

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

The presentations in the Adventure Cove Lighthouse Theater have met with robust guest applause for the animals and their dedicated trainers. At times, there have been cancellations of the 10 a.m. presentation due to staff obligations, and of specific programs due to weather concerns, so stay tuned for those announcements to be made via Zoo radio when known. Many guests take shelter in the Adventure Cove tunnel during torrential rain storms!

Asian small-clawed otters Willie and Marley have been added to the Dive into Adventure presentations while the **penguins** are back in Promotions to go through their annual molt.

Guests have seen **sea lions** Nana, Qizai and Toby demonstrate being trained for a mock dental X-ray with an audience member participating. All of the female sea lions, plus Toby and Banana, are learning the rocket behavior, which is similar to a high jump into the air.

The **harbor seals** are learning to station in the water as the trainers toss them fish from the southernmost point on the public viewing deck into the Central Pool.

Guests to Adventure Cove participated if they wished in a pinniped study by The Ohio State University via a QR code. As the studies reach a stage where compiled data can be presented, the researchers may share their findings in a region meeting as they did earlier this year.



In Animal Encounters Village, **sloths** are being trained to enter transport carriers on their own, making it easier for trainers to help these popular animals move from one place to another. Also, this enriches the process for the sloths by letting them make the decision to transfer.

Our younger **cheetahs** are growing up and there naturally are questions about identifying them. In the Bob, Frances and Debbie group, Bob is by far the largest. He is also the largest of our cheetahs in general. Debbie is the most like the textbook cheetah, but she has a smaller head. Our youngest cheetahs, Adrienne and Dave, can be identified by Dave being taller with a more round, fluffy head. Both have white tips to their tails, but Dave's white tip is just a little bit bigger. Dave also has some short fur on the back of his neck because of Adrienne's grooming him.

We wish an enjoyable retirement for Suzi Rapp, whose decades of dedication to the Animal Programs mission, outreach and conservation will leave a lasting legacy.

The final 2021 region meeting for Animal Programs is Oct. 19.

Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

Greetings from Asia Quest. The new baby **Asian elephant** is still the big news in the region! It was recently announced that a donor family has chosen his name: Frankie! They are honoring their late grandmother with the name choice. Frankie is gaining weight daily; by the time you read this he will likely be nearly or over 500 lbs! He and mom Phoebe have been enjoying time in the yard, where Mom has shown him around and given him his first swimming lesson. Times to see them are 10-2 although that's likely to change. Aunties Rudy and Sunny have also been spending time with mom and baby. Beco is experiencing his first musth and has been mostly seen on his own in the south elephant yard. Hank has also been experiencing temporal flow, likely in reaction to Beco. He and Connie are frequently seen together.



Great one-horned rhino Brian has quickly become a guest favorite and enjoys his outdoor yard.

We have an update from elephant manager Matt Davis regarding **elephant** Connie's origins. There is a much-repeated and well-loved story about how Connie was brought to the US aboard the aircraft carrier USS Constellation after being picked up by sailors in southeast Asia. This story has appeared in volunteer newsletters and even been reported in the Dispatch. At this time, we're not able to confirm this story, and out of concern that it may

not be true, we're being asked not to share this story with guests until further notice. If guests ask where Connie came from, the easiest answer is that she's lived in Columbus the longest of all of our elephants and came from the San Diego Zoo in 1992. If you have additional questions about this, please contact the region leader, Lori Summers.

Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

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Elsewhere in the region, **red panda** cubs Bandit and Santi continue to be adorable.

Moose, the **Pallas Cat**, is providing lots of opportunities for guests to see him, and our large group of **markhor**, including the four juveniles, continues to be wildly entertaining. Markhor breeding is on hold for the time being; the female kids will be implanted over the winter, when markhor breeding usually occurs.



White-crowned crane Thaddie Mae has been recovering from a leg injury; the cranes may or may not be in the yard. Little TJ **tufted deer** will eventually head to a new home but for the time being he'll be staying here; another tufted deer baby may turn up soon! Barb **flying fox** is being monitored for a mass in her abdomen. Belle flying fox has had a recurring lump or abscess on the side of her head, which is being monitored as well.

There is one piece of sad news: Jiang **red panda** passed away recently. He was nineteen years old and well past the median life expectancy. He had been enjoying retirement behind the scenes for some time.

As always, if you missed any of our region meetings, they are recorded and can be viewed at any time. The link to the YouTube channel can be found on the portal under Links.



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

NOCTURNAL BUILDING

Lenah, our **tree kangaroo**, went to Dallas World Aquarium per an SSP recommendation. She has a new boyfriend, an outdoor habitat, and is living her best life! She and Cori weren't a bonded pair, so it was a good transition for both of them.

Keepers are still not 100% sure of the sex of our baby **loris**, but keepers are currently voting on a name. Lorises are still behind the scenes due to Covid, and will be included on the list of animals for the vaccine when it is made available.

AUSTRALIA OUTSIDE

For **lorikeets**, all of the mesh materials are in and construction was completed by the end of August Zoo staff are re-propping and reperching the habitat, and will be doing some deep cleaning in there this week. We are reopening for the special experiences once the birds are reacclimated to the habitat, but will not be reopening for all guests until next season.

Kangaroos were a little stressed due to the lorikeet construction, but keepers were checking on them more frequently and providing access to their barn so they felt safe. For the most part, they were still choosing to be outside.

Ellin **koala** is standing on the scale all by herself and is 3.15kg (about 7-8 pounds). She is very healthy and doing well. Thoar is rotating with Katy and Ellin in the outdoor yard on nice days. Katy and Ellin should still be visible in their indoor habitat if Thoar is outside in the yard.

Bird Lake:

Our **black swan**, Dexter, has a custom neoprene bootie on his right foot. He has had bumble foot for many years, and the bootie helps protect his foot and allows it to heal. Darla black swan passed away from a heart condition a couple months ago.

The **dalmatian pelicans** have started scale training. They are a bit nervous with new things, so scale training is a great way for them to adjust to new behaviors.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

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ISLANDS

Tamarack, our baby **siamang**, is always on the go and is so fun to watch! Olga is teaching him how to walk on the firehose and it's super cute.

Our **otter** groups have moved around a bit.

- Gus and Peanut (generally out in the morning)
- The boys: Sebastian, Scuttle, Eric (generally out in the afternoon)
- Little Family: located behind the scenes in the nocturnal building: Ariel, Flounder, Dash
- Alana, Arista, Athena have all gone off to new facilities

CONGO AVIARY

Hadada ibis have 2 chicks that hatched mid-August. It is possible two more eggs will hatch soon.

A **spotted whistling duck** is visiting from the nocturnal aviary. He needed to get some extra exercise to lose a bit of weight, and he was welcomed with open wings!



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

Leopards Jamie and Tyrion are doing great! Keepers have been giving them ice blocks every Sunday around midday. They also receive different frozen items, such as various fish and meat broths as well as wet cat food, each week. Doing so provides a great means for them to chew without destroying expensive enrichment toys. If you get a chance, please stop by to see this exciting form of enrichment!

El Jewar, Miliki and Damisi **okapis** are also doing well. El Jewar turned 26 on August 26. The median life expectancy for an okapi is 16.3 years.



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

Sulango, Dumplin and Khali **orangutans** are so close to being in the new building. Though there are no guarantees, it is hoped that will happen by the time these updates are out. They have been loving the yard and Khali frequently chooses to spend the night out there. Each orangutan had the opportunity to try durian, a fruit native to the species' home range, and they all thoroughly enjoyed it!

Both Dumplin and Khali have recently participated in voluntary blood collections, which was a huge achievement for the keepers! All three orangutans have also been participating in voluntary ECG scans using the Kardia machine.

Mosi **mandrill** is growing like a weed and appears to be physically maturing more and more each day. His canines are massive and incredibly impressive. At times, it has been observed that some guests crowd around the window, tap on it and imitate him. When that occurs, it can lead to Mosi displaying agitation. If you are ever nearby when that is occurring, staff would appreciate your assistance in educating the guests on how to view him in a calm, unthreatening manner.

We will be welcoming a new female in the near future. Our last report from Disney Animal Kingdom about Eebi and Julie was very positive; the ladies seem to be adjusting well to their new home and friends.

There really isn't anything new to report about the **colobus monkeys**. Keepers have seen breeding, so keep your fingers crossed! Otherwise, they're just as adorable as ever. You may see our newest keeper, Hannah, working in the colobus building. She has been with us as a seasonal for the last few years. We are excited to have her on the full-time team. Please welcome and congratulate Hannah when you see her.

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Harold and Harriet **red river hogs** are enjoying digging holes and wallowing in their yard. Most evenings, they are coming inside covered in mud! Remember to look under things when you are trying to find them. If you do not see them right away, they may be buried under the pile of hay or in the hole they dug next to the shrubbery.

At the time of this reading, Miss Elema and Sukari **bonobos** will be in their new home in Milwaukee. The transfer was recommended for the global population for breeding purposes. While we are sad to see them go, we are excited for the lives they are going to have in Milwaukee. We will be receiving another female named Faith, who happens to be from Milwaukee, which will bring us to a total of 15 bonobos. If you have not been over to see our bonobos lately, Wilber has gotten much larger. He is going through some hormone changes and it shows; he is up to 91 pounds!

Nothing much is going on with the **gorillas**. Jamani is very comfortable in the yard and is exploring by herself. The kids in Mac's group have been playing a ton and are all growing like weeds. Kamoli just surpassed Kinyani and Tabibu in weight at 180 pounds. Milwaukee posted a cute video of Oliver's group at the beginning of the month on Facebook. If you have not seen it, check it out! They look fabulous!



Heartwarming reunion between Jerry Borin and Susie bonobo who had not seen one another in quite some time. Thank you to Mary Rose for the photo.

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Just a short update this month. **Thomson's gazelle** Cezeta is growing and has been introduced to the rest of the Thomson's herd. HOA Animal Staff are planning on letting her out to the savanna (as of this point) in early September. All other HOA animals are doing well and enjoying the summer on the savanna.

Lion weights (in pounds) are listed below. The weights are as of 2020. They will be added to the lanyard card on the portal.

Roary – 403

Asaili – 296

Kazi – 324

Imara – 326

Nyasi - 296

It is with great sadness that we will be saying goodbye this month to Hannah Whitaker (Shamba Keeper) as she moves to Houston to work as a keeper in hoofstock at the Houston Zoo! We wish her every success in the next chapter of her life.



Giraffe Sam took a break from feeding to watch the cheetah run.

Photo courtesy of Shamba Keeper Hannah

REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

The **swans**, **Mexican wolves**, **bison**, and Banjo **pronghorn** are doing well.

Montana **bobcat**, Stevie and Joan **black bears**, and the **lynx** are good.

Cougars Goldie, Poppy, and Captain Cal continue to thrive. They are getting sooo big!

The **eagles** are doing well, as are the **beavers**.

The **aviary** had a very successful breeding season. We hatched out rose breasted grosbeak, wood thrush, and cedar waxwing chicks!

The **sandhill cranes** are doing well.

Alvar and Guillotine **wolverine** and Bertha **moose** are all doing well.



Photo courtesy of Arnie Berger



Photo courtesy of Arnie Berger

The **reindeer** recently received hoof trims. Sugar, Abby, and Snowflake will be shedding their velvet soon.

The **prairie dogs** recently received exams. One was unfortunately euthanized due to medical issues. We currently have four prairie dogs.

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All **cows and chickens** in the barn are doing well. Thank you to everyone who has helped staff the petting yard this year. The **goats, sheep**, and NA team greatly appreciate it!

Up at Polar, the **arctic fox** and **brown bears** are just fine.

Polar bears Anana, Aurora, and Kulu continue to do well together. Kulu is getting so big. He is tipping the scales at 685 lbs.!



Photo courtesy of Jane Cirigliana



Photo courtesy of Arnie Berger

REGION NEWS—SHORES

Some exciting new animals are in quarantine and will soon join us in the region! These include **dwarf caiman**, **crocodile lizard**, **Fly River turtle**, **basilisks** and **Atlantic spadefish**.

OUTDOOR SHORES

The **penguin** chicks that hatched in March have names – Bruce Banner and Fury, which are Marvel comics characters. They graduated from preschool and can be seen in the habitat with all the others (they do not currently have bands). The penguin Keeper Talk has been well attended this summer!



REPTILE BUILDING

Guests have been thrilled that the **Reptile Lab** is open again. Generally, it is open from 11-5 every day.

Eight more **massasauga snakes** were born on July 24. Two died, but the remaining six are doing well. It has been a really good year for massasauga breeding here at the Zoo!

Five **Roti Island snake-necked turtles** hatched the week of 8/8/21. They are part of the SSP's repatriation program. They will stay in a behind-the-scenes biosecure area and grow up for eventual release into their native range.

DISCOVERY REEF

We lost one of our **blacktip reef sharks**. She was receiving veterinary care for some medical issues but took a turn for the worse a couple of weeks ago. Pathology results are still being awaited to see if a cause of death can be determined.



There are a lot of new fish in Discovery Reef that you will start to see in the aquariums.

MANATEE COAST

All is well in this area! New signage has been added in two places along the acrylic to identify our current **manatee** residents.



Photos courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire