses for 25 years, beginning when he was diving in Alaska and "followed one down to the sea bed, watched it change color to match some kelp, then pull a blade of the seaweed over its head, apparently to hide. When Scheel peeked under this shroud, a black horizontal pupil gazed back, as though the creature was 'embarrassed.'" In this book, he explores new scientific developments, weaving accounts of his own research, and encounters, with stories and legends of Indigenous peoples that illuminate our relationship with these creatures across centuries."

Methuselah's Zoo: What Nature Can Teach Us About Living Longer, Healthier Lives by Steven N. Austad. The MIT Press, 2022. Austad is the chair of Biology at the Univ. of Alabama and the leading authority on longevity in animals. He wondered why some animals age fast and die young. For example, "why do Opossums in the wild only live to the age of three, but our pet cats can live for a decade and a half; why do cicadas live for seventeen years but whales live for two centuries and tubeworms for several millennia? And why does human life expectancy top out around the mid-eighties, with some outliers living past 100 or even 110?" He looks at the incredible range of longevity across species, habitat by habitat, examining animals that spend most of their lives in the air, comparing insects, birds, and bats; animals that live on, and under, the ground—from mole rats to elephants; and animals that live in the sea.



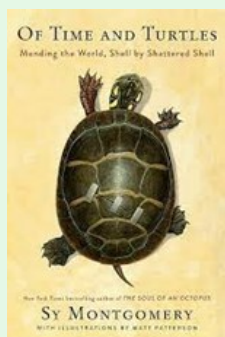
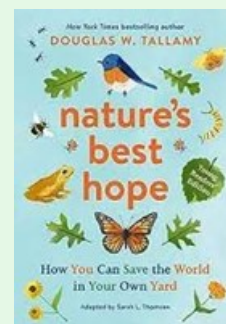
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Nature's Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation That Starts in Your Yard by Douglas W. Tallamy. Portland, OR: Timber Press, 2019. Shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats. Because this approach relies on the initiatives of private individuals, it is immune from the whims of government policy. Even more important, it's practical, effective, and easy—you will walk away with specific suggestions you can incorporate into your own yard. Not only filled with practical information about turning your yard into a conservation project, but beautifully illustrated with color photographs.

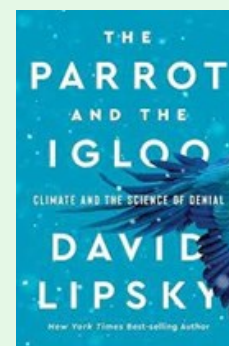
There is also a children's addition: **Nature's Best Hope: How you can Save the World in Your Own Back Yard** by Sarah L. Thomson and Douglas W. Tallamy. Timber Press, 2023. Gr. 3-7.

"Tallamy encourages kids to take direct action. Some of these ideas include planting an oak tree (one of the most important tree species) at home. If that's too large of a task, he suggests they can plant asters—a beautiful flower whose pollen bees use to feed their young. By helping the next generation see that they have power and agency over our collective future, this empowering book will drive home the positive point that kids are truly nature's best hope."

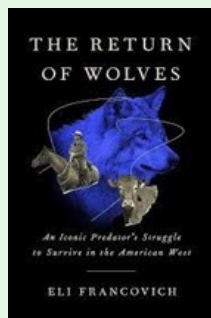


Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World, Shell by Shattered Shell by Sy Montgomery. New York: Mariner Books, 2023. Blends science, memoir, and philosophy, with photos plus stunning, photo-realistic full color paintings and black-and-white chapter opener art by wildlife artist Matt Patterson." Naturalist Sy Montgomery and wildlife artist Matt Patterson volunteer at Turtle Rescue League (TRL), where they meet hundreds of turtles recovering from injury and illness. Endangered by cars and highways, pollution and poachers, these turtles—with wounds so severe that even veterinarians would have dismissed them as fatal—are given a second chance at life. You also meet the Turtle Rescue Leagues founders, whose motto is: Never give up on a turtle.

The Parrot and the Igloo: Climate and the Science of Denial by David Lipsky. W.W. Norton, 2023. *A New Yorker Best Book of 2023; A Library Journal What to Read In 2023 Book*. A look at the rise of climate change denial and how it went mainstream. Traces the evolution of climate denial, exposing how it grew out of early efforts to build a network of untruth about products, like aspirin and cigarettes. One reviewer said of this book: "I've got to thank bestselling author David Lipsky for pulling off a nifty trick in his latest book—making me laugh while reading about the potential end of human life on this planet." Where did the title come from; you ask? "In 1956, the New York Times prophesied that once global warming really kicked in, we could see parrots in the Antarctic. In 2010, when science deniers had control of the climate story, Senator James Inhofe and his family built an igloo on the Washington Mall and plunked a sign on top: AL GORE'S NEW HOME: HONK IF YOU LOVE CLIMATE CHANGE."

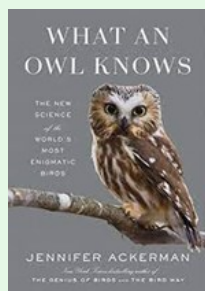
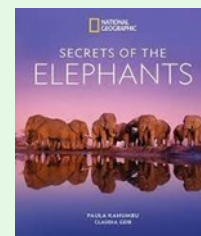


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The Return of the Wolves: An Iconic Predators Struggle to Survive in the American West by Eli Francovich. Timber, 2023. On-the-ground reporting on the conflict between conservationists, ranchers, and the wolf. Journalist Eli Francovich meets local ranchers, politicians, environmentalists, and everyday folks caught in the middle while investigating the nuance of wildlife conservation in the midst of political division. He explores the return of the wolves from multiple perspectives with compelling descriptions of his adventures in the wild.

The Secrets of the Elephants by Paula Kahumbu and Claudia Geib. National Geographic, 2023. A companion to the National Geographic television series of the same name. Filled with beautiful photography and groundbreaking narratives of current science. Also meet the researchers and conservationists dedicating their time and risking their lives to understand and protect the world's two species of elephant.



What an Owl Knows: The New Science of the World's Most Enigmatic Birds by Jennifer Ackerman. Penguin, 2023. A look at biology and natural history of owls revealing remarkable new scientific discoveries about their brains and behavior. The author joins scientists in the field and explores how researchers are using modern technology and tools to learn how owls communicate, hunt, court, mate, raise their young, and move about from season to season. She also writes about her own personal field observations about owls. The NY Times wrote that "even the avian-indifferent will be charmed by her encounters with owls and the dedicated people who study them." She is also the author of *The Genius of Birds* and *The Bird Way: A New Look at How Birds*

Talk, Work, Play, Parent, and Think.

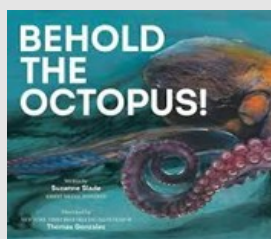
A Wing and a Prayer: The Race to Save our Vanishing Birds by Anders Gyllenhaal & Beverly Gyllenhaal. Simon & Schuster, 2023. "Written partially as a travelogue as the authors journeyed thousands of miles by road around the continent, the combination of personal story and scientific reportage is compelling... show[s] how new technologies of radar and radio tracking allow intimate looks at birds' lives, and otherwise delve into the commitment and love that is demonstrated by all the disparate groups working to save the continent's birds." – Booklist (starred review)



An illustration by artist and turtle lover Matt Patterson who partnered with Sy Montgomery on her turtle adventures in the book *"Of Time and Turtles: Mending the World, Shell by Shattered Shell."*

Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students K–12: 2023 Books Published in 2022 & 2023

Are You Wiggly? Board book by Tim Button; illus. by Ana Larranaga. The Collective Book Studio, 2023. Ages 1-3. Find out who wiggles and who doesn't as kids meet various critters and learn about the movements they make in this fun, rhythmic tale. And the mirror in the back of the book allows children to discover who's the wiggliest creature of all: themselves!



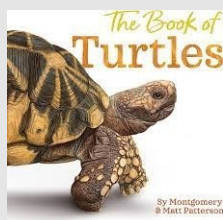
Behold the Octopus by Suzanne Slade; illus. by Thomas Gonzalez. Peachtree, 2023 PreK-Gr. 3. Highlights the fascinating features of the octopus, such as lights that attract prey, legs that walk on land, and the ability to change color and shape to match their surroundings and even masquerade as other animals. Realistic pastel, colored pencil, and airbrush artwork. A series of colorful octopus portraits combine with simple, vivid language, supplying single words to present a particular facet of octopus life. Perfect for curious picture book readers, while sidebars and back matter share additional interesting details.

Berry Song by Michaela Goade; illus. by Mihaela Goade. Little, Brown, 2022. PreK-Gr. 3. (Caldecott Honor Book) “Taps into themes of people’s connection to nature—and nature’s to people. On an island at the edge of a wide, wild sea, a girl and her grandmother gather gifts from the earth: Salmon from the stream, herring eggs from the ocean, and in the forest, a world of berries.

Salmonberry, Cloudberry, Blueberry, Nagoonberry.
Huckleberry, Snowberry, Strawberry, Crowberry.

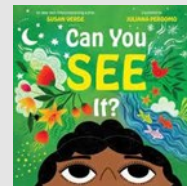


Through the seasons, they sing to the land as the land sings to them. Brimming with joy and gratitude, in every step of their journey, they forge a deeper kinship with both the earth and the generations that came before, joining in the song that connects us all. Michaela Goade's luminous rendering of water and forest, berries and jams glows with her love of the land and offers an invitation to readers to deepen their own relationship with the earth.”—Amazon.



The Book of Turtles by Sy Montgomery (author), Matt Patterson (illustrator). New York: Clarion Books, 2023. PreK-Gr. 3. Beautiful illustrations introduce the reader to turtles with soft shells, turtles with googly eyes, turtles with necks longer than their bodies, and turtles whose shells glow in the dark! You will also meet the late Lonesome George, the last of his kind on Earth who passed away in 2012. And Myrtle, the 90-year-old green sea turtle, who has more than 7,000 followers on Facebook.

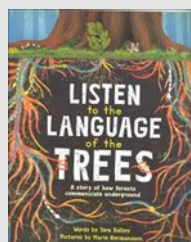
Can You See It? By Susan Verde, Abrams, 2023. PreK-Gr. 2. A book about mindfulness that encourages children to look closer to experience the world around them more deeply, using the five senses to find joy, connection, and beauty in the small, everyday moments.



The Depth of the Lake and the Height of the Sky by Kim Jihyun; illus. by Kim Jihyun. Floris, 2022. Gr. 1-2. Booklist, "Editors' Choice: Books for Youth, 2022;" The Horn Book, "Fanfare 2022 Booklist;" Kirkus Reviews, "Best Picture Books of 2022;" School Library Journal, "Best Books 2022"

The story of a child's independent discovery of the natural world. The spectacular art cleverly captures excitement, wonder and joy in intricate illustrations using deceptively simple colors. Another story about allowing ourselves to be present in the moment.

From Here to There: A First Book of Maps by Vivian French; illus. by Ya Ling Huang. Candlewick, 2023. Gr. 3-5. A little girl, Anna, receives an invitation from a friend to come over and play and inside the envelope is a map. Anna decides to draw maps of her own with her dad's help. Here is an introduction to maps that weaves map terms like scale and point of view into the story and encourages readers to try to create their own maps.



Listen to the Language of the Trees: A Story of How Forests Communicate Underground. By Tera Kelley; illus. by Marie Harmansson. Dawn, 2022. PreK-Gr. 3. Explores the connection of a little seedling to an underground communication network between trees in the forest. Readers discover that trees have their own social network to help each other survive and thrive. Beautiful, realistic illustrations explain the different concepts clearly. Smart, concise explanations of a tricky topic with more detailed information at the end.

The Nature Explorer's Drawing Guide: Step by Step Lessons for Observing and Drawing Animals, Plants, and Insects by Krystal & Brad Woodard. Rocky Nook, 2023. Gr. 1-7. Lessons for drawing nature, sparking imagination and creativity for any kid who wants to explore the world and learn to draw.



From "The Language of Trees"

— Recommended by Sheila Campbell

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!



Top 5 volunteers for animal contact areas and docent regions was calculated based on service between January 1st and October 31st 2023.

Adventure Cove Deck

Jennifer Davis

Jane Taylor

Roni Moore

Sarah Cline

Wilson Stein



Adventure Cove Tunnel

Paul Bastian

Blake Sherry

Phil Ross

Dianna Ball

Fred Colby



Asia Quest Aviary

Wilson Stein

Kevin Skehan

Lynn Childers

Linda McClintock

Tamara Galeckas

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!

Giraffe Feeding

Bev Larson

Sue Grubaugh

Michael StClair

John Zimmerman

Terri Siebert



Kangaroo Walkabout

Craig Kauderer

Christopher Kopp

Kevin Skehan

Darla Peelle

Dury Sudduth

Lorikeets

Elaine Horr

Christopher Kopp

Beth Davies

Terry Payne

Linda McClintock



Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!

My Barn

Deborah Poling

Dee Rush

Krista Hyme

Tara Trigg

Nona Durham



Reptile Encounter

Sharon DuBois

Christopher Kopp

Michael StClair

Susan Messina

Linda Castner



Stingray Bay

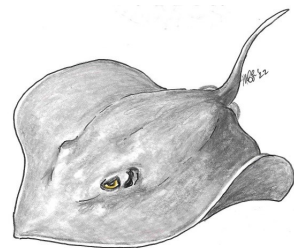
Gary Pederson

Nancy Montgomery

John Zimmerman

Jeana Price

Jerry Olmstead



Tide Pool

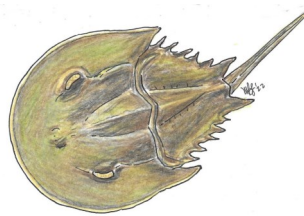
Chris Lutmerding

Corinne Rogers

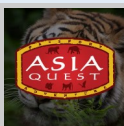
Tamara Galeckas

Linda McClintock

Mark Lowe



Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!



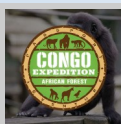
Asia Quest

Susie Gray
Nancy Mulholand
Brenda Baldinger
Jon Briney
Roni Moore



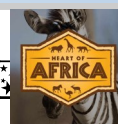
Australia & the Islands

Susie Gray
Michael Sliclen
Dennis McNulty
Barbara Seeberger
Stephanie Reid



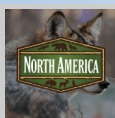
Congo Expedition

Dennis McNulty
Stephanie Reid
Brenda Baldinger
Phil Ross
Karen Moldenhauer



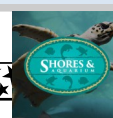
Heart of Africa

Nancy Mulholand
Pam Pugh
David Welsh
Brenda Baldinger
Michael Sliclen



North America

Jason Smith
Dennis McNulty
Larry Gartley
Jennifer Davis
Steven Hancock



Shores

Christina Hochreiter
Peggy Heffelmire
Barbara Seeberger
Susie Gray
Don Hamilton



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and

Zoo staff, who gave us their time and expertise
to make our articles accurate and interesting
Ginger, Carole, Mary, Kathy, Rachel

The Education Team



*Wishing you and yours a safe
and happy holiday season!*