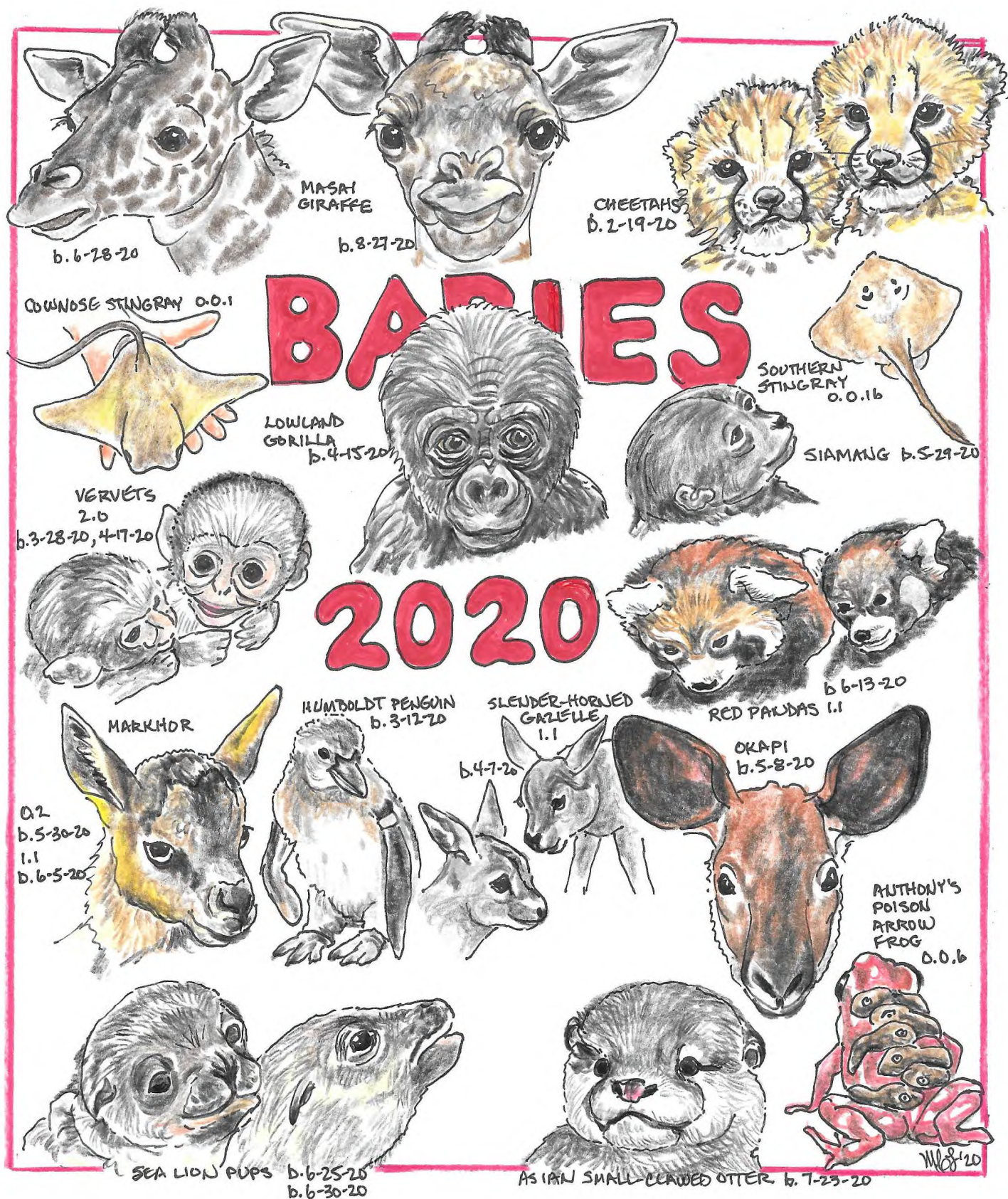


October 2020

The Columbus Zoo
and Aquarium
Volunteer Newsletter

ZooNews





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

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From the President

I hope all is well. In an effort to improve communication, I’m working with departments within the Zoo to schedule in-person (or Zoom) staff meetings around the organization. Once I have concluded our team member meetings, I would like to answer your questions. Please start thinking of questions that you would like me to answer. Just email Ginger the questions and we will add them to my presentation.

I look forward to hearing from all of you.

Tom Stalf, President/CEO



Photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones

Oh Baby!

2020 Columbus Zoo births illustrated on the cover

Heart of Africa SH Gazelle Mike (M), 04-07-2020 SH Gazelle Amy (F), 04-07-2020 Vervet TomTom (M), 03-28-2020 Vervet DJ (M), 04-27-2020 Giraffe (Unnamed M), 06-28-2020 Giraffe (Unnamed F), 08-27-2020	Asia Quest Markhor (Unnamed F), 05/30/2020 Markhor (Unnamed F), 05/30/2020 Markhor (Unnamed M), 06/05/2020 Markhor (Unnamed F), 06/05/2020 Red Panda Santi (F), 06/13/2020 Red Panda Bandit (M), 06/13/2020
Congo Gorilla Jamani (F), 04-15-2020 Okapi Dini (M), 05-08-2020	Australia & the Islands Siamang (Unnamed M), 05/29/2020 Asian SC Otter Dash (M), 07/23/2020
Shores Humboldt Penguin Charmin (F), 03-12-2020 Anthony’s Poison Arrow Frog (6 unnamed) Southern Stingray (20 unnamed)	Animal Programs Cheetah Adirenne (F), 02/19/2020 Cheetah Dave (M), 02/19/2020 Sea Lion Norval (M), 06/30/2020 Sea Lion Sunshine (F), 06/25/2020

Communiqué

COVID 19 has forced us to make a lot of changes this year. Unfortunately one of the things we missed was the Appreciation Dinner. On pages 22-26 you will find the list of adult volunteers, divers and docents who have reached their 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 year milestones. Each award recipient, both active and emeritus, will receive a specialized lapel pin. In addition to the pin, the active 15, 20, 25, 30 and 40 year volunteers will also get a gift:

- **15 year** – Name plate on 15 Year Plaque
- **20 year** - Columbus Zoo and Aquarium photo box
- **25 year** – To be determined (The past active 25 year award recipients received a commemorative brick. Unfortunately the Zoo's brick program has been discontinued. More information will be forthcoming about the replacement gift.)
- **30 year** – Photo taken with animal of their choice (within reason); framed copy hung in Volunteer Office, framed copy to the volunteer
- **40 year** – Lunch on Zoo grounds with a staff person of their choice

At the March Kickoff Meeting, we were set to introduce the new Hours Awards. Hours were calculated from 2012 (when we started using Volgistics) through November 2019 and include all hours spent volunteering at the Zoo. The award structure is as such:

- Pins for each 250 hour increment up to 1,000 hours
- 1,000 to 2,999 - \$25 Creature Cash



- 3,000 to 4,999 – Behind the Scenes Tour
- 5,000 to 6,999 – Clothing item
- 7,000 to 8,999 – Enrichment Painting
- 9,000 to 10,999 – Twilight Tour for up to 8 people
- 11,000 to 12,999 – Lunch with a staff person
- 12,000 to 14,999 – Shadow a Keeper
- 15,000 to 16,999 – Lunch with Tom Stalf
- 17,000+ - Lifetime membership

If you look on pages 27-30, you will find the list of hour award winners. There are approximately 300 volunteers who fall into the first four categories. These awards are accumulative so if you have 7,849 hours, you will receive the pins, Creature Cash, BTS tour, clothing item and enrichment painting. Everyone will be contacted regarding picking up their awards or, where applicable, things will be mailed. There is no hour requirement for 2020; this year will still count towards all the years of service awards and any hours volunteered this year will count towards the cumulative hour awards.

This year has been stressful but please know we are extremely grateful for your dedication, kind words, well wishes and volunteer service!

Be well and hopefully we will see you soon,

Ginger, Carole, Mary, Kathy and Rachel
The Volunteer Team



Photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones

Growing Up Giraffe

Name? Age? Size? The questions we get about all baby animals revolve around these basics, but there's always so much more to know, especially with **two** baby giraffes at the Zoo.

Giraffe Moms and Babies

The calves look tiny, even minuscule, beside their mothers. Although both stood six feet tall at birth, and probably will be close to twelve feet by their first birthdays, it will be about five years until the female is considered full grown and two to three years later for the male.

Maternal behavior might appear unusual, aloof and distant. A calf sometimes stands by itself, gazing at its surroundings, with mom off in the distance. This is typical mom and baby behavior. Mothers will leave calves alone to eat or drink, and in our case, to visit the giraffe feeding shamba, but moms Zuri and Jana can always see their babies and know what they are doing. Standing alone for short periods is typical of a calf, more so with a male. In the wild moms often leave several calves together under the care of another female, a baby sitter of sorts, in a crèche for several hours at a time while they feed. Some of the other giraffes in our herd are curious and attentive to the calves, and Zuri and Jana watch these interactions too.

Mothers and calves don't form life-long bonds. Females usually begin to ovulate again within 2-3 months after giving birth and can deliver a second calf when the first is 18 - 22 months old - amazing when you consider that the pregnancy itself lasts about 15 months. Female offspring tend to stay in the same general range into which they are born, but it's at about this time that male calves leave home to associate in groups of other young boys for a few years until they are large enough to breed themselves.

Why the Spots?

Baby giraffes inherit their spot pattern - the color, shape and size of their spots - from their mother. The color and pattern of the spots don't change as the calf grows; they simply get larger. A recent study of Masai giraffes, partially funded by the Zoo, proved this hypothesis and more. There are eleven different spot traits, and two of these, the circularity and solidity (how ruffled and uneven the edges are) are passed down from mother to calf. It is believed coat patterns have evolved to hide newborn calves, 50% of which are killed by predators before their first birthday. Young calves spend much of their time hiding in the dappled light of trees and bushes, and their ability to match this background influences how easily they are detected by visually-hunting predators such as lions and hyenas. Calves with large and irregularly-shaped spots are more likely to survive during the first few months, as they can blend in better with foliage.

Although the study was done on Masai giraffes, reticulated giraffes also inherit their spot pattern and coloring from their mother. We can easily see this phenomenon at the Zoo. Giraffes Lance and Logan are half brothers - they share the same father, but their coloring and spot patterns are very different, reflecting their mothers.

Thermoregulation, identification and parasite avoidance are other *possible* purposes of spots.

Nancy Mulholland

Sources: Seeing Spots: Quantifying Mother-Offspring Similarity and Assessing Fitness Consequences of Coat Pattern Traits in a Wild Population of Giraffes, D. Lee, D. Cavener, M. Bond, *thePeerJ*, Oct 2018; The Behavior Guide to African Mammals, R. Estes, Univ of California Press, 1991; Shannon Borders, assistant curator, the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium.

Meet Roary!

Let's meet Roary, our new male lion. Roary's four years old, born May 12, 2016 at the Buffalo Zoo, the only male in a litter of three cubs. He weighs slightly over 400#, is light in color, has a large head, impressive mane and is average height. He's just reaching full size but might gain a little weight in the next few years.

Keepers describe him as having a sweet disposition and being a "good boy." He's getting acquainted with all the females. You might see him in the yard with one or more of them as the introductions continue. Although there is a breeding recommendation for Roary and Kazi, the hope is to have all five together as a small pride.

Lions will continue to be on view in Heart of Africa, with access on the coldest days, throughout the winter. The staff at the Buffalo Zoo said he loves to play in the snow!

- Nancy Mulholand and Dianna Van Buren



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand

Going Solar

Have you noticed the large array of solar panels at the north end of the North Parking Lot, close to the tram turnaround station? This is one of two new solar energy projects recently installed at the Zoo, continuing our sustainability initiative.

The arrangement close to the Polar Frontier entrance is a microgrid demonstration project designed by American Electric Power (AEP) and funded by Smart City Rider. The system includes the panels, a large storage battery of about 1 MW, and a controls system to operate everything.

The system is designed to seamlessly switch from traditional power to the backup system powered by the solar array, much like a backup generator. Scheduled to be totally operational this fall, it's connected to the saltwater LSS meter. AEP will visit at scheduled times and "exercise" the system, meaning

turn off the power supply and watch the microgrid take over. The demonstration project is an opportunity for those interested in learning how to create more resilient and clean energy systems. The test period runs through 2022, at which time the Zoo will purchase the package at a significant reduction in cost.

The second solar project is on the roof of the new Edwards Education Building. This arrangement is composed of 164 400-watt solar panels. This project, which is already operational, will produce over 77,000 kWh per year, or 80 - 90% of the building's estimated yearly energy usage.

- Nancy Mulholand

Sources: Columbus Zoo staff Jen Ryan and Danielle Ross

Secrets of the Zoo~Season 3 Summary and Updates

If you have access to Nat Geo Wild, you may have seen Season Three of *Secrets of the Zoo*, which features animals from both the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and The Wilds. Here is a run-down of each episode, with updates in italics.

Compiled by Cindy Payne and Sue Allen.

Episode 1: “Dhole Lotta Love”

Dumplin, a **Bornean orangutan** (MLE 32 years), enjoys her 45th birthday bash at the Zoo. Facing numerous non-life-threatening health conditions including advanced arthritis, she needs help maintaining ease of motion. After a med adjustment, her birthday celebration goes without a hitch.

Dumplin celebrated her 46th birthday in style with her keepers, enjoying new sheets, picture books and special treats. She is currently doing well on arthritis meds and gets heart meds to help the non-arthritic conditions mentioned in the show.

At The Wilds, **dhole pups**, a type of Asian wild dog, are born but soon lose their mother. For their safety, they need to be separated from the pack and nursed to a point when they could be reunited. “Who better to teach a dhole how to be a dhole than a dhole?” Reintroduction to their dad does not go smoothly, so the five cubs will form a separate pack.



The reintroduction to the rest of the pack did not work. However, the pups were raised in an area that shares a fence line with the older dholes so they would be able to see, hear and smell those animals. The litter of pups is still together, doing well, and can be easily seen at The Wilds.

At two weeks old, **musk deer Naria** has a limp. She is not using her right leg, but after stall rest and steroids, she's in the habitat and back with her mom.

Photo courtesy of Lori Summers

Episode 2: “Grumpy Cat”

Natasha, an adult **Amur tiger**, arrives at the Zoo with an attitude. After quarantine, she lives near Jupiter, her future mate. Eventually, she goes out into the tiger habitat with confidence. It's important to breed her before she gets much older, and Jupiter is the man for the job.



Natasha is much transformed and has warmed up to her care staff and her environment. Breeding is on hold for now.

It's the first day for animals to go out on the Savanna, including ostriches, zebras, giraffes and kudus.

At the Zoo, a **temple turtle** lays eggs. Who is the mom, Gertrude, Greta or George? The eggs are viable and represent the first of this species hatched in human care. “Cutest thing on the planet.”

The two hatchlings are doing fantastic and growing fast. They're still living behind the scenes and are about the size of an apple.

Kipawa giraffe, who came to the Zoo with a pre-existing foot injury, needs hoof work. Stones and debris are removed, but Kip cooperates since he will do anything for crackers.

Kipawa is growing and thriving, as anyone who squatted down to feed him lettuce during his first year in HOA can verify. Keepers monitor his hoof health on a regular basis.

Photo courtesy of Graham S. Jones

Episode 3: “Flock of Flamingos”

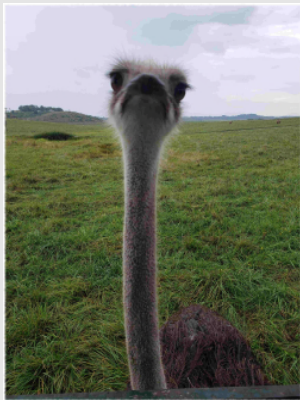
The **flamingo** flock ran out for the first time in the spring. Let the flirting begin!

The flamingo flock had a successful nesting and breeding season. They built nests and laid over 15 eggs.

At The Wilds, **Sonya**, a greater **one-horned rhino**, will be delivering her fifth calf. Four months later, the keepers spot baby nursing and leave to encourage bonding.

The new calf, eventually named “Rohini,” did great. She spent the winter in our barns with her mother and is now back out in pasture.

Also at The Wilds, Zack and Curt put the **ostriches** out. “O’s will be O’s.” **War**, the male and one of the most dangerous animals in close proximity, needs his shots. It’s all hands on deck to deliver the inoculations.



War was transferred to another zoo that needed a male ostrich this summer. Our other ostriches are doing fine.

Keiko, a twelve-year-old **Nigerian dwarf goat**, was born at the Zoo and has known her keepers from birth. The growth on her neck requires surgery. This episode stresses the close bond between animals and keepers. “They’re not just animals, they’re family.”

Photo courtesy of Kathy Ragsdale

Episode 4: “King of the Jungle”

At The Wilds, it’s baby season for the **Sichuan takin** herd, and the keepers check daily for newborns. This goat species is aggressive, so when babies are caught up for neonatal exams, it takes ingenuity to distract the mother away. Mothers start dropping calves for a bumper crop.

This year’s group of takin kids is growing up out in pasture with their extended herd family.



At the Zoo, **King Julian**, a **ring-tailed lemur**, is examined for range of motion. No arthritis, but he does have a weird congenital hip issue. Keepers say he is living “his best life.”

King Julian is still very much living his best life and doing well.

Thor and **Katy koala** bred recently. She is losing weight and needs to get her gut back to normal by ingesting koala poo in “milkshake” form.

Katy has fully recovered from her medical issues, but it was almost nine months from when she got sick that we really began to breathe a little easier. She is completely back to normal at this point.

Gibbons Shawnee and **Leo** have two offspring, female **Sienna** and a new baby boy. It is Sienna’s first time to go out to the island on her own and join her family. After much stalling, she gets out there and all is well in gibbon land.

The gibbons are all good, and yes, Sienna goes out to the island on her own.

Photo courtesy of Lori Summers

Episode 5: "Duckumentary"

Rory duck has a swollen leg from infection and bone loss. On recheck, her meds have helped, and Rory can go back to being part of an elite duck squad in the "Surf 'n Safari" show.

At The Wilds, twenty-year-old **Asian onager Krypto's** body condition is declining. Since onagers are "kind of donkeys on fire," handling is always tricky. He receives successful dental work on an overgrown upper tooth. "He deserves to have a good retirement."

This is not unusual for older equines, and Krypto is doing well again after his dental procedure.

Unga bonobo, a much-beloved female, has a host of medical conditions including allergies, heart disease and gastro issues. Since the troop is group-fed, whatever she eats will be the same for her troop-mates, so a plan has to be formulated. Her white count is very low, so she needs a bone marrow biopsy, which thankfully reveals no cancer!

A biscuit-free diet was formulated but made it difficult to meet the nutritional needs of the other troop members, so the department transitioned back to the biscuit-based plan. This caused Unga and others to experience hives and to become bloated. The vet staff and keepers continue to look for viable options. Unga's other health issues, heart and thyroid, are responding well to current treatments and overall she is doing well.

Coming this October

Secrets of the Zoo

Season 4

The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium and The Wilds



Episode 6: "Dancing With the Devils"

Florence markhor goat gives birth. Then three more babies are born to the herd. With no youngsters for five years, catching a live birth is a "hardcore markhor" event.

The four markhor girls born last year have all gone to new homes.

Flamingo chick #1, 60 days old, is leaning his neck oddly to the side and needs tests. #1, dubbed **Neal the Neck Armstrong**, has a mechanical misalignment and needs two neck massages per week. Who doesn't?

After getting more information about Neil Armstrong flamingo through radiographs and CT's, vets think the bone might be infected. Staff took the bird to MedVet for a bone biopsy. Inserting a needle relieved some pressure, suggesting a contusion. Afterward, he was moving his neck normally. The condition appears to be fully resolved.



Sprout, Thyme and Mustard, the **Tasmanian devils**, arrive at night after lots of habitat prep and planning. They typically scream and screech, hence the name. Released to the outdoor habitat the first day, they are offered rats and rib bones. How will group feedings go as the devils settle in?

At The Wilds, keepers catch up 10 baby **Pere David deer** for neonatal exams and shots. These animals have been extinct in the wild for 100 years and only live in institutions, so these births are vital to the species.

The deer fawns have grown up in our herd, which is the largest for this species in AZA. It is true that these animals are officially extinct in the wild, but back in the 80's animals were returned to reserves in China. There are probably over 4,000 Père David's deer in China now.

Photo courtesy of Bonne McGowan

Episode 7: “The Otter Limits”

Suzi Rapp introduces two baby **Asian small-clawed otters**, future ambassadors in Promotions. They must be taught to swim as their mom would have done, and need to be weaned from the bottle. “They are getting oily and stinky.” Their first debut on the local news goes well.

Willy and **Molly** gradually get used to deeper water and eating fish. They love the water – no surprise there.

Savannah giraffe, a 15-year-old Masai born at The Wilds, gives birth to her fifth calf, but where is it? Finally, the keepers spot it, but they need to see it nursing or it might need giraffe plasma. The baby has latched on at a critical point. Relief among the staff!

This giraffe calf is now named “Rowan.” He has grown up in our herd, but we expect that he will eventually leave to help the Masai giraffe SSP elsewhere.

Four –year-old **Clark cougar** has an eye inflammation and an inverted nipple. Cataracts, tumors, cancer? The ophthalmologist finds no tumors, cataracts or significant eye disease. The eye meds are working, and his condition is manageable.

Clark is doing well at the West Virginia Wildlife Center, where he lives with his twin brother Lewis. They rotate with another cougar, already a resident when they arrived in October 2019.

Rosie rhinoceros gets a chance to make art with her lip. The paint is non-toxic and edible, and keepers feel that “abstract is her style.”



Rosie is fine and still likes to paint.

Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Episode 8: “Mandrill of the House”

Bush babies Po and **Sloth** go into a new exhibit in the Animal Encounters Building.

Mandrill Kinshasa, dominant male at the Columbus Zoo, chews on one side of his mouth and is leaking food out of his nose. The vet dentist hurries to extract an infected tooth root. Time is of the essence. His acid reflux requires omeprazole; his tooth issue, antibiotics. He gets a nebulizer, which he seems to enjoy.

Kinshasa was humanely euthanized in July 2019 after a continual decline in health and body condition. He is greatly missed.



At The Wilds, **Scimitar-horned oryx Babe**, mother of a 9-day-old calf, suffers from hoof problems. This matriarch has been lame lately. Her calf stays in the barn with her till the weather improves. Babe will have to assert her status again. “Looks like the sheriff’s back in town.”

Babe’s return to the herd went well. She is back out with the herd now, and her lameness was resolved.

Clover bison needs a hoof trim. Doesn’t everyone? Foot care is very important for ungulates. Her horns have also turned down in direction rather than up. She is darted so that her four thousand pounds do not hurt the farrier. The horns do not need trimming, but the hoofs do. She gets a clean bill of health for an elderly bison.

Clover’s hoofs and horns are monitored, as is her age-related stiffness.

Photo courtesy of Lori Summers

Episode 9: “Big Bear Theory”

In Asia Quest, **sloth bear Heidierose** gets checked before entering a breeding situation with Randhir. After a history of respiratory issues, her lung tissue looks improved, so it’s a “go.” After careful introduction (she’s in charge), the couple are seen breeding. Fingers crossed.

Heidierose and Randhir were seen breeding, but have not been successful so far.



Arthur armadillo’s nasal cavity is plugged. Removing six overgrown teeth gets him a clean bill of health. He happily returns to Promotions and his duties as an ambassador for his species.

At The Wilds, it’s **onager** exam day. This Asiatic wild ass is rare – only 40 in human care in the U.S. Keepers use a shepherd’s crook and a tamer to run everyone through their shots, blood and fecal samples. Good till next year.

The onagers are doing well. They are exceptionally tough animals, and we do not see a lot of problems with them. We may only have our hands on these animals once a year for their annual exams.

Photo courtesy of Astrid Kreidl

Episode 10: “Cheetah Playdate”

Eebi mandrill, age 22, is a part of the “Golden Girls,” a retirement troop of older females. Eebi undergoes surgery for an abdominal mass - keepers and vets worry whether she will survive the procedure and get to rejoin her troop-mates.

Like many older females who have never conceived, she had developed adhesions, and a hysterectomy was performed. She ended up having an MGA implant to prevent cycling, and is now quite comfortable and living well with her “golden girl” friend Julie.

Kesi cheetah is one of the fastest cheetah run stars. Since Kesi doesn’t like Suzi Rapp, staff don wigs to distract the cat for injection training. “She is the smartest cat we have.” When real vaccinations come, naturally everyone but Kesi cooperates.

Kesi is doing fine and still does not care for Suzi.

A vet dentist says that **Rinzen red panda** needs a change in diet. (Doesn’t everyone?) He has recently had 13 teeth removed. Not so much fruit, Rinzen – too much sugar!

Rinzen is no longer on view to the public. General Tso is the current male in the habitat with Kora.

Manda Pallas cat has had a kitten by AI before, and the staff wants it to happen again. Mate **Paval** does his part, and Manda is inseminated and could have up to four babies. This species is critically endangered, so every baby counts.



Manda’s cub went to a new home. Sadly, Paval passed away earlier this year.

Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Comparing Our Pinnipeds

“Pinna” (latin – fin, flap, wing) and “pedis” (latin – foot). The group of marine mammals consisting of seals, sea lions and walruses. There are 33 existing species.

Photo courtesy of Cindy Payne



	Seal	Sea Lion
Physical Characteristics	• Lack ear flaps. • Front flippers are shorter/ stumpy, fur covered and have longer claws/nails. • Hind flippers point out and away (backwards) from their body, cannot rotate under pelvis and do not bear weight.	• Visible ear flap or hood. • Front flippers are elongated, skin covered, and have shorter claws/nails. • Hind flippers are longer, can be rotated under the pelvis for walking and can bear weight of the animal.
Locomotion	• On land: Moves in “worm-like” undulations or scoots across land. • In water: Alternate moving back flippers for propulsion.	• On land: Pelvis can rotate under to support body and walks on hind flippers, much better suited for locomotion on land. • In water: Use elongated front flippers to help propel them through the water.
Behavior	• More solitary, spend most of their time alone in the water, only coming ashore to mate. • Less vocal, more grunts like barks. • Relies more on its vibrissae (whiskers) to detect prey.	• Very social, can gather in groups called rafts or herds of up to 1,500 animals. • A group of sea lions floating together on the ocean surface is called a “float.” • Very vocal, often barking to communicate and establish territories.

Behind the Scenes~the Making of a TV Show



The next season of Secrets of the Zoo is set to return this fall, with more mesmerizing stories that show the inner working of the Zoo and The Wilds. Today we're turning the tables on the Nat Geo Wild crew, going along on a shoot to see how the show comes together, what it takes to create such a magical viewing experience.

CREW SIZE AND FILMING DETAILS

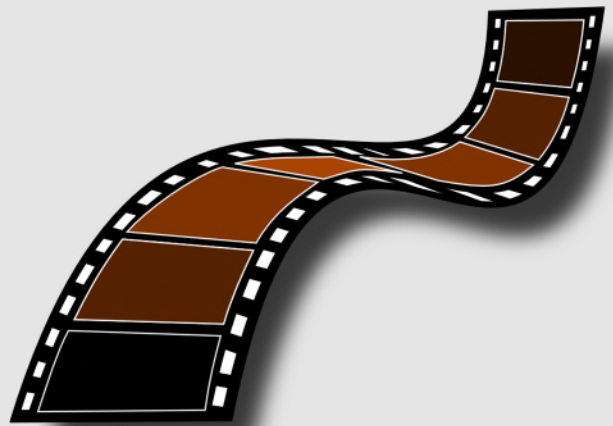
Seventeen to 20 crew members relocate to Columbus for the entire time it takes to film additional episodes for this

season. This year, it was from July to early October. Last year, pre-COVID-19, the crew was here from April into November. The home base is Florida for most of the crew, but there are a few freelance members, some of whom live in central Ohio.

This year, the crew has been split into two groups. One covers the Zoo exclusively; the other covers The Wilds and assists at the Zoo. Post production of the filming, which is done after the crew returns to Florida, can take six to seven months until the finished episodes are ready for television. The shows that start airing on October 10, 2020 were shot late in 2019 while those that will result from this year's filming won't be seen until sometime in 2021.

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN FILMING A SPECIFIC SCENE?

Filming of a medical procedure is a very labor intensive event. The physical set up of equipment takes a long time. For a recent filming of Dumplin orangutan's annual physical, the crew of 10 camera operators, audio technicians, producers and story assistants start loading their equipment into a golf cart at 6:15 a.m. for a procedure that is to start at 7:30 a.m. The Covid pandemic has changed the filming routine greatly. While many precautions are being taken, the crew has been creative in finding alternative ways to help share these stories. To ensure the health and safety of the animals and staff, no one is permitted to be in the examination room during Dumplin's exam or the van except medical staff and keepers. The crew, which is always accompanied by Zoo staff members, arrives at the hospital 45 minutes ahead of time and sets up 12 GoPro cameras and eight microphones - in the van used for Dumplin's transport, in the exam room and CT room. There are also fixed cameras ("robocams") in the ceiling above the exam table. Once the procedure begins, two camera operators hold 20-pound cameras on their shoulders and shoot through the glass windows on the exam room door. Producers watch a set of screens on a computer in the hallway, and all of the members of the film crew have headphones in their ears that are plugged into receivers listening to the doctors and staff, who are wearing the microphones. A story assistant located in another room also watches a set of screens. He types the conversations from the medical personnel into a log so producers remember the details and can form questions for the staff interviews that happen later—sometimes weeks later.



Continued on next page

The audio portion of the episodes has evolved over the years. Rather than having a narrator describe what was happening, Zoo staff are interviewed and relate the event in their own words. When the viewers see interviews from this year, staff won't usually be wearing a mask. The crew goes through extra precautions to ensure these interviews are shot safely and in accordance with the State's and network's COVID-19 compliance plans. Seeing the staff's faces allows the viewer to connect with the person speaking and see their facial expressions, which often reflects the emotion and passion they have for the animals in their care.

Two hours and 15 minutes later, the exam ends and Dumplin departs. The crew packs up their equipment and returns to their Zoo "office," an enclosed tent located behind the Business Office.

Due to the variable length of medical procedures, there are no other appointments the rest of the day. When this happens, the crew sets out on grounds and shoots "b-roll," non specific pictures of animals, signs, and the grounds that helps piece together the stories or

provide transition between them. The stories are never finished, they're always evolving and this material helps make a finished episode for the viewers.

It takes a lot of people to help bring these stories to life, and the team is proud of everyone involved in helping us share these great stories with viewers to help us continue our organization's mission to lead and inspire by connecting people and wildlife.

Author's Note: Thanks to Javi, Jeff and Matt from the Nat Geo Wild crew, and Erin Schuler and Jen Fields,

Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, for their assistance.

- Nancy Mulholand



Enrichment Around the Zoo: Keeper~Created Enrichment in Congo Expedition

This article continues a series of articles that look at enrichment around the Zoo. It looks at keeper-made items, with a focus on Congo Expedition

Keeper-made enrichment is not a new idea - sprinkle some cinnamon on popcorn, and you have a keeper-made item. Over the last few years, however, the items have gotten increasingly complex. Materials such as fire hose, PVC pipe and hardware are just some of the materials keepers can use to create a wide variety of enrichment items. There are a few advantages to keeper-made items. Ideas can be tailored for individual species and used throughout the Zoo, and, of course, the items are more affordable, allowing the staff to afford multiples of a single item. Although keeper-made items are used in every region, this article will focus on some Congo favorites.

What goes into planning enrichment items that the keepers create themselves? Jessica Linek, Congo keeper and member of the enrichment committee, gave some insight into the process.

Keeping in mind the Zoo-wide focus on goal-based enrichment (developing enrichment items to encourage specific behaviors) keepers think about what behavior they want to encourage in designing each item. Ideas can come from everywhere and anywhere. Keeper workshops at conferences and Social Media are ways for the keepers to learn new ideas and share their own successes. And the keepers' creativity is boundless! Of course, all enrichment items must go through the approval process explained in previous articles.

Hose to Habitat

Hose to Habitat is a not-for-profit group that collects used fire hoses and distributes them to zoos. They create patterns and teach people how to work with the hose (braiding fire hose takes some skill!) After a hands-on workshop that was held here in 2018, keepers felt more confident and now create items used throughout the Zoo. Around the same time, Congo curator Audra Meinelt tasked each keeper with coming up with one to three new enrichment items for the animals in Congo.

Some amazing objects have been developed as a result of these efforts.

Some Congo Favorites

Objects that present browse in creative ways are important for the okapi. A **milk crate with fire hose woven** through it allows them to use long tongues to work through the hose and get to browse in the crate.



Holtzrugels, or “smear blocks” are blocks made out of either recycled plastic or wood with holes drilled in them that are enjoyed by many primates. Treats in the holes might be an enrichment food like mashed bananas

or part of their diet like green beans. The keepers are great at salvaging and repurposing materials. When a bench was replaced recently, the keepers turned the old one into holtzrugels and simple blocks.



Braided hose is quite versatile - keepers can tuck in treats for the primates or browse for the okapi and hogs.

Continued on next page

Fire hose “runs” - a single hose strung across a room is a favorite of the bonobos.



PVC pipe is the foundation of an endless source of ideas. It can be used for something as simple as a tube smeared with honey, or as complicated as “**Balls of Fun**.” This is a PVC pipe with large holes in it. Wiffle balls with holes that can be reached through are filled with treats.

PVC rattle cap puzzle is a long bolt with washers, nuts, sections of pipe, etc held on by a lock nut. This can be hung from the mesh, and the animals love making a racket.



When an enrichment item becomes a permanent fixture in a room, it becomes “furniture” and is no longer part of the enrichment calendar. Jessica added that “this doesn’t make it any less fun for the animals!” Any food item that is not part of the regular diet is considered enrichment. When the regular diet is offered in ways that encourage natural feeding behaviors, this is called contra-freeloading.

Colobus get the same items as the larger primates but scaled down, and the hogs and leopards are fond of anything with a scent.

As you see the primates flip and play on a fire hose run or rattle a pipe, it is important to remember that active play is a valuable behavioral goal. Although she does not have a favorite item, Jessica loves seeing an animal that does not usually play actively engaging with something the staff made - proof that the item is a success!

Thanks to Congo keeper Jessica Linek for the information in this article.

- Kathy Goldsmith

Gorilla Habitat Renovation: Small Changes Make a Big Difference

The outdoor gorilla habitat has undergone a complete renovation in the last few years. Although it appears quite different, it turns out that a very minor change has made a big difference in the way the gorillas experience the area.

In 2018 curator Audra Meinelt knew it was time for the habitat to receive a major facelift. The wooden structures had not been replaced since the habitat was built in the mid-1980's, and the habitat needed a complete paint job.

In addition, Audra was looking for a way to keep the dirt on top of the tunnels from constantly eroding. Here is where a small change made a huge difference in how both the gorillas and the visitors experience the habitat. Audra went to Dave Liggett in the Horticulture Department for help with the erosion problem, and Dave came up with a simple, but very effective, solution. He realized that simply re-positioning the tunnels - reorienting them and moving them closer together - would allow the dirt to settle and mound over the structures. This has created visually interesting contours and has made a big difference in how the gorillas use the habitat.



Although the habitat is not “naturalistic,” it promotes natural behaviors. As one of only two fully-enclosed habitats in the country, it allows the gorillas what Audra describes as “a full 3-d experience.” The tunnels now give them more choices. The gorillas can choose to occupy a mid-level area on top of the mounds, and they now also have many ways to be partially hidden from each other or the public. The public can always move to another window for a better view.

This year the habitat received a new paint job. This was the most expensive part of the entire refurbishing. The knee area was sandblasted - no more peeling paint! Because it serves the gorillas so well, Audra is determined to keep the habitat looking good, and admits she is always “tweaking” the area.

The habitat is filled with interesting features. Because the ladders, platforms, hammock and fire hoses are all permanent, they are called furniture rather than enrichment. Fire hoses and hammocks are only enrichment if they are moved around, and then might be the enrichment on the day they are moved. Because the tunnels look so different, the entire habitat looks different. Many people have commented on the changes, assuming new features have been added. The only change, in addition to moving the tunnels, was adding one hammock. Small changes have truly made a big difference!

Thanks to Congo curator Audra Meinelt for the information in this article.



Congratulations to the 2020 Docent Class!



Ann Almoney

Tammy Gentzel

Brenda Baldinger

Andrew (T-Rex) Gill

Linda Barleycorn

Don Hamilton

John Barry

Shawn Kovacik

Arnie Berger

Olga Medvedkov

Terri Bruckner

Sue Messina

Linda Butler

Karen Moldenhauer

Sandy Crabtree

Roni Moore

Robyn DeRosa

Tom Murphy

Jeff DeShon

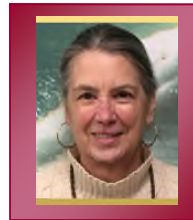
Nancy Sterling

Karen Downing

Mary Wagner



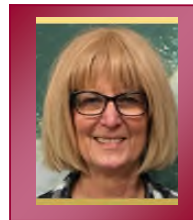
Ann Almoney, a retired ophthalmologist, lives with pretty much perfect husband and totally imperfect rescue puggle. She enjoys sporting clays, kayaking, quilting, and always having Groucho glasses in her car because when you're stopped behind a school bus, and there is that lone kid looking out the back window, you can really have some fun!



Brenda Baldinger has been married to Dave for 37 years with two English Cream Golden Retrievers Murray and Fergus 'Gus'. Roger Federer and Lord of the Rings fanatic. She has hiked national and state parks all over the country with many animal encounters and 'did we really do that' moments. She teaches Jazzercise and personal trains. She worked in technology for 35 years at Chase. She still has the excitement and wonder of a kid at the zoo.



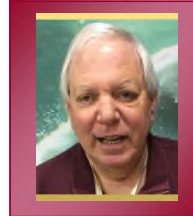
Linda Barleycorn is married with 3 grown children and 5 grandchildren. This year she will have been a Radiologic Technologist for 50 years, with 28 of them working at Nationwide Children's Hospital. She has one dog and a cat who is 18 years old.



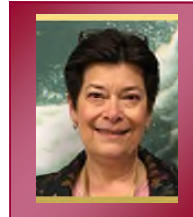
John Barry graduated from Ohio State with a degree in Natural Resources. He is retired with 37 years of service in the Department of Environmental Protection in New Jersey. He has 3 adult children and 4 grandchildren along with a rescue dog named Brutus. He has been an adult volunteer at the zoo since 2018 and loves the kangaroos, reptiles, and giraffes.



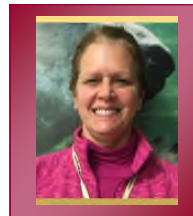
Arnie Berger grew up on Long Island NY where he went to the same High School as Billy Joel. He attended Ohio State where he received a degree in Pharmacy and practiced for 40 years. Upon retiring he spends his free time to follow his passion of Nature Photography. He is a grandfather of 1 girl and three boys.



Terri Bruckner retired from The Ohio State University after teaching 25 years in the radiologic technology program. She lives near Powell with her husband of almost 39 years and a black cat that resembles a small panther. She loves spending time with her son and two grandsons, traveling, and spending time at the Columbus Zoo.



Linda Butler has been a paramedic for 30 years & worked in the Emergency Department at OSU as a medic for 22 years. She has 3 rescue kitties, 2 sons, 3 stepdaughters (all grown) & 1 hubby (married 5 years) She loves horses. She can't pick a "favorite" zoo animal & can't believe she gets to be a Docent!





Sandy Crabtree retired from Barnes & Noble after twenty years as a Manager/ Asst. Manager. She has two adult sons. One resides outside of Westerville along with her three grandchildren. The other lives in Denver, CO. She has three cats and loves all nature. She also volunteers at the Columbus Metropolitan Library.



Robyn DeRosa has been married for 22 years, has a 14 year old son and 2 cats. She met her husband when she worked at a radio station in the Cayman Islands. Currently she's a substitute teacher and lives in Powell. She has been a zoo volunteer since 2014 and also volunteers for Colony Cats.



Jeff DeShon is a fairly recent retiree after a 38+ year career as a state employee with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. He spent those years working as an aquatic biologist in the Division of Surface Water, Ecological Assessment Section studying larval insects and other invertebrates in Ohio streams and rivers. He has been married for nearly 40 years and has two daughters and one son, two grandchildren, and two more grandchildren on the way.



Karen Downing has been married for 27 years and has one grown daughter. She loves to go camping, hiking, off roading, reading, history and car shows. She lives between Bellefontaine, DeGraff and West Liberty in the country. She has 3 fur baby dogs, 1 ornery cat who loves to watch their parakeet, Stitch. Volunteering is her way to relax and ignite passion in others for the Zoo and conservation.



Tammy Gentzel is a single mom of three teenagers. She has a dog and a cat (who rules us all). She has been a nurse for 24 years, and is also a Girl Scout leader. She is obsessed with animals, and nature in general. She is so excited to become a Docent and learn everything she can about our amazing zoo and our animals.



Andrew "T-Rex" Gill is a Sr. Analyst for Verizon Wireless, where he has worked for 12 years. A native of the Pittsburgh area, he grew up loving animals and helping others in need. One of his biggest passions is cats in all shapes and sizes. He also is an officer at a local motorcycle club.



Don Hamilton has been married for 37 years and has been retired for 2-1/2 years after 47 years in information technology. Both he and his wife also are volunteers at Franklin Park Conservatory. He enjoys riding a tandem bicycle with his wife, gardening and traveling.

Shawn Kovacik was an elementary and middle school teacher for 37 years. Upon retirement, she and her husband moved from the Kansas City area back to Ohio to be closer to their 3 children, 2 grandchildren, and her 2 sisters. In addition to the zoo, she volunteers at a Columbus City school and with the Ohio State Alumni Club.



Olga Medvedkov is a geographer and worked in education for several decades before she retired. She loves animals, traveling, classical music, and yoga. She has a sweet dark chocolate lab, and a couple of grand dogs. She is happy to become a part of the Docent community.



Sue Messina has been an Adult Volunteer for 6 years. She is married and has 2 daughters, a dog and a cat. Her oldest daughter is a zookeeper, and lives in New Orleans. Her youngest is an acting major at Otterbein University. Her hobbies are reading, quilting, scrapbooking and feeding birds in her yard. While she is not currently flying, she earned her private pilot's license and instrument rating a number of years ago. She is really looking forward to becoming a Docent.



Karen Moldenhauer has worked as a respiratory therapist at Doctors Hospital for 36 years. She enjoys being outside, walking and watching wildlife. She is looking forward to being a Docent and all the opportunities it presents.



Roni Moore is a retired Elementary Physical Education teacher. She has been married for 42 years and has one daughter. Erin and her son-in-law, Jerrod, live in Springboro Ohio. She enjoys Women's College Basketball. She has season tickets to OSU. She also enjoys college football. Her son-in-law has converted her into an Oklahoma State fan.



Tom Murphy lives with his wife of 44 years, Lucy, in Gahanna where he also volunteers at the Food Pantry (GRIN). They have 2 children and 5 grandchildren, but none in central Ohio. Tom loves bicycling, hiking, scuba diving, and playing music (guitar) with friends - and is very excited about becoming a Docent at the Zoo.



Nancy Sterling is married, and has two sons, two granddaughters, and two rescue dogs. Adventure travel is her passion. Wildlife photography and scrapbooking are her hobbies.



Mary Wagner, a retired dental hygienist of 37 years, has been married 31 years and has two children. Her daughter is a Speech Language Pathologist in Columbus and her son is an Audiologist in Florida. She adores her two grand pets, Oliver the dog and Chomper the cat. She loves doing water aerobics, hiking and bicycling.



**Congratulations to the 2019 Docent Class
on Receiving their Red Lanyards!**



John Best	Marti Heyman	Ellen Miller
Pat Burger	Sarah Hoffman	Patricia Morgan
Laurie Chase	Charlie Horton	Judy Neesley
Roxanna Giambri	Laurie Kaps-Keller	Carley Petch
Amanda Heade	Chuck Leinbach	Carrie Williams

Welcome New Adult Volunteers



Mike Archer	Nancy Crowell	Annalyn Johnson	Aaron Osentoski	Cyndi Smiley
Janet Bay	Jennifer Decello	Kathryn Kaba	Vinny Percesepe	Maggie Snyder
Barbara Berggren	Alexandra Dopp	Jocelyn Keaton-Williams	Katie Phillips	Thomas Steele
Denise Birkhoff	Julie Dougherty	Donna Killion	Lisa Poturalski	Karen Struble
Julie Blair	Julia Dumm	Stephani Kim	Kenneth Price	Vicki von Sadovszky
Trinity Bradley	Sharon Dunn	Betty Knoch	Steven Rice	Thomas Welch
Judy Brandt	Nona Durham	Joe Knoch	Rhonda Robinson	Christine Welcher
Rosemarie Carlton	Kelly Ewing	Gregory Machovnia	Amie Rundle	Amaya White
Ambria Childs	Elizabeth Flynn	Barbara Macklin	Lindsay Santen	Bethany Williams
Michael Clevenger	Dan Haas	Alice Marteney	Christina Scott	Kathleen Willis
Fred Colby	Neal Hartley	Beth McCabe	Blake Sherry	Betty Wilson Birt
Alejandrina Cooper	Pamela Hartman	Tiffany McCoy	Melinda Sherry	Taylor Woods
Curt Cooper	Victoria Hostler	Louise Nelson	Winfield Slocum	John Zimmerman

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!

40 year Docent Award

Pat Adams



40 year Docent Award

Diana Evans

40 year Docent Award

Dotty Henderson, Emeritus

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!



35 year Docent Award

Judy Hunt, Emeritus



30 year Docent Award

Maureen Casale

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!



30 year Docent Award

Jennifer Davis



30 year Docent Award

Marie Bulford

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!

25 year Docent Award

Kathy Goldsmith

Karen Linn

Diane Lipp

Ric (Mac) McGiffin

Nancy Mulholand

Mary Rose

20 year Docent Award

Larry Gartley

MaryKay Geiger

15 year Docent Award

Caryn Neumann

Connie Riegel

Melanie Simmons

John Young

Thank You for Your Dedicated Service!

10 year Adult Volunteer Award

Jody Duncan

10 year Docent Award

Nancy Hiltz

Mary Hiser

Sandy Kanaan

Ann Karrick

Wendy Lowe

Deborah Pusateri

Billie Simpson

5 year Docent Award

Jessica Armstrong

Lucie Blumenthal

Lindsay DeMuth

Sharon Grossman

Karen Jones

Diane Krakoff

Michael Kronander

Jaelyn Messer

Lynn Powell

Deanna Reed

Barbara Seeberger

Cathy Shade

Randolph Sherrard II

Terri Siebert

Kelline Stevens

Cindy Wesney

Margo Woefel

5 year Adult Volunteer Award

Rodney Robinson

5 year Diver Award

Adam Feinstein

Arron Kerns

VOLUNTEER HOURS AWARDS

Total hours volunteered from January 2012 through November 2019 (length of Volgistics tracking)

7000+ HOURS

Nancy Mulholand

Stephanie Reid



5000+ HOURS

Bev Larson



4000+ HOURS

Jon Briney

Peggy Heffelmire

Linda Castner

Ann Karrick

Barb Emmets

Suzi Pfening

Susie Gray



3000+ HOURS

Marcie Anderson

Steve Hancock

Juliann Breeding

Pam Pugh

Mariann Crowley

Kathy Ragsdale

Jennifer Davis

Anita Scalf

Janet Eads

Dianna Van Buren

Thomas George

David Welsh

Sue Grubaugh

2000+ HOURS

Linda Ayers

Nancy Lafyatis

Carole Barkley

Lana Lowary

Harvey Castner

Chris Lutmerding

Lee Ann Ellsworth

Lydia Medeiros

Kathy Goldsmith

Barbara Pettigrew

Pam Hancock

Kay Rietz

Nancy Hiltz

Barbara Seeberger

Marilyn Houck

Kathy Shank

Mary Anne Huber

Terri Siebert

Nona Hunt

Jason Smith

Krista Hyme

Phyllis Turner

1000+ HOURS

Jan Agler	Michele Newbauer
Sue Allen	Dorian Norstrom
Elizabeth Badenhop	Cindy Payne
Erin Bartlett	Terry Payne
Paul Bastian	Gary Pedersen
Carol Bichler	Doug Pittsenbarger
Bill Blair	Lynn Powell
Catherine Bremer	Heide Pozderac
Marie Bulford	Deborah Pusateri
Ruth Chaffee	Deanna Reed
Laurie Chase	Joy Remley
Alissa Chenetski	Connie Riegel
Linda Dreier	Paul Ries
Susan Ford	Sally Rudmann
Wayne Fowler	Lyn Seiple
Susan Fromkes	Cathy Shade
Harry Gate	Denny Sheehan
MaryKay Geiger	John (Jack) Shinnock
Mary Hiser	Michael Sliclen
Christina Hochreiter	Mary D. Smith
Penny Hoffman	Dury Sudduth
Charles Horton	Lori Summers
Jeff Houck	Joyce Swayne
Carol Huddleston	Nancy Traub
Georgene Jones	Adrian Waters
Karen Jones	Margie Wheeler
Diane Lipp	Laurann Willis
Bonne McGowan	Judith Wolf
Michele Middleton	Dorothy Yost
Sherry Mullett	Lorraine Ziegler
Claudia Murray	



900+ HOURS

Richard Adams	Karen Linn
Lucie Blumenthal	Patty Owens
Vickie Cohen	Randolph Sherrard II
Lindsay DeMuth	Margaret (Margo) Woefel
Roxanna Giambri	Barney Wolf
Debbie Giddings	

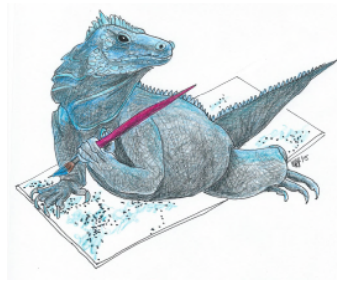


800+ HOURS

Brenda Baldinger	Diane Krakoff
Jill Baltes	Pamela Markley
Terri Bruckner	Sarah McCage
Maureen Casale	Anne McIntyre
Charles Daily	Barbara Morris
Larry Gartley	Patricia Ruhl
Sharon Grossman	Larry Smith
Dick Horn	Shelley Snyder
Elizabeth Horner	Cindy Wesney
Claire Kitchen	Linda Yost

700+ HOURS

Sandra Crabtree	Jane Price
Monica Dorman	Jeff Ramsey
Lori Fowler	Sue Repke
Laura Ingram	Mikalia Saguisi
Marcy Lichtcsien	Nancy Schucker
Melanie Longbrake	Alice Smith
Rich (Mac) McGiffin	Tammy Stein
Lynne Messner	Mary Stockman
Elaine Nicol	Susan White
Valarie Pittsenbarger	Linda Zelms



600+ HOURS

Pat Adams	Susan Messina
Pat Conrad	Caryn Neumann
Susan DeLong	Leeann Poindexter
Jody Duncan	Deborah Poling
Dewey Garner	Nora Potter
Carol Hadley	Mary Rose
Kelly Hanlin	Kevin Skehan
Connie Harlan	Kelline Stevens
Barbara Hermann	Susan Tabacca
Barbi Kealy	Trina Vannicelli

500+ HOURS

Dave Ahnmark	Paula Lombardo
Juli App	Wendy Lowe
Jessica Armstrong	David Marhover
Linda Barleycorn	Lindsay McKinley-Day
Bruce Bergmann	Ellen Miller
Nancy Bowling	Andy Moir
Lisa Carlisle	Patricia Morgan
Sarah Cline	Joan Nerderman
Roberta Core	Karen Patton
Hannah Cox	Rick Pittaway
Cathie Dally	Kathy Resor
Robyn DeRosa	Jennifer Schick
Sue Diesem	Melanie Simmons
Jeff Dye	Billie Simpson
Diana Evans	Daniel Sullenberger
Susan Fagan	Denny Swenson
Amy Ferguson	Joyce Talkowski
John Gruenbaum	Raquel Thompson
Lindsay Harris	Kenneth Tramel
Marilyn Heicher	Jan Waters
Kimberly James	Martino Wicks
Deanna Johnson	John Young
Sandy Kanaan	



400+ HOURS

Michael Archer

Clarice Lewis

Emily Rapoport

Arnold Berger

Erica Loney

Judy Shoemaker

Jim Clarke

Jaelyn Messer

Sara Stahler

Rebecca Cripe

Karen Moldenhauer

Deborah Stokes

Mary Ann Hudyk

Roni Moore

Tina Toth

Shawn Kovacic

Robin Murphy

Mila Wheeler-Hall

Michael Kronander

Jeana Price

Theresa Zepp

300+ HOURS

Tom Borchelt

Melissa McCarthy

Pat Burger

Jean Mitchell

Mary Ellen Denney

Scott Neesley

Jeffrey DeShon

Carley Petch

Don Hamilton

Linda Reynolds

Patricia Hoskinson

Rodney Robinson

Elizabeth King

Nancy Sterling

Bruce Leider

Jane Taylor

Mark Lowe

Tami Thompson

Amy Manbeck

Mary Wagner

Beth Marburger

Sheryl Weaver

Jessica Martin (Bilderback)



250+ HOURS

Ann Almoney

Laura Geran

Linda Meuser

Charlene Bartholomew-Kerze

Amanda Heade

Linda Miller

John Best

Marti Heyman

Pamela Montgomery

Linda Butler

Jeremy Jacobson

Brian Reynolds

Karen Downing

Laurie Kaps-Keller

Elizabeth Schwartz

Jennifer Errington

Dann Mann

Carrie Williams

Adam Feinstein

Olga Medvedkov

Summer Wohlfrom

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Asia Quest



Greetings! All is well in the region. Although transports and most breedings are on hold for the time being, there's always something going on!



The following AI information will not be publicly announced, so please do not share with guests or others. Current plans are to attempt AI on Rudy **elephant** in October. Sperm from Hank and Beco will be used. The rest of the elephant herd is doing fine. Rosie **black rhino** is well but getting on in years. She's had a limp lately that may be arthritis related.

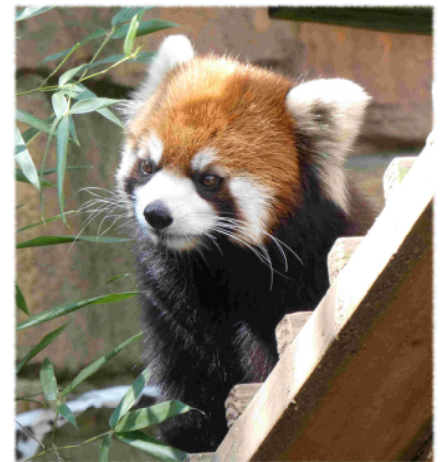
Our **sloth bears** will be together until mid-October or early November. Breeding was observed but there isn't a sonogram port for Heiderose, so keepers will observe her behavior. If she has cubs, it will be in December or January. Hopefully, the good baby vibes around the Zoo will rub off!

Barb **flying fox** is still being treated for wing issues; she has shown some improvement with oral meds. Unfortunately, Legend **mouse deer** passed away under anesthesia during a dental procedure. Keepers hope to get a new companion for Lily. The **tortoises** are back in the bat habitat, Roomba-ing up the food the bats drop.

The **langurs** are fine. Staff are exploring the possibility of putting the red pandas in their outdoor habitat over the winter.

Speaking of **red pandas**, Mom, Dad and the cubs are having a great time being together in the habitat, which is extra rewarding for staff because having the expanded family in the public aisle has been a longtime goal of theirs. Courtesy of donors, the cubs now have names: Bandit (male) and Santi (female).

Tigers, markhors, and Pallas' cats are doing well. Breeding for all three species is on hold for now. We've had a lot of markhor babies recently, so all of the females are now implanted.



The **aviary** is getting ready to be winterized; it will remain open on weekends through Boo at the Zoo. Peanut muntjac has been taking steroids for a cough and Chowlei's seizures seem to be reduced. The new smew duck is doing great and getting his winter plumage!

Finally, staff report that the two special experiences offered in Asia Quest (the elephant wash and red panda feeding) have been very popular and are booked up almost every day. This was a creative way to take tasks the staff already do, expand upon them slightly and open them up to the public. If you haven't partaken in one of these experiences, book yours now!

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Australia and the Islands



The **tree kangaroos** bred earlier in the summer. Keepers don't think Lenah has a joey but they didn't get a great look in her pouch this time around and there was no interest in breeding.

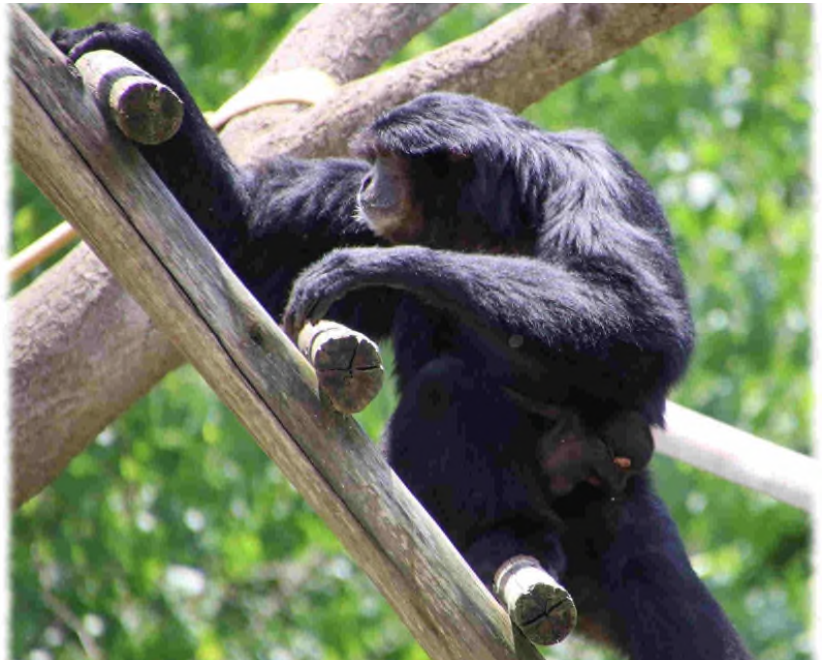
The **lorises** continue to be housed behind the scenes right now since their habitat shares airspace with guests and they are susceptible to COVID. There is no expected change in that at this time.

Our newest **Asian small-clawed otter** was confirmed to be a boy and is named Dash. Both of his eyes are open and he has started swimming lessons inside the building. There will still only be one group out during the day.

We now have confirmation that **siamangs** Olga and Rashid are the parents of a male. He is starting to venture away from Mom and is quite adventurous. Come visit this yet-to-be-named cutie!

Katy **koala** is still showing no signs of estrus. She continues to be monitored for a joey in her pouch but there is currently no confirmation of one. Keep your fingers crossed!

In general, the region is getting ready for the cooler weather by starting to move less cold-tolerant species indoors and setting up spaces for winter housing.



Photos courtesy of Alissa Chenetski

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Congo Expedition



The animals in the region are certainly welcoming the cooler weather that fall brings.

On September 19, the **gorillas** were given the enrichment items that had been made in early March for “Gorillas on the Line.” Mac’s troop was in the outdoor habitat that morning exploring all of the boxes and bags throughout it. Many of those items had treats in them, and the gorillas greatly enjoyed turning them over to get to them. Kamoli in particular loved going from bag to bag to see what he could find. After the boxes and bags were emptied, the gorillas had a great time playing with them as well as the banners.

Later that morning, Ktembe and Oliver’s troops had the same experience in the public aisle and enjoyed it just as much as Mac’s group. Guests enjoyed watching the excitement and appreciated the message written on each of the items asking them to recycle their cell phones. Ktembe even held up one of the boxes asking visitors to recycle their phones. Thanks again to all the docents and volunteers who helped make that enrichment activity such a success!

Jamani is getting more independent. She is trying solid food, climbing the mesh and spending some time away from Cassie. Mac’s group is growing like crazy and is so much fun to watch. They just love being together. Even when given the whole indoor space, they still crowd together in the small center room.

Khali **orangutan** opted to stay in her yard overnight a couple of weeks ago. The keepers think she was hesitant to go in due to construction beginning on the new orangutan building. It took them the whole next day to convince her to come inside. With the possible exception of Dumplin being out on weekends, the orangutans will likely be in for the year by the time you read this since the nightly lows are getting pretty cold. Speaking of Dumplin, she just had her yearly checkup and is looking fine at 46. When we are able to see the orangutans again next year, they should be in their new space!



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

The season is winding down and the **bonobos** will be going outside less over the next month. The kids are growing up but they are still as goofy as ever. All of the bonobos truly enjoy seeing people, so be sure to visit them this fall and winter.

Dini **okapi** has been getting access to the outdoor yard for a short time most afternoons. He really enjoys himself but likes to eat the dirt a little too much. Therefore, the keepers have to bring him back inside whenever he starts doing that. He has been sampling some grain but is not eating his own diet yet. He is pretty active right now, so keepers believe that he is coming out of the nesting phase. The other okapi are doing great. With cooler weather, Karatasi has been going outside more. No one expects the construction to affect them but interns as well as staff are monitoring them just in case.

Nothing new going on with Harold and Harriet **red river hogs** – they are as cute as ever!

The keepers have been putting Eebi **mandrill** in with Mosi and Matilda for short periods of time in order to help give her more time outdoors. Although she and Julie are given the opportunity to go out almost daily, Julie appears to have little interest in doing so and Eebi does not seem to want to go out without her. Eebi has really been enjoying herself in the yard, and Mosi is being appropriate with her. Mosi continues to grow and is starting to get more of the adult characteristics. His coloration is a bit more intense and he is developing larger canines. He is definitely still a juvenile but it will not be surprising if he looks more like a full-grown adult male by next summer.

The cooler weather may be causing a bit more stiffness for Sita **leopard**, so staff have modified her arthritis medications. Her behavior is fantastic and she is still engaging with the team as well as her enrichment. She even flirts with the boys at the door at times! Keepers hope that the new medication will help her continue to move well as we progress into winter. Jaime and Tyrion are doing great.

A reminder that our **colobus monkeys** can handle cooler temperatures more than our other primates, so you will likely get to see them in their yard for the next few months. They will be outside when the temperature is above 45 degrees and given access to the outdoors at 40 degrees.

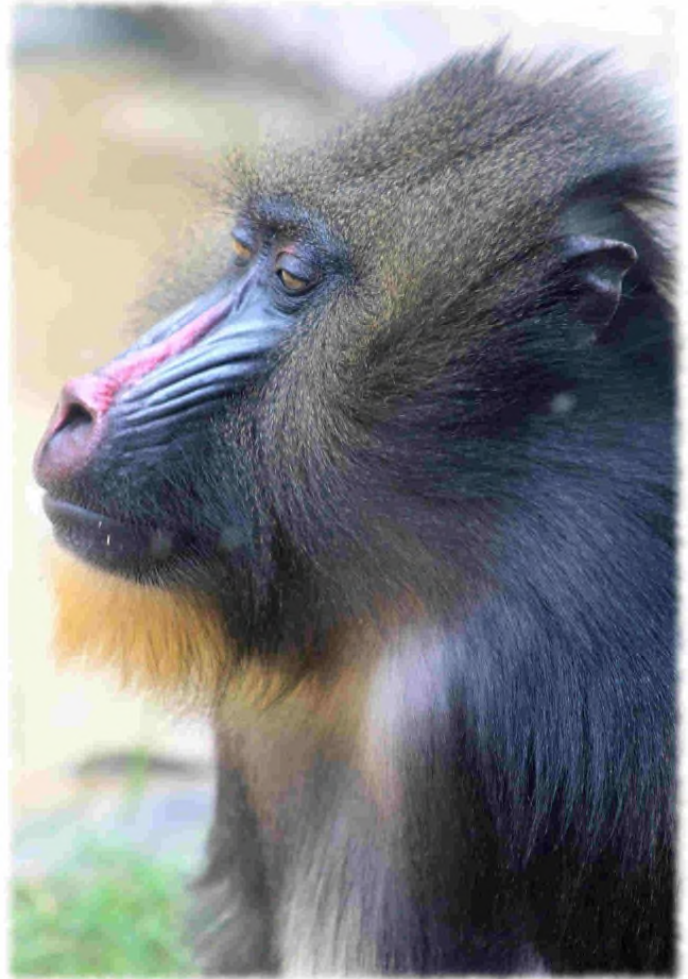


Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

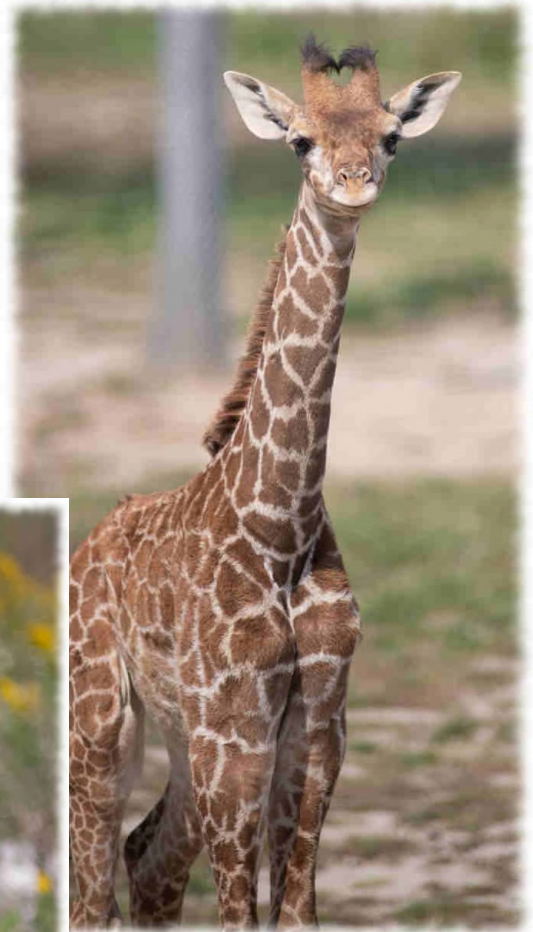
Heart of Africa



The region is booming! Jana gave birth to a **giraffe** calf on August 27! This little one is a female so, with Zuri's male calf that was born on June 28, our giraffe count is now up to 16! When "Little Lady" was born, she was 116.5 pounds. The keepers do not have an updated weight on her but, as of mid-September, they started moving her through the chute/GRD (Giraffe Restraining Device) in hopes of obtaining one in the near future. Toward the beginning of September, "Little Man" was 185.5 pounds so, by October, he should be over 200 pounds. If you have been up on the Shamba (mornings and early afternoons), you have seen that they are both doing very, very well. You may have also noticed that Digi is the best aunt to both calves; her easy-going nature is perfect for the role.

Each calf has been with Logan, Kipawa, Sam, Shaggy and Nitro (Little Man has been with JP but Little Lady has not just yet – keepers plan to make that happen soon). The boys are wonderful uncles to the calves and keep an eye on their whereabouts in the yard. On behalf of everyone, Shannon said, "We truly could not be happier watching these two 'littles' interact and grow – we just love them!" I feel confident in saying that all of us could not be happier for the Heart of Africa staff.

Keepers had JP in for a bit of time due to lameness in his leg. However, through some pain meds and hoof trimming, he has improved. Therefore, he is back out with the herd and, more recently, in the feeding yard.



Continued on next page

The **camels** are having a great season with riders! They will remain here throughout Wildlights as well.

The keepers are mixing and matching the **lion** females with Roary in order to build relationships while simultaneously trying to allow for the females to have a fair amount of time together. As of September 15, the relationship between Roary, Kazi and Nyasi is very strong; they stay together overnight. Roary has also stayed overnight with Asali and their relationship continues to grow. Roary is not currently staying with Imara overnight but the keepers are increasing their time together during the day so, hopefully, he will be soon. The keepers' goal is to have everyone together in the next few weeks.

Keepers are seeing a change in the **vervet** group dynamics. Sassy is now the leader of the group and Betsy's rank has fallen dramatically. As a result, staff are seeing more minor injuries to Betsy. Everyone is being kept together at this point but, to offer them more space, the vervets have access to the building each day. The boys, TomTom and DJ, can still be seen playing together in their yard.

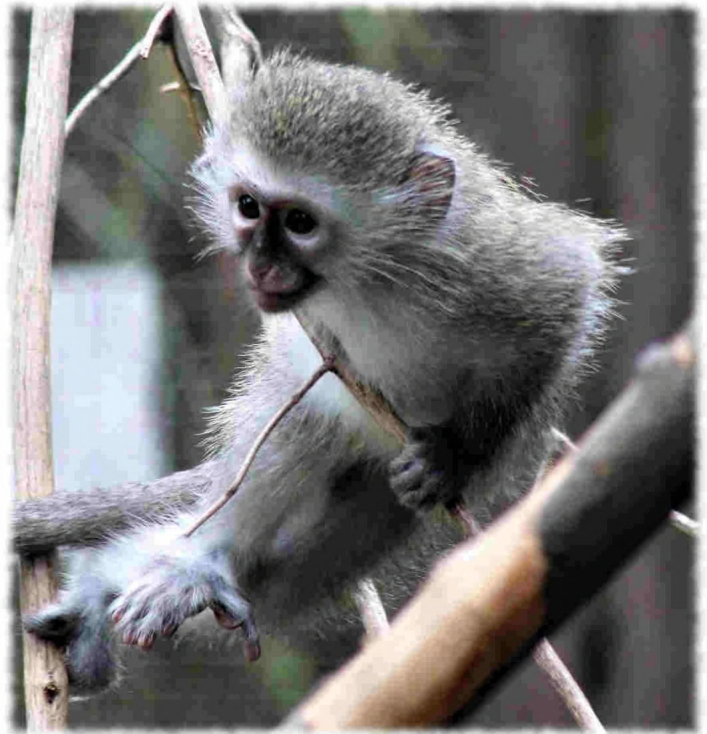


Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney



Photo courtesy of Astrid Kreidl

The **slender-horned gazelles** are doing very well. Calves Amy and Mike will be leaving HOA soon as part of SSP recommendations. **Thomson's gazelle** Sturgis will also be leaving us for the same reason. The rest of the Tommies are doing just fine.

All of the other animals in the region are doing great!

Heart of Africa still has a couple more months before the gates close for the season. Be sure to come out and see all the babies while you can. **#HOASTRONG**

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

North America



Swans Cher and Georgeanne are doing great as are the goats and sheep.

The **cows** are doing well. Keepers are working on getting them comfortable with fly spray applications in addition to preparing to train them for hoof trims.

Banjo **pronghorn**, the **eagles** and the **Mexican wolves** are doing well.

Our **bison**, Clover and Hermie, are doing great.

Beavers Acorn and Zucchini are doing well.

Otter females Paso and Catori will stay in their own group as they and Wildcat just didn't mesh as well as had been hoped.

The **aviary** welcomed some new residents including two cedar waxwings, a female oriole and a male rose-breasted grosbeak. Sadly, we lost our male wood thrush.

Montana **bobcat** continues to be one of the most spoiled residents of the region.

The **lynxes** are doing well and working on emergency recall and target training. Torvi had a procedure to remove the plate from her previous jaw fracture.

Stevie and Joan **black bears** are working on training for blood draws.

Jessie **cougar** is doing very well. She allowed for a voluntary blood draw last month and her values all looked good. She also had a recent check-up with Dr. Webb to look at her eyes.

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** are enjoying their privacy as the wolverine cabin is still closed due to COVID protocols.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

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The **sandhill cranes** are now behind the scenes as we approach rut. Oji and Bertha **moose** have been separated for the same reason. You'll see Oji in the bull yard and Bertha out in the big yard.

Sugar **Reindeer** did have some growth from her broken antler and the antler on the left has grown to make up for what's missing on the right. It's super cool!

The **prairie dogs** are active on warm days but prefer to hide out in their burrows on colder ones. Our **arctic foxes** are nice and grey/brown now but should be turning white again soon.

Brown bears Brutus and Buckeye are doing well. Keepers recently switched them over to their fall hyperphagia diet so they can pack on some weight.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Payne

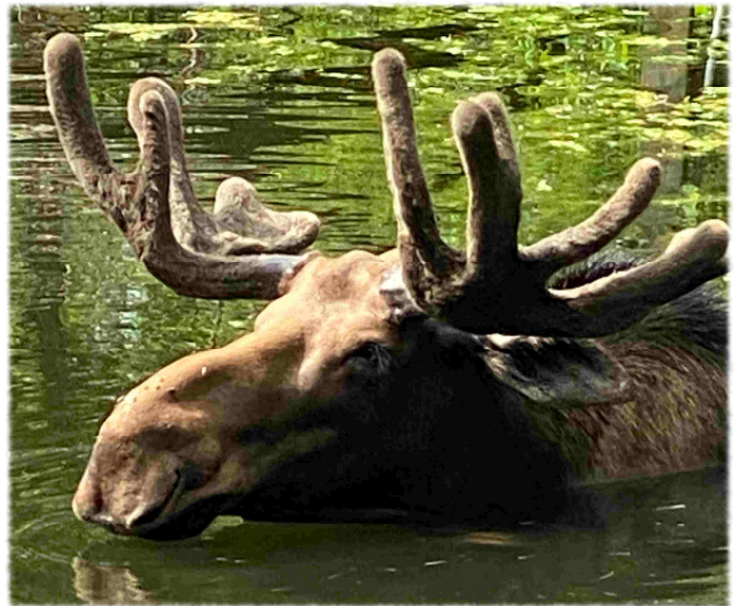


Photo courtesy of Cindy Payne

Polar bears are doing well. Denning preparations are underway for Anana and, by the time you read this, Kulu will likely be over 350 pounds! Lee has moved on to his new home at another AZA accredited institution per SSP recommendations.

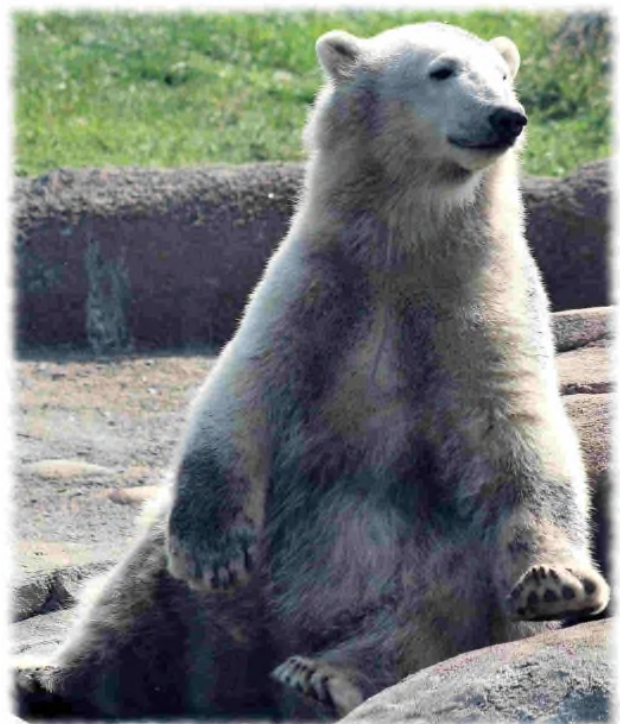


Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Shores



Our **chuckwalla** female laid eggs! It is unknown if they are fertile but, even if they are not, this was a big accomplishment. She still has some more to lay as of this update and is being monitored carefully.

Jackie **reticulated python** sustained a back injury. She receives laser therapy as well as TLC from her keepers and is doing better.

The **penguins** have all molted and are looking good. Charmin still would rather eat from her parents than from keepers but she is getting better at the latter.

Aldabra tortoises will start to spend more time inside as the fall temperatures cool off. Thank you again to our docent tortoise snugglers who continue to enrich the boys' lives.

Flamingoes are molting! Check out all of the feathers in the yard. This happens right after nesting season.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

We had a **stingray** pup boom in Manatee Coast recently. Quite a few of our big southern stingrays had pups, which have been moved to a smaller pool in the back to grow. Keep your eyes peeled for more pups because some of our females look like they aren't done yet.

All is well in **Stingray Bay**. Please come and visit as this area is now open year round.

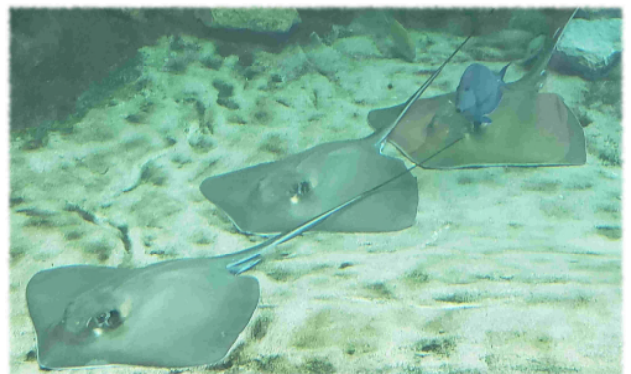


Photo courtesy of Kathy Ragsdale

In Discovery Reef, physical exams were recently done on all of the **zebra sharks**. They did well and are in good health. Animal Health staff were able to get blood, perform ultrasounds and get measurements.

There will not be diving demonstrations for Wildlights or Boo at the Zoo this year in an effort to eliminate crowds in buildings. Staff is appreciative of all of the volunteer divers who are helping with cleaning and can't wait to see the rest of the divers as soon as it is safe to do so.

THE WILDS

The Wilds

The Wilds has been adjusting to life with COVID. The lodging options have been really popular this summer and tours are running every day, just at half capacity to allow for social distancing. Even so, the specialty tours have been very busy.

Wildside tours are always popular, but the response to the *Secrets of the Zoo* star tour has been great. The best part is the stories the crew bring back about their fans, like a five year-old girl who got to help Curt call the Przewalski's horses over to eat just like on her favorite show.

Staff were also happy that the Mighty Oaks veterans program was able to come back to the cabins at Straker Lake again this summer.

The animals don't know anything about COVID. They have been going along as usual. The **Pere David's** deer rut is over but the **Bactrian deer** are just getting started.

The biggest news coming out of The Wilds over the last couple of months is the **Masai giraffe** calf that was born on August 4. This new male is Lulu's second calf and the 19th giraffe to be born at The Wilds. The father, Raha, has sired eight calves. The calf will stay with his mom for at least a year but it is expected that he will eventually move to another facility as part of the Masai giraffe SSP.



Photo courtesy of Bonne McGowan



Photo courtesy of Lori Summers

Staff are preparing for a number of rhino SSP moves this fall. They are relocating two of our **white rhino** females and hoping that these experienced mothers will help get breeding programs going at their new zoos. In addition, **Asian one-horned rhino** bulls are being swapped out and a new breeding female is being brought in to help build our herd.

Speaking of significant changes at The Wilds, *Secrets of the Zoo* **Zack** has left to take a natural resources teaching job at a local high school. He will be missed.

The **American burying beetle** program had great success again this year. The Wildlife Ecology team has been setting trapping records again with nearly 90 American burying beetles captured so far this year. This effort is also teaching staff more about how the beetles move around the grounds. A beetle captured and marked at one site was recaptured a mile and a half away at another site the following day.

The Wildlife Ecology team also recently collected about 200 **hellbender** eggs in West Virginia to start a new round of head-started hellbenders for the corresponding project in collaboration with West Liberty University and the West Virginia DNR.

If you have not been out to The Wilds yet this year, you still have time. The season is being extended into November this year. Reservations are required these days, so check the website for details before visiting.



Photo courtesy of Bonne McGowan



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand