

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

Thanks again to the docents who assisted with the Zoo's celebration of World **Sea Lion** Day on May 30! Kay Rietz, Lynn Powell, Steve Hancock, Pam Hancock, Brenda Baldinger, Barney Wolf, Debbie Giddings, Fred Colby, Roni Moore, Linda Barleycorn, Sally Stein, Sandy Crabtree, Val Pittsenbarger and Keri Kotchounian helped with the giant coloring mural and created another, accepted donations for the Marine Mammal Center in exchange for collectible pinniped pins and shared the enrichment items that pinnipeds love to play with in the pools. Cali sea lion animal ambassador made appearances and trainers provided activities throughout the day that created defining moments for our guest, including training sessions, gelatin tosses and sea lion selfies.

Summer has arrived and so have the shade cloths above the Adventure Cove pools to provide the animals with some solace from the sun.

The Adventure Cove Deck radio has a label on the side as a reminder to switch from Channel 8 to Channel 5 when contacting the Adventure Cove Animal Care staff.

Hillie **harbor seal** is exhibiting mouth-clicking behavior that is being monitored by Care staff, including the veterinarians.

The animals in Heart of Africa cared for by Animal Programs staff now have pre-recorded music and public address announcements promoting the upcoming **cheetah** runs and Watering Hole visitors. The **aardvarks** are again making brief appearances in the Watering Hole.

Two sea lions formerly at our Zoo are thriving in their new homes. Toby went to a facility in Myrtle Beach where he is the eldest of the males and enjoying being the high diver, whereas Lovell resides in Pigeon Forge with two other females.

In Adventure Cove, "it is OK to play" with sea lion Sunshine and the other animals because they have a choice to participate and can swim away whenever they choose. While volunteering, our focus needs to be on animal well-being



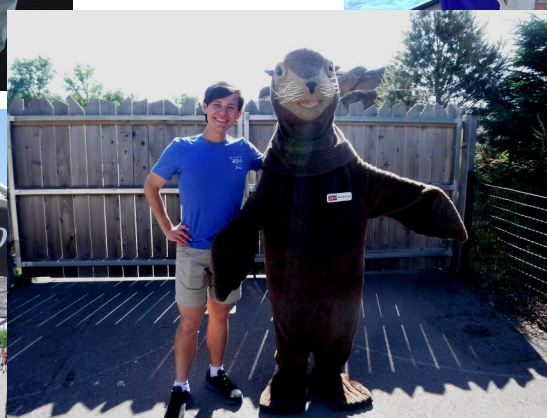
– ensuring guests avoid the use of lasers or other lights and scratching the acrylic – and informing the guests. However, we can return to the Tunnel out of uniform as a guest and interact with the animals at length if we choose.

Guest interaction with the animals is wonderful enrichment for them and provides memorable, defining moments for the guests – just ask the young Girl Scout named Ayla who sold 2,036 boxes of cookies in the hope of attending a special sea lion program and seeing sea lion Ayla. When the Animal Care team learned of her quest, they quickly arranged for Ayla pinniped to make an appearance in the presentation to the delight of Ayla the child.

According to the master plan, water depth is an average of 5 feet in the North Pool and 10 feet in the Demonstration Pool. As these are average water depths, it may help to refer to them as such for better guest understanding. For example, the water is deeper than 10 feet in the portion of the Demonstration Pool where the sea lions dive from the rocks to ensure they don't touch the floor when doing so. The portal presentations now reflect this updated wording.

During the first Zoom presentation for the region, Pablo Joury shared the importance of enrichment for the animals and guest engagement. Additionally, Jen Dew and Shawn Brehob provided examples of how the residents of Animal Encounters Village provide a different experience for guests with each visit that included everything from a **toucan** recycling a can to observing an unscheduled training session. Those encounters have increased stay time and repeat visitation to the area.

Our next Zoom presentation is on Aug. 1. "See" you then!



REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Welcome to summer in Asia Quest! Thanks to all of the volunteers who have been working in the region and the aviary. You are the eyes and ears of the Animal Care staff.

A little information about **cheetah** Edward: Edward was born on Oct. 20, 2010, at The Wilds and was raised by **English yellow lab** Carlisle. Edward had a brother named Jacob and a sister named Bella (all four names are from the Twilight series). The median life expectancy for cheetahs is 11.7 years.

Pallas' cats Rooster and Kaarina are currently in the habitat while parents Moose and Tiina are spending time behind the scenes.

New cameras have been added to the **Amur tiger** yard so that the scientists collecting data from Mara's new collar can compare the information to visual footage.

The two azure-winged magpie chicks in the **Asia Quest Aviary** have fledged and the female is now sitting on eight eggs. It is not yet known if the eggs are fertile. One of the fledged chicks has been helping Mom by sitting on the eggs as well.

The Animal Care staff have been throwing some bagged **sloth bear** diets from the visitor aisle into the habitat to reduce pacing for food in the bottom area of the habitat.

The **red-crowned cranes** are currently sitting on dummy eggs, which will be removed soon. A pool has also been introduced to their habitat.

The **tufted deer** may be in either the large yard (on the left when crossing the bridge) or the small yard (on the right) during the summer. Please check both yards for the deer when working the region. At the time of this writing, it is still too cold for the **pond turtles** to go out to the small yard.

New climbing aids have been added to the **silver leaf langur** habitats to help Gumby and other monkeys move around easier.

Breeding activity has been observed between female **Asian elephant** Rudy and male Sabu. Conversely, no breeding activity has been witnessed between Sunny and Sabu. Please note that this is only observed activity – any thought of pregnancy would be many, many months from now, if at all.

On hot days, you may see **greater one-horned rhino** Brian resting in a mud bath. He seems to really enjoy this activity in the summer.



Please note that August is Asian Elephant Awareness Month. Watch for more information on volunteer involvement in future communications.

RED PANDA ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

There are many ways to tell the difference between **red panda** Kora and her daughter, Santi, but the easiest is to look at the stripes on their tails. Can you tell Kora from Santi in the photograph below?



Photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

You really need to see both pandas to make an accurate identification. When she was younger, Santi was much darker than Kora. As Santi lightened, checking the rings on their tails became the easier way to differentiate them. Santi's rings are very white, while Kora's are more of a cream/reddish color. If you guessed Kora on the right and Santi on the left, give yourself a well-deserved pat on the back.

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Every area of the region is up and running. It's great to see all our favorite animals outside or in their habitats enjoying the weather and delighting our guests as well as volunteers.

The Nocturnal Building and Aviary are very busy with the recent opening of the building and the addition of the **weedy sea dragon** habitat. The dirt in the **wombat** habitat was replaced in June and Glen is loving it! (Please note the enclosed picture of him relaxing in his house during the replacement process.) This event happens once per year with a very big cooperative effort between Australia Animal Care staff and the Horticultural Department.

As mentioned in last month's updates, there are 22 **feathertail gliders** in their habitat. Seven of them are males and lots of over breeding has been noted, so some of the males may be removed for short periods of time.

The **kookaburras** are slowly starting to adjust to the opening of the Nocturnal Building. The perches and nest box have been very helpful. The curtain will still continue to be put back up around mid-afternoon.

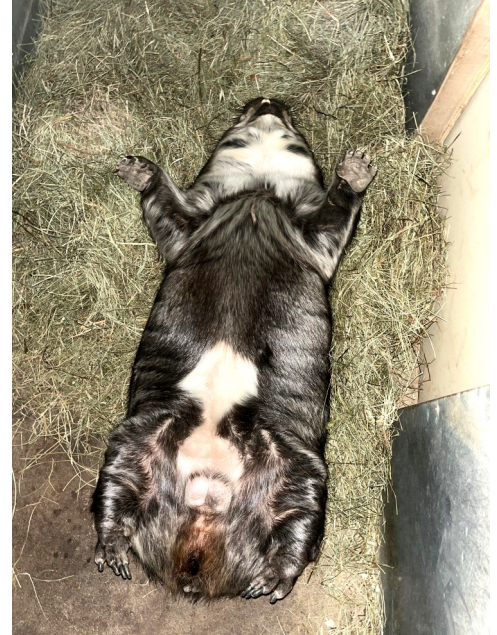


Photo courtesy of Jessica Linek

Four **small-clawed otters** from the AEV Department may be observed having some play dates in the habitat with the region otters, Gus and Peanut or Dash and Flounder. Look for lots of otter fun!

Magpie goose Sandy is now in the Congo Base Camp Aviary along with three **Aldabra tortoises** and two **radiated tortoises**. Australia Animal Care staff take care of the animals found there.

There are now six turtles in our newly named Turtle Lake: one male and two female **temple turtles** and three female **Malaysian giant pond turtles**. More plants and deadfall have been placed in the habitat for enrichment and wellbeing.

Koala Kora is starting to be a "big" girl now and spending more time apart from Katy. Staff members are excited to see Kora growing up and Katy being a great mother.

If it hasn't already, construction will soon begin at the **kangaroo** barn, which will include providing additional space in the holding yard. All kangaroos will still be out in their habitat during this process. Conversely, the **lorikeet** habitat will be shut down for one week to replace the flooring. No date has been decided upon at this time.

All of the other animals in the region are doing well.

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

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

If you can't find Mo or Kamina **gorilla**, you might want to look in the hammock in room 1 or 4 as they have been sleeping in them together.

The keepers have new blood sleeves for training purposes. Baby J, also known as JJ, is a star. He already will put his arm in the sleeve and hold it in there. Keith is his primary trainer and JJ is doing a lot of other things as well. For instance, he is great at hand injections with saline. Staff will be training a few individuals from each group to draw blood for a vitamin D study. Mac's group is being trained almost every day. All are good with many different behaviors.

Ktembe's group is doing well. Nia hangs with Ktembe some and still likes to play with baby Jamani. Sue and Jamani are pals and play a lot. Cassie keeps herself busy patrolling and making sure Sue and Nia are behaving. Overall though, Cass is very laid back and happy in her group. It is time for Ktembe's cardiac workup. The hope is to do an awake scan, so you may see him being trained more and being scanned.

The gorillas are still doing well with all of the changes going on in the area. Demolition of parts of the bonobo building will soon be starting if they have not already. Staff will continue to observe the gorillas to see what, if any, impact the construction has on them.



A goal for the keepers this summer is to incorporate more mid-day group switches for the gorillas, so you may see one group outside in the morning and the other out in the afternoon. They hope that doing so will give them, as well as the gorillas, more opportunities for training, enrichment and performing animal observations.

To clear up a birthday year, Sue gorilla was born in 2004 (the lanyard card says 2005). When signing up for the area this summer, please remember that outdoor gorillas is the priority.



We are so happy to announce that **orangutan** Khali is pregnant and due mid-November! This will be the first orangutan baby born at the Zoo in over 60 years! While Sulango has produced two other offspring outside of Columbus, this will be Khali's first and a first for most of our Congo staff. Thus, a lot of focus is being put on training maternal behaviors to help set everyone up for success as much as possible. The behaviors include retrieving a stuffed animal orangutan "baby" and presenting the baby for bottles in case supplementation is needed. Khali has participated in several fetal ultrasounds now and everything seems to be progressing well. The

announcement has not yet been made public, so please keep it under wraps until you hear otherwise.

In non-pregnancy related news, Dumplin and Sulango have been participating in cardiac ultrasound training. Obtaining scans and good heart images is more challenging in orangutans than the other great apes due to the positioning of their air sacs. Keith has been doing a fantastic job working with them on different body positions to help move their air sacs out of the way. Dumplin also recently received a course of Adequan injections (via voluntary hand injection) to help with her mobility. She did awesome and some minor improvements have already been noted! The Wild Think vending machine was out of commission for a little while due to some rascally orangutan behavior with browse sticks but it is now back, so you're likely to see pink tokens floating around again.

Hasina **mandrill** gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on June 6, an early birthday present as Hasina turned four on June 13. One of our keepers came in to check for a baby at 1 a.m. and Hasina was attentively taking care of the little one; she is a natural! A donor, longtime supporter, and Columbus Zoo volunteer, who wishes to remain anonymous, had the opportunity to name the baby and selected Izara (meaning "star"), or Izzy for short. Bernard is VERY interested in his new little sister. All individuals are being very respectful of the new mom and baby. Soon, we will see the two little ones bouncing off the walls (literally) with one another!

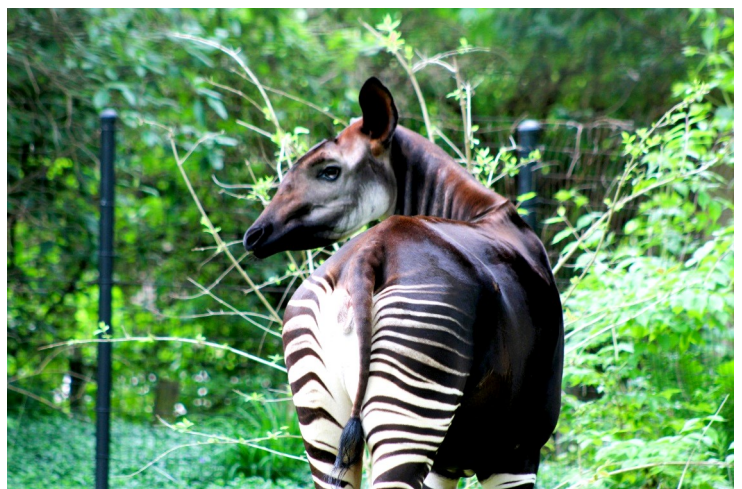
Our **leopard** boys are getting along just fine. They have been catching quite a number of birds in their yard – what fun enrichment!

Colobus Marmalade is growing more and more every day. She is also spending more time off of Mom and has been enjoying playing with the water bowls as well as her brother, Jif. There are new eyebolts that have been installed in the yard that will allow for more hanging enrichment opportunities. Additionally, the troop recently received a barrel snack shack that Jif loves to swing in!

All of the **bonobos** are doing very well in their temporary holding space. They still get to spend time outside by taking turns in the attached yard. Maintenance did an excellent job hanging multiple hammocks in each room along with a bunch of fire hose strips! The bonobos are utilizing everything; it's wonderful to observe all the natural behaviors the items elicit.

Unfortunately, Congo had to say goodbye to bonobo Maiko on May 22. He was a unique individual and made a huge impact on everyone. The bonobos and keepers are adapting to life without him.

Traffic on the service road will undoubtedly increase as soon as demolition begins on the old bonobo building. There are signs located on the pathway and in the gorilla indoor viewing area about the construction but there still may be lots of questions from the public in regard to the noise and its' effect on the other animals. Staff will be keeping a close eye on everyone throughout the construction process.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

It was under the direction of the Species Survival Plan® (SSP) that 2.5-year-old male **Masai giraffe** James was castrated. The procedure went exceptionally well and he is recovering nicely. Typically, the SSP looks at blood lines and, if a particular male is very represented (meaning there is already a full, long line of his genetics in the population at large), castration may be recommended to ensure genetic diversity. James came to us from the Los Angeles Zoo and is the grandson of Rajah, who lives at The Wilds and whose genetics are extremely well represented throughout the SSP. Therefore, 3.5-year-old Masai giraffe Bobbie, who recently arrived from the Houston Zoo, will be our only breeding bull.

In 1990, the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) developed a system for examining and managing the conservation and management needs of groups of related species, or taxa. These groups are called TAGs, short for Taxon Advisory Groups. The Felid TAG is a committee of advisors with expertise in issues relating to wild cats.

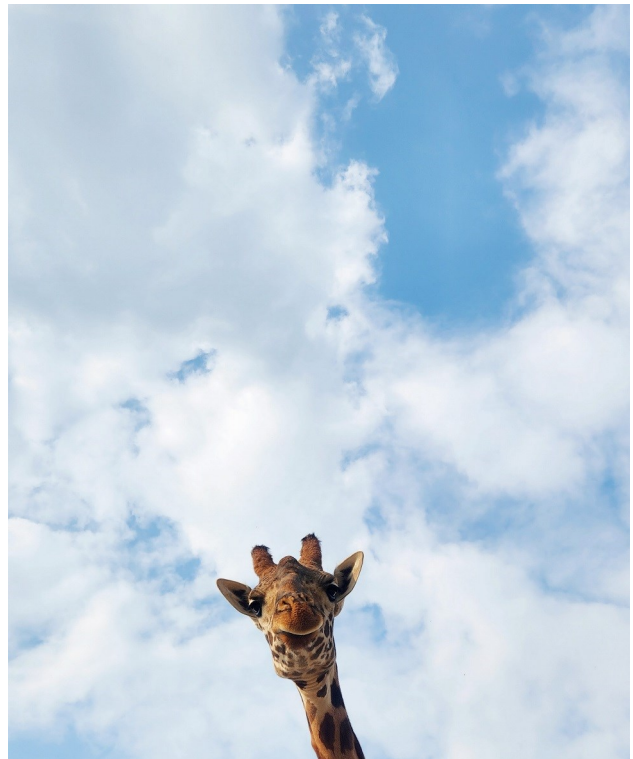
The Columbus Zoo is proud to be hosting the Felid TAG conference from July 11-14, which will include SSP meetings and Advisory Group meetings and conclude with a post-conference trip to The Wilds.

Source:

[Felid Taxonomic Advisory Group \(TAG\) of the American Zoo & Aquarium Association \(AZA\) > Home \(felidtag.org\)](https://felidtag.org/)



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Waibig—photo courtesy of Kennedy Yowell

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

The **trumpeter swans** will be moving during construction. Therefore, you will see work begin soon on the other side of the moose pond as that will be their temporary home once ground breaks this fall.

Mexican wolves Storm and Winter will spend the summer in their habitat before moving once construction starts. Stay tuned for more information.

Petting season is in full swing at **My Barn**. Staff love seeing all the new faces in the area this year and want to thank everyone for choosing to spend time there.

We had a few retired keepers from the Pittsburgh Zoo visit recently who worked with our **lynx** ladies when they were kittens. Tiffany and Cat wowed them with the training accomplishments that have been achieved. Lynxes are notorious for being difficult to train.

Black bears Joanie and Stevie have just about shed their winter coats. The best time to see them active is in the morning and late afternoon.



Otters Paso and Catori have been sleeping in during the morning hours. They can often be found sleeping in the Little Tykes shelter near the overlook on the cougar side.

August is the **cougar “kittens”** birthday! More details to come on their 3rd birthday party.

Staff are hoping the fix to the mesh to exclude chipmunks in the **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** has worked. Please let them know if you see any critters in the aviary who don't belong.

The **bald eagles** will also spend the summer in their habitat and move before construction begins – more info to come.

Moose Bert is getting ready to go through his first rut season. Per Alaska Fish and Game, our moose are not allowed to be bred. Thus, starting sometime in late August or early September, you'll see Bert separated from the girls. During July, keepers may give him some time-outs to prepare for that.



Reindeer Sugar and Abby are doing their best to beat the summer heat. Mistert, fans and the pool all help them manage our Ohio summers.

Brown bear Brutus had an exam in late June and did very well. He's still on some meds that need to be spaced out throughout the day so, at times, the bears will have access to the building to ensure Brutus is being medicated properly. They seem to prefer being in the habitat so, if guests don't see the boys, encourage them to wait or stop back to see them.

Keepers are gearing up for **polar bear** denning season. Work orders are in and they are bulking up Aurora. In July, she may start getting some time alone and away from Lee to begin investigating her denning space. We will be celebrating Artic Sea Ice Day on July 15 – details will be forthcoming.

The **Arctic foxes** should be in their full summer grey coats at this time.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Our **juvenile alligators** were introduced to their yard and pool. Thank you to everyone who has helped with the watch.

All **turtles** and **tortoises** are out in their summer homes – the Asia Quest Aviary, Turtle Lake in Australia and the Islands and the Congo Aviary.

The **Komodo dragons** have started to go out to their yard as temperatures permit.

One of our **stingrays** at Stingray Bay had an ovariectomy. She is recovering well but still has some sutures in her back. The procedure will hopefully prevent reproductive issues as she ages.

Our **zebra sharks** have both been fit with their accelerometers – similar to “Fitbits” but for sharks.

Unfortunately, **flamingo** Auggie died on May 26. He was the first flamingo hatched at the Zoo in August of 2000. He will be missed.

Melissa, our new terrestrial keeper, started at the end of May.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

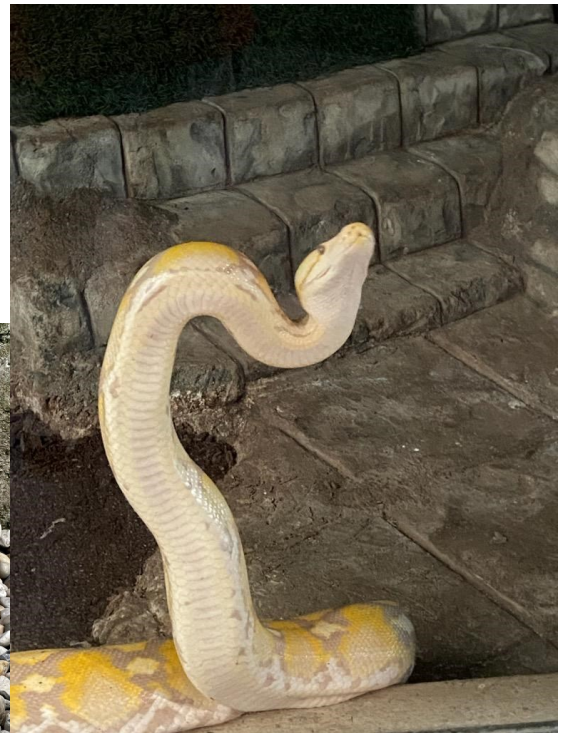


Photo courtesy of Barb Emmets

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

We have a great team at The Wilds. Two **white rhinos** left our herd in June as part of the Southern White Rhinoceros SSP plan. Team members depend on the maintenance staff to help them get animals loaded and safely on the road. They average about two rhino moves a year, so the crew knows how to get the job done quickly and safely. Maintenance staff also help fix and repair crates when needed.



The Animal Management staff teams up with Conservation Education and Operations staff each year for World **Giraffe** Day (observed on June 21). This year's event included two painting party sessions and helped raise money for the Giraffe Conservation Foundation.

Our partners at Muskingum University have been studying native grassland birds at The Wilds for many years. A few years ago, one of the researchers asked if they could get into our pastures to see what birds were using that space. Staff started taking a team of observers into pasture in a Wildside truck for some early morning point counts in June. It turns out our

pastures don't just support species like deer and rhinos. We have a great population of grassland birds, like **boblinks** and **eastern meadowlarks**, along with some more rare species, like **Henlow's sparrows**, that take advantage of the open habitat.

Outside the main pasture fences, Director of Ecology Genelle Uhrig travelled to Nebraska in June to work with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to help collect new breeding stock for the **American burying beetle** recovery program. The beetles they collected this year will be the foundation for next year's release. The offspring from last year's collection, along with beetles raised at the Cincinnati Zoo, will be released at The Wilds this summer. The beetle surveillance teams have already captured several beetles that overwintered from last year's population.

Remember, you can book everything for your visit to The Wilds on the website. Go out and visit the wonderful staff and animals this summer!

