

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

As the weather has cooled, so have some of the feisty **sea lion** males going through rut in Adventure Cove. The same guys that were extra loud and boisterous can now be seen snoozing in the sun on the deck. During the Boo at the Zoo season, new presentations were offered by the trainers in Adventure Cove's Lighthouse Theater featuring the sea lions. Enrichment Days continued with Pumpkin Smash Bash on October 29 and will conclude for the year with Flurry of Fun on Dec. 10.



Though it may have seemed surprising for two of our **cheetahs** returning to the Zoo to be housed in Asia Quest, cheetahs are also returning to Asia in the wild. Brian Badger (yes, a Badger talking about cheetahs) of the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) was a speaker at the recent Association of Zoo and Aquarium Docents and Volunteers Conference hosted by the Toledo Zoo & Aquarium. Badger shared the news of Project Cheetah, which involved the relocation of eight wild adult cheetahs -- three males and five females -- to Kuno National Park in India on Sept. 17. The cheetahs

ranged in age from 2 to 5 and made the transcontinental journey via a 12-hour flight, 16-hour drive on rocky roads and with the assistance of helicopters from the Indian Air Force.

Before their journey, assessments of the cheetahs' health, wild disposition, hunting skills, genetics and reproductive health/potential were conducted to ensure their best chances of survival in India. Cheetahs were previously declared extinct there in 1952. Badger compared the excitement and pride of the Indian government surrounding the cats' release to the fanfare and tributes connected to the recent death of the queen in his homeland of England.

International Cheetah Day is Dec. 4. The celebration originally honored Khayam, a cub raised by CCF founder Laurie Marker at Wildlife Safari. Khayam moved with Marker to Namibia in 1977 and demonstrated that cheetahs born in human care could learn to hunt. This initiated long-term research studies with cheetahs in Namibia and throughout their range.

Animal enrichment is a priority throughout the Zoo and something that is ever evolving. Interns recently conducted observations of the **sand cats**, **otters** and **skunks** to record how they behave and utilize their habitats. The information collected will aid in ensuring that the animals are living their best lives.

In 2023, Jennifer Davis will continue as the volunteer leader for Animal Programs and will be joined by "shadow" Cindy Wesney. Cindy's term as leader will then begin in January 2024.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Greetings from Asia Quest, a great region to work in cold weather! There are not a ton of updates this month but here are a few items of interest:

Asian elephant Rudy has undergone AI again and Sunny is currently training for the same procedure. As always, be vague when talking to guests and avoid creating an expectation or a timeline. It's fine to share that breeding plans (including the use of AI) exist, but it's probably wise to leave out specific dates and when attempts were made. We're always hopeful for more elephant calves!

Sloth bear Heiderose will be denning soon; cross your fingers for adorable cubs! Randhir and Shiva will be rotating in their enclosure.

Some sadder news: **Malayan flying fox** Astrith passed away recently. All the other bats are doing fine. The **tortoises** have moved back into their winter home in the bat habitat. As a reminder, six Burmese mountain tortoises, two Aldabra tortoises and two radiated tortoises reside there along with two **mouse deer** and the **blue-faced honey eaters**.

There will be no boards blocking the **Pallas' cat** habitat this winter as no breeding is planned. Sometime soon, the male kitten (names have still not been released) will be pulled and join dad Moose behind the scenes. The **markhors** are all doing well; Sunny has recently begun taking meloxicam for joint support.

At some point in the not-too-distant future, Mara **Amur tiger** will be moved from the boardwalk to the main habitat where she and Natasha will alternate being on view. **Cheetah** brothers Eddie and Jake will remain in the south yard. No time frame is available for this move – stay tuned for more details.

It's been decided that the elephant and rhino building will close at 7 p.m. during Wildlights this year, so keep that in mind if you're a docent and want to volunteer during evening hours.



Photo courtesy of Mindi Scott

Remembering Malayan flying fox Astrith



REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Let's get the sad news over with first. Unfortunately, there have been quite a few passings in the region over the last two months or so. We lost our Scooby gang – all five **black swans** – and half of the Beatles group of **Dalmatian pelicans**. John and George are still with us and doing well. We also lost one of our **Indian crested porcupines**, Oliver. He was a wonderful boy who leaves a large void in the hearts of all who knew him. His keepers shared the following.

"A cute story about Oliver: He had some significant dental issues over the last couple years so he was getting his regular diet of greens and various veggies blended in a smoothie. His grain biscuits were soaked and then put onto the smoothie like a crumble topping to make a porcupine version of a veggie pie. He will be very missed and he was very well loved."

On a much happier note, we have five – yes, five – **lorikeet** chicks that are doing so, so, so well. In fact, they almost look like adult birds! They are still living apart from the flock but are thriving just the same. In addition to that good news, **koala** Katy's joey is starting to pop limbs out of the pouch! Little hands and/or feet can be seen poking out from time to time and there is a lot of movement in the whole pouch. If you get a chance, stop by to see whether you can get a glimpse of the little one!

Construction is coming along well! Almost all the drywall is up and things are moving into place for the **weedy sea dragon** tank. The nocturnal building is still scheduled to be closed through winter with tentative plans to reopen in early spring. All of the animals are doing fine with the construction. They are still on their regular schedule of going into their habitats and their back holding areas.

Tasmanian devil Thyme is adjusting well to single life.

All of the parrots and birds in Congo Base Camp have transferred inside for the winter. The cranes however are enjoying a few extra days outside in the **aviary** by themselves as they can handle slightly cooler temperatures. They will be coming in soon though.

The **kangaroo** and lorikeet contact areas will be closed for the winter. Having said that, you will still be able to see the lorikeets through the mesh as long as it's warm enough. Our kangaroos will be spending most of their time in their warm barn to allow the grass in the Walkabout time to rest. Again, you still may be able to see them from time to time through the mesh.

Islands will be open for a little bit longer if you want to see our **otters**, **Komodo dragons**, **gibbons** and **siamangs**. For the first time, we will be able to view the **orangutans** all winter long thanks to the new building. Please do come on over to visit!

Remembering our black swans, Dalmatian pelicans, and Indian crested porcupine Oliver

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Welcome baby boy! Malaika **mandrill** gave birth on Oct. 16. She is a first-time mom and this is Mosi's first offspring. She is doing a wonderful job and showing appropriate maternal behaviors. The rest of the troop is doing well. All of them will have access to their backrooms while they are inside for the winter. As long as it's at least 50 degrees outdoors, the mandrills can have access to the yard. For now, they will always have the option to go back and forth to give Malaika the ability to stay inside if she chooses.

Some of the mesh (roof) in the **colobus** yard was replaced during the last week in October. The yard was down for a few days and the monkeys were not viewable. Hopefully, the weather will be nice enough to enable them to go outside once the project is completed. Until then, the group is doing well and Jabari's hair is starting to grow back on her head.

Bonobos Faith and Gander are actively being bred – so exciting!! Susie is also breeding with Gander. Gander is currently our only male recommended to breed. He is the second most genetically valuable male in the globally managed population and Faith is the second most genetically valuable female. In other bonobo news, our Max will be 7 years old on Nov. 8.

On most days, only one **gorilla** group will be visible in the public building. If both are out, one will also have access to the back. If they so choose, the gorillas can go outside when it is 45 degrees or warmer. Sulaiman (Sully) will be 8 years old on Nov. 24.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Photos courtesy of Chelsea Massaroni



The **orangutans** are all doing well and have been spending a little more time inside due to the cooler temperatures. The A-frame sign located outside of their viewing area will let guests know of the apes' location throughout the day. Our trio will have plenty of sheets and blankets when they are given access to the yard and the temperatures are a bit chilly.

Each **okapi** is getting along just fine. Matoke is adjusting well to his first fall back in Ohio. The raw spots on both Miliki and Damisi's necks appear to have improved, but the keepers are keeping a sharp eye out for any changes. The okapis are also enjoying all the fall leaves in their yards.

Leopard boys Jaime and Tyrion are enjoying the fall weather.

Red river hogs Harold and Harriet have left Columbus and are happy in their new home. They traveled well and everything went smoothly for them. At



this time, there are no plans to get more hogs.

Shawn Bell is our new assistant curator. Shawn was an intern with Congo approximately eight years ago. He worked with many primates and bonobos at the Memphis Zoo. Additionally, he was a lead keeper at Woodland Park where he worked with gorillas, orangutans and colobuses among other species.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA



The little guy, our **giraffe** calf, is now up to 240 pounds and is doing great!

Ed Harkin **slender-horned gazelle** had been having some kidney issues and was fighting an infection in his lung. While staff did everything they could, the difficult decision was made to humanely euthanize him after he behaviorally showed signs of decline. The other slender-horned gazelles and the **storks** are in for the season but all of the other animals will be out and about as much as the weather allows.

Congratulations to Zach Jenne who has been promoted to a full-time keeper!



Photos courtesy of Maggie McCarter

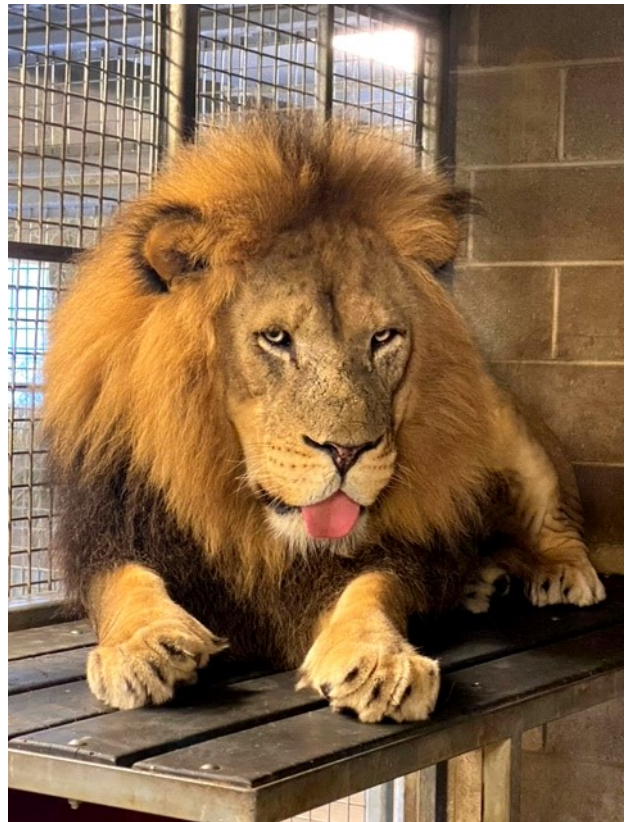


Photo courtesy of Zach Jenne

Remembering slender-horned gazelle Ed Harkin



Photos courtesy of Maggie McCarter

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Swans Sloane and Stella are vacationing up in the Heart of Africa hoof stock barn due to the risk of Avian influenza. They are doing great in their new environment where they have plenty of room for activities!

The **goats** and **sheep** at **My Barn** are loving the cooler weather and are gearing up for Wildlights after enjoying the Boo at the Zoo festivities. Dental procedures were recently done on some of the goats. Unfortunately, it was discovered



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

that Grey had severe dental disease along with pneumonia. That information combined with the fact that she had been separated from the herd for quite a while as she could no longer consume hay in a normal manner (it had to be chopped) led Care staff to humanely euthanize her. Unfortunately, pygmy goat Macy was humanely euthanized. Both will be missed.

Cows Belle, Luna and Anna are absolutely adorable together! Luna is handling her pregnancy very well, and Priya was able to get views of the calf via ultrasound. Stay tuned regarding the pregnancy.

All is status quo with our **Mexican wolves**.

Hermie **bison** and Banjo **pronghorn** are still adjusting to life without Clover. They just need a bit of time to establish their new normal in terms of routines.

Beavers Acorn and Zucchini left Columbus recently and now call Cheyenne Mountain Zoo their home. While we are sad to see them leave, it is also an exciting move because their sister lives there and will eventually be introduced to them.

Otters Paso and Catori, the **eagles** and the **lynxes** are all doing well as are the **reindeer** girls.

Disappointingly, the **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary** is closed again as a result of avian flu. Consequently, staff were not able to do their yearly census. They are planning on trying again in the spring.

As you may have noticed, Joan **black bear** was not in the habitat for a few weeks. She had a medical event – the consensus right now is that she had a fibrocartilaginous embolism – and was recovering behind the scenes. She seems to be doing well now and is back in the yard with Stevie.



Cougars Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal are doing great. They continue to grow like weeds; the keepers had to put in another diet increase to satiate these hungry kitties.

Guillotine **wolverine** decided she was tired of being left out of the excitement, so she poked her eye and caused a lovely ulcer. An ophthalmologist was called in to do a corneal flap surgery. Gui is handling the recovery very well and is back out with Alvar – you probably can't even tell she had surgery!

Our three new orphaned **moose** calves have arrived.

Their names are Scarlet, Violet and Bert. They are almost done with their quarantine and will be introduced to Strawberry afterward. Nose-to-nose howdy intros have already started and everyone is excited to see each other. Please stop by and welcome them to Columbus!

The **prairie dogs** have moved homes and are now living behind the aviary.

Nothing new to report with the **arctic foxes** or **brown bears**.

Polar bear Aurora is slowly preparing herself for denning. She is getting close to being locked in; keepers are hopeful that will happen within a couple of weeks.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Remembering pygmy goats Grey and Macy

REGION NEWS—SHORES

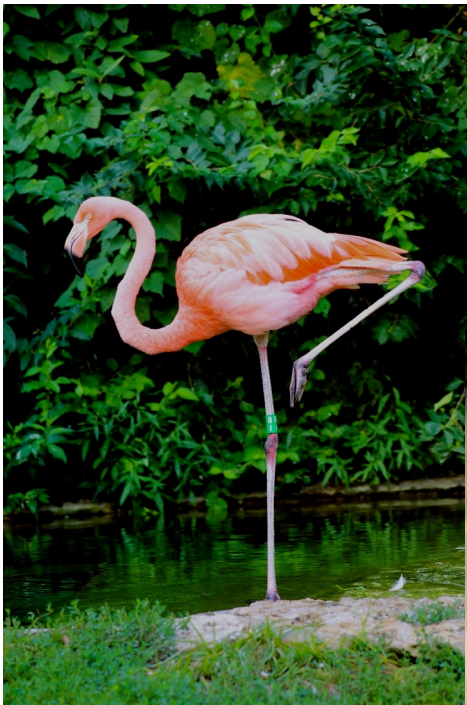
The **penguins** have been residing in the flamingo building for a couple of weeks as a result of work being done in their habitat. The indoor area received a new floor and a fresh coat of paint. The pool was also repainted and caulked. The birds will be moving back to their regular home soon. You will likely see that there is a large tarp over the outside habitat. It is there to keep the birds safe from avian influenza. Keepers are hoping to remove it after the fall migration.

Stubby **manatee** was weighed on Oct. 18. She is 2,305 pounds!

Our **flamingoes** are also spending some time inside due to avian flu. They have a brand-new humidity system this year and will have a large indoor sandbox to hang out in this winter.

You may have noticed some contraptions on top of the manatee acrylic by the mangroves. **Pelican** “Ladle” loves to sit on the acrylic at night, so keepers are trying to convince her that there are other wonderful areas around the pool to hang out.

Staff received more **hellbender** eggs and are currently caring for a couple hundred juvenile hellbenders along with the other yearlings.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

The regular visitor season is winding down and the Animal Management and Conservation Medicine staff are preparing for the animals that will be coming in from pasture for the winter. There is one new addition to our herds, a breeding male **Bactrian camel** named Brutus (no relation to the Buckeye family).

If you still want to visit The Wilds after Nov. 1, check the website to make a reservation for one of the special winter season tours or plan a stay at The Lodge or Cabins at Straker Lake.

