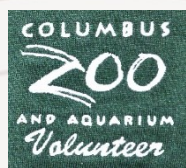


October 2023

The Columbus Zoo and
Aquarium Volunteer
Newsletter

ZooNews





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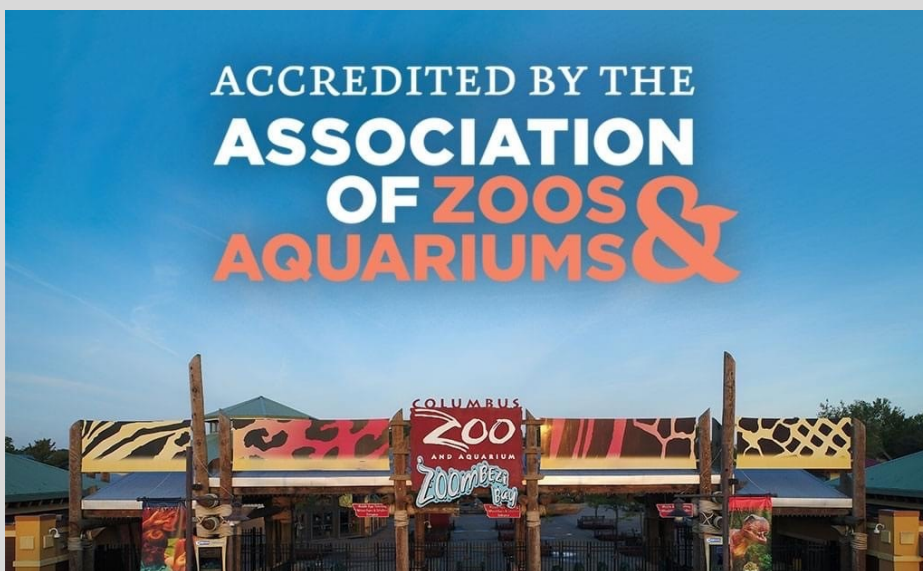
SALLY RUDMANN

The mission of ZooNews is to promote awareness, education, preservation and conservation of our natural world.

To submit an article, please email us at: cbuszonews@gmail.com

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Zoo Spotlight

New Framework for SSP's

On July 11 this summer, volunteers and staff had the pleasure of attending a Brown Bag Lunch and Learn to hear Dan Beetem, Director of The Wilds and influential member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Personable as ever, Dan shared with us the current work being done to evaluate SSPs, taxons and programs in order **to concentrate resources** where they are most needed and practical for AZA-accredited institutions to focus on.



SSP programs have been around for 30 years. We ended with around 500, but we did not have 500 in the beginning. AZA came to the realization that **not all animals can be saved**, based on the numbers of individuals and spaces available. For example, among Persian onagers, there were 30 animals in three institutions, not nearly enough to keep things going successfully. **"We can't save everything."**

Looking at the genetics and demographics, there is **a new framework for SSP**. All SSPs will be managed within AZA. Animals must be in at least 15 institutions, and breeding must exceed acquisitions. Two main categories will be **Signature SSPs** and **Provisional SSPs**. Provisional SSPs will get 5 years to make progress. They may get more time if it looks like they will eventually meet the Signature criteria. In 2018, there were 520 species programs, whereas in 2023, there are

Continued on page 3

only 286 after the new assessments were finished. Attention must also be paid to all the non-SSP programs as well in order for them to learn and flourish outside of AZA's management.

Basically, Dan stated, **"We're doing triage."** Hard decisions are being made as to which animals receive the full focus and efforts of the AZA. **Long term sustainability is now the hallmark of successful programs.** As a result, specific species may no longer be represented in AZA-affiliated institutions, for example the Grant's gazelle. According to Adam Felts, the slender-horned gazelles are off the Heart of Africa savanna for breeding and will be back next year. It is a good example of a zoo working with others to continue support for a program even after it lost SSP status.

The basis of the presentation was quietly shocking, but Dan's matter-of-fact manner helped the audience grasp the need to narrow the focus on which species can most reliably and sustainably be saved from extinction, an actual 'Sophie's Choice' which zoos like ours will need to embrace and implement. The future is full of hard choices, but with people like Dan Beetem, we have our best shot at success.

— Cindy Payne



HOO-KNEW?

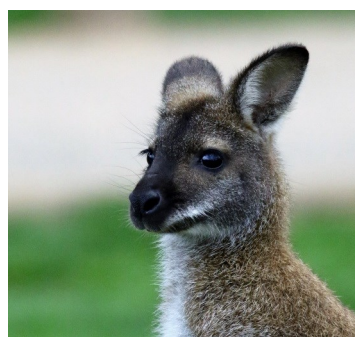
Reptile Encounter

Did you know that of all the reptile species, tortoises live the longest?



Kangaroo Walkabout

Did you know that kangaroos, like cattle, regurgitate their food, chewing it twice before it passes through their chambered stomach?

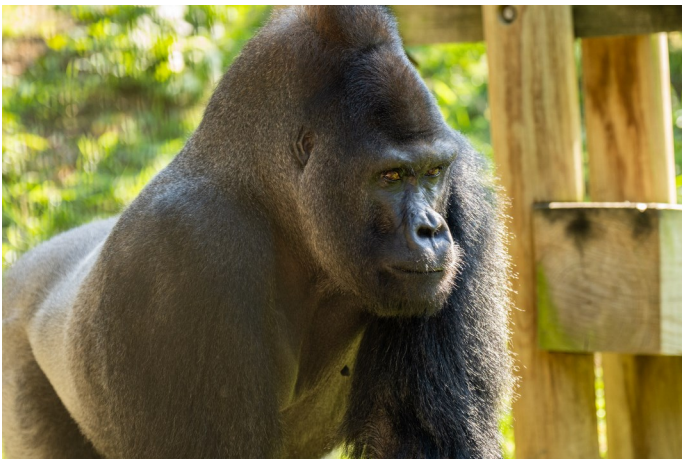
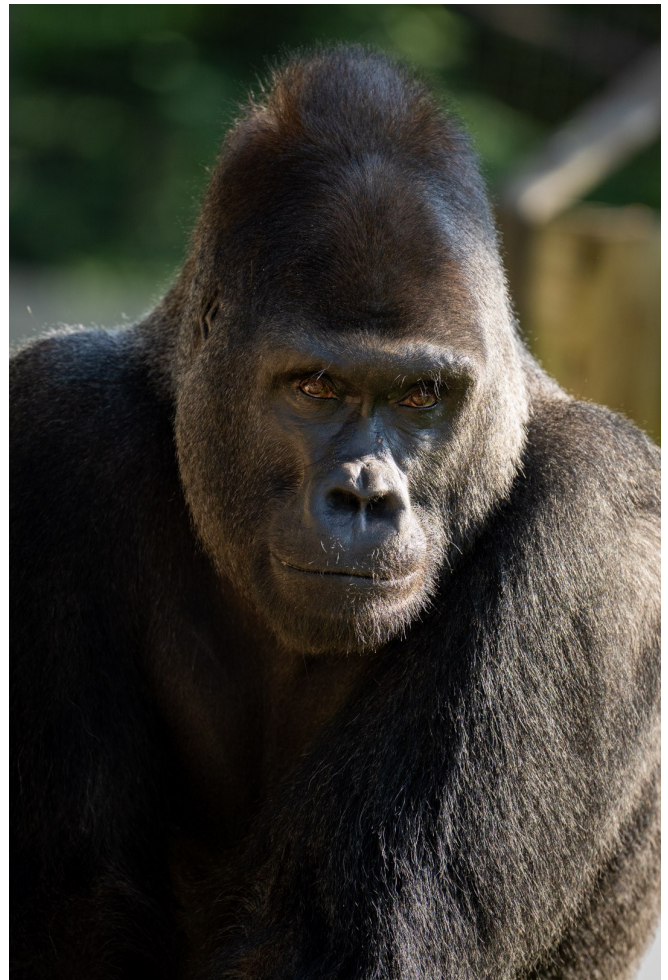


40 Years of MAC

MACOMBO II “Mac”

Mac is one of twins born here on October 26, 1983. They were the first twins born in the Western Hemisphere and third in the world. He was raised with his brother (Mosuba) who currently lives at the North Carolina Zoo. Mac has one offspring, JJ, born on Sept. 28, 2016.

North Carolina Zoo: 8 Fun Facts about Mosuba the Silverback Gorilla, <https://www.nczoo.org/blog/8-fun-facts-about-mosuba-silverback-gorilla>



Baby photo of Mac and Mosuba courtesy of the Columbus Zoo archives.

Adult photos of Mac courtesy of Graham S. Jones and the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

More about Mac

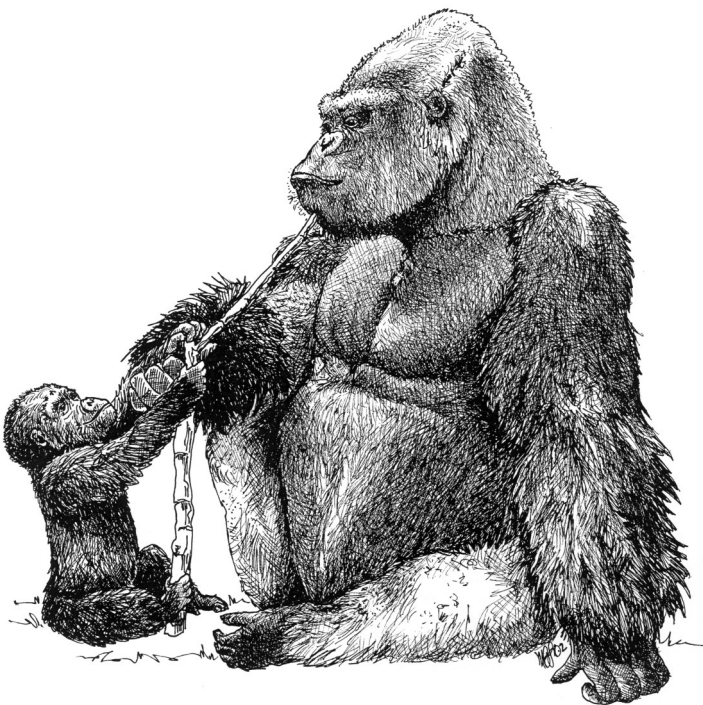
Mac is a wonderful foster gorilla dad. He learned from the best, his foster dad Mumbah. His first foster was Mo'ana, followed by Kamoli, Kamina and Zahra. Mo'ana is now 21 years old, Kamoli is 10, Kamina is 9 and Zahra is 6. It's fun to watch the little ones when they first enter the group. They see Mac and he is so big, but they soon learn he is the fun one. They will often choose to spend time near Mac and eat near him. He is the most kindhearted silverback. His patience for the little ones is amazing and he has a soft heart for girls, although his son JJ can do no wrong. He loves to lie down and watch his family and the visitors. He will sometimes engage in the play, especially if there is a huge pile of hay he can toss around. When he gets super excited about something, he will sit with his legs outstretched and kick his feet up and down and lightly beat his chest with his mouth open.

When he gets his vitamins offered to him in the morning, he takes his time, using his finger to meticulously get every last bit of peanut butter out of the paper cup, and he ends up with peanut butter all around his mouth. He loves to train and he "happy grumbles" when we come in to train. He is super smart and loves to show off his training to others as they watch him train. Some of his bigger accomplishments are being reliably trained on hand-injections and awake ultrasound readings with a stenographer. He is working on blood sleeve training and brushing his teeth, which he enjoys doing.



He is one of the first gorillas to greet us in the morning with his "happy grumble" and one of the last ones to grumble goodnight as we leave for the night. The Gorilla Building is a better place with Mac and we are very excited to help him celebrate his 40th birthday!

—Heather Carpenter, Congo animal care staff



Are Our Halloween Bats Flying Around?

Do our bats fly around their habitat? According to Asia Quest animal care staff member Andrea Farson, our bats may fly a bit at night - no one is there to verify - but they prefer to “walk,” using the ropes, mesh and vines. Helping the bats to fly and walk with ease and fluidity is a goal of their keepers.

Keeping them Healthy

Three flying fox bats are currently getting medicine for arthritis and one for a heart condition. They get medicine gently squirted into their mouths when a staff member offers them their afternoon melon. All of the bats get melon hand-fed to them twice a day.

In addition to hand-feeding, animal care staff place bowls around the exhibit containing apples, pears, grapes, sweet potato, carrots, bananas and kale - which they particularly like. These fruits and vegetables are coated with Lubee nutritional supplement. Enrichment items hanging in the habitat might contain these foods.

Weight is an indicator of health, but because their weight changes seasonally, the bats’ weights are compared to the same month the year before. Flying foxes are

weighed four times a year; the golden-mantled are weighed more often. They all get a little nail trim at that time!

Are They Old?

Three of our golden-mantled bats are 30 years old and one is 28. Golden-mantled MLE is unknown, but they are considered “older.” Flying fox MLE is 17.1. Belle is our oldest flying fox at 26. Five others are 20 years old. The youngest is Mystic at 8. So yes, all but Mystic are old!

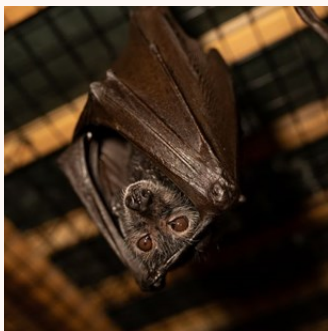
Are They Friendly?

Barb is remembered as being the most friendly, but they are all extremely social - an occasional squabble notwithstanding. Morning Star and Belle are the most outgoing, and Jubilee is shy. Training is not happening right now, but Andrea says that the bats would remember how to “station” and how to raise their wings on command.

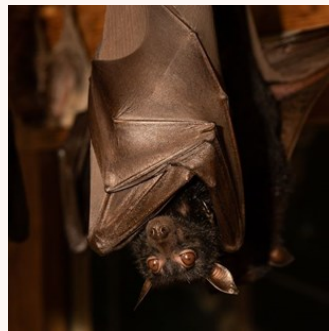
We are lucky to have the cutest bats on the planet.

— Sue Allen

Thanks to Andrea Farson, Asia Quest Animal Care Staff.



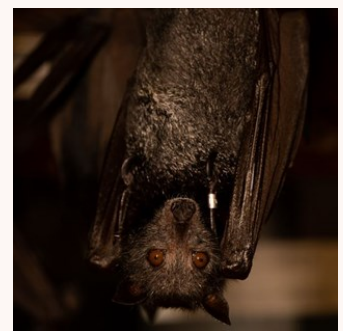
Belle—oldest



Mystic—youngest

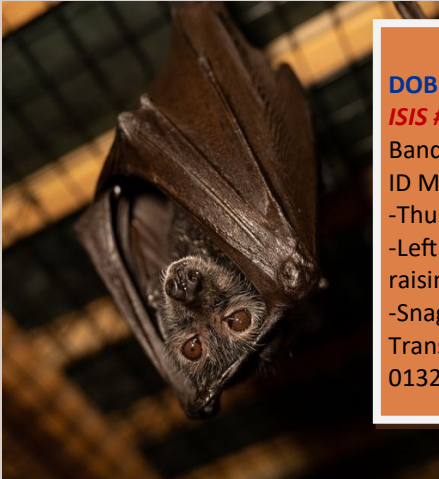


Morning Star—outgoing



Jubilee—shy

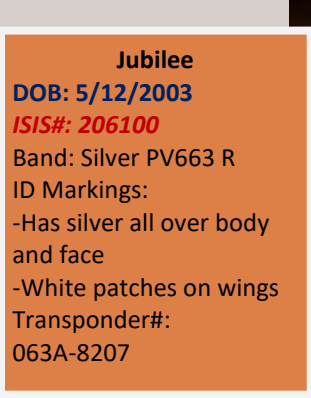
Bat Identification



Belle
DOB: 5/20/1997
ISIS #: 206091
 Band: No band
 ID Markings:
 -Thumb joint fused
 -Left ear shriveled like a raisin
 -Snaggle Tooth
 Transponder#:
 0132-E3E9



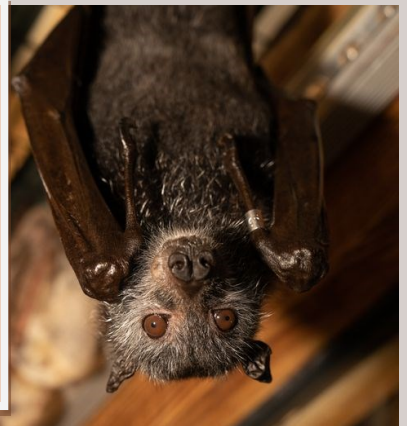
Beatrix
DOB: 5/4/2003
ISIS #: 209091
 Band: Green L /
 Silver PV658 L
 ID Markings:
 -Thinner Face
 -Long ears
 Transponder#:
 063A-09A5



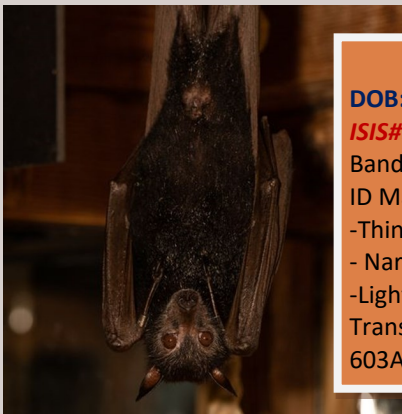
Jubilee
DOB: 5/12/2003
ISIS#: 206100
 Band: Silver PV663 R
 ID Markings:
 -Has silver all over body
 and face
 -White patches on wings
 Transponder#:
 063A-8207



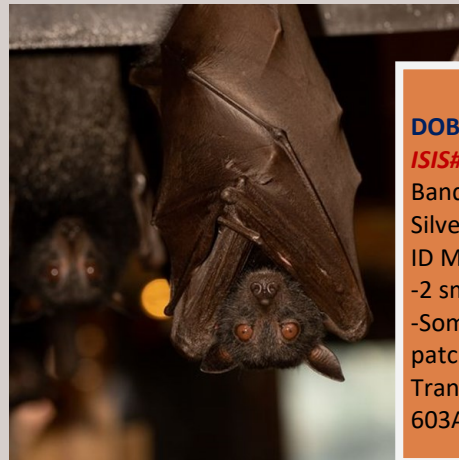
Jelly Belly
DOB: 5/10/2003
ISIS #:206094
 Band: Silver PV654 R
 ID Markings:
 -Very light face
 -Lots of silver hair on belly
 -Both ears shriveled like
 raisins
 Transponder#:
 603A-7A07



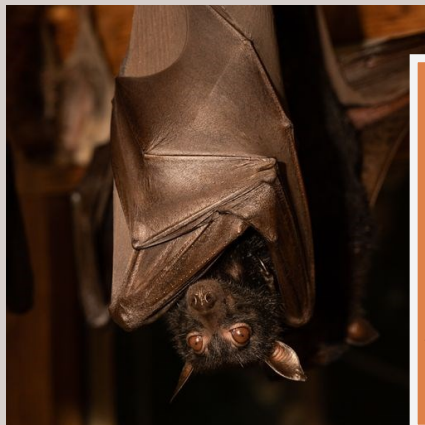
Morning Star
DOB: 5/9/2003
ISIS#: 206099
 Band: Pink L /
 Silver PV662 L
 ID Markings:
 -2 small holes in wings
 -Sometimes has faint pink
 patches on wings
 Transponder#:
 603A-8207



Juma
DOB: 5/13/2003
ISIS#: 206098
 Band: Silver PV661 R
 ID Markings:
 -Thin Frame
 - Narrower face
 -Light fur on nose
 Transponder#:
 603A-0B18



Mystic
DOB: 5/25/2015
ISIS#: 217030
 Band: NO Band
 ID Markings:
 -Minimal fur around nose
 and eyes
 -thinner body
 Transponder#:
 021-865-534





Susing
DOB: 6/5/1993
ISIS#: 206102
 Band: Silver 112 L
 ID Markings:
 -Hangs out with MyMy
 Transponder#:
 004D-286A



MyMy
DOB: 2/19/1995
ISIS#: 206104
 Band: Silver 598 R
 ID Markings:
 -Very light in color
 -Hangs out with her
 Bestie Susing
 Transponder#:



Bing
DOB: 3/19/1993
ISIS#: 206101
 Band: Silver 107 L
 ID Markings:
 -Often times by herself
 -little bump on nose
 Transponder#:
 0015-C192



Jaynee
DOB: 8/27/1993
ISIS#: 206103
 Band: Silver R
 Red & Green L
 ID Markings:
 -Largest at times
 -Often hangs out by
 herself
 Transponder#:
 0014-31DB

That's a Wrap—Boo at the Zoo

Sustainable Candy Wrappers?

An article on sustainability in the last *Zoo News* mentioned T-shirts, toys and compost. Now, with Boo at the Zoo around the corner, we're talking about candy wrappers. As part of an innovative program, empty candy wrappers will be collected in special boxes around the Zoo during Boo. The wrappers will be sent to be sorted, cleaned and turned into pellets which can then be recycled into new items such as bags for picking up doggie waste.

BYOBags

Groups distributing candy at Boo at the Zoo won't be handing out plastic bags - our little visitors must bring their own containers. Continuing on the sustainability path, the Zoo will be using signage and decorations saved from previous years, and the game cards that are a big part of the festivities will be printed on Forest Stewardship Council certified paper.



Photo courtesy of the Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

Don't Forget

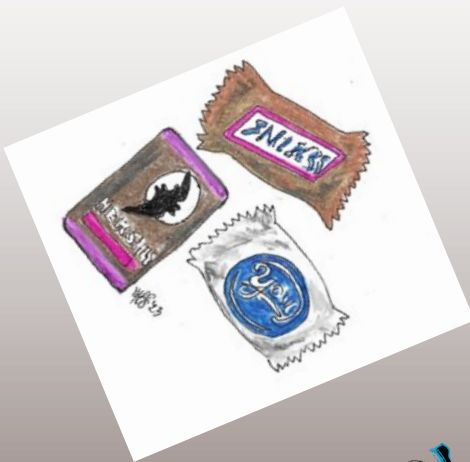
Use the palm oil app on your phone for your everyday shopping and to determine which candy you will be handing out to your trick-or-treaters this year. You can see the approved candies here: [Sustainable Palm Oil Shopping Guide - Woodland Park Zoo Seattle WA](#)

Trick or Trash

[How It Works](#) | [Candy Wrapper Recycling](#) | [Trick or Trash \(rubicon.com\)](#)

Thanks to Kristeena Blaser, Director of Sustainability

— Sue Allen



Where to Find Animal Information on Zoo Web Pages

On the Blog <https://columbuszoo.org/blog>

Mexican Wolves: Something to Howl About	July 10, 2023
SSSSuper Snakes at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium	July 11, 2023
Meet Dumplin: One Bornean Orangutan with Many Talents	July 17, 2023
Training Tales: Alternative Therapies	July 19, 2023
A Stroll through the North American Aviary at the Columbus Zoo	August 17, 2023
Which Big Cat is Which?!	July 29, 2023
Training Tales: Targets	August 28, 2023
A Ray of "Sunshine" One Sea Lion's Story at the Columbus Zoo	September 12, 2023
Animal Nutrition at the Columbus Zoo: Feeding Carnivores	September 12, 2023
1927: The Columbus Zoo and its Place in History	September 15, 2023
Bearing Hope: Polar Bear Denning at the Columbus Zoo	September 12, 2023

Beastly Banner

Fall 2023/Winter 2024 <https://www.columbuszoo.org/beastly-banner>

North America Trek

Conservation Heritage – Turambe Rwanda

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!

40 year Docent Award

Jan Agler



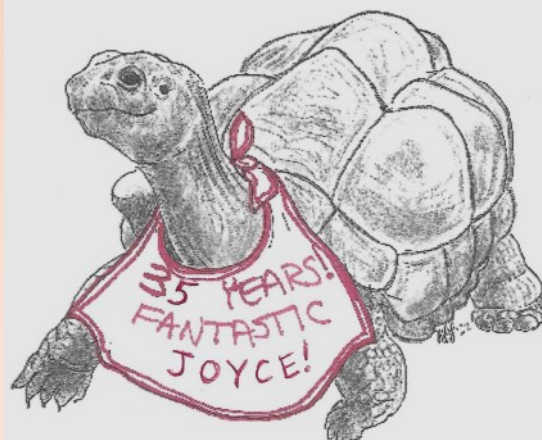
40 year Docent Award

Harry Gate

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!

35 year Docent Award

Joyce Talkowski



35 year Docent Emeritus Award

Kathy Bruno

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!



30 year Diver Award

Gail Evans-Hervey

30 year Docent Award

David Welsh



Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!

25 year Docent Award

Julie App

Susan Fromkes

Betsy Warner (Emeritus)

20 year Docent Award

Pam Hancock

15 year Docent Award

Mariann Crowley

Bev Larson

Lana Lowary

Alice Smith

Laurann Willis

10 year Docent Award

Beth Badenhop

Ruth Chaffee

Vickie Cohen

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!

10 year Diver Award

Scott Birrer
Kristi Krumlauf
Tami Thompson

10 year Adult Volunteer Award

Harvey Castner
Clarice Lewis
Denny Swenson
Sheryl Weaver

5 year Docent Award

Robin Murphy
Val Pittsenbarger
Leann Poindexter
Sara Stahler

5 year Diver Award

Mike Waldo

5 year Adult Volunteer Award

Darlene Archer	Leigh Atkinson	Eva Cagle
Lindsay Gallagher	Teresa George	Janice Hall
Monique Judy	Laura Meers	Linda Meuser
Dee Rush	Judy Schmitz	Cheyenne Severence
Bill Stein	Carolyn Van Dusen	Janet Wartman
	Nancy Welch	