

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

Thank you to all the docents and adult volunteers who have answered numerous questions from guests about the presentations in the Adventure Cove Lighthouse Theater. (“Are there shows over there? When?”) The Dive into Adventure and Training Tales presentations concluded for the season after Boo at the Zoo and were a big hit! Though the presentation season has ended, training with the stars of the events continues throughout the year. With that being the case, you can enjoy observing spontaneous training sessions with the **harbor seals** and **sea lions** on the deck and in the tunnel. Training is underway for sea lions Ayla and Bodega to breathe into a mask for voluntary anesthesia. This behavior is part of the team’s winter goals to train the animals in their care for a maximum of voluntary husbandry behaviors. It involves asking a sea lion to put their head/nose into the mask and breathe when asked. Bodega has reached the step where smells are added (usually tea bags) into the mask to mimic the anesthesia protocol.

Inside the Adventure Cove Deck tote, there is a new, laminated, step-by-step illustrated guide about operating the propane tank heating system to keep us warm on the windy deck in the cooler months.

Lennie, our newest sea lion, appeared in pumpkin form during Boo at the Zoo through the artistry of one of the participating giant pumpkin carvers. When she was born on June 17, Lennie weighed 8 kilograms and was up to 18 kilograms by mid-October. Lennie will be nursing for 10 months or so. She loves to play or jump on the edge of the door between the North Pool and Central Pool. She also likes to spend time on the deck of the Central Pool near the ladder when she is not diving and swimming in the pools.



Lennie—photo courtesy of Pablo Joury



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis

Enrichment days are popular in the region. This year’s final event will be Holiday Hootenanny on Dec. 11. Previous events featured kids tossing gelatin cubes into the pools for the sea lions and harbor seals under the guidance of the pinniped trainers. One lucky boy launched a Frisbee-sized treat that Qizai quickly snatched and devoured. During the October event, molds were used to create large green gelatin “brains” that sea lions Toby and Nana especially enjoyed tossing around and then eating while little Sunshine played with the smaller pieces.

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Cheetahs received frozen treats in September and Dave and Adrienne had their first encounter with pumpkins in October. The Animal Encounters Village residents received a variety of enrichment, including bobbing for apples and engaging with pumpkins. At times inside the building, you'll get to see flight training with the **macaws** as the birds fly from one person or perch to another.

The six yoga-with-sloths events were sold out. **Sloths** Sunny and Churro (also known as Jennifer Slowpez) captivated guests. Proceeds from the events will benefit the ARCAS Guatemala Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Association. Though the cheetah special event was not held as planned, you can still support cheetahs by educating guests about them and contributing as you wish to the conservation organizations the Zoo endorses. The sloth and cheetah T-shirts designed for the fundraising events are available for volunteers to purchase.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis

As we enter the Wildlights season, remember the pinnipeds and AEV residents are always home and you can enjoy the warmth of the indoor habitats while you visit the animals.

Best wishes to Wouter Stellaard as he departs from the Zoo for new adventures. He leaves a lasting legacy in terms of his amazing training skills that provided enrichment of all, including staff, volunteers and guests. His new consulting company, Behavior 360, is inspired by animals and people working together equally to complete a successful training circle.

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

As we head into Wildlights season, remember that Asia Quest is a great cold-weather region to visit! Many of the animals in the region love the cold, and you can always warm up at the ceiling heaters by the indoor tiger window. Guests love to see the animals playing in snow, so bundle up and come visit! Below are some updates about what's going on in the region.

All is well with the **flying foxes**. There are a few new tortoise residents in the bat habitat, including a few **Aldabra tortoises** (much smaller ones than Sonny and Buddy), which brings our total to nine. The **mouse deer** are also doing well.

Good news from **sloth bear** land: Heide is pregnant from July breeding! Sloth bears are delayed implanters so, even though they bred several months ago, the embryonic development does not occur until late October/early November for a December birth.

There are still hopes for a new **Pallas' cat** female but no definitive word on that yet.

The **red-crowned cranes** have taken up residence in the north yard at the tiger boardwalk and will remain there for the foreseeable future. Joslyn **tufted deer** is being monitored for possible pregnancy.

Some unexpected events have occurred in the aviary. Despite the fact that Chowlei **muntjac** was on birth control and Tyler muntjac had a vasectomy, Chowlei surprised her care staff by giving birth recently. Unfortunately, the calf was stillborn. Chowlei may be off view for a short time. There are plans to spay both her and Peanut to prevent future surprises.

All is well with the ever-evolving **Asian elephant** herd. Rudy will soon undergo an AI procedure using sperm from both Hank and other donors. She is still being placed with Beco in the hopes that breeding will occur naturally. Four-month-old Frankie continues to be impossibly cute and now weighs more than 700 pounds. He has started spending overnights with Phoebe, Rudy and Sunny. He's not yet eating solid food, though he does put some in his mouth and possibly eats bits of whatever it may be. In short, he still receives his main nutrition from Phoebe.



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

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Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Brian **greater one-horned rhino** is doing great.

The **markhors** are all well. Some of the current group will be moving to new homes soon, so no breeding is planned at this time.

Several people have asked about Daria **langur's** pregnancy as it was reported in the last update that she would give birth soon. We are pleased to report that she recently gave birth!



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

The **red panda** group will soon see some changes. Bandit will be removed from the group and Madeline will be added to it, so we'll have an all-girl group of red pandas in the habitat. Bandit will stay at the Zoo in one of the red panda areas behind the scenes. You may possibly see a red panda, or perhaps a Pallas' cat, in the outdoor langur habitat over the winter.

The **Amur tiger** group are all doing well. Mara is now in the south yard and has new crane neighbors. Jupiter's tail is completely healed and he is working on shedding some of the excess pounds he put on while he was out of the public aisle. There are still breeding plans in place for him and Natasha but her cycles are irregular and introductions have had some challenges.

Hope to see all of you in the region in your warm clothes and jeans this winter!

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Staff members have been busy as a result of the cooler weather. Most, if not all, of the birds in the Congo Aviary are inside for the winter.

We have five new **black swans** out on Bird Lake. These animals will not be visible until the loop opens back up in the spring but staff are working closely with them to try and get voluntarily weights, wing trims and feet checks. We have three boys and two girls. The keepers named them after the Scooby Doo gang – Velma, Daphne, Freddy, Scooby and Shaggy.

The biggest change in **kangaroos** is that they don't have people walking through their habitat anymore for the season. Perhaps surprisingly, they can handle pretty cold temperatures. However, staff do get concerned when we have icy conditions as the hills can get slippery. Obviously, they don't want to risk our 'roos getting hurt by navigating the steep hillsides in those conditions, so they bring them inside when warranted. Staff also try to keep the barn between 55-60 degrees to give the 'roos a place to warm up if they wish but that is still cool enough to help them acclimate to the winter weather. They are only prevented from venturing outside if it gets extremely cold (below 15 degrees) to make sure the optimal temperature can be maintained in the barn area.



Photos courtesy of Jessica Linek



The **lorikeet** tours went well! They are over for the season but keepers are entertaining the idea of opening them back up in the spring (before the habitat is open). Stay tuned for further updates.

The **koala** habitat is down in order for Maintenance to replace the structures in the front room. Unfortunately, that project didn't commence on the scheduled date and keepers are waiting to hear when it can be rescheduled. Koalas don't handle change the best, so keepers are holding off on moving them again until they have a better idea of the timeline.

With the resurgence of COVID-19 and the more-contagious delta variant circulating, moving our **lorises** out of the habitat is up for discussion again. They are on the list for the second round of vaccines but staff does not have a date for the arrival of those yet.

Removal of the dinosaurs started Nov. 1 and the island loop is now closed.

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Red river hog Harriet had her birth control implant removed, so hopefully we will have piglets in the future. Harold gained a little bit of weight this summer and is on a diet. He has already lost four pounds.

Leopards Jamie and Tyrion are getting along just fine.

Matilda **mandrill** is back in the building AND she has two new female friends! Malaika (Ma-lie-Kah) is 4 years old and Hasina (Ha-see-Na) is 2 years old. They are full siblings and came to us from the LA Zoo. Everyone is excited about their arrival and that Matilda is back and healthy! By the time this is posted, it's likely that the mesh in the mandrill yard will be in the midst of being replaced. Therefore, you will not see them in the yard until the work is completed, which is supposed to take two weeks.

Don't forget about Mosi. He is doing very well and it is suspected that we will see some major physical changes happening with him as he has more female hormones around him.

All of the **okapis** are doing well. Hopefully, everyone got a chance to see them in their yards over the last few weeks while the weather was still nice. Thanks to anyone who participated in World Okapi Day! Our seasonal staff member, Alexis, made some creative and fun, themed enrichment items for the okapis to enjoy. Lots of people were hopefully reached with social media posts.

We have confirmation that Jabari **colobus** is pregnant. YAY! Animal Care staff strongly suspect that Bernadette is also pregnant. Double YAY! Everyone else in the group is great. The weather is changing though, so time is limited on how much longer they'll be outside.

Our newest arrival, Faith **bonobo**, is integrating into the group beautifully. She has now met and spent time with all of our bonobos (our group size is now 15). Little Bertie was very quick to make friends with Faith and loves spending time with her. Sukari and Elema are continuing to do well in Milwaukee. All of the bonobos received their COVID-19 vaccines, so they are now fully vaccinated. We are very proud of them as most allowed for voluntary hand injections. In other news, little Max turned 6 years old on Nov. 8.



Photo courtesy of Anita Scalf

It's been busy for everyone in the department with COVID-19 vaccines and annual checkups happening. Everyone has done an AMAZING job – humans and primates alike. Each **gorilla** received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, all of which were hand injected! This was achieved without the assistance of our wonderful vet staff. In the middle of all that, there were several gorilla checkups that also required hand injections. Everything just mentioned was all done within a three-week turnaround. Hooray to everyone! If there were any docents out and about wondering why there weren't gorillas in the outdoor habitat, they were kept inside as a precaution in case they didn't feel well from the vaccine. Fortunately, none of the gorillas showed any sign of being bothered by the vaccine. All of the checkups went positively too. Now, keepers are getting ready for flu vaccines soon – fingers crossed it all goes well. If the two rounds of

COVID-19 vaccines are any indicator though, it will all happen with no problem.

October birthdays for two of our gorillas included Mac, who turned 38 on Oct. 26, and little Mo'Ana. She turned 20 (yes, you heard that right) on Oct. 20. Additionally, Oliver celebrated his 33rd birthday in Milwaukee and Sully will turn 7 on Nov. 24. The last birthday of the year will be on Dec. 21 when Nia turns 28. In short, the gorillas are doing well and have enjoyed going outside to soak up the last of the warm, fall sun.

If you want to test a new space, put an **orangutan** in it! They helpfully showed keepers a small issue with the shift doors in their new building. Consequently, they are temporarily living in their old space in the gorilla building while that problem is being resolved. Everyone is looking forward to getting them moved back into their new space so our Zoo family and friends can enjoy them throughout the colder months.

Sulango recently had a regular checkup and everything looked good. The girls are doing great, just going with the flow while they all await moving back over to the orangutan building. Who knows what kind of shenanigans they will pull next!



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Since this is our last update for the year, Congo Expedition would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a Healthy New Year!

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA



Santa Ralphie—photo courtesy of Dianna Van Buren

It's that time of year again when the weather wants to be chilly and rainy. With that in mind, staff are starting to prepare all of our barns for the winter. Nov. 7 was the final day to see **giraffes** out on the Savanna and in the feeding yard.

Giraffe Digi had a procedure on Oct. 26. Animal Care staff immobilized her to trim her feet. In April 2020, she started showing some sensitivity and on-again-off-again limping stemming from either her right or left front foot; it seemed to change based on how she was compensating. She has been on pain meds off and on ever since. Ultimately, keepers decided that it was time to get a good look at the bottoms of her feet. They also had the Hoof Care team (same group that was here for Enzi) come in and trim her hooves down to exactly where she needed them to be (staff would not have been able to do so had she been awake). They did a great job and the procedure was efficient as well as incredibly quick. Now, keepers are weaning her off of pain meds with the goal being that she will be completely off of them in the future and routine maintenance on her feet will be all that is needed.

The keepers have introduced the calves to the entire herd so, this winter, everyone will be able to live together in the barn as one big family! Over the winter, the **grey-crowned cranes** and **guineafowl** will be roommates with the giraffes in their

own separate stall. Heart of Africa's last day being open to the public this year was on Sunday, Nov. 7. On Monday, the gate went up by the watering hole/lion viewing windows just past the plane. Education-led giraffe barn tours started on Saturday, Nov. 13.

Our **saddle-billed storks** are now in for the season. Between overnight temperatures dipping into the 40s and the rain, keepers decided to go ahead and bring them to the hoofstock barn since they are the region's most weather-sensitive birds. They currently have access to outdoor holding yards during the day. The **wildebeests**, **zebras** and **greater kudus** will still go out on the Savanna on a regular basis. **Dama gazelle** Zultan will also go out on nice days but he will be brought inside at night. The rest of our hoofstock animals are getting along just fine.

The **vervets** are doing great. They will continue to have access outside as long as the temperature does not fall below 40 degrees.

Despite some small squabbles, the **lions** are doing very well. Asali will turn 16 on Nov. 23. Keepers Heather Sinn and Sam Frolich are planning a party for her. The theme will be punk rock!

The **camels'** last day in the region was Sunday, Nov. 7. With the exception of the two babies, they can now be found in their Wildlights area (pony rides). Larry and Mo headed back to Wisconsin on Nov. 7 along with the ponies. Camel rides will be open for Wildlights beginning Nov. 18. Four camels will be here – Lippy, Riddle, Archie and Luke.

Big congratulations to Megan Fulk who is now HOA's newest full-time keeper – backfilling Scott Shelly's position after he retired. Megan started out in camels. Then, she spent some time as a Shamba keeper before moving into the part-time keeper position.

As this is the final region update for the year, Heart of Africa would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a wonderful new year!

#HOASTRONG



Photo courtesy of Brenda Baldinger

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Swan Georgeanne is doing well. Keepers are hoping to have a new boyfriend for her soon!

The cows at **My Barn** are just fine. Three new Nigerian goats (Pie, Hershey and Snickers) were added to the herd. They have settled in well and can be seen in the petting yard in addition to the barn.

Our **Mexican wolves** are doing well as a family pack.

There is nothing new to report with Banjo **pronghorn**, Hermie and Clover **bison** or the **beavers**.

Otters Paso and Catori are getting older, so they usually have access inside. They have been spending quite a bit of time outside on nicer days though.

The **eagles** are doing well. Staff redid both nests a few weeks ago and the eagles have really enjoyed them so far.

The **aviary** is preparing for colder weather. The winter “hotels” were just repainted and should have guests in them soon. All of the chicks from this spring have grown up and will be heading off to their next destinations soon.

Montana **bobcat** is doing great as are the **lynxes**.

Stevie and Joan **black bears** are doing well. They have been staying inside more due to weather changes.

Cougars Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are growing fast. Poppy and Goldie both weighed 68 pounds in September and Cal was up to 82 pounds. Needless to say, all of the “kittens” are even bigger now.

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** bred last spring. Therefore, we are all hopeful that kits will be born this winter. Keepers are preparing for denning now – fingers crossed!

The **sandhill cranes** are doing well and are now behind the scenes.

Bertha **moose** has been introduced to Strawberry and they will live together. Strawberry arrived from Alaska in mid-October and is believed to have been born in mid-April. She is doing well and growing fast. Strawberry weighed 388 pounds at the beginning of October but is obviously larger now. Introductions began with Strawberry having nose-to-nose interactions with Bertha, and all of the interactions went well throughout the introduction process.



Strawberry—photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Construction in the area is ongoing. Most of the stalls are being renovated, a new scale/training chute is being constructed and new shelters are being added in the yard. The shelters will give the moose shade, fans and possibly even misters for those hot summer days. The pool was also modified and it is hoped that the pond will be able to be kept open all winter now too. Additionally, the yard was expanded slightly. It now reaches further to the stream, which gives the moose a little more room.

Reindeer antlers are in transition. All the girls have lost their velvet and they're getting older so, if you stop by, you may see one or two of them limping. Keepers are currently working with the vets to address that issue to make sure the girls are in tiptop shape for the Christmas season. Be sure to sign up for a reindeer encounter so you can meet them up close and personal!

You might not see the **prairie dogs** as much right now as they are spending more time getting their burrows ready for winter.

The **arctic foxes** are doing well and still enjoy spending time on their platforms.

Brown bears Brutus and Buckeye are starting to slow down and spend more time in their dens. They loved their pumpkin Halloween enrichment!

Polar bears Anana and Aurora continue to do well together. The polar bear girls also had pumpkins for Halloween enrichment. Kulu has gone to the Como Park Zoo in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Photo courtesy of Joy Remley

REGION NEWS—SHORES

As we enter the colder months, some animals will not be viewable to the public. Included in that list are Bubba and Sonny **Aldabra tortoises**, Girl **alligator** and, at times, the **flamingoes** and **penguins** will also be indoors. However, the Reptile Building, Discovery Reef and Manatee Coast are wonderful places to visit out of the elements!

Check out some of the new fish that are going into Discovery Reef and the Tidepool: **Pakistani butterfly fish**; **three stripe damselfish**; **threadfin butterflyfish**; **pearlscale butterflyfish**.

The **radiated tortoises** and juvenile Aldabra tortoises are spending the winter in the bat habitat in Asia Quest.

You may have missed seeing the flamingoes while work was being done on the pool pumps. By the time these updates come out, they should be back outside (weather permitting).

Baby fish! We have baby **seahorses** and **needlefish** in the back that are being raised. The needlefish came from eggs collected in Manatee Coast and the seahorses were born in Discovery Reef.

Buddy **hawksbill sea turtle** recently weighed in at 121.5 pounds!



Photos courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

November means that regular tours have finished for the season and the team at The Wilds has been busy moving animals into their winter homes.

One of the newest animals moving is the **white rhino** calf that was born on the morning of Oct. 5. Animal Management staff had been monitoring the mother closely since all physical signs indicated a birth was imminent. They found the new calf in pasture when they arrived at work. The mother is Anan, who was born at The Wilds in 2009. This is her fourth calf. The father is Kengele and he was born at the San Diego Safari Park in 1998. He arrived at The Wilds in 2012. This is his third calf.



The recent birth brings our herd up to 16 rhinos (4 males and 12 females) and marks the 26th white rhino born at The Wilds. It is our seventh fifth generation (five generations removed from its wild ancestors) calf born at The Wilds. Its mother was the first fourth generation birth and its grandmother, Zenzele, was the first rhino born at The Wilds back in 2004. Baby, mother and grandmother can be seen on one of our winter tours.



Photos courtesy of Cody Cseplo

There is more exciting rhino news! The Wilds has joined a team including Cincinnati's CREW, Disney's Animal Kingdom, George Mason University, the South-East Zoo Alliance for Reproduction & Conservation and Stellenbosch University in South Africa to form the new American Institute of Rhinoceros Science (AIRS). The Institute's operations will be based at The Wilds and will focus on high-priority research needs for the health and well-being of rhinos in zoos. This work is funded by a three-year National Leadership Grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.