

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Welcome to November. In preparation of the weather turning colder, all birds from the **Asia Quest Aviary** have been moved into the basement of the Asia Quest building.

The **red-crowned cranes** are moving back to the yard on the right side of the bridge leading into the Asia Quest building and the **tufted deer** will spend the winter in the yard on the left.

Sloth bear Heiderose is denning away from Randhir for the winter and has access to the outside yard every other day. As Heiderose begins to stay in the building more often, Randhir will be in the yard on most days. Tips on how to identify the bears: Randhir has white fur all around his eyes and Heiderose has white eyebrows. Additionally, Heiderose's left rear leg is turned in and causes her to limp.

Asian elephant Connie will be joining the female group almost daily. Sabu has mated with Phoebe, Rudy and Sunny. Now, we wait. Please remember that, while mating has been observed, there is no guarantee of baby elephants. Sabu has mated before at the Zoo but no pregnancies have resulted. Hank was under the weather a little but is doing well now.

Amur tiger Natasha has been transferred to another zoo. Please wait for the receiving zoo to announce the arrival of Natasha before talking about the move with others. Mara will be moving back to a boardwalk yard. Other changes are coming to the area – more later.



Amur Tiger Natasha, photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliano

If you have walked past the **Pallas' cat** habitat, you probably noticed that the exterior boards are up again and only a door view is open to the public. Usually, that would indicate that the reduced seasonal light cycle for the cats has started and there may be mating – not this year. Females Tiina and Kaarina are in the yard. The door is being used to allow for a normal reduced light cycle for the cats and to provide them with additional privacy during Wildlights.

Please note that the Indoor Elephant and Rhino Habitat will close at 7 p.m. during Wildlights and that the sloth bears as well as the Amur tigers will not be viewable after 7 p.m.

Have a great Thanksgiving! Thanks to the Zoo for being the volunteers' "happy place" during the year.



Photos courtesy of Jon Briney

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

As the season transitions to cooler weather, many of the region's animals will be coming inside and settling into their cozy winter habitats. Thus, a portion of the region near the outside habitat of the **siamangs** and **gibbons** will be closed to the public since there will be no animals out past that area.

The Nocturnal Building and Aviary will be moving some of the animals to different habitats to accommodate winter living conditions – more information on that to come. As mentioned in the last Australia region meeting, the lights in the Nocturnal Building are totally turned off after closing each day and stay off until all of them automatically come back on at 10 p.m. It is then daytime for the animals and they can go to sleep. So far, they seem to like this arrangement.

The **kangaroos** and **lorikeets** will have access outside this winter based on temperature parameters. Guests will be happy to view them from outside of their enclosures.

Wildlights at the Zoo is just around the corner, so make sure to stop by and see the awesome display in the region!

Thanks to everyone who has worked in the region and helped with various events. We also want to extend a special thanks to Alicia Shelley for a great presentation on marsupials at our last meeting in addition to Aleisha Stanley, Saul Bauer and Claire Rolli who also gave fantastic presentations this past year.

Looking forward to many happy times “down under” in 2024!



*Cheering on the **Asian small clawed otters** as they received fall enrichment.*

Photo courtesy of Laurie Chase



Photos courtesy of Jessica Linek

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Everyone is doing well and adjusting to the fall weather. **Colobus monkeys** Jif and Sekani have been spending a lot of time together playing. One of their favorite spots to do so is in their enrichment kiddie pool, especially when it is filled with shredded paper. Marmalade is becoming more independent and now shifts to and from the yard on her own. She prefers to be transported by mom Bernadette but is more than willing to go on her own time.

The **bonobos** are doing well in their temporary housing while construction efforts keep chugging along. Faith's pregnancy is progressing nicely and she is looking (and feeling) more pregnant by the day. She enjoys participating in her fetal ultrasound sessions and the baby looks good. Keepers have tried using the empty salt bags from manatees with the bonobos as enrichment (they've been giving them to the orangutans for a while now) and they really enjoy them!



Photo courtesy of Alexis Fisher

Our **okapis** continue to do well. Between bonobo building construction and Boo at Zoo festivities, you may not have seen our hoofed friends as often toward the latter half of October as they had more inside access. World Okapi Day was celebrated on Oct. 18. It is a day for us to celebrate the species and learn more about how we can protect them in their native range.

Fingers crossed for a baby okapi in the coming year – stay tuned!

Mandrill Bernard is 1 year old! On Oct. 16, Congo celebrated his first birthday with fun enrichment in the yard, including Jello ice treats and large ice blocks that spelled "Happy Birthday!" Izzy is growing like a weed and is up to 4.2 pounds!

We're in the midst of the season changing and that means viewing some of our animals may be impacted by temperature parameters being enforced. For example, the mandrills can have access to their yard when it is 40 degrees and can be locked out in it when the temperature reaches 45 degrees or above. Due to the close proximity of the bonobo building construction, they are often given indoor access and have been choosing to spend time off view in the back rooms.

Meanwhile, our **leopards** can have yard access at 35 degrees and be locked in it when it is 40 degrees and sunny. Right now, they have 24/7 access to all of their spaces due to an observational study that is being done on their pacing habits.

With fall's cooler weather coming in, don't be surprised if you see the **orangutans** spending more of their time in the day room. While Dumplin and Sulango definitely enjoy their time in there, it's possible that we will start seeing Khali inside more as well as she gets further along in her pregnancy. While she still has a little bit to go before the baby is expected, keepers will be doing extra checks throughout the day going forward to ensure they don't miss any signs from her. Everyone is excited for her as well as the other orangutans and can't wait to meet the orange bundle of joy!

Gorilla Kwame is starting to walk/crawl! She's also beginning to explore her surroundings and food – such a little treasure.

You may have noticed that Kamoli and JJ are no longer living in Mac's group. For some time now, the plan has been to separate them into a bachelor group when the time is right. Well, that time is upon us! They are still spending time with Tabibu or Kamina and Zahra and, depending on everyone's location for the day, may or may not be viewable.

Mac and Ktembe both had successful voluntary awake cardiac scans. All keepers involved with training them and completing the scans were fabulous as, of course, were the gorillas!

Mac's birthday was on Oct. 26 and he hit a major milestone – the big 4-0! There was a little celebration in cooperation with North Carolina and Mosuba (but we won't tell him his actual age). Speaking of birthdays, Max will be celebrating his golden birthday on Nov. 8 and Sully will turn nine on Nov. 24.

Keepers have been experimenting with substrates in several rooms and the gorillas are having a blast in the process – shavings are a huge hit!



Photos courtesy of Pam Hancock

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

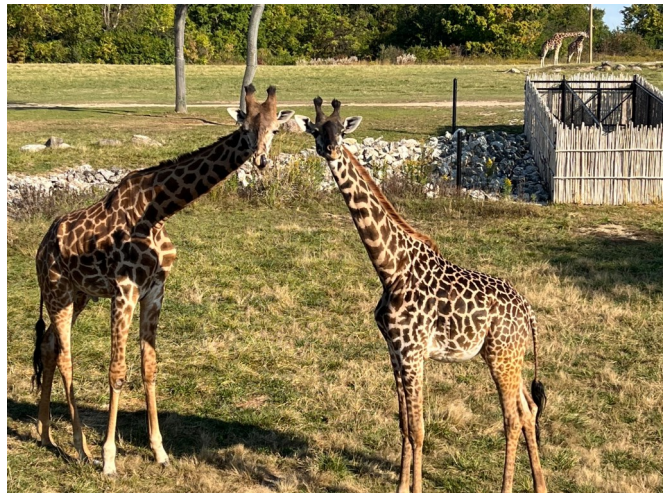
Staff have been busy preparing to bring most of the animals in for the season. November 5 is the last day the region will be open past the **lions** until next year.

A big thank you again to everyone who helped with our **giraffe** feeds. From chopping lettuce to assisting guests during their experience, you are most appreciated as the feeds could not take place without the team effort! Guest Engagement shared that there were 155,194 giraffe feedings as of Oct. 15!

The winter giraffe barn tours begin on Nov. 12.



Photo courtesy of Brenda Baldinger



Giraffe photos courtesy of Sue Grubaugh

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

By the time this is posted, the **trumpeter swans** may be in their temporary home near the moose pond and the **Mexican wolves** will likely have moved to the Tiger Hut. If they haven't, the goal is to have them do so soon. The boardwalk may be closed for a while to allow time for the wolves to adjust.

My Barn is wrapping up for the Boo at the Zoo season and getting ready to head into Wildlights. Staff would love to have volunteers for the Wildlights evening shifts, so please sign up to spend some time with the goats and sheep!

Black bears Joanie and Stevie are slowing down for the fall season and will most likely be in their dens by the time these updates come out. You might see them occasionally on warmer days but you probably won't see them regularly until the spring months.

Staff did a normal check-up procedure on Strawberry **moose** for dental health along with doing a hoof trim. Bert is showing some rutty behaviors but it's unknown how aggressive he will end up being for his first rut season.

It is likely that we will have received our two new **reindeer** girls by the time you read this. They will spend a week in quarantine and, hopefully, join Sugar and Abby around the beginning of December.

By the time this is in circulation, Alvar **wolverine** should be in his own yard behind the bear kitchen. You will most likely be able to see him if you walk down the railroad tracks. Staff and volunteers will begin decreasing their presence around Gui toward the end of the year.

In **aviary** news, we will be sending some birds (i.e., wood thrush, rose-breasted grosbeak and indigo buntings) to other facilities and getting a few new ones (i.e., indigo buntings and a painted bunting) of our own that will set us up for new breeding pairs next season.



Photos courtesy of Tiffany Rummer

Our **eagles** should now be living up by the Maintenance shop where they will reside for the next year. Most people will probably not be able to see them, so there will be regular updates about them.

Both **brown bear** boys have slowed down and are spending more time sleeping in their cave. Buckeye had a dental procedure to address a broken canine, which ended up being much less severe than anticipated. He just needed a root canal and is back to his normal self!

Polar bear Lee is enjoying bachelor life out in the habitat while Aurora is spending alone time in her denning spaces. Staff are letting Aurora dictate what actions are taken for the denning season, so things are at a standstill until she demonstrates that she is ready for the next steps.

Everything is status quo with the **lynx** girls, **otters**, **Arctic foxes**, **cougars**.



Photos courtesy of Tiffany Rummer

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Thank you to everyone who helped with the **manatee** watches! Both boys are settling in and doing very well.

Sadly, **Komodo dragon** Sapo passed away on Oct. 7.

All Shores **turtles** and **tortoises** around the Zoo have returned to their winter homes for the season.

Our **flamingoes** and **Aldabra tortoises** will be out in their yards as weather and temperatures permit.

Just as a reminder, the **penguin** habitat closes at 5 p.m. during Boo at the Zoo and Wildlights.

Reptile Encounter is closed for the season after Boo at the Zoo.

Some new fish have been introduced to the various systems in **Discovery Reef**. Pictures and locations are on the portal under the Shores tab.

The **southern stingray** that has been in a separate area at Stingray Bay has been under medical care. Staff are awaiting diagnostic results from a CT he recently had.

A baby **prehensile-tailed skink** was born on Sept. 13.



REMEMBERING SAPO

Photos courtesy of Tara Archer

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

October started with two big animal moves. JD, a male **Masai giraffe** born at *The Wilds* in 2021, was transferred to the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, New York to be their future breeding male. Thanks to Adam Felts, the Masai giraffe SSP coordinator, for helping to find a home for him. The second move involved sending two **African painted dogs** to Zoo New England in Boston in preparation of a new exhibit opening.

The rest of October was taken over by a new challenge. When our new **greater one-horned rhino** calf was about a week old, staff noticed a difference in her appearance. It was discovered that the mother, who had been taking great care of her up until that point, was fighting an infection in her reproductive tract. Since they knew they had to be able to work intensively with the mother, the decision was made to pull the calf and hand raise it. Thankfully, the 112-pound baby took to a bottle right away. Animal Care staff rallied to cover her feeding schedule and now, at five weeks old, she is taking in over four gallons of formula every day and weighs over 175 pounds. After treatment, her mother is now well and back to her normal behavior. Given the extended separation, it is highly unlikely that she would take the calf back. Fortunately, the team has other options as there are a couple of younger greater one-horned rhinos in our herd that have grown up around other calves. Thus, they are working on plans to reintroduce the calf to the herd once she is ready to move back to the rhino barns.



The cold snap at the end of October resulted in staff starting the process of bringing the animals that need additional heat and shelter into their winter holding areas a little sooner than expected. It should be a fun season for winter barn tours! There is already one baby **white rhino** in with the herd and more are expected. Tours will also include visiting the giraffe barn and seeing the new giraffe calves. Check *The Wilds* website for booking information. Speaking of making reservations, the lodge and cabins are available through the winter if you are looking for a fun weekend getaway.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS

The **Capybara** Experience has been added to the offerings of special defining moments that guests can book. Featuring our capybara brothers, this new venture is offered in November and December at 1 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. Perfect for that hard-to-buy-for animal lover as a special occasion or holiday gift, the Capybara Experience joins the other Wild-Encounters-themed programs that include sessions featuring **seals** and **sea lions**, Jack Hanna's Animal Encounters Village (AEV), **cheetahs** and Wild Encounters.

Enrichment Days continue to be a highlight for guests that feature enrichment items offered to the **pinnipeds** and friends from AEV, the **bush baby** in October and **bat-eared foxes** in November. The final event of the season will be Flurry of Fun on Dec. 10.

Our **sloths** report that the Nov. 4 and Nov. 5 sessions of Slothvasana yoga featuring them as special guests "are ... sold ... out."

The Zoo continues to receive rave reviews from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) conference attendees and staff. One presentation that stood out was, "Hands Off or Hands On? A Look into the Changing Practices of Volunteer Animal Handling Programs Since COVID," which included Wild Encounters curator Shawn Brehob's portion of the session, "The Path Forward: An Evolutional Approach to Ambassador Programs." His session was offered live at the conference and again during the "Rewind" segment. Wild Encounters operations manager Shannon Swint served on the AZA Host Planning Committee. Other Wild Encounters conference presenters were mentioned in previous newsletters and featured during the Sept. 19 Zoom.

In Adventure Cove, the habitat and animals provide opportunities not feasible in other areas of the Zoo. For guests, "It's OK to Play" to engage with the pinnipeds as long as they desire because the animals can zoom away at will whenever they want. As the animals grow and further



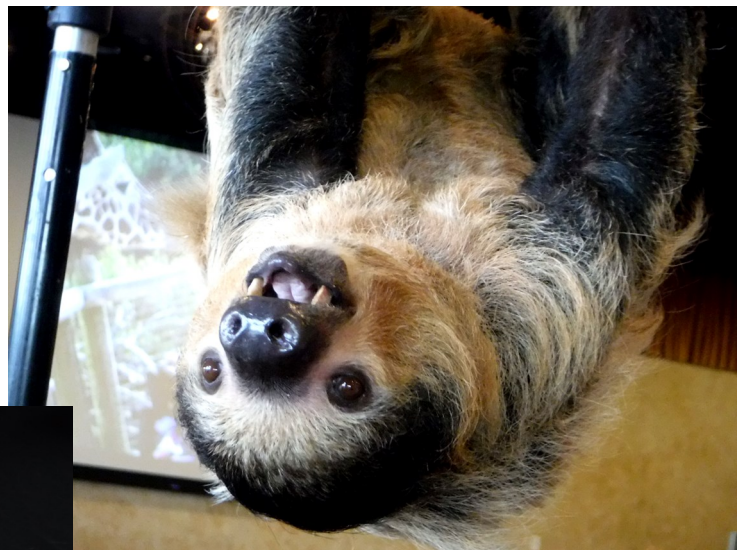
Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis

explore their habitat, you may see some sea lions using the north edge of the acrylic wall of the North Pool as a balance beam. At times, they will flop over the wall into the intentionally designed and protected containment area below created for that purpose. It is located between the pool wall and public space. Though they may be surprised at first, the animals are not harmed when that happens. Once there, they can travel up a few steps, through a door, and right back into the pool. Sea lions experiencing this spontaneous field trip for the first time may need the assistance of a trainer to learn the path back into the pool. Please notify the staff on Channel 5 if you witness this occurrence without any trainers nearby.



As the weather cools, the Adventure Cove Tunnel remains a cozy, sheltered space to volunteer. The propane heater arrives to provide warmth on the Adventure Cove Deck as we overlook the seals and sea lions relaxing on their own heated deck.

Thank you for volunteering in Wild Encounters!



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis