

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Whew, we made it through another yellow bus season! Now, on to summer.



Photo courtesy of Carrie Ritchie

Red panda Usha (oo-sha) is our new female from the Greensboro (NC) Zoo. She was born on July 15, 2015 at the Calgary Zoo and does not have a breeding recommendation. Meanwhile, our Madeline has gone to Greensboro with a breeding recommendation. Relatively speaking, Usha is Madeline's niece.

Red panda Robin came to us from the Lincoln (NE) Children's Zoo. He was born in Lincoln and will turn 1 year old on June 24. Robin has a breeding recommendation but his partner is unknown at this point.

No word yet on **tufted deer** Sunflower who is behind the scenes awaiting the birth of her baby. Keep your fingers crossed.

Our **Amur tigers** are starting to come out into the yard. Female Vera has been seen on many occasions and is showing up for Keeper Talks – evening seems to be her favorite time to enjoy the yard. Staff have been monitoring her estrus cycles but there has been no successful breeding yet. Male Diesel is still reluctant to go very far into the yard but cameras have spotted him at night near the stream.



Photo courtesy of Justin Zolman

Markhor Florence passed away in May, which means there are only two left. There is no word concerning whether we will be getting more markhors.

With **Pallas' cats** Moose and Tiina in the habitat, you can expect to see this species fairly often and may even get to observe them up close by the window. Since Unextinct has concluded, the wooden door and wood glass covering will be removed to open up the viewing area.

The two bachelor groups of **silvered leaf langurs** will be merged. This process could take a while.

The **elephants**, the **bears** (who are together) and all other Asia Quest animals are doing fine.

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Summer is almost upon us and all the animals in the region have moved from their winter residences to their summer homes.

Asian small-clawed otters Peanut, Gus, Flounder, Willie and Marley can be seen in the habitat. Yin, Yang and Dash are enjoying their time in the former **Tasmanian devil** yard.

The **gibbons** and **siamangs** are rotating time between the courtyard and the island area.

Our **lorikeets** and **kangaroos** are all doing well. The kangaroos will continue to have access to their new barn area so, if they cannot be seen in the Walkabout, you can let guests know they have made the choice to be in the back yard.



Koala girls Katy and Kora can be seen in either the indoor or outdoor habitat. Katy is easily identified by her pink nose whereas Kora's is black. Koen can be seen when he is spending time in the outdoor habitat. When he is in the indoor space, he is not viewable to visitors.

Weather permitting, the **turtles** will soon be returning to Turtle Island.

The **Base Camp** and **Nocturnal Aviaries** are still experiencing many animal changes. Staff will expand on that when appropriate.

There has been a lot of "Movin' and Shakin'" taking place in the Nocturnal Building. **Tawny frogmouths** Archie and Marmalade are now residing in the former **loris** habitat and Dig'em is now living with **kiwi** Haka. Dig'em's former habitat is under construction, so stay tuned for more information.

Our **kookaburras** will not be in the public aisle until further notice.

Binturong Paco is back! He currently has access to an area behind the scenes, so he may not be viewable to guests. It is his choice.

The dinosaurs are in place and ready to go when the experience is opened to guests very soon. Welcome dinos!

The animals are all ready to welcome you back to summer, so come on down to the "land down under."



Photos courtesy of Barb Emmets

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION



Photo courtesy of Pam Hancock

Our **gorillas** are all doing well. A large enrichment order was placed a few months ago and some of the items have been getting incorporated into the enrichment rotation. Jamani seems particularly infatuated with the new stock tanks that she can make noise with and move around out in the habitat.

Sue continues to do great with her ultrasound and maternal training. Meanwhile, vet techs have started attempting to draw blood from Ktembe as another tool in assessing and monitoring his cardiac health. The techs are able to touch him with a blunted needle, so keepers are working on reinforcing that behavior and relationship. Mac's group is enjoying Kwame becoming more mobile, and it is always fun to hear the play sessions that come from that group.

Bob **bonobo** is still developing quickly. Although always near Faith, he is often seen off of her interacting with other bonobos. The team recently obtained a blood sample from Jimmy as another tool to assess his cardiac health as well. He was trained to voluntarily do so a long time ago but it has been years since staff have been able to get a sample from him. The other bonobos are getting along well.

Mesh and play structures recently started being installed in the new bonobo building. Each day, it is looking more and more move-in ready. Staff have been going over to the site regularly to identify spots for firehose runs across rooms and are excited by how much additional space – vertical and horizontal – the bonobos are getting as part of this project.

Watching **orangutan** Clem is a highlight of any day. She is picking things up, putting them in her mouth, taking and mouthing things from Khali and is always bright and alert. Ensuring that the moat in the habitat stays drained has been problematic and resulted in the orangutans being inside despite the weather being appropriate for them to be outside. Staff are working closely and as quickly as possible with the LSS department to resolve the issue.

Keith has been doing great work with the orangutans on station training in an effort to demonstrate such training to visitors. Additionally, Keith and Chelsea are doing a wonderful job brainstorming and planning for providing the orangutans with more opportunities to perform natural behaviors like wadging, tool-use and foraging up high both inside and outside. Wadging is when the orangutans take part of their diet, like fruit and produce, mix it with other materials, like wood wool and sheet strips, and soak it. Then, they stick the soaked ball in their mouths and squeeze to extract the liquid.

The **colobus monkeys** are such a fun group to observe. Jif and Marmalade are still playing and entertaining guests by showing how far they can jump and glide in their habitat while chasing one another. They both are also starting to really understand the basics of training. Consequently, staff have been able to start getting consistent results with

goals like target and body presentation. The group received quite a few new items from a recent enrichment purchase so, hopefully, the new habitat additions and enrichment offerings will continue to give people the opportunity to watch and learn about this impressive species.

Speaking of entertaining animal watching opportunities, **mandrills** Bernard and Izzy now have an exciting new addition to be able to play with in the coming months. On May 5, Malaika gave birth to a male. Both mom and infant are doing well and all of the other mandrills are behaving appropriately with the youngster. The group will regularly have access to both their inside and outside spaces in order to give everyone more space now that our group has grown. A reminder to those in the area, Mosi's glass-slapping behavior is not playful or him asking for interaction. It is his way of communicating that he is not comfortable with something in the area, which could be someone hitting the glass first or something else. If you see people encouraging him to slap the glass, please communicate that message and ask them to stop.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Photo courtesy of Pam Hancock

The **leopard** boys continue to captivate visitors. With the sun beginning to come out more, guests love seeing them resting up high outside. The team continues to monitor Tyrion's tail and try to identify what causes it to open up compared to the times it heals very well. He gets topical treatments for it daily. Staff have also been doing a lot of training with the boys, which includes emergency recall, tail presentation and injection training.

The **okapi** barn is always busy. Construction on the service road means that Y1 and Y2 will be empty sometimes. Staff do their best to have an okapi viewable in Y3 but, between concert season and other work taking place near the habitat, it may be vacant as well if it appears that the okapis are not comfortable in the space.

Miliki had an exam this past week where a consultant from the Zoo Animal Hoof Trim Program came out and helped trim and assess her hooves. She did beautifully and is now at a point where the team should be able to take over with regular voluntary hoof trims to keep her feet in the best shape that they can. The team is also doing great work with voluntary hoof trimming for the other three okapis. In Congo, the heart health of our apes is discussed a lot. For okapis and any other hoof stock at the Zoo, hoof health is on that same level of interest and importance. Thus, staff continue to find opportunities to grow and develop as hoof health and care programs expand.

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

The big news is that everyone, **giraffes, kudus, wildebeests, saddle-billed storks, dama gazelle, East African grey crowned cranes, Thomson's gazelles and slender-horned gazelles**, are out on the Savanna! And yes, with the exception of our newest dama addition, Patrick, those adorable little babies are out there too! Patrick, who was born right before St. Patrick's Day, needs to be three months old before he stays in the Savanna overnight, so staff are planning for him to go out around the beginning of June.

You may have noticed that the cranes were late to the Savanna party. Sharon was sitting on an egg and staff were waiting to see if it was fertile. After candling the egg multiple times, it was determined to be infertile. Shortly thereafter, Sharon and the rest of the cranes joined the other animals on the Savanna.

All is well with the **ostriches, lions, donkeys and vervets**.

There will still be some construction projects happening throughout the region over the next month but none of them will require animals to be off view for longer than a few days. For instance, the tent outside of vervets (where guests look through the glass) is going to be replaced. When that transpires (probably mid- to late June), staff will need to bring the monkeys inside.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone that has volunteered (and started) to chop lettuce for our giraffe feed!



Photo courtesy of Ellen Miller

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA



Remembering Felix

Please come volunteer in **The Barn**. It's a great way to get a good combination of animal and human interaction. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to Felix goat. As a keeper and guest favorite, his presence will be especially missed.

The two older **otter** girls are doing great. Excitingly, three young boys were recently welcomed to the Zoo. Wilford, Mayhem and River are 1 year old and currently in mandatory quarantine mostly. They will eventually be in the habitat but they will not be introduced to the girls – both groups will live separately.



The birds in the **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** have been busy. There are a few different nests in the works – fingers crossed for successful hatches!

You may notice one less **lynx** and that is because Torvi went to another zoo per a recommendation by the SSP. She has been paired up with her grandpa as a companion.

Cougar Cal continues to struggle with cracked pads. Therefore, keepers are working with him to apply a liquid bandage product that will hopefully seal up the wounds, harden them and prevent cracks in the future.

We welcomed a new **wolverine** named Zola. She is 11 years old and an experienced mom. The goal is to introduce her to Alvar in the coming weeks – everyone is hoping for a successful breeding season.

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

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

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

REGION NEWS—SHORES

The **penguin** chicks are growing, doing well and have started swimming lessons in a deeper pool area.

Since the **flamingoes** have started nesting season, you may see them spending more time on their nest mounds.

On May 19, the **weedy sea dragons** in Australia and the Islands had their first ever successful egg transfer! The couple does an elaborate courtship dance – moving up and down in the water column. The dance is essential for successfully transferring the eggs from the female to the male's tail where he fertilizes them.

All three **alligators** are out in their yard for the summer and each went into a crate voluntarily to be transferred there from behind the scenes.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS

The pinniped team is ready for the season with a new presentation. As of Memorial Day weekend, presentations and **cheetah** runs are now daily.

Show season is also rut season for pinnipeds. Staff are tracking every single breeding wild/rut behavior in the males. Another fun fact about rut season is that the males will become even more vocal, so you'll likely hear them barking nonstop.

The pinniped team continues to offer wonderful care to our **sea lions**, especially the few who have needed some extra TLC due to eye issues. Qizai underwent another eye surgery called a Gundersen flap to help his eyes heal. If you see him with an eye closed or with white eyes that are red in the middle, that is why. Ayla is receiving a lot of drops for her eyes as well but they are healing faster than Qizai's.



A trainer from the Toledo Zoo visited toward the end of May. She works with the pinnipeds there (among other animals) and spent a few days with our team to shadow them. Staff always enjoy having the opportunity to share their program with colleagues from other facilities.



We also have a new intern who started recently! She will be with us for the summer and everyone is excited to have her on board.

Some fun activities are planned for World Ocean Day coming up on June 8.

There have been some updates in HOA, including new glass barriers at the watering hole to make it easier for guests to see the cheetah runs. Additional construction projects will continue into summer.

A reminder to please switch to Channel 5 when working the Deck and trying to reach the pinniped team. You can then announce yourself by name and location and start talking since they are the only team that uses that channel for communication. If you use Channel 2, you will need to wait for someone to respond after announcing yourself by name and location because that channel is used by all teams.

Thanks to everyone who spends time volunteering in Wild Encounters!

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

The Wilds has more new babies in Pasture. The last of the **Père David's deer** fawns is on the ground and members of the **Bactrian deer** herd have started to give birth. There were also a couple breeding program transfers in May, a young male **Chinese goral** came in and two **Grevy's zebra** females went out to another zoo.

We had a pregnant **cheetah** who went through a difficult birth process that ended with a single living cub. Since it is known that the chance of survival for a single cub is low, the cub was transferred to the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Texas where it was fostered into a new litter. A press release with more details is forthcoming.

There will also be a press release coming soon about a new partnership for our **bison** conservation program. Working with the InterTribal Buffalo Council, we transferred a large group of young American bison to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

The Wilds kicked off its 30th anniversary celebration in May. It opened to the public in 1994 and the commemorative logo that was chosen features **Przewalski's horse**, the very first species to come to *The Wilds*. There are a number of special anniversary promotions available this year. Staff are also asking people to share photos of their visits to *The Wilds* over the years to help them document its history. Check the website for details and make plans to visit *The Wilds* this summer.

Please note: Until the information about the cheetah cub and bison becomes public knowledge, do not share it with anyone outside our Zoo family.



Photos courtesy of The Wilds