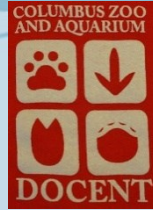
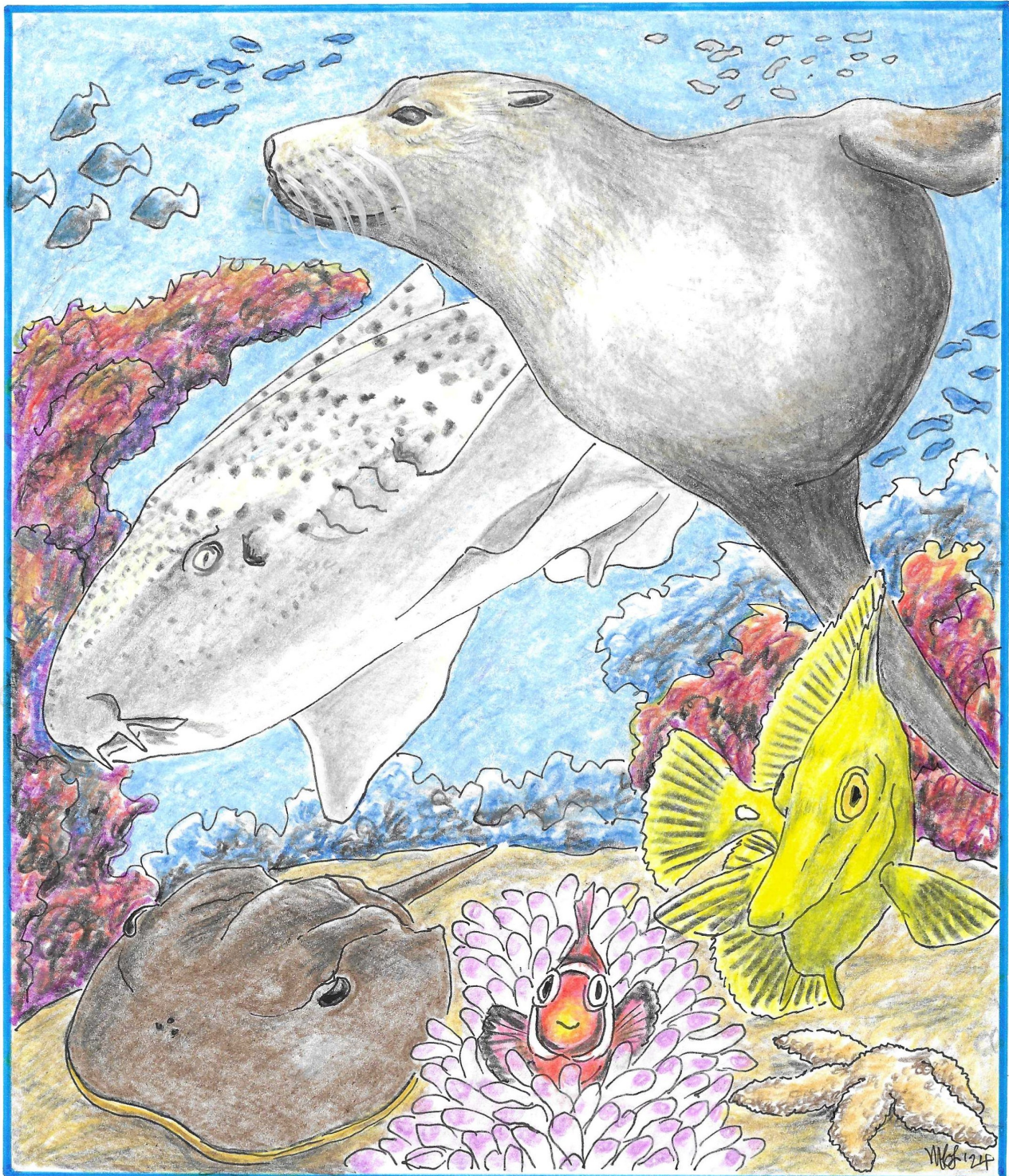


Volunteer Newsletter

The Columbus Zoo and
Aquarium Volunteer
Newsletter



June 2024





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The mission of ZooNews is to promote awareness, education, preservation and conservation of our natural world.

To submit an article, please email us at: cbuszooneews@gmail.com

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History and Renovation of the Watters Aquatic Conservation Center

The 30-acres housing the Watters Aquatic Conservation Center, formerly known as the Jeffrey Foreman's Club Park, boasts quite a rich history.

Lucas Sullivant, the founder of Franklinton, was the initial landowner of what was known as the Jeffrey Foremen's Club Park. He acquired over 2,500 acres on the west side of the Scioto River from the State of Virginia as payment for his work surveying the Virginia Military District, designated for Revolutionary War veterans from Virginia.

Following Sullivant, Abram Depp, a freed black slave, acquired the land in 1835, purchasing 300 acres. Depp farmed the land, raised a family, and established the Depp family cemetery, still present near the water west of the Conservation Center. He also played a role in the Underground Railroad, providing shelter to runaway slaves in a cave along the river cliffs, now submerged.



Remains of Depp Cemetery

Continued on page 3



Caves used for UR Shelter on the Scioto R. now submerged

Upon Abram Depp's death in 1858, his land was divided among his wife and six children. His youngest son, Kisiah, inherited the portion where the current facility stands, bordered by the Scioto River to the east and a small stream to the north. Lucy, Abram's daughter, inherited land on the west side of Dublin Road.

The construction of the O'Shaughnessy Dam between 1922 and 1925 led to the formation of Twin Lakes, filling the creek bed north of the property. This area became popular for summer cottages, establishing The Lucy Depp Park, one of the earliest housing subdivisions where African Americans could buy land during the Civil Rights era. A "Lucy Depp Park" sign still stands on the West side of Dublin Rd.

Robert Hutchins Jeffrey, son of Joseph Andrews Jefery, held various positions at the Jeffrey Manufacturing Company founded by his father. He also served as mayor of Columbus from 1903-1905 and built the Jeffrey Mansion in Bexley during his tenure. In 1924, he owned the land where the current facility is located. In 1939, he gave the property to the Jeffrey Foremen's Club to be used by the employees of the Jeffrey Company. After the closing of the Club closed, Jeffrey's heirs donated to the City of Columbus in 1999.



Jeffrey Foremen's Club Park is available year-round.

The park's facilities are available each day of the year. The recreation area includes a beautiful clubhouse, a scout lodge, several shelter houses and multi-purpose grounds. Who owns the park? The park is owned by the Jeffrey Foremen's Club, Inc. and is maintained for the free and exclusive use by all Jeffrey employees and their families. You help support the park's upkeep when you use the plant vending machines, because commissions from the machines are used for maintenance of the buildings and grounds.

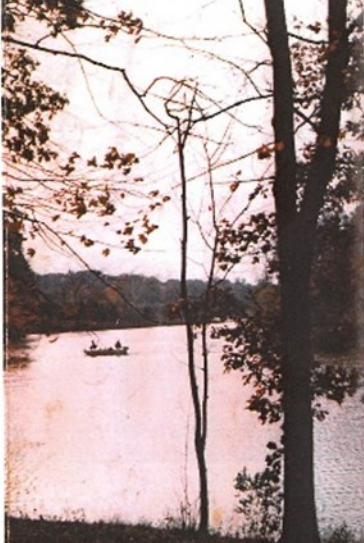
How to get to Jeffrey Foremen's Club Park.



Remember these simple rules

1. No hard liquor is allowed in the park or buildings.
2. Beer and soft drinks are okay. Please don't litter.
3. Bring your whole family. Use of the park is limited to Jeffrey employees and their families and a reasonable number of guests.
4. To reserve the clubhouse for a department party or social function, call the Jeffrey Personnel Department, 421-3429 for information and reservations.

Jeffrey Foremen's Club Park For the exclusive, free use by all Jeffrey employees.



come and enjoy

Jeffrey Foremen's Club Park



The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium began renting the building in 2002 from the City of Columbus. The building was retrofitted for freshwater mussel research and had a massive renovation in 2023. It was originally named the Freshwater Mussel Conservation and Research Center. It was recently dedicated and renamed The Watters Aquatic Conservation Center (WACC) in honor of our past science director, Dr. Tom Watters. WACC was created by a unique partnership between The Ohio State University, Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), and the Columbus Zoo.



Original photo still hangs on the wall



2002



2004



2023



2004



Under construction



2023



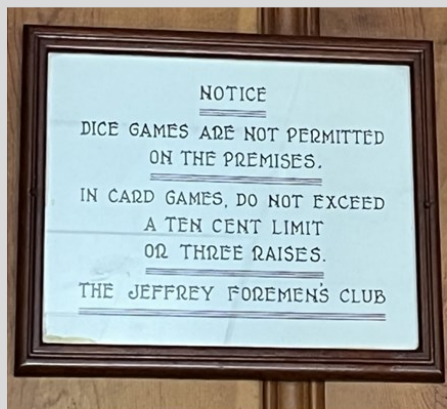
The old banquet hall now housing freshwater mussels



Old kitchen now used for mussel fish host identification



The original bar still stands in the same place today.



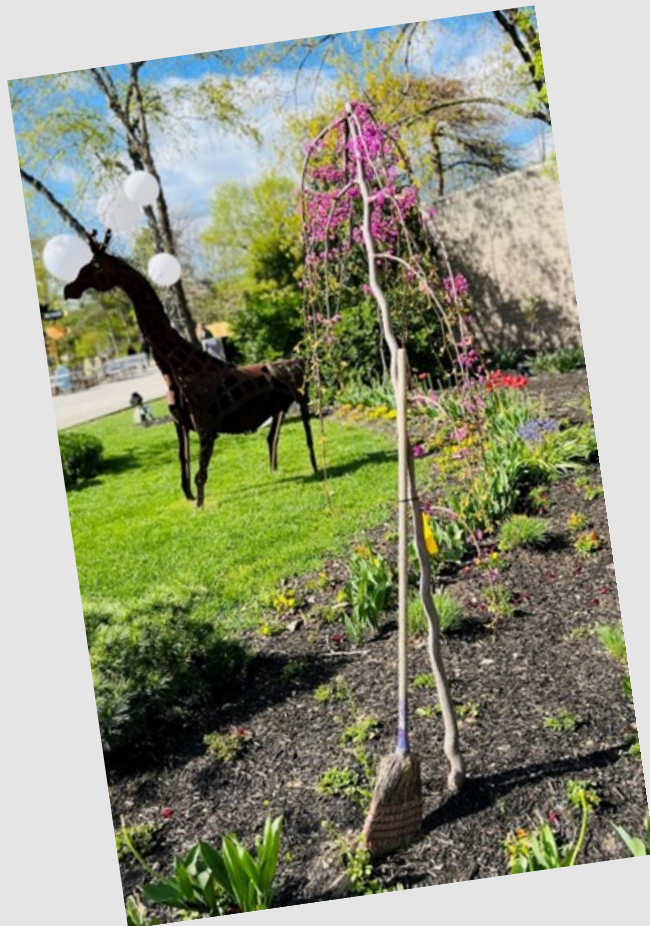
Even now, we still have Jeffrey's Co. employees and family members who used to spend time at Jeffrey Club come out to the Center to reminisce. They tell stories of the weddings being held here, the sloppy joes being served at the counter, and the kids not allowed in the two end rooms because their dads were playing poker!

Trisha Gibson

Research Associate/Education Director Watters Aquatic Conservation Center

Special thanks to all the docents who helped with getting the center ready for the grand re-opening. And a special acknowledgment to Harvey Castner for generously sharing his wealth of historical knowledge!

Broom Tree



*T*his tree was planted for Nona Hunt (Docent Class of 1992) who died last October. It was planted by Stoyan Iordanov, Horticulture Manager, and the volunteers who worked alongside Nona with horticulture on Thursday mornings. The broom was added because Nona was known for cleaning up our messes.

Thanks to Sally Stein for sharing about Nona.



30 Years of The Wilds



The Wilds has a long and fascinating history.

- Indigenous people once called this land home and built burial mounds to honor their loved ones.
- Early settlers farmed the land, with many descendants of those families remaining in the area today.
- In the late 20th century, the area was mined for coal.

Each phase tells the story of the land and the people who call this community home. Continue below to see the remarkable timeline of The Wilds!

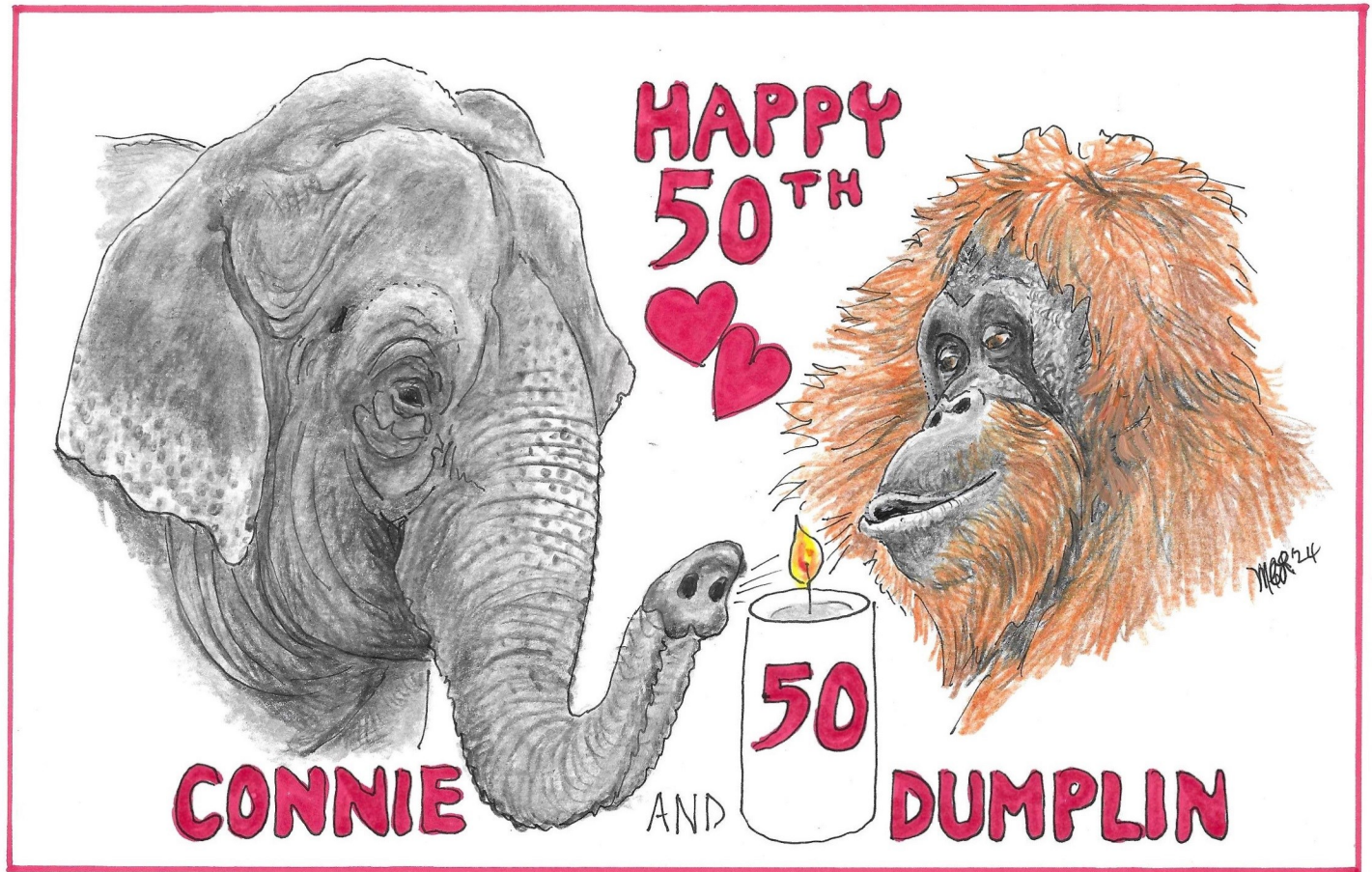
Visit The Wilds web page to get a history of The Wilds and view the documentary 10,000 Acres. <https://www.thewilds.org/>

When you get to The Wilds web page, go to About and then down to History. Click on Learn More. It will have you re-view 3 pages. On the 2nd page you can go to 10,000 Acres. In 10,000 Acres, you can read the text and then go to the individual chapters. When you get to the end of a chapter, it sends you to the Home Page and you can click Jump to Chapters.

P.S. Chapters are written descriptions with pictures. There are videos to play on some pages.



Photo from The Wilds web page



50 Cheers for 50 Years!

Connie and Dumplin Celebrate Monumental Birthdays!

Connie elephant and Dumplin orangutan are both celebrating their 50th birthdays this summer. They are the two oldest mammals at the Zoo, both older than the Median Life Expectancy for their species: our very own “Golden Girls.”

MEET THE “LADIES”

Connie

Connie has lived at the Columbus Zoo since 1992, moving here from the San Diego Zoo when she was approximately 18 years old.” Elephants are long-lived animals. There are 39 Asian elephants older than Connie in zoos accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Zoological Association of America (ZAA) - the oldest is 66 years old.

Being outside is a favorite pastime. Connie is often the first elephant through the door when it opens and definitely the last one to come inside when called. Playing in the mud, and sometimes snow, is a favorite activity. If you hear



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

her making a squeaking, chirping noise when she is outside, she's especially happy and playful. Connie is often overlooked when in the yard with Hank. He is such a huge presence that she fades into the background, appearing reserved and introverted. Looks can be deceiving, however - she will chase any rabbit that makes the mistake of entering her space. When inside, she likes fun behaviors such as playing the harmonica or keyboard for enrichment. Celery is her favorite food. Connie likes routine in her life and is strong-willed but accepts change and new animals at her own pace. She prefers the company of adult male elephants, unusual for a female, having learned many of her social skills from males and other strong-personality animals. When she arrived in 1992, she joined Coco and Bomba to form a small herd of three. Bomba passed away in 1999, and Phoebe arrived in 2002.

Later, Bodhi and Beco arrived, but Connie and Coco were together for 17 years, sometimes as the only two elephants in the building or by themselves, before his passing in 2011. They were very tightly bonded. It's not surprising she took to Hank when they were introduced in 2012.

Although you frequently see her with Hank, she has formed a close relationship with Rudy. You can sometimes see the two of them playfully pushing on the dead tree in the north yard, and she often eats with

Sunny. While Connie has not raised a calf of her own, she was introduced to Bodhi and Beco when they were both very young and functioned as an "auntie" to both.

Dumplin

Dumplin was born at the Dallas Zoo on July 21, 1974, to parents Dolly and Dennis. She moved to the Jackson Zoo in 1978 and to Columbus 2013 when she was 39. At 50, she has kicked "Father Time" to the curb and is 13 years past the median life expectancy for female Bornean orangutans! She is the third oldest orangutan in an AZA- or ZAA-accredited facility.

Dumplin is well-known for having many talents. She loves attention and will often people-watch while sitting beside the windows. Curious, she'll look into a purse or tote bag if opened in front of her. It is a unique bonding experience for guests to see her, or any orangutan, in such a personal manner. Dumplin loves projects - she'll gather enrichment or make piles of sticks, arranging everything in a specific order. She trains well because training comes with attention and snacks, but projects come first and she is determined to finish them. She's famous for her fabric weaving and knot tying, often hammering



with a piece of PVC pipe to secure the knots when the project is done. Keepers describe her as sweet, curious, super-smart and inventive. She's also tech savvy, interacting with the *WildThink* vending machine.

Dumplin has never had a child of her own, and as far as we know has never been around infants before. The arrival of baby Clementine has added a new dimension to her relationship with Clementine's mother, Khali, which has really blossomed recently. The presence of an infant has created a youthful spark in Dumplin, which has been beautiful to see. Her interest in Clementine, always respectful, is increasing all the time.

AGING GRACFULLY

Old age, in itself, is not a disease, but some conditions are more prevalent in older animals. Elephants and orangutans are both extremely intelligent animals. Through conditioning and positive reinforcement, both Connie and Dumplin participate in much of their care and contribute to age-related research.

Connie's routine care is the same as the other elephants. She has a daily husbandry session, during which her eyes, teeth, feet, skin and tushes are examined. Foot pads are trimmed and nails are filed as needed, usually about twice a month. Structured exercise, casually referred to as "elephant yoga" sessions, are held three to five days a week. Once somewhat overweight, Connie is weighed weekly and has lost several hundred pounds over the last few years through planned feeding strategy changes and exercise. Body condition scores are done three times a year. The only apparent concession to being older is that her blood is collected on a different schedule than the other elephants. Connie's teeth are changing, and Animal Care staff speculate she is on her last set of molars. They take pictures of her teeth every month so they can monitor her progress. She is conditioned to hold her mouth open and allow a plumber's camera to be introduced to get a look at her bottom molars. As of right now, she does not need any diet changes. The Conservation Medicine team comes to the elephants once yearly for a comprehensive exam that also includes gait and tusk evaluation and thermal imaging of the joints to look for inflammation. Radiographs of all four feet are taken every two years. She is not on any medication.

Dumplin has slowed down in some aspects of her life. For example, she sometimes stays inside rather than shifting to the outside habitat, takes more frequent rest



Photos of Dumplin courtesy of Graham S. Jones and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

periods during the day and goes to bed earlier at night, but these subtle lifestyle changes have been offset by many positive changes to her life that have occurred since she arrived. Dumplin is very compliant and willingly participates in many voluntary procedures such as blood collection, blood pressure checks, cardiac scans, vaccinations, and drug administration. She is also conditioned to open her mouth and present her tongue and will sometimes allow keepers to use a toothbrush. Other than normal wear and tear, her teeth are in good condition, and she has not had any dental-related diet changes.

There is no set program for geriatric primates. The staff focus on keeping the animals active and they personalize programs for each individual, such as incorporating physical activity as “therapy” into their care. Dumplin has arthritis and was extremely obese for a female when she arrived, conditions which slowed her down and limited her activity. Animal Care staff have worked extremely hard at getting her to a much healthier weight by giving her things to do that have increased her activity level and willingness to move like an orangutan. She is on anti-inflammatory and pain medication for the arthritis. Keepers monitor her mobility on a daily basis and take videos of her locomoting every six months to compare for any possible changes. They look at how she holds her body when walking on all fours, how willing she is to stand on her legs and what her form is when doing so, and how she climbs and locomotes arboreally. While she has some fusion in certain joints that cause her to be consistently stiff, particularly when walking on the ground, she can move very quickly when something is motivating her to do so. Animal Care staff have placed adaptive devices such as hand-holds and firehoses in areas to help her move around if she chooses to use them, but more often than not she elects to do things her own way. She climbs around the habitats extremely well given her age and arthritis. Khali’s youth and spunky personality combined with the opportunities the orangutan building provides with enrichment have created a youthful spark in Dumplin, and you can see her climbing all over the habitat to work for food or to observe her adoring fans.

Dumplin is one of six Columbus Zoo primates, and the only female, to participate in the Great Ape Heart Project. She has an ILR (Implantable Loop Recorder) implant and has routine cardiac ultrasounds while awake, as well as weekly blood pressure readings. All three orangutans use the KardiaMobile ECG device to monitor heart health.

—Nancy Mulholand

For further reading:

Getting Active with the Lions, ZooNews, Feb. 2022, p 12

The Great Ape Heart Project, ZooNews May 2013 p 9

Battle of the Bulge...Assessing an Elephant’s Body Condition through Subjective Methods, ZooNews, Dec. 2019 p 9

Sources: Columbus Zoo and Aquarium staff Chelsea Massaroni and Mindi Scott, Columbus Zoo and Aquarium Blog July 17, 2023.

Where to Find Animal Information on Zoo Web Pages

Blog: <https://www.columbuszoo.org/blog>

From Trunk to Tail: Repurposing Trees at the
Columbus Zoo to Enrich Animal Habitats

Jan. 18, 2024

Seal Smiles: Behind the Scenes of Harbor Seal
Dental Care at the Columbus Zoo

Feb. 19, 2024

Bear Necessities: Meet the Sloth Bears at the
Columbus Zoo

April 22, 2024

Khali's Journey: A Tale of Maternal Instincts at the
Columbus Zoo

May 2, 2024

Beastly Banner: <https://www.columbuszoo.org/beastly-banner>
Spring 2024 and Summer 2024



Kangaroo Walkabout

Did you know that if there is danger, a joey will dive headfirst into their mother's pouch?



The Barn

Did you know that Jacob sheep can have multiple horns?



Congratulations to the 2023 Docent Class on Receiving their Red Lanyards!

Sandra Aukeman

Stephani Kim

Don Cagle

Keri Kotchounian

Linda Coffey

Joy Nichols

Fred Colby

Carol Roy

Susan Cross

Erin Saad

Ann DeMuth

Lori Sheppard

Ann Dulin

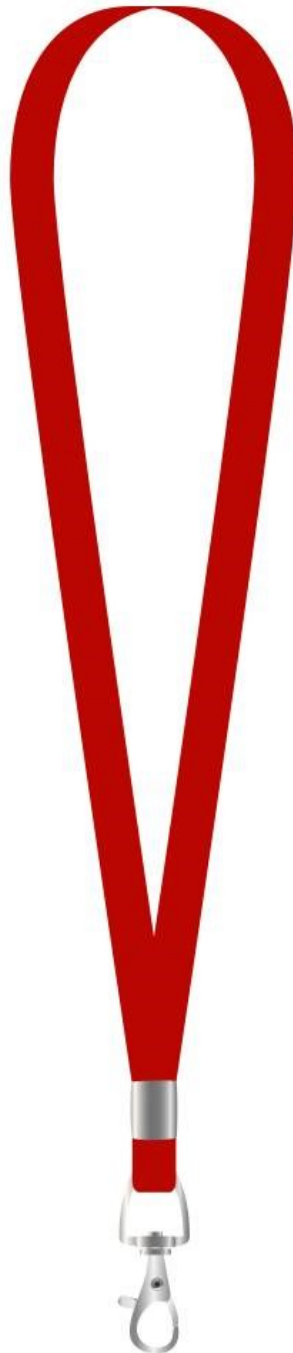
Sally Stein

Jane Johnson

Emily Thackery

David Kieffer

Tara Trigg



Empowering people. Saving wildlife.

VOLUNTEER HOURS AWARDS

*Total hours volunteered from January 2012 through December 2023
(length of Volgistics tracking)*

TWILIGHT TOUR FOR 6 9,000 to 10,999 hours

Nancy Mulholand

Stephanie Reid

ENRICHMENT PAINTING 7,000 to 8,999 hours

Barb Emmets

Bev Larson

DOCENT or VOLUNTEER JACKET 5,000 to 6,999 hours

Mariann Crowley

Steve Hancock

Dianna Van Buren



BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR 3,000 to 4,999 hours

Harvey Castner

Lee Ann Ellsworth

Marilyn Houck

Sandy Crabtree

Krista Hyme

Dorian Norstrom

Jason Smith

1000+ HOURS PIN and \$25 gift card—1,000 to 2,999 hours

Bruce Bergmann

Jeffrey DeShon

Carol Hadley

Beth King

Patricia Morgan

Deborah Poling

Kip Price

Nancy Schucker

Kelline Stevens

Trina Vannicelli

Mary Coridan

Amy Ferguson

Kelly Hanlin

Marcy Lichtcsien

Caryn Neumann

Nora Potter

Jeff Ramsey

Alice Smith

Mary Stockman

Mary Wagner

Ann DeMuth

Lori Fowler

Sherry Hay

Linda Meuser

Elaine Nicol

Jeana Price

Mikalia Saguisi

Sally Stein

Susan Tabacca

Susan White

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750+ HOURS PIN—750—999 HOURS

Dave Anhmark	Ann Almoney
Juli App	Michael Archer
John Barry	Linda Butler
Lisa Carlisle	Fred Colby
Karen Downing	Susan Fagan
Rick Gleim	Kathleen Hartley
Judy Hoover	Amy Jimison
Mark Lowe	Olga Medvedkov
Andy Moir	Robin Murphy
Carley Petch	Carol Roy
Melanie Simmons	Deborah Stokes-Wayne
Daniel Sullenberger	Denny Swenson
Joyce Talkowski	Jane Taylor
Rebecca Thrush (Cripe)	Mila Wheeler-Hall
Martino Wicks	Sandra Wilson
John Young	John Zimmerman

500+ HOURS PIN—500—749 HOURS

Darlene Archer	Charlene Bartholomew-Kerze
Pamela Beier	Scott Birrer
Don Cagle	Susan Cross
Elizabeth (Beth) Davies	Ann Dulin
Adam Feinstein	Jacob Fitch
Tamara Galeckas	Debra Gates
Tamela Gentzel	Laura Geran
Matthew Gerardi	Mike Gingras
Amanda Heade	Kimberly James
Janelle Janowiecki	Jane Johnson
David Kieffer	Keri Kotchounian
Chuck Leinbach	Amy Manbeck
Alice Marteney	Linda Miller
Nancy Montgomery	Tom Murphy
Carene O'Connor	Candace Patterson
Catherine Peterfish	Blake Sherry
Mary Pat Simmers	Chad Spring
Taylor Stone	Carol Stroemer
Tara Trigg	John Wagner
Janet Wartman	Nancy Welch



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250+ HOURS PIN—250-499 HOURS

Amanda Allen	Phyllis Baker	Dianna Ball	Kimmie Ball
Nancy Ballenger	Judith Bennett	Barbara Berggren	Denise Birkhoff
Brad Blankenship	Maryann Blankenship	Aurora Bloom	Bonnie Bowman
Connor Brogan	Susan Cicila	Mary Ann Clarke	Linda Coffey
Jennifer Comstock	Linda DiBlasi	Joyce Domijan	Sharon DuBois
Nona Durham	Catherine Dutkiewicz	Carla Eisenloffel	Kelly Ewing
Cari Falk	David Ferry	Elizabeth (Betsy) Flynn	Cathy Frederick
Kimberly French	Judy Frey	Lisa Fulton	Amanda Goble
Cathy Gunnlaugsson	Mark Hanson	Pamela Hartman	Sharon Hinshaw
Steve Hinshaw	Elaine Horr	Judi Hughes	Carolyn Jakubczak
Rick Johnson	Kathryn Kaba	Mike Kessler	Stephani Kim
Betty Knoch	Joe Knoch	Janis Kooser	Christopher Kopp
Bruce Lerner	Muriel Lerner	Lorrie Lewis	Susan Loesch
Allison Lush	Gregory Machovina	Barbara Macklin	Linda McClintock
Lynne McMahon	Kathryn Miller	Joy Nichols	Megan Perkins
Katie Phillips	Mandy Robek	Erin Saad	Lindsay Santen
Christine Sapp	Christina Scott	Anna Sikora	Karen Struble
Emily Thackery	Anne Trout	Gary Wearsch	Lynn Wearsch
Christine Welcher		J. Allison Wilson	