

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

We are all looking forward to cooler weather, which we hope arrives in October. It has been a scorching summer, and several Asia Quest animals have been staying inside.

New **Asian elephant** Johnson has been introduced during part of the day the three females on multiple occasions and they are doing well together. Since the announcement of the pregnancies of Phoebe and Sunny, we hope that Rudy follows the pregnancy trend. Rudy will cycle soon, and we hope to see a continuation of her affinity for Johnson. Frankie finally made it to 3,000 pounds. He has been hovering at 2,999 pounds for a while. Elephant Manager Matt wanted the volunteers to know that while Phoebe is a very experienced mom, Sunny is a first-time mom and there is more risk the first time an elephant has a baby.

We are still waiting for good news from the observed mating of **sloth bears** Heiderose and Randhir. Remember, however, that mating between the bears was observed in prior years with no babies.



Pallas' cat Moose has been moved to the AQ indoor habitat that previously held the **reticulated python**. The glass on the right side of the habitat has been covered to provide Moose with more privacy. Mom Tiina and her two yet-unnamed babies are in the outside habitat area.

Tufted deer mom Sunflower, dad Angus and their now-named baby Poppy are in the outside yard.

Minotaur **water monitor** is off view in the Shores region. **Reticulated python** Kami is now in this habitat.

Red panda Kora and daughter Santi remain on view. The staff is working on young panda Robin to have him "warm up" to people so that he can someday be on view. It is also possible that Robin may stay off view and breed with our females.



Amur tiger Diesel continues to be seen in the outside habitat in the late afternoon. He is outside three nights a week. Tiger Mara is often staying inside on hot days. At 18 years of age, she has free choice of where she feels most comfortable.

All other animals are doing well.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Welcome October, and hopefully cooler weather. The region is pretty quiet right now, but soon animals will be starting to transition to their indoor habitats.

Thank you to Melanie Richards for providing the volunteers a great presentation on **southern hairy-nosed wombats** and **feathertail gliders** on Sept. 10.

Region leaders Barb and Marcie also presented a conservation message on the **Matschie's tree kangaroo**, and encouraged volunteers to check



out the Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program (TKCP), an ongoing conservation project supported by the Columbus Zoo.

The website contains an excellent 10-minute video titled, "A Life Among the Clouds." Check it out!

Indian crested porcupine Saffron has been taking some trips recently to other habitats and areas of the Zoo. He loves to get in his crate and start traveling around, so you might not see him in his habitat while he is out and about.

All the other animals in the region are doing well.

As we enter the fall season, come and work in the "land down under." The animals look forward to your visits.



Photos courtesy of Barb Emmets

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION



Baby bonobo Bob

Photo courtesy of Olivia Wunderlin

The **bonobos** have adjusted well to their renovated home. We've seen them doing a lot of swinging/spinning on the firehose in the public viewing rooms, as well as digging in the mulch. The team has been attempting to do group switches in the early afternoon to rotate outdoor yard time. Sometimes the bonobos have different plans, and it can take a while to get them back outside, or they may choose to keep access instead. So if you can't find bonobos in the yard at times, that may be why.

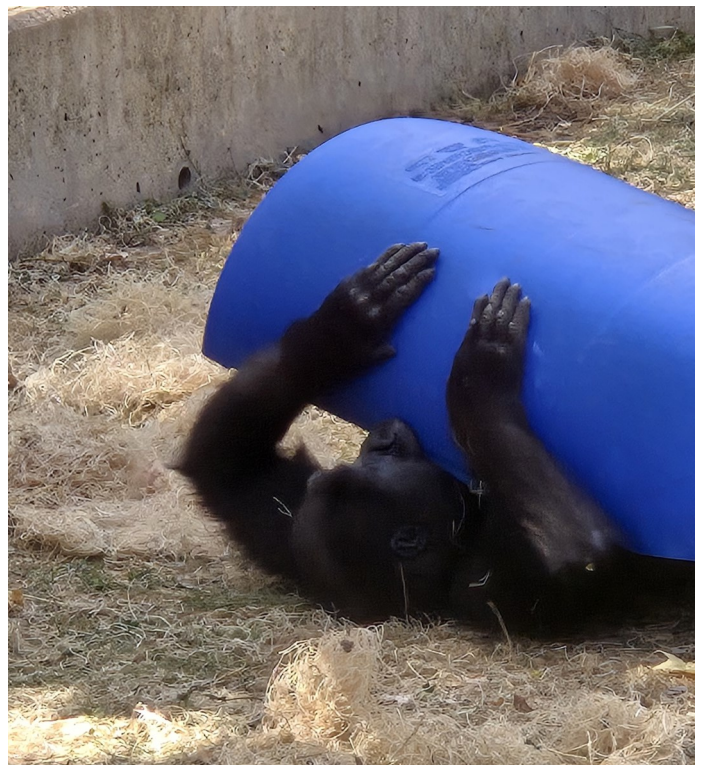
Newest bonobo, Nadine, has now met everyone and has become fast friends with Kibibi. Nadine and Faith lived together in Milwaukee and Danessa was able to capture a sweet moment the other day of Nadine carrying Bob (photo attached)! Donnie and Ana Neema received ILRs during their exams on the move back to the building, and Neema has participated in a few data upload scans from hers already. Jimmy also received a replacement ILR at this time.

Gorilla Sue's 3-month old baby girl now has a name - Mara.

The **okapi** continue to do well. Keeper staff are continuing to work on voluntary hoof trim training with El Jewar, Miliki and Damisi. All three participate nicely and staff have made great progress with their hoof care. Damisi also participated in a voluntary abdominal ultrasound. Staff were able to see the heartbeat of her fetus. Her pregnancy continues to progress well.

The **colobus** are all doing great. All three females received birth control implants this summer, so there will not be any new babies to expect in our group.

One of the most frequent questions I've been asked recently is about the "white stuff" on the ground in the colobus yard. It is called diatomaceous earth, an all-natural substance that can repel insect pests. We use it to help control whip worm and other internal parasites that can live in the ground and then overburden or negatively affect the individual monkeys.



Jamani practicing drumming

Photo courtesy of Olivia Wunderlin

The grounds/landscape team treats the ground regularly throughout the summer months. The colobus also receive a quarterly oral deworming medication to combat this issue.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Leopards turned 8 last month. They are doing great in the gorilla building.

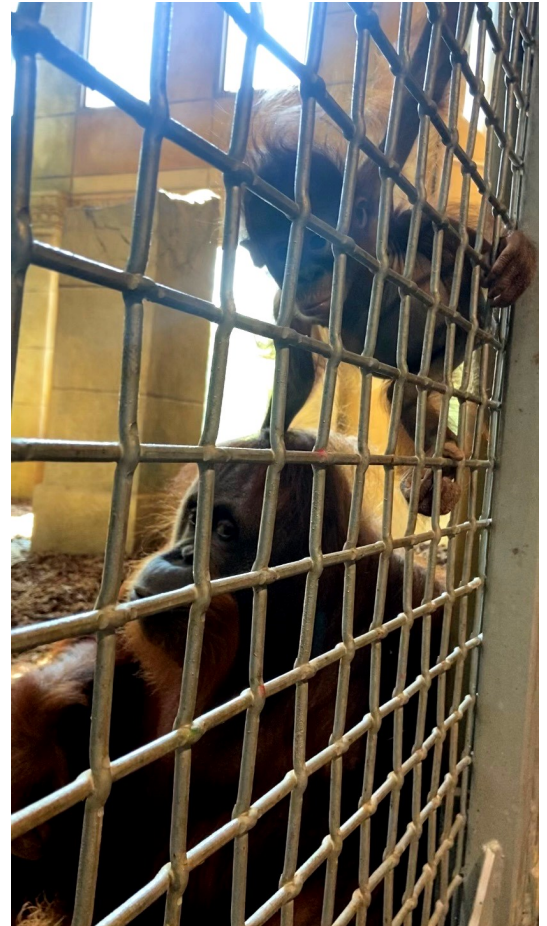
Mandrills are so much fun to see in the old building. The little ones are getting SO big. Mosi just turned 11, Matilda just turned 13 and Bernard will be 2 on Oct. 16.

They should be back to their building around the middle of the month, so keep your eye out!

The **orangutans** have been enjoying the cooler temperatures lately. They're also adjusting well to seeing a new keeper around the building. Clementine is getting very adventurous, making her way around the meshing. Khali has been giving her some space and allowing Clementine to explore the meshing on her own. She's even letting Auntie Dumplin take over as Clementine has been seen in her lap a few times now. Clementine has also started eating more solid foods and now has quite a few teeth.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Clementine messing with Dumplin

Photo courtesy of Olivia Wunderlin

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

There is not much to report at this time other than temperatures and how animals will be in/out as the temperatures flex.

As of right now, the plan is for Heart of Africa to remain open throughout October, including **giraffe** feeds, weather-dependent of course. Unless we get some seriously cold weather, we can expect to keep almost all of the animals out as usual.

Habitats that might change based on weather:

- Giraffe feeds may open later than 10:00 AM. We will be looking for temperatures to be 50 degrees and sunny (or 55 degrees).
- Similarly, for giraffes on the Savanna, temperatures need to be 50 degrees and sunny (or 55 degrees).
- Vervets will continue to have access to inside or out, however, if it is below 40, they will remain inside.
- With regard to the Savanna, the first animals that tend to come in for the season are the **storks**. If we have overnight temperatures that are consistently 38 degrees or lower, we will bring them into the hoofstock barn. If they do come inside, we will still give them access to holding yards if the weather is good during the day.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Wolf Awareness Week is in late October. We won't be celebrating this year - stay tuned for our big celebration next year though - but that doesn't mean you can't stop by and educate guests about the **Mexican wolf** program and how zoos have had a positive impact on that program.

Bald eagle Cheyenne has been having some mobility issues due to arthritis. Keepers have been working hard at training her to take medications voluntarily, and she is now doing that.

Wolverine Alvar is adjusting to being alone after the passing of Zola.

The **Arctic foxes, pumas, brown bears, black bear and Canadian lynx** are all doing well. The three young **river** otter boys are very active!

You may see periods of time when Lee is the only **polar bear** on view. Aurora is getting more alone time in her denning space and within the next month, will be there full-time. Fingers crossed for polar bear cubs.

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



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

Reindeer Figgy and Candy have shed their velvet, with Abby not far behind. This is a great opportunity to stop and talk to about how the antler process works.

The petting yard is open weekends only through Boo at the Zoo, so please come out and volunteer!

Photos courtesy of Cat Collins

REGION NEWS—SHORES

All baby **weedy sea dragons** are eating well and growing. They were initially in two smaller systems and have all been moved into one larger system.

Komodo dragon Ursula recently had an exam. She will be inside for the remainder of the year.

The **alligators** have started crate training for the winter.

Weber's crested lizards were moved into a viewable habitat.

Merten's water monitor Goomba moved to a walk-in. Merten's water monitor Mario moved to the habitat Goomba previously occupied. We also have a Merten's water monitor named Luigi, not visible at this time.

Sailfin lizard also moved to a walk-in habitat.

Most of the **tortoises** and **turtles** around the Zoo have returned to their winter homes.

We are seeing some breeding activity at **Stingray** Bay, which is normal for this time of year.

We recently released **hellbenders** - on Aug. 24, the 1,000th hellbender was released!



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS

It has been a long, dry summer at The Wilds. Our usual lush green pastures are all brown. We have had to start feeding supplemental hay to the animals in pasture much earlier than usual this year. We introduced two new breeding males to their herds this month. Our new **Przewalski's horse** stallion joined the females in pasture and has been doing well. We also moved a **white rhino** bull out to pasture. He has been with us for a while, but not with the females yet. We are doing close observations, not just to make sure he is behaving himself with the females, but because our AIRS team will be monitoring the females to see how they respond when a new male comes into their territory.



We are very excited to have a new AZA SAFE program approved. SAFE Action Indonesia will cover **banteng**, lowland anoa and babirusa conservation efforts as part of a WAZA GSMP, or Global Species Management Plan. We are one of the few zoos in the U.S. working with the endangered banteng wild cattle. Animal Management Specialist Curt Coleman is the North American Studbook Keeper for this species.

We have started a new project with partners from the OSU Imageomics lab. They have come out to fly a drone over the **bison** pastures to attempt to use a computer system to count the herd for us. We had a good test flight this month, and they are starting to work with the images they collected.

There is still plenty of time to come visit The Wilds before the end of the regular tour season. All of our tours and activities can be booked online.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—WILD ENCOUNTERS

You no doubt saw the Zoo's announcement, but sadly we lost **harbor seal** Hillie earlier this month. We all miss her terribly, and we appreciate all of the support and love that has been shared with us.

Keaton, Sloane and Ferris are all doing well and have completed their molts. The **sea lions** are starting to molt, so if you notice some patchiness or changes in their fur, that's the reason. All pinnipeds go through a molt once a year.

Sea lion Ayla has continued to recover well from her eye procedure. She did not need a Gunderson flap after all! The veterinary ophthalmologist was able to remove the diseased layer of her eye, and last week she was cleared to go back outside.

We have started rehearsing our "Sea Lion Spooktacular" presentation and will offer that on Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00 AM starting in October. We plan to do our presentation all four weekends.

Like other areas for ZAA Day, we are planning some special activities, including a special presentation and open house for attendees of the ZAA Conference in Columbus.

One of our team members, Megan Saylor, was selected to be a presenter at the ZAA Conference. Her talk will be about the Zoo's animal wellbeing program.

We will have a new intern starting in our department at the end of September, and we are excited to welcome her to our team.

Jack Hanna's Animal Encounters Village is preparing for its Boo at the Zoo stage presentation, which will run at 2 PM through October with a spooky theme!



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Finally, tickets are now on sale for Slothvasana (Yoga with a Sloth) on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 2 and 3, with sessions at 9:00am and 12:00pm each day. Get your tickets and let your friends know about this great event that sells out every year. Proceeds from the event support the Zoo's general conservation fund and operating budget.