

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

November, the time for seasonal change in Asia Quest, at least in the Naomi Coyle Dempsey Interpretive Center building in the region. We are changing from carved pumpkins of Boo at the Zoo into the holiday decorations of Wildlights. There are also animal changes going on in Asia Quest.

Our new, and young, female **muntjac** is getting used to the Zoo and will start going out into the **Asia Quest Aviary** in the near future. She is currently unnamed.

Pallas' cat Moose will soon hand over his habitat to Minotaur **water monitor**. Staff are reviewing other outside areas for Moose. Pallas' cat Kaarina will be moving to another zoo where she has a breeding recommendation. The habitat windows will be covered for Wildlights with the exception of a small door.

The **sloth bears** are alternating days in their outside habitat.

As announced, **Asian elephants** Phoebe and Sunny are pregnant, and Rudy is working on it with male elephant Johnson. We will not know the result of any of the confirmed breeding for quite a while yet.

The Zoo is expecting two new female **markhors** to arrive in the future – more information later. The large window in their habitat will remain covered for Wildlights.

Silvered leaf langur Waluh (Wally) has some visible injuries on his body. As you know, monkeys don't always get along.

Male **Amur tiger** Diesel is still only going into the habitat three days a week in the evening. He has been introduced several times to female Vera but there has been no confirmed breeding.

The **tortoises** are back in their habitat inside the building for the winter. Several new plants have been added to the area.

The winter birds remain in the Asia Quest Aviary, but several of the warm weather birds have been moved into the Asia Quest basement.

All other animals in the region are doing well.

Please note, the Asia Quest animal spreadsheet has been updated as of Oct. 31 and is on the portal. The animal weights have been updated.



Photos courtesy of Jon Briney

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Welcome November! October was still rather warm and the animals as well as guests loved it. Colder weather is right around the corner though, so you will see some of the animals in the region transitioning to their winter habitats.

Binturong Paco has already moved to his winter space and the **siamangs** will have moved to theirs by the time this is posted. With the exception of the **cranes**, **hadadas** and **magpie goose** Danny, all the Base Camp birds are now inside.

Asian small-clawed otter Flounder has moved to the Cincinnati Zoo for a breeding recommendation. The remaining otters are divided into two groups. Long-time pair Gus and Peanut make up one group and the other consists of five males – Yin, Yang, Willie, Marlie and Dash. This arrangement is working out very well according to the Animal Care staff.

We are saddened to report that **kangaroo** Stirling was humanely euthanized recently. The mob appears to be doing well with the loss.



The lighting in some of the Nocturnal Building habitats has been changed to an amber color. The animals seem to like it, especially **kiwi** Haka who has been more visible in the habitat and even calling out to staff and visitors.

New weights for the **Tasmanian devils** are: Tori – 4.8 kilograms; Layna – 5.0 kilograms.

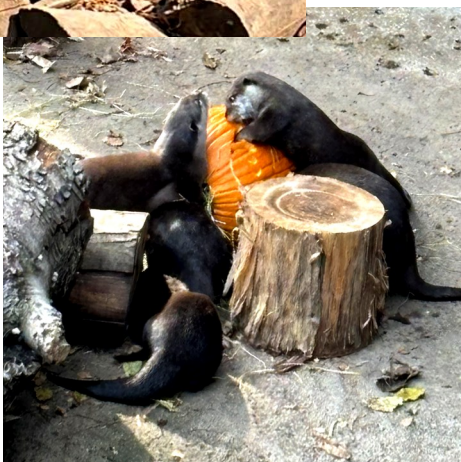


All the other animals in the region are doing well.

Keeper Claire Rolli has left the Zoo and Manuel Mendoza is the new full-time keeper. Welcome Manuel!

Please note that, even though this is the November region news, we are featuring animal pumpkin pictures from October. Way too much fun was had by animals and guests alike!

As always, come and work in the “land down under.” The animals look forward to your visits.



Remembering Kangaroo Stirling

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

The **mandrills** moved back to their building on Oct. 17. In addition to installing new mesh, the team was able to take the opportunity to hang a lot of new firehose pathways while the animals were out of the building. New deadfall and mulch were added to the outdoor habitat to give the mandrills additional opportunities for activity. Our three youngsters are having a blast playing together, which is part of what makes this one of the most engaging areas in the region – make sure to stop by and visit them in their outdoor habitat. Mandrills are one of the more cold-tolerant primates in our Zoo as they can be outside at 40 degrees (some adjustments are made depending on the dampness and age of the animals).



Photo courtesy of Pam Hancock

The **leopards** moved back to their building on Oct. 21. While they were “on vacation” at **gorillas**, extra logs and stumps were added to their outdoor habitat. This includes more wooden posts on the upper level of their structures to provide additional areas for lounging. Eye bolts were added to give the keepers additional areas to hang enrichment in both the indoor and outdoor habitats. Finally, staff are doing a firehose trial with the leopards in their indoor habitat. The hose is hung at the top of the room, so don’t forget to look up.

All of our gorillas are doing well. In mid-October, the team started observing Cassie caring for Mara occasionally but are not sure how the transitions have been happening. Mara has been seen nursing on Cassie as well as Sue. Overall, she is in good hands with either female. That being said, Sue is an excellent mother and keepers are working to ensure that she is able to take Mara back if Cassie has her. To help with the situation, they have been separating the group at night into two subgroups (Cassie and Jamani and Sue, Mara, Nia and Ktembe). During the day, the group is together under the watchful eyes of the team – mostly Meredith Ross who is currently on restricted duty due to a broken thumb. This situation is very fluid and the team meets regularly to discuss. By the time this is posted, it is likely things will have changed. Mara is quite interested in moving around. Soon, she will be able to move between gorillas on her own. Speaking of maturing, big sister Jamani has officially started on birth control per SSP recommendations.

JJ and Kamoli have been spending a lot of time in the habitat. While the temperatures were in range, these two were given access to the habitat overnight daily and they definitely seemed to like to sleep outside. The boys have a lower temperature cut off than the rest of the gorillas, so you might be able to see them outdoors more often.

In Mac's group, Kwame is now getting her own diet and starch balls are her absolute favorite. Sully's birthday is at the end of the month – she will be 10. Mac turned 41 and Mo'ana 23 in October.

The team has been doing a lot of fission/fusion lately in **bonobos** in an effort to form groups of individuals who don't always get to spend a lot of time together. One of these pairings is Gander and Donnie. The two have been having a ball playing together and keepers have heard a lot of laughter. Bob is also getting in on the fun as he is spending more time away from Mom and playing with the other members of the troop. Recently, staff saw great play sessions between Bob and Wilber.

Staff have been doing regular blood draws on **okapi** Damisi to monitor her pregnancy. She is also trained for voluntary fetal ultrasounds so the vet team can monitor the development of the calf. The team has been working hard on voluntary hoof trims with all of our okapis and have made considerable progress with Miliki. Alexis recently attended the Zoo Hoofstock Trim Program, an intensive two-week training on how to properly trim hooves. Sarah was able to take the course last year and having another keeper with the same training will help staff continue to advance their program with okapis.

You may have noticed some new Greens Feeders hanging in the **colobus** yard. We are rapidly approaching the time of year when fresh browse is no longer available. The seasonal staff in Congo spend a ton of time each summer plucking leaves to freeze for winter. Their hard work allows our troop to have browse year-round. The monkeys can only have the leaves off the trees when frozen (no sticks) and piles of leaves don't mimic their natural behavior patterns for foraging – enter the Greens Feeders. Putting leaves in these devices will make the process of gathering more similar to how they grab them off trees. It should also extend their foraging time. Emulating natural behaviors is very important to animal wellbeing and the Congo team continues to find creative ways to do this for all species.

Clementine is getting more independent and she has been exploring her environment away from Mom. She enjoys interacting with Dumplin, who also seems delighted with her "niece." Going off of cues from the **orangutans**, keepers have been separating them more often at night. Reminder: Unlike African apes, orangutans are considered to be semi-social primates and spend most of their time alone in nature. While we have a cohesive group that enjoys each other's company, they also relish their alone time. This is one of the reasons why they get access into their dayroom each day after lunch. Having both spaces allows them to spread out and make their own choices regarding being in visual access to one another.



Photo courtesy of former docent Denise Russell

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

For the November news, we always like to thank everyone for their help with **giraffe** feeds for the season. From chopping boxes and boxes of lettuce to helping our guests, this experience would not be possible without your help!

One change that people will notice is that staff will have the option of having the full region open over the winter as a result of the new gate that was installed by the Watering Hole. Thus, if there is a nice day and the **vervet monkeys** are given access outside or the **Thomson's gazelles** are in the feeding yard for example, staff will have the ability to keep the gate open. Likewise, if the weather is bad and the walkways are an issue, they can also close the path easily. The old gates needed to be set up and remain in place until the whole region reopened in the spring.

At the time of this writing, the weather is beautiful. As we all know though, winter is coming soon. The keepers have been working hard to get barns and inside areas prepared for everyone to come inside.

Just like last winter, **donkeys** Melon and Cocoa will come up to the giraffe barn (no date yet). To help keep them a bit drier in the event of snow, coats have been purchased for them.

Giraffe barn tours will start Nov. 4 and be offered daily with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Our new **slender-horned gazelle** calf is doing great! Hopefully, he will have a little brother or sister shortly after these updates are posted.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Photos courtesy of Shannon Borders

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Walking through the North America Trek region now, one can see how the new habitats are starting to take shape. Some of the animals are starting to be trained for the transition. In the **otter** habitat, staff are starting to water test the pools – so far so good! All of the rockwork is hand carved and painted. It looks fantastic!

The **Mexican wolves** are still in their vacation home adjacent to the Asia Quest boardwalk.



Our **bald eagles** are still off view awaiting their new habitat.

The **Canada lynx** girls and **wolverine** Alvar are loving these cooler temps!

Mulch was added to the **Arctic fox** habitat last month and they're enjoying it. Both are getting their winter white coats and will fully transition soon.

Did you know that **cougar** Captain Cal's mobility is scored daily? Keepers log that information along with temperature and other factors into ZIMS to monitor his wellbeing. This also allows Conservation Medicine to log on and look at trends.

Young **river otter** boys Mayhem, River and Wilfred are very active and may be off view for the training required to transfer them to their new habitat.

Polar bear Aurora is denning, and we are continuing to be hopeful for a birth. Lee is spending the majority of his time outside. Their large salt water pool is 45 degrees in the winter and chilled in the summer. Aurora weighs around 800 pounds and Lee is about 1,000 pounds.

Brown bears Brutus and Buckeye are being encouraged to eat more produce. Ideally, the two of them will eat a combined amount of 90 pounds per day. Their favorites are sweet potatoes, carrots, apples and lettuce. Both boys weigh about 1,350 pounds.



Photos courtesy of Doug Pittsenbarger

Moose Bert is in rut and in the front yard. The girls are in the big yard.

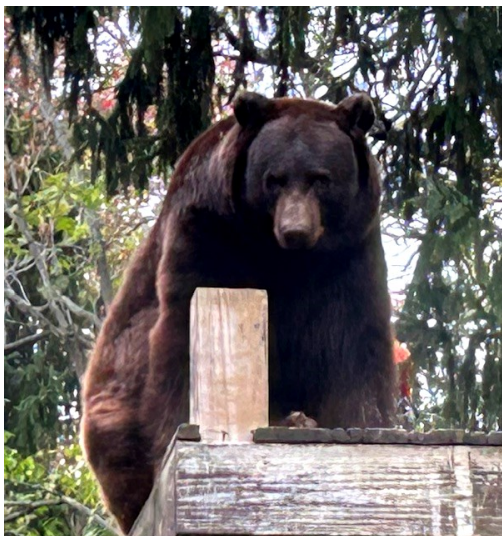


Photo courtesy of Doug Pittsenbarger

Please continue to watch guests to make sure they are not sticking fingers through or over the **trumpeter swans'** fence.

Black bear Stevie is starting to slow down for the colder months. You might see her resting inside her den.

The **reindeer** have lost their velvet and are getting ready for their big time of the year.

Volunteer shifts are open for **The Barn** and help is needed during Wildlights.

Did you know we currently have three species of warbler in the **Dr. Bernard Master Aviary**? Come try to find our ovenbird, black and white warbler and black-throated blue warbler the next time you're in North America.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney



REGION NEWS—SHORES

Manatees Nighthawk and Mr. Dobak have returned to a facility in Florida. Meanwhile, females Sabal and Clawford as well as male Cobble arrived at the Zoo Oct. 8. All are settling in.

The baby **weedy sea dragons** continue to grow and do well. Unfortunately, two older dragons died a few days apart due to age-related health issues. They were both over 14 years old.

Our new aquarist, Jackson Anastasia, started Oct. 13.

Ken **pelican** was recently treated for a hematoma but has since returned to the building and is doing great!

The **alligators** have been moved inside for the winter.

All **turtles and tortoises** have moved back inside to their winter homes.



*Reptile Awareness Day
Photos courtesy of Barbi Kealy*

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

There was finally some rain at *The Wilds*, and things started to look green again just in time for colleagues to visit on the ZAA post-conference tour.

Temperatures have finally dropped enough that the **giraffe** herd has moved back into their barn from pasture. They stayed out in pasture until the first week of October, which is a record as far as anyone can remember.

Staff take advantage of the cooler temperatures to complete animal transfer plans. Once they get a recommendation for an animal to move to another facility, they have to coordinate with vet staff to bring these animals into holding areas for pre-transport exams and testing according to the transporter's and receiving institution's schedule. One **banteng**, one **scimitar-horned oryx**, one **sable antelope**, three **takin**, four **eland** and five **American bison** were sent off to new homes last month.

The Ecology team has been busy as well. They were also waiting for good weather to plan the release of a number of *The Wilds* head-started **hellbenders** into streams in West Virginia and Ohio. This work is done in coordination with those state wildlife agencies and many other partners.

Now is the time to start thinking about a winter visit to *The Wilds*. You could enjoy a secluded weekend at the Lodge or Straker Cabins and plan a tour to visit the animals in their winter holding areas. As always, check the website for details.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Capybara tours are available again beginning in November, so the team has been busy readying the animals for them. They are also doing quite a bit of medical training right now – working on voluntary compliance for our animals’ routine vaccines and check-ups.

Staff are taking advantage of every single, unseasonably warm or sunny day to get the cold-intolerant creatures their last doses of outside time before winter descends. If it is above 65 degrees, you’ll find **tortoises** and/or **birds** outside, even if it’s late in November!

The veterinary ophthalmologist, Dr. Terah Webb, visited our pinnipeds for their biannual eye exams. All of our animals, including the **seals**, participated voluntarily and did great! This is a true testament to the value and importance of building relationships and trust with our

animals. Qizai and Ayla received a clean bill of health from the ophthalmologist who said their eyes are healed. They are now on maintenance eye drops that they receive voluntarily a few times a day. Qizai and Ayla will likely always have some scarring, which looks like cloudiness in their eyes. Rest assured though, they are doing well.

After October, presentations will not resume until spring. Seal and **sea lion** tours will continue to be offered Wednesday-Sunday for the remainder of the year. The tour time is still 2:30 p.m.

The Columbus Zoo is hosting the IMATA Midwest Regional Training Workshop Nov. 21-22. Staff are excited to welcome colleagues from other facilities in the Midwest! In case you are unfamiliar with the term, IMATA stands for International Marine Animal Trainer’s Association.

Staff have received some calls lately about Lennie playing with something in the Tunnel, which has turned out to be poop the last few times. Staff are appreciative of how observant you all are and mentioned that you’ve done a wonderful job contacting them on Channel 5. While a bit gross, it is completely normal for animals to sometimes “play” with feces; she is just being a curious, playful pup.



Photo courtesy of Shea Eaves

There have also been recent radio calls about Qizai laying on the bottom of the habitats when he is outside. This is a normal behavior for him, as long as he is surfacing to breathe every 10 minutes or less. Having said that, if you have any concerns, staff have reiterated that you are welcome to radio them.

As the evening temperatures become colder, animals are being given access inside for the overnight hours. If you are in the Tunnel later in the day (after 4 p.m.) and don't see any animals, please share with guests that the underwater shift gates are left open if it's cold. Our animals are then free to make the choice between remaining in the habitat or going inside to sleep for the night.

Another successful Slothvasana (Yoga with a Sloth - Nov. 2-3)



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney