

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

Animal Programs has had a lot to celebrate between World Ocean Day on June 8 and all the June **sea lion** birthdays. Baby's "sweet 16" haddock-shaped gelatin cake was presented on the June 11 Enrichment Day and Lennie's first birthday was on June 17.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis

Enrichment Day in **Animal Encounters Village** included Kevin red-legged seriema receiving chicken-broth-infused ice blocks and a bag of crickets, skunks enjoying every minute of digging through dirt for mealworms and sand cats having a great game of chase with feathers. Those interactions were enriching for the animals, their trainers and the guests visiting the Zoo. The next Enrichment Day will be the Block & Roll event on Aug. 13.

The pinniped team created the Adventure Cove training programs and continues to learn every day along with the animals. Their efforts are also being recognized by others. Shane Gorbett was awarded a second-place

accolade by the International Marine Animal Trainers' Association for his presentation about training the sea lions for their transfer from Florida to Ohio. Pablo Joury accepted the accreditation plaque for the team that was presented by the Alliance of Marine Mammal Parks and Aquariums in recognition of achieving the highest standards of care in the marine mammal field, which also includes manatees and polar bears.

Enrichment and training were also the focus of the region's first Zoom meeting of 2022. Shawn Brehob mentioned the concentration on animal wellbeing, enrichment and animal choice throughout Animal Programs. Elizabeth Boor shared insights on the goal-based enrichment program, which includes Environmental Enrichment Devices. Ashton Jerger talked about utilizing enrichment interaction training and a revised activity budget to reduce stereotypical behavior in a **clouded leopard** known for overgrooming her tail.

Days for the trainers consist of fish preparation, cleaning, medication and eye drop administration, training sessions, meetings, presentations, behind-the-scenes tours, enrichment, shifting and closing. The animals are also given plenty of free time to enjoy socializing. The interactions and the animals in the pools will vary throughout the day and from one day to the next.

In addition to the Dive into Adventure and Training Tales presentations offered in the Adventure Cove Lighthouse Theater, unannounced **African penguin** presentations will be featured on the Africa Stage at 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday when possible. At times, the presentations have not occurred due to the extreme heat and other factors. The intent is to present the penguin programs on the days and time mentioned but doing so is not always possible. In order to help manage expectations, the programs are not announced to the general public in advance and there is not any signage by the stage promising the programs will occur.

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The interior exit doors of the Adventure Cove Tunnel need to remain in an open position to prevent further damage. Parts to repair the doors are on order. To play it safe in the meantime, please do not touch the control buttons on any of the automatic doors.

Our sea lions can hear the underwater shiftway doors open and know fish will be waiting for them when they swim into the Adventure Cove building. A pink candy box with "EXIT" written on it is being used as a cue to ask sea lions to exit the pool and go to the door.

Our adult male sea lions range from 530-685 pounds, with females following at 155-175 pounds. Of the pups, Norval has grown into a strong 155 pounds, Sunshine weighs 110 pounds and Lennie weighs 77 pounds. Sea lion Qizai is not using his back flippers as much and will participate in therapies similar to Bodega's regimen as the behavior mirrors his in many ways. The matter at hand may have emanated from a practice at a previous facility where maneuvers involved the abundant weight of these large animals being focused on their lower backs, potentially compressing disks in their spines. Qizai is still actively and comfortably involved in presentations and tours.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis

The **harbor seals** weigh about 165 pounds. Hillie is showing a behavior where she clamps her jaws shut loudly and makes a lot of noise. The trainers are studying and evaluating this behavior. An observation intern on the viewing platform is assessing Hillie's behavior. You may see harbor seals near the Central Pool's plastic grate enjoying the water movement in one of the deepest parts of the pool. The water sucked into the grate then goes into the Life Support System to be cleaned.

Our next Zoom presentation will be July 19. Looking ahead to events, the popular **sloth** yoga sessions will return Nov. 5-6.



Remembering Fern



Remembering Grover

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

There will be more extensive animal updates in next month's region news but here are a few for now:

On Sunday, June 26, the region experienced another loss as 14-year-old **Amur tiger** Jupiter passed away from complications of Covid-19. He will be greatly missed by his Care staff, the guests, and the volunteers who loved seeing him lounge in his cave or impressing guests at the window with his massive size.

Bandit **red panda** has relocated to his new home at the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, Wisconsin.

The sexes of the **Pallas' cat** kittens born on April 7 have been determined. We have two girls and a boy that can currently be seen in the habitat with mom Tiina.

A new female **sloth bear** arrived recently; there will be more details about her soon.

Joslyn **tufted deer** has also gone to a new home. Consequently, our tufted deer group is now all-male: Dexter and his two offspring, TJ and Angus.



Remembering Jupiter

Photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

On June 18, the Asia Quest region lost a much-loved resident when Beco **Asian elephant** passed away at age 13 after battling EEHV (elephant endotheliotropic herpesvirus) for several days. Beco was born at the Columbus Zoo on March 27, 2009 to the delight of numerous guests who witnessed the birth, which occurred in public view. Many of us have heard guests share stories of how special he was and how they marked his growth along with that of their own children. Some talked about how they submitted ideas to the contest to determine his name, or how they watched him grow and play over the years. Please keep the Animal Care staff in your thoughts. In case you haven't heard, the Zoo has set up a Beco fund for memorial contributions. If you'd like some guidance on answering questions guests may ask, there is a Beco Talking Points document on the portal to assist you. Please contact Lori Summers or the volunteer staff if you have additional questions.



Remembering Beco



REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Everyone, animals and humans alike, is adjusting to the heat of summer. Additionally, construction in the region has been delayed slightly. It is now slated for the end of July.

There have been some challenges with the **otters** but, overall, they are doing well. There may be observation interns watching them periodically.

Luka **tree kangaroo** is currently in her birth range. She is being monitored closely, but we likely won't know anything for a while. If she does give birth, she will be a first-time mom, so there is a lot of normal nervousness around that possibility.

The **Lorikeet** Garden is now open! Please sign up for a few shifts to visit these beautiful birds!



Remembering Sprout

Photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

The **okapis** are all doing well. Matoke is now going out into the yards and can be seen frequently in Y3, which is the yard closest to the Congo Expedition exit and the parrot aviary. Both Y1 and Y3 have a mister system that creates a cooling fog. Feel free to let the keeper staff know if you see any of the okapis standing in them. So far, El Jewar has only been observed standing nearby them on occasion. For the summer, Miliki and Matoke will switch off going to Y3 and Damise and El Jewar will take turns in Y1. Damisi has shown keepers that she is more comfortable when she has both Y1 and Y2 so, if she is outside, you will likely see her having access to both yards.

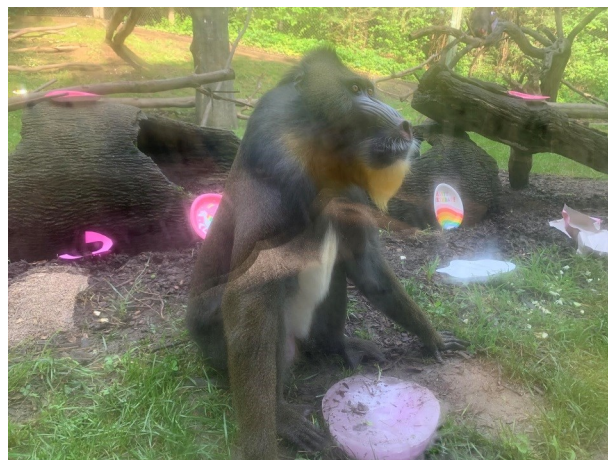
All of the **colobus monkeys** are doing well. It's possible that Sekani and Bernedette are breeding again – fingers crossed for a little friend for Jif! Speaking of our youngster, you can often see Jif bouncing all over the place as he is exploring his independence. His last weight was 3.5 pounds. In other colobus news, Claire and Jabari each have birthdays coming up. They will be 14 and 12 respectively.

Nothing new to report on our **bonobos**. Amelia has been showing different stages of swelling. She is not as large as the other females right now but she is developing her own pattern. Susie and Lady are about to celebrate their 40th birthdays! They are still as beautiful as ever. Maiko's birthday is also coming up; he will be 38.

The **mandrill** troop is still enjoying time out in the yard. They seem to really like hanging out under the mister on the warmer days we've been having. Hasina just celebrated her third birthday on June 13 with a unicorn-themed party for the whole troop. Hasina and Mosi continue to mature physically. Mosi's nose is getting a little redder each day and Hasina's swelling now resembles that of the other adult females. Hormones are ever changing in the group but, currently, Matilda is still our dominant female.

Jaime and Tyrion **leopards** are also relishing time outside. Tyrion's tail wound has been improving with the start of a new topical spray the team has been applying to the tip of his tail. He tolerates his medications very well. The boys have also been enjoying new perfume and scent enrichment as well as some pool time in the yard. Their new favorite is "Obsession" by Calvin Klein. Rolling around on their enrichment is an absolute must whenever that scent is used!

If you don't see **gorillas** outside in the habitat, check inside! On extremely hot days, they may be brought in early if it looks like



Photos courtesy of Alexis Fisher



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

they could use a break from the heat. In addition to turning on their mister outside, keepers are providing them with ice treats regularly. Sulaiman (Sully) has been observed playing in the pool multiple times and Zahra has been following in her big brother's footsteps.

You may have noticed some milk crates consistently hung on the outside of the habitat. The crates are there to allow keepers to feed Ktembe's group multiple times throughout the day – just like the ones that are inside – to extend their time in the habitat. They have been doing great with this system! You may also see some vertically hung fabric in the yard sometime in the near future. The strips are actually the hammocks keepers use for them that are

being repurposed as visual barriers to allow the gorillas to have more privacy from one another and/or the public. The fabric is just like the one you've probably seen hanging in between the indoor viewing spaces when both troops are inside.

Kamoli, JJ and Sulaiman are all growing like weeds. You will see them wrestling from time to time and you might also witness some sexual behavior, particularly in the form of Kamoli mounting Suliman. Overall, the gorillas are doing great!

Our **orangutans**, especially Khali, are very happy to be going back outside! They seem to really like their new building and set up. While orangutans are pretty heat and humidity tolerant, they are occasionally getting access inside if the heat seems to be making them uncomfortable. Staff will keep the A-frame sign at the beginning of the walkway to the indoor viewing area updated regarding their location. The orangutans are given ice treats and frozen sheets/fabric on hot days. Keepers also manually turn on the splash pad for short periods of time, which Khali can be found soaking herself in sometimes.

The orangutans received their vending machine from WildThink and have had a few chances to play with it (see photo). Keepers are waiting for a software update to really get things rolling but, if you see our orange friends with small pink rings, they are tokens from the machine. Staff are very excited about the new enrichment device and welcome the opportunity to brainstorm and troubleshoot with other facilities that utilize such machines.



Photo courtesy of Alexis Fisher

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

On a sad note, **Thomson's gazelle** Scout was humanely euthanized on June 28. During recalls that day, he was not able to control his back legs when ambulating (they were very weak). Staff performed an emergency immobilization as they thought he may have just tweaked his back and had a pinched nerve. Upon review of his CT scan however, they discovered he had a very aggressive cancer that was basically eating away at the bone in his spinal column. Soft tissue was filling in where the bone was missing and constricting his spinal column. Due to its severity, it only would have been a matter of time before his back or one of his legs broke. The loss has been tough for the Animal Care team as Scout was one of our first gazelles. Please keep them in your thoughts.



All of the other Savanna animals are doing great, including the **giraffes**!



Nothing new to report about the **vervets**; they are getting along fine.

Our **lions** are doing well and the fix that was made to the front hill seems to be working. Staff will continue to monitor the area for grass growth and stability before they give the lions access to the entire yard again. As of now, they anticipate the latter will most likely happen in August.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Remembering Scout

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Sloane **swan** is enjoying time in the yard. He is also becoming much more comfortable with the keepers and is even coming up to them to take his fish. A girlfriend for Sloane has been identified by the SSP and staff members are working to get her here as soon as possible.

At My Barn, we unfortunately lost **Jacob's sheep** Wright and **Barbados sheep** Yvette in the last couple of weeks. Both of them were geriatric and lived very full lives.



Pack dynamics in regard to our **Mexican wolves** are being closely monitored. Keepers are aware of the pack picking on Winter, but please let them know if you see anything concerning.

Banjo **pronghorn** and the **bison** are loving the summer weather. Keepers have set up a couple of misters around the yard for them to enjoy.

The **beavers** have not been super active recently due to the hot weather. Zucchini can usually be seen in the front den.

Otters Paso and Catori, **lynxes** Siggy and Astrid and Stevie and Joan **black bears** are all doing well.

Thank you to all of the docents who helped with the **eagle** watch! For those who didn't hear, Cheyenne had to go up to the hospital for an extended stay to be treated. Staff had seen some aggression between all the girls, so they set up a watch to make sure everyone was being nice to each other. As of this writing, everybody seems to be getting along.

The **aviary** is back open, so please come and enjoy all of our songbirds again!

Cougars Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are doing great. Keepers recently made a few slight modifications to their yard to add some more sand piles for the cats.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** are doing fine and dandy. If you haven't heard, Guillotine had a cataract appear in her right eye and was taken to MedVet to have it removed. The surgery and her recovery went perfectly! Her recheck is coming up soon.

Our **sandhill cranes** are back in the bull moose yard where they continue to be a guest favorite.

Strawberry **moose** is now spending all day in the big moose yard. Keepers set up some fans and misters around the yard to keep her comfortable on hot days.

The two **reindeer** girls have finally shed most of their winter coats and are enjoying the summer a little more as a result. They have fresh sand piles and misters to keep them comfortable on hotter days.

The **prairie dogs** have been up and active. Make sure you stop by and see how many you can find!

Our **arctic foxes** are definitely not fans of the warmer weather. Keepers have placed fans around their habitat to cool them off in addition to offering them ice blocks regularly.

Brown bears Brutus and Buckeye are ready for summer. Both have been spending time in their pool and can be hard to spot if they are up in the waterfall. Brutus is sporting a very blond coat this year.

Anana and Aurora **polar bears** continue to do well together and can be seen swimming during Keeper Talks as well as on warmer days.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Remembering Wright and Yvette

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Thank you to everyone who helped with World Ocean Day. It was a huge success that couldn't have been done without you.

Our **flamingoes** are back outside and very busy on the nest mounds.

The **zebra sharks** received their physical exams a couple of weeks ago and are doing well.

We received two new **pelicans** who will be joining Sir Peliken in Manatee Coast after quarantine. Their names are Scoop and Ladle. More about their background and personalities to come. Staff are already in love with them.

Rachel Bares will be leaving Shores in mid-July to pursue a master's degree out of state. Please wish her well as she starts this next chapter.



Photos courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS



The Wildlife Ecology team travelled to Nebraska to collect new breeder stock **American burying beetles** for our colony.

A few more **Bactrian deer** have been born out in pasture as well as seven **eland** calves.

In order to provide the best chance of breeding **goral** this year, staff decided to keep the breeding pair in a yard away from the regular tour route. However, they wanted to make sure that guests would still have something to see in the yard at Lake Trail where the goral usually spend their summers. Thus, with help from the crew at the Zoo, they were able to bring a female **tufted deer** to The Wilds for the season. Their plan was successful! A goral kid was born in the main compound, the first in many years.



Photo courtesy of The Wilds



Père David's deer fawns born at The Wilds in April.

Photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium