

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

May is upon us, so get ready for all of the yellow school buses. This may be the first time that many of the school kids have ever visited a zoo; let's make it special for them! Now, onto the animal updates.

Red panda Madeline has moved to the Greensboro Zoo. Meanwhile, female Usha has arrived from Greensboro and is in quarantine. More to come on red pandas.

Pallas' cats Moose and Tiina can now be seen in the outdoor habitat while Rooster and Karina are behind the scenes.

Tufted deer Sunflower is being monitored to determine if she is pregnant – stay tuned!

Asian elephant Connie will turn 50 this year and a celebration is planned. Her actual birth date is not known, but she was definitely born in 1974 and now seems to be a good time for a birthday party. Watch the portal for updates on the party.

Staff are working on crate training Sabu for his return to the Cincinnati Zoo.

The two groups of bachelor **silvered leaf langur monkeys** will be combined into one group near the end of May. This will include our original male bachelor group and the four males (affectionately known as the Beach Boys) brought in from the San Diego Zoo.

Reticulated python Kami and **water monitor** Minotaur will be switching habitat locations. Minotaur has already moved and cannot currently be seen. The dates for transferring Kami and bringing Minotaur back into the public aisle are not yet known.

Amur tiger Diesel steps into the outside habitat almost daily now.

However, he barely gets his whole body out of the door before he decides to go back inside. Hopefully, our two new tigers will soon be more visible in the outdoor habitat.

All of the birds have been moved back outside to the **Asia Quest Aviary** as have the tortoises that were in the bat habitat.

Markhor Sunny was humanely euthanized due to multiple medical conditions in late 2023 but reporting that fact was missed.



Connie, photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

On a visit to the Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha, I saw Columbus Zoo's former **greater one-horned rhino** (GOHR) Brian. A Docent at Doorly stated that they really like Brian as he is a big play baby. Brian is being housed in an outdoor habitat with two deer and, nearby, is a habitat that holds his "intended." When Brian arrived, he would chase the deer all around the habitat. The deer soon learned his personality and now go right up to Brian and take food out of his mouth. And yes, he still tosses his boomer ball out of the enclosure. The following are photos of Brian and friends. (Photos courtesy of Jon Briney.)



Brian's "Intended" Lilly

GOHR Brian

Brian's "Deer" Friend

Asia Quest is host to many of the Zoo's special events due to its size and location. **Unextinct** is no exception. Visitors have been amazed this spring due to the quality of the Unextinct displays and of our Asian elephant herd. Attached are a few photos of the displays in Asia Quest. (Photos courtesy of Jon Briney).



The **Asia Quest** "Animal Listing" (revised on April 15) has been updated on the portal. New animal weights have been added including weights for all of the **bats**. Please note that weights that are maintained in grams or kilograms have been converted into pounds, which may be more understandable by our visitors. Many other small changes have also been made to the listing.

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

As these updates are being written, all of the animals in the region are doing well but many are still in their winter habitats. Technical difficulties as a result of the power outage the Zoo experienced a few months ago have delayed the opening of pools and the return of some animals to their summer habitats. As soon as the issues are rectified, they will move out of winter mode and into their summer habitats. Stay tuned for more information.



The **Kangaroo** Walkabout and **Lorikeet** Garden will be open to the public daily starting May 1.

The **cranes** are now back in the Congo Expedition Aviary and **magpie goose** Sandy will be returning to her summer vacation home shortly.



The animals are looking forward to your visits this summer – come and visit “down under.”



Remembering Tasmanian Devil Thyme

Photos courtesy of Barb Emmets

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

As we start the “yellow bus season,” please remember that the outdoor **gorilla** habitat and the **mandrill** outside window are the priority areas for docents to work.

The **colobus monkeys** are enjoying the sunshine and warmer weather. The latter allows them to spend more time outside and they love to sun themselves, especially first thing in the morning. While each individual is a joy to watch, Jif and Marmalade bring a little something extra to the table with all their bouncing and jumping. It’s been really fun watching the youngsters interact with the enrichment. If you ever walk by in the afternoon or early evening on a nice day and don’t see the monkeys outside, chances are one of the keepers brought them in briefly in order to put a portion of their food into the yard. They have been trying to break up their meals a little more by feeding them several times throughout the day, which offers them a little more variety in their day and feedings.

The **orangutans** have yard access as the weather permits and they are all loving their time outside. Clementine continues to grow and reach milestones. Recently, she was seen hanging on the mesh all by herself! Dumplin is a huge fan of Clementine and has recently been squeaking toward her. Squeaking is an affiliative vocalization that orangutans do for

solicitation or to be submissive to another orangutans.

Construction on the new **bonobo** habitat is ongoing

and everyone is doing well. Bob has begun being a back rider and chewing on solid food.

There are a lot of hormones in our young troop of mandrills. Hasina displaces Mailaka often and Matilada will join in occasionally. Mosi sometimes displaces Hasina and Izzy likes to scream at Bernard. Wounding during such incidents is normal. Having said that, if you see a fight or a run-around, please see if any wounds are noticeable and let a keeper know. Bernard and Izzy are growing, learning and still doing all the cute baby mandrill things.



Orangutan kisses

Photo courtesy of Keith vonStein



Bonobo Bob

Photo courtesy of Meredith Ross

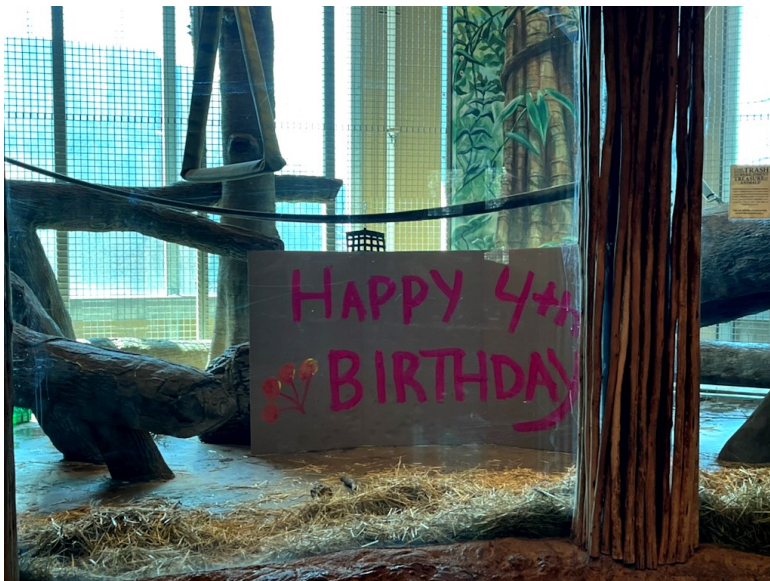
Leopards Jaime and Tyrion are happy to be going out and enjoy lying on their structures in the sun.

Okapis Damisi and Matoke bred at the beginning of the year and, based on her behavior, it is suspected that Damisi is pregnant. However, blood test results to officially confirm the pregnancy are still pending. Please note that this information is not being shared with the public at this time. Consequently, it should remain confidential.

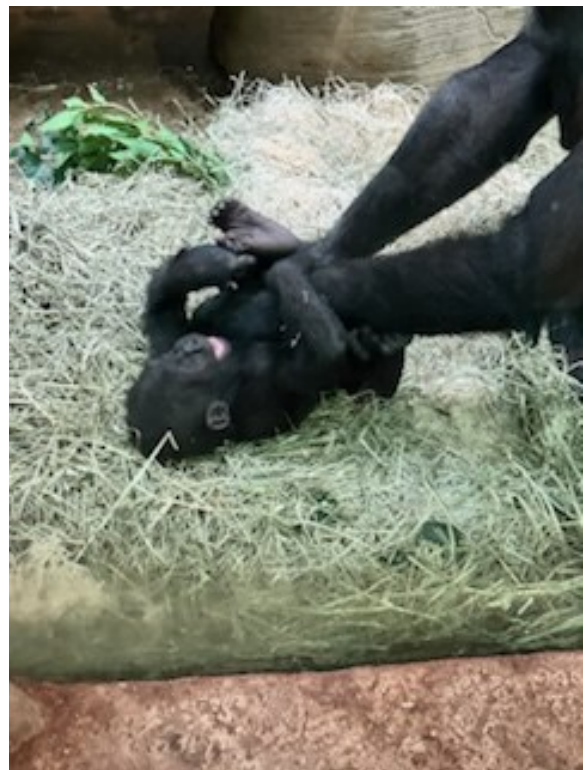
Matoke celebrated his 12th birthday on April 12. One of the wellbeing opportunities/goals identified for the year is to work on reducing the amount of pacing Matoke does, especially inside the barn. Keepers are currently working on making some enrichment and environmental additions to his stalls to hopefully mimic a more forested canopy/cover feeling. They will reassess his pacing habits after those changes have been made to determine whether they had a positive, neutral or negative effect and come up with more ideas throughout the year based on the results.

Spring and warmer weather are here, so you'll be seeing the okapi outside more regularly! You will often find either Matoke or El Jewar in Yard 3 and either Damisi, Miliki or El Jewar on the Yard 1/Yard 2 side.

In other news, Congo keeper Libby recently completed the Boston Marathon. Please be sure to say congratulations if you see her!



Jamani's birthday party
Photo courtesy of Kim Houk



Kwame laughing
Photo courtesy of Alissa Chenetski

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Lion Imara's birth control implant was removed in early April. No breeding has been seen but that is not unexpected as it is very early to see that behavior. All of our lions are doing well.

The **ostriches**, **donkeys** and **vervets** are enjoying the nice weather when it's here.

Giraffe feedings with our guests started on May 4 with **zebras** joining the giraffes in the feeding yard. The Heart of Africa region fully opens on May 11.

Staff are currently in the midst of reintroducing animals to a quarter of the Savanna and that process has been going very well. All of the new baby **gazelles** (dama and slenders) have been introduced to the same space as well. Introductions were extended to half of the Savanna on May 4.

Construction is going well and the hoof stock shelters have been built. Staff are waiting on the gates to be finished but that piece of the equation will not slow down Savanna introductions. The giraffe shelter is also almost complete.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

The Barn will be open every day starting May 1. Please come volunteer in the yard. It's a great way to get a good combination of animal and human interaction.

Nesting season has begun in the **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** and there is currently a painted bunting as well as a new indigo bunting pair in quarantine. Excitingly, breeding indigo buntings has been approved for this year.



We are headed toward **lynx** breeding

season, so you might see the girls having some disagreements. The keepers are keeping a close eye on those dynamics.

Black bear Stevie is doing great by herself, and guests can usually see her hanging out in her outside den.

Some of you may have noticed that **cougar** Cal was not out with the girls as much in the month of April. He had a flare-up of cracks in his back paw pads that required treatment three times a day. Our cougar trainers have done a wonderful job teaching Cal to voluntarily accept his "pedicures," and now he has rejoined his companions.

Great feedback was received from the inaugural **Wolverine** Workshop. A total of 35 people attended in person or via Zoom from 19 different institutions. In other wolverine news, Alvar is handling solo life well and has been having excellent training sessions with staff.

Moose Bert dropped both antlers and is now back with the girls. The introduction process went very smoothly and Bert is enjoying having a big pool again. The moose generally have access to both the bull yard and the main yard during the day, so be sure to check both yards.

Both Candy and Figgy **reindeer** have been a big hit with guests participating in the Reindeer Experience and have interacted with their fans quite well. You may have noticed that Abby has been separated from the two younger girls. As a result of limping, our vets recommended that she have some stall rest. Therefore, keepers made a separate yard where she can rest away from the rambunctious youngsters. As soon as her issue resolves, the three will be reunited.



Brown bear brothers Brutus and Buckeye just turned 20 years young! Be sure to stop by and wish them a happy birthday.

Keeper Talks have started back up on weekends and the North America keepers are trialing something different this year. As of now, their talk will rotate between **polar bears**, brown bears and **Arctic foxes**, which will be enriching for keepers, guests and the animals!

Construction is moving along nicely. You can see the **Mexican wolf** building and the black bear building taking shape as you walk across the North America bridge. Soon, a temporary path will be created so the bridge can be taken down without disrupting guest traffic significantly.

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



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Our **flamingoes** had their yearly physicals recently and are doing well. As long as the weather cooperates, they will be out in the yard.

The **manatee** boys were weighed for a quick check in between physicals and Mr. Dobak is up to 389.5 pounds while Nighthawk is 528 pounds.

We have two male **penguin chicks**! They were both assisted in their hatching process for a variety of reasons but are doing great now as was announced on April 25 for World Penguin Day.

Unfortunately, the **Chitra turtle** passed away following a lengthy illness and medical treatments.

Minotaur **water monitor** is in the back area behind the **reticulated python** habitat as his old habitat is being prepared for the reticulated python.

Another **southern stingray** has been spayed at Stingray Bay and is in an isolated area while recovering.



Remembering Penguin Hans

REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS

The pinniped team is still practicing and fine-tuning their new presentation. Part of their efforts include training sessions that focus on new behaviors. Our **seals** and **sea lions** are starting to work side by side on stage and that is really cute.

Animal Encounters Village (AEV) is also gearing up for stage presentations that will begin weekends only in May. The team is working on some new “guest engagement” behaviors with our animals to offer more interactions for the public. Look for regular, informal encounters outside or in the public aisle of the building highlighting our red ruffed lemurs and their training, our rainforest creatures and the Ohio species who call AEV home.

Cheetah Kvamme is 9 years old and lives with his sister, Kesi. He will be viewable at times and easily recognizable as he will often be wearing a medical shirt due to his current medical conditions. The following information about the latter can be shared with guests.

Kvamme has an autoimmune disorder that is well managed with medication. However, a side effect of the medication is that his skin is more fragile. He has an old wound on his right shoulder that is healed but, in order to provide extra cushion and protection to that area, he sometimes wears a medical shirt. He does not have to wear it permanently. It is just a safety measure that is taken as needed based on his course of treatment, so you may see him without it in the habitat. Fun fact: Kvamme is trained to put on his medical shirt! He will sit and voluntarily lift one leg at a time to allow the team to “armor” him.

Volunteers and staff are heavily relied upon to provide supplies for enrichment. Although there are a few individuals who regularly and graciously supply boxes, paper towel tubes and egg cartons, there is currently a newspaper deficit – any and all donations would be greatly appreciated.



Photo courtesy of Kaylee Franklin

Lastly, we have five new seasonals in the region. Three are being trained at AEV and the other two recently started working with the pinnipeds. Please give them a warm welcome if you see them around.

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

Things are getting busy at The Wilds as baby season has picked up. We have several **takin** kids on the ground as well as a number of **Père David's deer** fawns. As the weather warmed up, we started working groups of animals back out of the barns for the start of the regular tour season.

The **white rhino** herd is back in Pasture with all four of the new calves.

Staff members were very happy to watch hand-raised **greater one-horned rhino** Stella head out with the rest of her herd. She is getting her bottles of formula delivered to her in Pasture. Meanwhile, back at the rhino barns, a few moves have taken place. Two young male white rhinos were transferred in April and one of our white rhino breeding bulls will be leaving in preparation of bringing in a new breeding male from another zoo later this spring.

The regular tour season starts May 1 and you can make reservations for any tour options on the website.



Photo courtesy of The Wilds
