

# REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

Thank you to Monica Dorman Tuttle, Brenda Baldinger, Mark Lowe, Joyce Talkowski, Susan Fromkes and Lynn Powell for staffing the Earth Day festivities table in the Adventure Cove Tunnel.

Animal Programs will join Shores in participating in World Ocean Day on June 8. Conservation tables and activities will be featured at the Adventure Cove entrance and on the Deck.



*Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis*

Due to the adjustment in zoo operating hours, beginning Memorial Day weekend the Adventure Cove Tunnel shifts will end at 5 p.m., although the tunnel will close at 6 p.m. along with the Adventure Cove Deck. As the day's final shift concludes on the deck at 6 p.m., please remember to put the Area Closed signs and chains in place at the bottom of the ramp and steps to the deck and wait for Security to arrive to roll down the deck curtain before you depart.

**Cheetahs** Edward and Jacob have transferred to their new home at the Tiger Hut in Asia Quest. Other cheetahs can be seen in Heart of Africa in the Cheetah Yard and Watering Hole. The Watering Hole is featuring Animal Programs residents exclusively now, so there will not be any Heart of Africa **ostrich** ladies beginning and ending their day there this season.

The presentations have begun in the Adventure Cove Lighthouse Theater. Catch our animals in action demonstrating their natural behaviors to the delight of the audience.

We are entering the hormone season for pinnipeds, so you will see more animals deciding to stay in the outside pools when trainers ask them to come inside. Since the trainers always respect the choice of the animal to participate or not, you'll see them ask once or twice and move on should the animal choose to remain in the pool. On a related note, it is totally natural for the animals to refuse to eat some days during the summer.

As the weather gets warmer, expect to see Grouchy and his **tortoise** friends enjoying the yard on a regular basis. It is also a great time to buy a \$20 sloth yoga T-shirt to wear underneath your uniform shirt and benefit conservation. Please see the order form on the Animal Programs bulletin board for details and provide payment to the Volunteer Team. Orders will be filled on a weekly basis.

The next Enrichment Day is June 11. Come see gelatin fly in the air, cardboard boxes be demolished and edible treats being discovered!

# REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Greetings! As we head into the busy (and hot) season, AQ is a great spot to hang out!

**Tufted deer** Joslyn (female) will soon be heading to a new home at The Wilds. Male Dexter is currently in the tufted deer yard while the young boys, Angus and TJ, are in the former musk deer yard. Having said that, there is a plan in place for the boys to swap locations soon. Look for two deer versus one for identification purposes. **Musk deer** have been phased out of our Zoo; the last resident, Lady Stetson, recently went to a new home in North Dakota. The hope is to move the **red-crowned cranes** back to the former musk deer yard once they are cleared to be outdoors again.

Heidi and Randhir **sloth bears** have been seen breeding so, once again, we're crossing our fingers for adorable fuzzy babies. Both have reached their goal weights, which had been an ongoing project.

**Red pandas** Kora and Santi are back in the main habitat; Bandit and Madeline are currently behind the elephant building. Both are scheduled to depart for new homes soon as the upcoming North America renovations will cut off use of that space for at least a year.

Some of the birds have been moved into the **Aviary**, including the black-throated laughing thrushes, the hwamei and the Nicobar pigeons. The five Burmese mountain tortoises have also joined the muntjac in the aviary. It is not yet open to the public, but guests can view the residents through the glass. The rest of the tortoises are still in the bat habitat; everything is status quo with the **bats** as well as their **langur** neighbors.

By the time this is posted, the new **Pallas' cat** kittens will be in the habitat with their mom! Stop by when you're in the region to see them and to help guests spot them; we all know they're good at hiding!

All is well with the **markhors**; Florence was recently spayed after an unintentional pregnancy that wasn't viable and plans are in place to move young male Gambit. Nothing is concrete so far though.

The renovations to the **greater one-horned rhino** indoor habitat have been pushed back to the fall, but Brian is doing great otherwise. **Asian elephant** Frankie will be turning one year old on June 16; plans for a grand birthday party are underway! His most recent weight was 1,086 pounds; he'll likely top 1,100 by the time his birthday arrives. Beco has been seen breeding both Sunny and Rudy. Nevertheless, plans are still ongoing for Rudy to undergo artificial insemination.



*Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

Jupiter **Amur tiger** will be back in the public aisle soon and all is well with Mara and Natasha. The same goes for visiting cheetah brothers Eddie and Jake.

## REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

**Lorikeets** will be open as soon as bird flu leaves the state!!! We are really hoping to get the ball rolling in the next few days.

We were doing some maintenance in the **koala** building, but that is wrapping up now and the koalas are moving back in as we speak. Building construction is slated to start this summer, dates are not set in stone.

The Congo Aviary is filling up with birds and it's wonderful! Please see our **crane** chicks often as they are growing like weeds!!!



*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*



# REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

We have a “new” boy in town! Matoke **okapi** arrived on May 17 from San Diego Safari Park. He is the son of our own Miliki and the late Karatasi. He was born on April 12, 2012. He is now 10 years old and had a smooth trip back to us. He is adjusting well to the barn; staff are excited to get reacquainted with him. Both females have irritated spots on their necks as has happened in previous years. They come and go but are monitored closely and treated as needed with direction from Animal Health.

Ktembe’s **gorilla** group is staying outside all day now! Kamoli and Tabibu are beginning station training. They both have a brightly colored bucket that keepsers place handfed items in, so each gorilla builds an association between that bucket and food. The goal is to have them stay with their bucket and not pester other gorillas during feeding.

Jimmy and Bila **bonobos** went in the same group together for the first time in about 10 years. This is a great first step in rebuilding a relationship between the two boys. While staff didn’t see super positive interactions (e.g., grooming one another), they didn’t see negative ones either and are, therefore, calling it a success. Amelia is spending more time away from mom Ana Neema. She can be gone from her for up to a week at this point. Doing so gives her time to build her own great relationships with other adult females, which will be needed and very important as she grows. Max is also growing up and had his first playdate away from mom Lady. He spent about four hours with Gander and Jerry and absolutely loved Gander. Gander is working on his relationships with other males and calming down overall; one may even say that he is slowly maturing.



Staff are trying out different substrates with our **red river hogs** both inside and in the yard to encourage digging behaviors. You may see things like leaves, sand, shredded paper, etc. They are also working on some new behaviors with Harriet, including scratching her with a brush like they did with Harold. That training in particular proved exceptionally helpful when she recently got scratches on her back and staff were able to use a brush to apply ointment to the area each day.

Nothing new with our **colobus** monkeys. Baby Jif is growing like a weed and looks more like a miniature adult and less like a baby each day. Sekani will be 12 on June 10.



*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

Our **orangutans** have begun going into their yard! There may still be times though when they have access to the dayroom (heat, storms, etc.). There is a sign in the public aisle leading to their indoor viewing area that should reflect if they have access or not. The sign should be at the front of the path and in the middle, so visitors will hopefully see it.

Dumplin has days when she chooses not to shift with the others just like in years past, which is absolutely fine. Keepers continue to listen to her and give her time as she needs. When she stays inside, they may try to get her outside later in the day or give all three access to the dayroom so she isn't alone all day. Do not be concerned though if you see her inside alone while the others are outside.

Sulango's birthday is on June 19; he will be 29 years old. He is adjusting fine to his new space but still has some bursts of emotions. He may display during those times by shaking poles, tossing enrichment or long calling. Such times usually culminate with him grabbing one of the girls and checking her out but not always. As of now, keepers have only observed the displays inside. They are not concerning at this time unless you happen to see something that concerns you.

Tyrion **leopard** has a small sore on the tip of his tail that occasionally breaks open and bleeds. Keepers are aware of it and he is being monitored weekly by Animal Health. The boys are doing well otherwise and love being outside so much.

Mosi **mandrill** is getting very colorful and his physical maturity has really ramped up suddenly. He's filling out and getting that bright red nose that is characteristic of mandrill males. Hasina is also a grown woman now and will occasionally have a large swelling like the other females do. She has a birthday on the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month and will be three years old. The group is happy, cohesive and very active in the yard. Please note that the stanchions in front of the indoor public viewing windows are purposely set there for a study and that staff would like them to remain there.



*Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

Saturday, June 11 is another Enrichment Day and the gorillas will be participating in it at 1 p.m.



# REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

On Thursday, May 12, **giraffe** Schaefer came into the barn from the Savanna and had a bloody lower lip. It also looked like her teeth on the bottom right side of her mouth were loose but there were no other markings on her body and she was acting normally. Keepers monitored her closely and, after a couple of days, suspected that she either broke a few teeth or her jaw. Shortly thereafter, it was confirmed that she did indeed break her jaw (Priya stuck her hand in Schaefer's mouth and was able to move the piece that was of concern). Thus, she was immobilized on the morning of May 23 and a portion of her jawline was removed.

Going into the procedure, it was thought that three teeth would need to be removed as well as the bone. Thankfully, the latter proved to be incorrect. The surgeons (from OSU) were able to remove the affected teeth and skin and keep the bone intact – hooray! It was also believed that she would not develop adult teeth (baby teeth were removed) in the impacted area but the surgeons were able to preserve the tooth roots, so there is a good chance that they will come in after all.

At the time of this writing, the plan is to keep her in the barn for another week as her hay needs to be chopped and soaked. Plus, she is not allowed to have any browse (but can have leaves) until she heals. If all goes well between now and then, she will go back to her normal routine – just amazing!

Outside of that incident, the rest of the herd is doing great as is our **slender-horned gazelle** calf.

The lion yard was completed by May 24, so the **lions** were back out over Memorial Day weekend.

It seems that the avian flu is almost past us. Consequently, June 1 will hopefully be the day that the **cranes**, **storks** and **guineafowl** return to the Savanna.



*Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand*



*Photo courtesy of Astrid Kreidl*

# REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

For those who haven't heard, Georgeanne **swan** passed away last week. While there isn't definitive information on her cause of death yet, some large masses were discovered during initial findings. Although her exact age is not known, it is thought that she lived to be 30 years old – putting her as one of the oldest swans in the population! Sloane has been handling the loss fairly well. He hasn't been the biggest fan of keepers since his arrival but they are working hard to win him over and make this transition as smooth as possible.

All of our goats and sheep at **My Barn** continue to do well. Happily, the petting yard is now open daily – please come volunteer!

Keepers continue to watch pack dynamics as they navigate our **Mexican wolf** pups growing into adult wolves. Everyone in the pack is doing well.

Banjo **pronghorn** is getting along just fine as are Hermie and Clover **bison**.

Summer is nearly upon us and the **beavers** have been spending most days sleeping in their dens as a result. Typically, the best time to see them up and active is right before the park closes.

**Otters** Paso and Catori are doing well and can usually be seen swimming on warmer days.

Nothing new to report with the **eagles**. For the time being, staff are continuing safety protocols for avian flu but are hopeful that this will be over soon.



*Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

**The Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** is still closed due to the threat of avian flu in Ohio. However, Dr. Junge signed off on putting our songbirds back outside a couple of weeks ago. Even though the aviary is going to remain closed to reduce foot traffic, you can now hear and see our songbirds from the outside path.

**Lynxes** Siggy and Astrid had their physical exams recently and both are in good condition. Torvi had an exam within the past year, so she was able to skip this round.

Stevie and Joan **black bears** have been spending more time outside and are doing well. They even had a pool party the other week!

**Cougars** Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are doing great. Like most cats, they spend most of their time napping throughout the day as the weather warms up.

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** bred last week. Since they are delayed implanters, it will be quite some time before we know whether there will be any kits – fingers crossed!

The **sandhill cranes** are still inside due to the avian flu but are doing well.

Strawberry **moose** is just fine and dandy. Some modifications are being made to the main yard, so she will be in the bull yard for the time being. Since Strawberry doesn't have access to her pool, keepers have set up a sprinkler for her in addition to making sure they take time to stop over and hose her down on especially warm days.

The two **reindeer** girls are doing wonderfully and starting to regrow their antlers. They may look a little ragged right now but that is completely normal; it's just them shedding their winter coats. Keepers have been trying to assist with that process whenever they can.

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

The **arctic foxes** are definitely not fans of the warmer weather. Hence, the keepers have placed fans around their habitat to cool them off. They also offer ice blocks to them regularly.

**Brown bears** Brutus and Buckeye are ready for summer. Both boys 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.

**Polar bears** Anana and Aurora continue to do well together and can be seen swimming during keeper talks as well as on warmer days.



*Remembering Cecilia*



*Remembering Chowlei*



*Remembering Georgeanne*

*Photo of Cecilia courtesy of Graham S. Jones, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium;  
photos of Chowlei and Georgeanne courtesy of Cindy Wesney*



# REGION NEWS—SHORES

Our **penguins** are back in their habitat and loving life. Penguin keeper talks will start up again on May 14.

Sadly, we lost our penguin chick on Thursday, May 12. She was found in respiratory distress in the morning and, despite heroic efforts from both Animal Health and keeper staff, she did not pull through. Staff members are devastated and do not yet have a cause of death.

The **flamingoes** and **nene geese** will stay in for a while longer due to the abundance of wild waterfowl in the flamingo yard. Those two species are more susceptible to avian influenza than penguins.

We have a new **crocodile lizard** and **desert grassland whiptails** in quarantine. Look for these new animals to be in habitats soon.

**Alligator** Girl will be going back out to her habitat on Friday, May 20.

Watch for **tortoises** and **turtles** to start making their way to the outdoor pools and aviaries as the weather warms up.

Our new juvenile **seahorses** can be seen in the public aisle and are starting to reproduce.



*Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney*

# REGION NEWS—THE WILDS



The Wilds is up and running for the new visitor season.

We now have 11 **Pere David's deer** fawns with the herd. Additionally, staff have tagged eight **Bactrian** fawns and know that more are on the way. Likewise, there are two new **eland** calves but you can expect there to be more.

All of the **one-horned rhinos** are now out on pasture for the season, including our older breeding female, her 2-year-old and 9-month-old daughters and a new 9-year-old female as well as a 21-year-old breeding bull.

There is also a new **Przewalski's horse** breeding stallion. Hopefully, some of our mares will be bred again.

The AIRS rhino project is up and running. A team went to The Wilds for a week at the end of May to train with staff members and rhinos before heading out to work at zoos participating in the project.



*Photos courtesy of Jane Cirigliano*