

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

It's July and things are really s-l-o-w in Asia Quest. Not really! There has been a lot of animal movement both to and from the region, so it's already been a busy summer for staff. The region meeting on July 9 will be centered on Asia Quest and our **Asian elephants**. It should be a great meeting!

While we are talking about the “elephants in the room” or maybe the “elephants not in the room,” there are quite a few updates concerning our Asian elephants.

- After approximately 32 years and 13 years of being in Columbus respectively, Connie and Hank moved to the Tulsa Zoo, which specializes in geriatric Asian elephants. They will be in a new barn that houses other male and female Asian elephants. Female Booper knows Hank from a prior zoo, so it will be interesting to see if they remember each other.
- Sabu has returned to the Cincinnati Zoo where he will meet the new elephants from Ireland.
- Male elephant Johnson has arrived from African Lion Safari in Canada and is in quarantine. Stay tuned for more information.
- The south elephant yard is under construction to increase space for our herd. The yard will have feeding stations and an area where visitors can watch the elephants being trained. Construction should conclude this fall.

Sloth bear Heiderose is experiencing pseudo pregnancy symptoms and is currently behind the scenes. Randhir is in the habitat though.

Our new baby **tufted deer** is expected to make her public debut by the end of July. She does not have a name yet. The deer will be moved to the small yard formerly occupied by the **red-crowned cranes**.

The integration of the four male **langur monkeys** from the San Diego Zoo, who are affectionately called “The Beach Boys,” has been delayed. As of now, they will join the “Bachelor Group” late this summer.



*Asian elephant Johnson
Photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones and
the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*

Staff is looking into the addition of more **markhors** but that will not happen in the near future.

The **Pallas' cats'** wooden door and window coverings will soon be removed if they haven't been already. Moose and Tiina are still in the habitat.

Female **Amur tiger** Vera is outside on most days. She seems to stay near the display window but has been seen in the cave area. Male tiger Diesel has often been outside at night. Staff are working to have him spend daylight hours outside.

Red panda Kora and her daughter, Santi, are currently in the outside habitat. More information will be given later concerning when our two new pandas will be viewable.

There is no date yet regarding when the **water monitor** and **reticulated python** will switch places.

All of the **tortoises** that were residing with the **bats** have moved to outdoor locations within the Zoo.

The rest of the animals in Asia Quest are doing well. Have a great July and keep hydrated!



Photo courtesy of Carrie Ritchie

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Welcome July and the start of warm (or maybe hot) weather. All of the animals in the region are out and about, and happy to see guests as well as volunteers.

There have been many moves and transfers of birds in the **Australia** and **Congo Aviaries**. Keepers are now working on updating the breeding recommendations and aviary lists, which will be made available soon. There will be fewer species and a strong focus on breeding. Stay tuned for more information – changes will also be posted on the portal. Now, we have some exciting news from the Australia Aviary. The masked lapwings had two chicks hatch at the end of June! Come to the aviary and check them out. They are adorable!

Tree kangaroos Cori and Luka are approved for breeding. Active breeding has been observed, so you might see both of them in the habitat.

Tawny frogmouths Archie and Marmalade have built a nest but are not approved for breeding at this time. Therefore, the eggs have been replaced. We are sad to report that Dig'em recently passed away.

Our **feathertail gliders** will now have “true dark” time during daytime hours to enable guests to see them while they are more active. The whole Nocturnal Building is true dark after the Zoo closes.

As noted last month, **binturong** Paco is back in the habitat. However, he continues to have access to a behind-the-scenes area, so he may not be viewable all the time. It will be his choice.



Photo courtesy of Barb Emmets



Photo courtesy of Marcie Anderson

Remembering tawny frogmouth Dig'em

The **lorikeets** and **kangaroos** are all doing great. Keepers are so thankful for every volunteer who works in those areas. They could not manage without you. Way to go volunteers!

Three **temple turtles** are now out on Turtle Island and two **radiated turtles** are in the Congo Base Camp Aviary.

Pygmy slow loris male Havarti is in Dig'em's old habitat and will soon be introduced to female Gouda for a breeding recommendation.

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

Have fun this summer and come work in the "land down under." The animals look forward to your visits!



Photo courtesy of Jessica Linek

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION



Our **gorillas** continue to do well despite the warmer weather. The team is working with our two troops on daily group switches in the outdoor gorilla habitat. The hope is that each group will alternate spending a few hours every day in the habitat. Given the higher temperatures though, there may not be gorillas outside during the hottest parts of the day.

In case you haven't heard, last month ended on a very high note. On June 29, Sue **gorilla** gave birth and is doing famously as a first-time mother. Father Ktembe and the other adult females in his troop are with Sue but respectfully providing her and the baby with some space. Jamani, who is 4 years old and the daughter of Cassie and Ktembe, is more curious about the youngster and has been gently corrected by the adults when she seems a bit too eager for playtime with her new half-sibling.

Beginning on July 8, guests will have the opportunity to visit the newly-expanded gorilla family from 11 a.m. until the Zoo

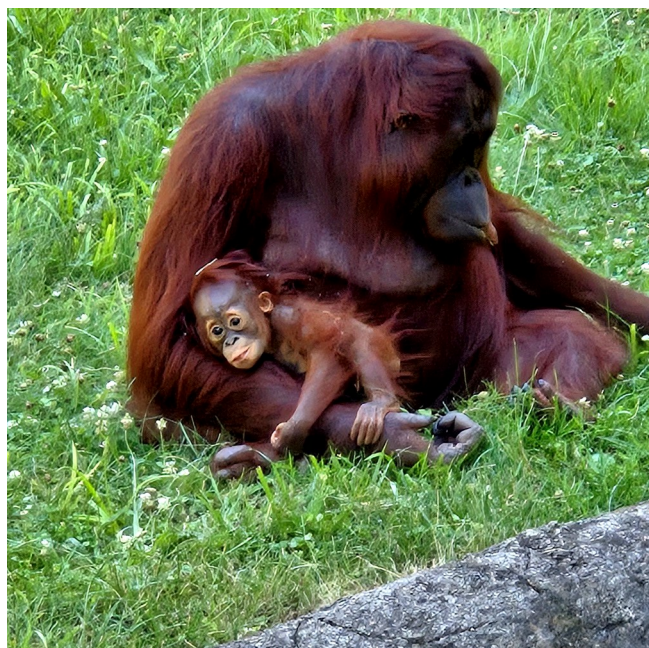
closes. Having said that, the troop will have access to behind-the-scenes areas, so there are no guarantees that they will be able to see the baby.

The rest of our gorillas are doing well despite the warmer weather. Kwame will be celebrating her first birthday on July 13! Additionally, the team has been working with our two troops on daily group switches in the outdoor gorilla habitat. The hope is that each group will alternate spending a few hours every day in the habitat. Given the higher temperatures though, there may not be gorillas outside during the hottest parts of the day.

Lastly, western lowland gorillas are critically endangered due to habitat loss, deforestation and the illegal bushmeat trade.

Experts agree that the latter is now the primary threat to ape populations, especially western lowland gorillas. With that in mind, the birth of our newest resident is even more special as it, in part, represents hope for the species' future.

The **bonobos** have been enjoying various ice treats and cool drinks in an effort to beat the heat. Bob is starting to eat more solid foods and get more active. He likes playing with some of the adult bonobos, especially Bila, Wilber and Jimmy.



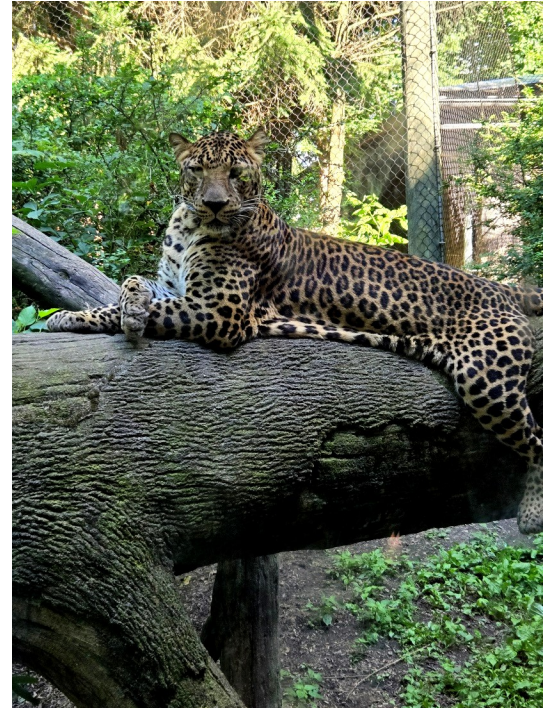
Photos courtesy of Pam Hancock

Keepers are working on several different training projects with the bonobos. The main focus is continuing to strengthen hand-injection training in preparation for the move to their new building. Some of the new training projects include blood draws and stationing. So far, Gander and Jimmy have had successful blood draws and a few others are getting close! In addition to the new behaviors, keepers remain diligent in taking blood pressures regularly and performing EKGs on all of the bonobos.

It is still hard to believe that we now have a group of seven **mandrills**! Malaika's little boy has been named Link in keeping with the theme of elves from various movies, games, etc. The whole group is doing really well and is currently a big draw to the public. Bernard and Izzy are a major attraction with their antics and it's a tremendous help to staff and guests alike to have a docent presence in the area.

Bernard and Malaika both had exams recently. Malaika's was to confirm pregnancy. Bernard was his first exam. They both hand injected from keepers and did amazing in their exams!

The pool in the mandrill yard is still having trouble holding water from time to time. It's a huge maintenance issue that can't be fixed easily. Should visitors inquire, the mandrills have access to water in various spots of the yard, including misters. Furthermore, the monkeys have access inside on the horribly hot days as it provides them with more ways to get out of the sun and stay cool. Staff have also been setting up fans inside for them to keep air moving in addition to placing one in the yard.



Leopard Tyrion is continuing to receive treatment on the tip of his tail for an old spot that keeps reopening. If guests notice or have questions about it, it is being monitored. Due to the hot weather, the boys have also been getting access inside to provide them with shady areas that are cooled by fans.

There is a sand pile in the leopards' yard that will hopefully capture their paw prints and enable them to participate in a study involving their age and weight in relation to their paw print size. The process is a work in progress and has proven to be more challenging than initially expected.

Each **okapi** is doing well and should be more readily viewable with construction on the bonobo building

wrapping up. Our okapi trainers are continuing to work on hoof trims and blood collection behaviors.

All is well with our **colobus** troop. With the high temperatures, they too will often have access inside. Sekani turned 14 on June 10, Claire will be 16 on July 20 and Jabari will be 14 on July 21. Jif and Marmalade continue to grow and be the life of the party.

Photos courtesy of Pam Hancock

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Summer is in full swing, all of the animals are out and everyone is thrilled for the season ahead!

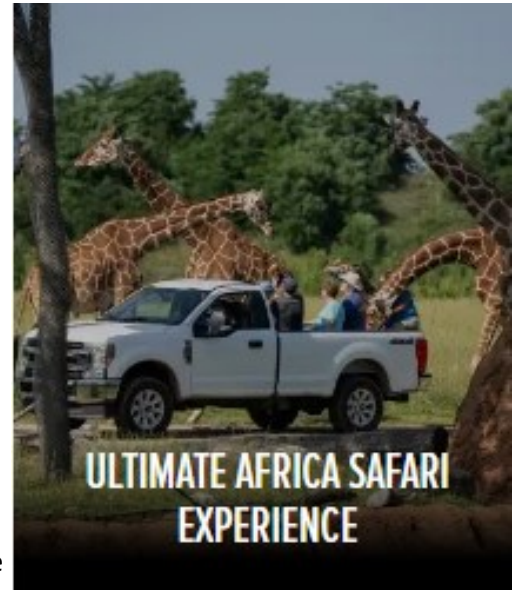
Excitingly, scheduling a Savanna tour recently became available to the public. Here is a rundown of the details surrounding the experience and what it will entail:

Ultimate Africa Safari Experience

- A tour will be offered every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday through September 1.
- Each will start at 10:20 a.m. (meeting point at the Heart of Africa entrance) and last two hours.
- Must be at least 10 years old to participate.
- Groups will be combined for a tour of up to six guests.
- \$149 per person – admission to the Zoo is required and not included in that price.

What's included in the tour?

- A VIP spot for the **lion** Keeper Talk.
- An animal interaction with either the **ostriches** or **donkeys**.
- A tour of the Savanna where guests will feed **giraffes** from the back of a truck and have a front row of all the other animals.
- The chance to view a cheetah run from the VIP section of the deck.
- A Q&A session with Wild Encounters Africa keepers after the run that will involve observing additional cheetah training behaviors.
- The opportunity to feed giraffes again at the conclusion of the tour from the Shamba.
- Guests are then free to explore the Zoo on their own.



On a very sad note, we had to say goodbye to **crowned crane** ODot. ODot passed away suddenly and, though the cause is unknown, Conservation Medicine said that it was a catastrophic cardiac event.

Remembering crowned crane ODot

The only other major animal update this month concerns giraffe Charlie. Toward the beginning of June, keepers noticed that some of his teeth appeared to be bent. Dr. Priya examined him and determined that he has a fractured his jaw. It is unknown how the injury occurred. Charlie is doing just fine but staff have had to make modifications regarding how he is offered food.

The main goal is to limit the amount of movement in his jaw. Therefore, he is not allowed to have access to the hay feeders (keepers just roll them up as high as possible since he is a bit shorter than the rest of the herd), jugs of grain or browse. Instead, keepers chop his hay and place it in troughs, put his grain in larger buckets and give him browse leaves without the stick. He is being kept in the barn currently but his friends rotate daily, so he still gets to spend time with everyone. Main training goals include PEMF therapy (magnetic pulse treatment) and radiographs.

At this point, immobilization is not required and it is believed that the bone has already begun to heal. The expected recovery time is four-six weeks. He is being evaluated each week with photos for comparison and weekly weights.



REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Sloane **swan** has been pretty feisty with guests around his habitat. If you see anyone with their fingers over the railing or sticking them through the fencing, please ask them to pull them back.

Please come volunteer in the yard at **The Barn**. It's a great way to get a good combination of animal and human interaction.

As you have probably seen, the difficult decision was made to humanely euthanize **otter** Catori. Paso seems to be settling in with her absence but staff are keeping a close eye on her. The new otter boys should be moving down to the Bear Kitchen in the coming weeks and will be on view as soon as possible.

We have had multiple nests in the **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** this year, including indigo buntings, cowbirds, grosbeaks, etc., but no successful hatches yet. Hopefully, we will this summer!

Lynx girls Siggy and Astrid seem to be adjusting well to the absence of their sister, Torvi. You can see both of them in the habitat daily.

Summer heat and **cougar** compliance definitely don't overlap as well as desired. Thus, you might see the keepers spending quite a bit of time calling to the cougars as they try to get Cal up to continue treatment on his foot pad cracks, which are healing well.

Wolverines Alvar and Zola had a great intro with Zola making sure she told Alvar who is boss. Successful breeding between the two was observed a few weeks ago – fingers crossed for kits early next year! Zola has had multiple litters and is an experienced mom.

Reindeer Abby continues to deal with some mobility issues in her old age. Keepers are aware of them and are keeping an eye on her.



Photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

All other animals in the region are doing well.

Construction update: The buildings are really going to start taking shape in the coming weeks!

Remembering otter Catori

REGION NEWS—SHORES

The **penguin** chicks are now in the habitat with the adults. Their names are Kevin Malone and Stanley Hudson (characters from the show “The Office”).

One male **weedy sea dragon** is carrying eggs on his tail. There was another successful egg transfer with a separate male but he no longer has eggs on his tail. Such a scenario is not out of the ordinary; it is a stepping stone in the process of successful egg transfers.

The **flamingoes** are nesting and have laid up to four eggs in one day!

Komodo dragon Ursula is in the outdoor habitat for the summer.

Kyp Ross has joined the terrestrial team and will be focusing on reptiles.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS

The pinniped team has been busy with daily shows and behind-the-scenes tours! Guests seem to really be enjoying the new additions to our presentations. There is now a lot of variety in the different parts that can be taken in or out of any given presentation. Thus, every day truly is something different, which is great for the animals as well as our guests who visit frequently.

We had a great turnout for World Ocean Day! Over \$700 in donations were received for the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito, CA and our own Jean Dixon Enrichment Fund. We are so grateful for the help that FOTZ volunteers provided. The coloring sheet was a big hit again this year – special thanks to Jesse Motz for creating it!

We were honored to participate in the Zoo's first Blind, Deaf, and DeafBlind Accessibility Day. Guests had the ability to experience what a wet **sea lion** feels like, what **seal** and sea lion vibrissae feel like and had the opportunity to help toss gelatinous enrichment to our animals from the Adventure Cove Deck.

You might notice that our males are extra noisy these days. This is just a normal part of rut season. Nana sea lion already weighed in at over 600 pounds and is still gaining.

Many birthdays were celebrated last month. Our youngest sea lion, female Lennie, turned 3 on June 17 and female Ayla, our oldest, turned 24. Below are the rest of the June birthdays as well as the two we will be celebrating this month (current ages follow in parentheses).

Male Nana – June 4 (18)
Male Qizai – June 6 (18)

Female Baby – June 11 (18)
Female Sunshine – June 25 (4)

Male Norval – June 30 (4)
Male Banana – July 17 (5)
Female Columbia – July 26 (8)



Photos courtesy of Shea Eaves



***Remembering cheetah Emmett
(with his best friend Cullen)***

*Photo courtesy of Grahm S. Jones and
the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium*



Remembering bat eared fox Bruce

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

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

Things have been relatively quiet at The Wilds. We have had a few more Bactrian deer born out in pasture.

Back at the barns, one of our white rhino breeding males, Kengele, left The Wilds to head to another zoo. He came to us in 2012, and left here after fathering 12 baby rhinos for the SSP program. He definitely did his job to keep the population going. We will be getting a new breeding male to replace him later this year.

There is still time to plan your summer visit to The Wilds. Check our website for details on tours and lodging at [The Wilds](#).

