

REGION NEWS—ANIMAL PROGRAMS

What's that in the pool? If we're wondering, imagine the fun the **sea lions** and **harbor seals** are having actually interacting in the water with their enrichment! Those accustomed to seeing harbor seals primarily in the Central Pool can also see the fun they have cavorting in the North Pool as well.

A new enrichment item in the North Pool is the large faux "alligator" made from fire hose.

During the Block & Roll enrichment event in August, frozen treats were enjoyed by the seals and sea lions. Sea lion Nana seemed to believe that singing louder would result in him receiving more treats. He was wrong, but definitely enjoyed crunching on his catch of the day (the largest treat tossed in the Central Pool).



In **Jack Hanna's Animal Encounters Village (AEV)**, the

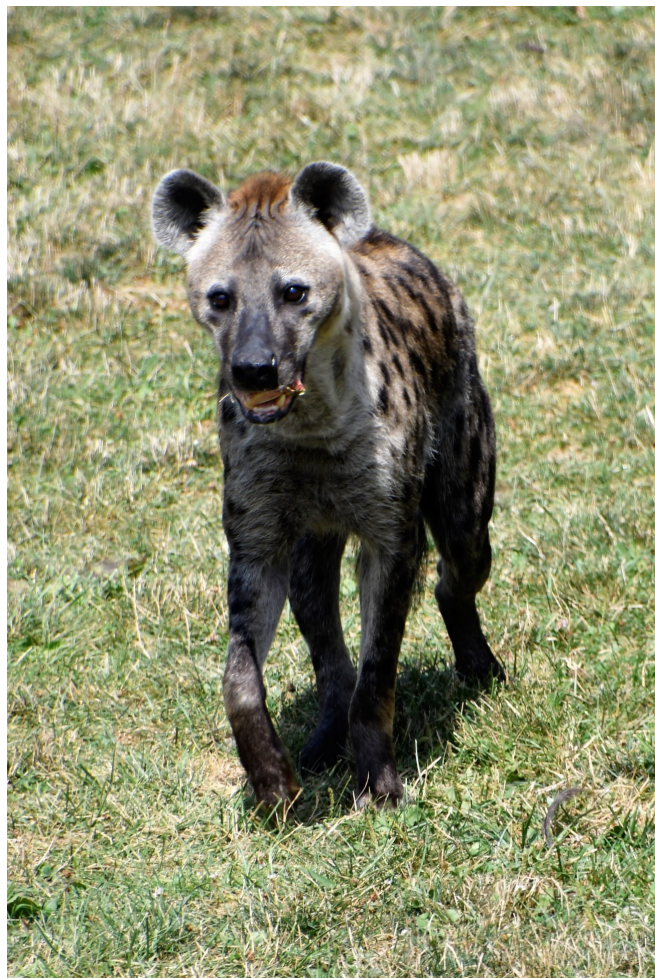
opossum received yogurt ice blocks to supplement her daily smoothie with yogurt, red-ruffed lemurs enjoyed bubbles blown through a wand by a trainer and practicing emergency recall procedures, a red-tailed boa snake exercised on a Plinko peg board, bloodsicles were offered to the Geoffroy's cats and more. The next enrichment event is Fall Fest on Sept. 24. Stop by and see what the trainers have planned for the animals next time.

Staff role changes within Animal Programs include Lauren Etzkorn becoming the AEV supervisor with Jen Dew as lead specialist. Additionally, Kaylee Franklin is now supervisor of Animal Programs/Africa and Emily Yunker is supervisor of Promotions. Best wishes to them in these roles.



Photos courtesy of Jennifer Davis

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The **hyenas** are cared for by the Animal Programs staff and appear in the Watering Hole that is within the Heart of Africa region for docent shifts. Shenzi, one of our two hyenas, was recently determined to be male rather than female during a medical procedure. Hyenas are a species where females have external genitalia resembling males, sometimes referred to as a penile-clitoris or pseudo-penis, which makes it really difficult to differentiate between the sexes. In females, the external labia are fused together to form a pseudo-scrotum, so looking for testicles to determine gender is not possible. Female hyenas copulate, urinate and give birth through the penile-like canal and can achieve erections. However, the male penis is longer and thinner with an angular head. Females are larger, and males' stomachs curve upward where they meet the back legs. Want to know more? Continue your walk on the wild side by referring to *Wild Sex: The Science Behind Mating in the Animal Kingdom* and National Geographic online research.

If you're looking for a quick cool down on a hot day, head through the tunnel to the west side of the Zoo and watch the 4D movie featuring a sea lion, dramatic action and a happy ending.

Photo courtesy of Astrid Kreidl

The Training Tales presentation in Adventure Cove has moved to a weekends-only schedule, with the start time adjusting to 10:30 a.m. when the zoo opening time adjusts to 10 a.m. this year.

We hope you were able to join us for our Zoom meeting on Sept. 6. Our next Zoom meeting will be on Oct. 25.



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Davis

REGION NEWS—ASIA QUEST

It was a pretty quiet month in Asia Quest, so the region news will be brief this time!

Tuffy **tufted deer** will soon be transported to his new home. In fact, he'll likely have left us by the time you read this. Plans are in place for a female to join the group, but no timeline is available for that.

Shiva **sloth bear** has been spending more time in the yard. Unfortunately, she and Randhir didn't really click, so don't look for them to be together.

The three adorable **Pallas' cat** kittens are growing by the day! No names to report yet. However, I can share that a donor will name two of the kittens and the Care staff will name the third.

After a bout with an unidentified bacterial infection (not EEHV), Sunny **Asian elephant** is on the mend and doing much better. She is back with Rudy, Phoebe and Frankie after some time apart during treatment. The rest of the elephant and rhino building residents are doing fine.



Photo courtesy of Nancy Mulholand



Photo courtesy of Cindy Wesney

It's about time for our young male **markhor**, Gambit, to be separated from Sunny (adult male), so you likely won't see both of them in the habitat at the same time.

REGION NEWS—AUSTRALIA & THE ISLANDS

Staffing:

- Katrina McCauley has resigned from her position (her last day was Aug. 20). A message from Katrina: “It was a hard decision but something I have thought about for a while. I am exploring different opportunities that will allow me to have more time with my family and have a more traditional work schedule. We are already planning fun family traditions for Friday nights and Saturdays. I will, of course, miss the Zoo and the people here but I am excited to focus on a different area of my life for a little while! My new email will be Katrina.mccauley@outlook.com if anyone wants to keep in touch!”
- After 32+ years of dedicated service to the Zoo, Kelly Vineyard retired. This is momentous for the Zoo as Kelly was an integral part of many departments, animal programs, opening new habitats and regions, leadership, personnel development ... the list goes on. Her leadership and institutional knowledge will be greatly missed. Kelly’s last day was at the end of August.
- Until the recently posted position for a new Curator of Australia is filled, Adam Felts (Director of Wellbeing and Senior Curator of Animal Care) will be filling in as Australia’s acting manager.

Construction Update: September 6 is the tentative date for construction to start on the nocturnal building, so get in there asap and visit those sweet animals before the area is closed; I know we are all excited to see the **weedy sea dragons**! The entire building will be unavailable during construction, so there will be no access to any of its residents for the duration of the project. Thus, it will not be accessible during Wildlights this year. A very tentative date for reopening would be next spring.

Lorikeets and **kangaroos** will only be open on weekends after Labor Day, so please sign up for shifts to see them before they close for the season. The lorikeets have been nesting and have had some success! We currently have two chicks but there is hope for a few more – fingers crossed!



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—CONGO EXPEDITION

World Orangutan Day was celebrated on Aug. 19 and our **orangutans** received rambutans as a special treat. Rambutans are a fruit that orangutans would come across in their natural habitat, but it was new to our animals. All three of them loved it! Sulango was very delicate while eating his.

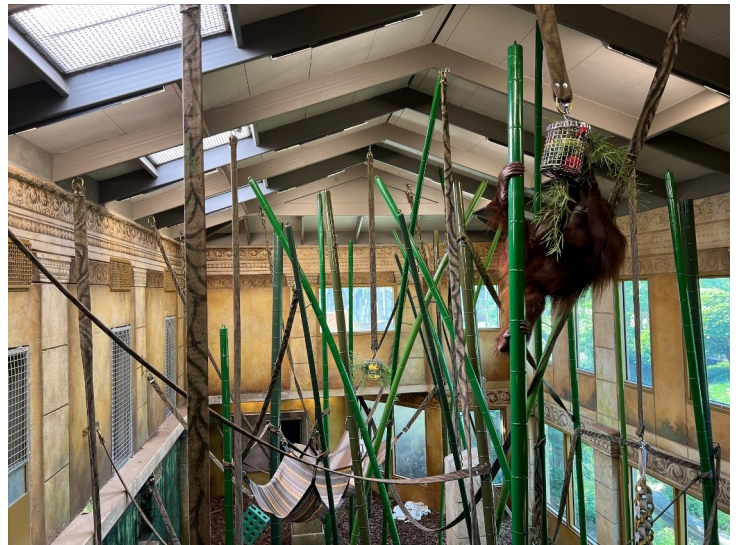
The orangutans are enjoying the increased browse they have been getting these past few months. With the new building, the keepers could lighten up on their browse restrictions. Restrictions were previously in place on the length and width of browse that were offered.

Orangutans in general will take an opportunity to investigate their surroundings. Historically, they have used browse sticks to break light fixtures and fish in things they should not have. When designing the new building the keepers kept this in mind in the planning process and secured things better. The keeper aisles were also made extra wide. Bamboo has recently been approved for them and they love eating the leaves and then using the study sticks as fishing tools in the enrichment column.

Reminder: If you do not see the orangutans on the ground, look up! That advice applies whether they are in the yard or the day room. Orangutans are the largest arboreal mammal and love to spend their time up high! They have a great view from the top of the towers.

The **colobus monkeys** are all doing well. Jif seems bigger every time you see him! Meanwhile, the girls and Sekani are very much enjoying the cooler weather we have been having lately.

El Jear and Damisi **okapis** bred recently. It's too soon to tell if they conceived – keep your fingers crossed! Having deep mulch in the stalls has definitely helped El Jear with balancing and traction, things that have become more difficult with age. Speaking of which, he just celebrated his 27th birthday on Aug. 26. Miliki and Matoke are doing great. They usually rotate out to Y3 every other day. Matoke loves spending his time outside and is always very eager to go to Y3 when it is his turn.



Photos courtesy of Keith von Stein

Harriet and Harold **red river hogs** have been spending time out of the public eye due to healing complications from Harriet's MGA implant. While inside, they have been enjoying extra enrichment daily. Staff are planning on adding peat moss in their habitat as environmental enrichment after Harriet fully heals. Stay tuned for curious rooting snouts!

Keepers have revamped the **bonobos'** enrichment calendar and are bringing back one of their favorite items: tennis balls. They are also working on creating new games on their APE Touch computer program. Soon, the bonobos will be able to play the matching game by matching their troop members' faces.

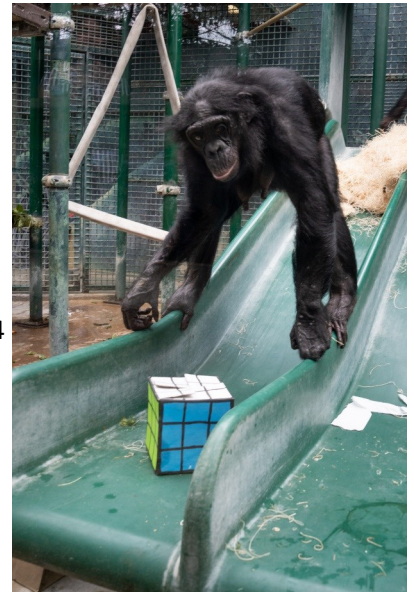
The media team came down for Susie and Lady's birthday party last month. Tons of photos were taken! Our birthday girl this month is Amelia, who will turn 8 on Sept. 14.



Our **mandrills** have been enjoying the cooler weather over the past few weeks and recently received some locust and magnolia browse that was graciously procured by the landscape department. While they do not love the leaves, the mandrills enjoy stripping the bark from the larger logs. Mosi and Matilda will also have birthdays in September. Mosi will be 9 on Sept. 9 and Matilda will be 11 on Sept. 29.

Jaime and Tyrion **leopards** are also enjoying the freshly delivered browse. They use the large logs to scratch their claws. The boys celebrated their 6th birthday on Aug. 24 with a dragon-themed party.

The **gorilla** troops are doing well. Fill dirt was added to the outdoor habitat to help with "puddling" when it rains. Several gorillas have birthdays this month; Zahra will be 5 on Sept. 9, Sue will be 17 on Sept. 27 and JJ will be 6 on Sept. 28.



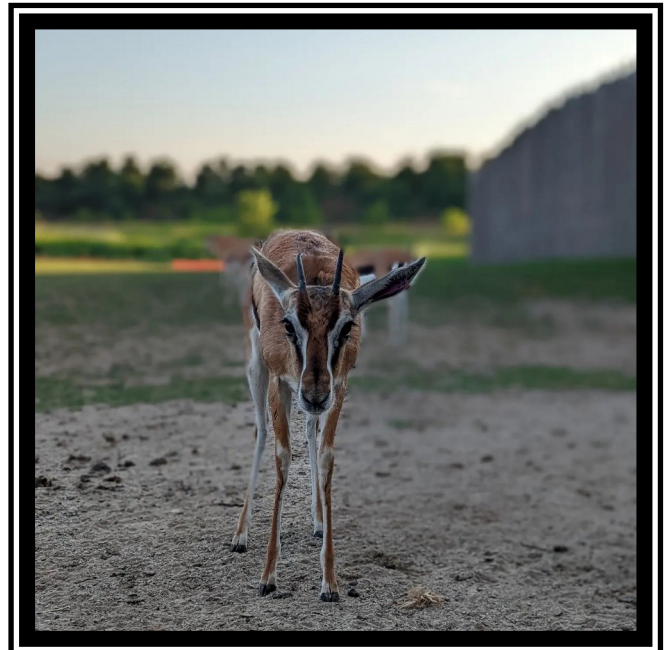
Photos courtesy of Libby Nolan

REGION NEWS—HEART OF AFRICA

Asali lion is doing very well but is being monitored closely by her Care team. They are giving her time with Imara and Nyasi while also making sure that the two little girls spend time with Roary.

The status quo is being maintained with respect to the rest of the animals throughout the region.

Sheri Smith shared these photos of her Heart of Africa coworkers!



REGION NEWS—NORTH AMERICA

Our new female **swan** has arrived and she has settled in nicely. She has been named “Stella” and both she and Sloane have been getting along quite well.

My Barn has been keeping busy, which is always a good thing. We recently acquired two cows. They are spending quarantine in the back two yards as staff work to introduce them to their new surroundings and, eventually, to Belle. After Labor Day, the interactive yard will only be open on weekends.



Keep your fingers crossed that the **Mexican wolves** have been working out their differences as there have not been quite as many issues lately relating to pack dynamics. The SSP had their meeting a few weeks ago, so we should be getting recommendations for our pack soon.



Banjo **pronghorn** and the **bison** are still enjoying the summer weather.

Generally speaking, the **beavers** have not been super active. Zucchini can usually be seen in the front den. **Otters** Paso and Catori are doing well as are the **eagles**.

Everyone in the **aviary** is doing well. Jolene snow goose is always a fan favorite, so make sure to stop by and visit her!

The **lynxes**, Stevie and Joan **black bears** and **cougars** Goldie, Poppy and Captain Cal in addition to Alvar and Guillotine **wolverines** are all doing well.

The **sandhill cranes** have left us for another zoo. Wish them well! They were a staff and visitor favorite.

Strawberry **moose** is now spending all day in the big moose yard. Our Planning Department recently made a new “browse feeder” for Strawberry. It looks like a fallen tree and has slots in it where keepers can place her daily browse. By having it in the water, keepers are hopeful that it will keep her browse fresher longer. Staff are checking into acquiring more moose and, as always, are looking at taking in orphans – stay tuned!



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

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Our two **reindeer** girls are beginning to get their winter coats. Needless to say, they are not huge fans of this late summer heat. Look for them to start shedding their velvet in the coming weeks.

The **prairie dogs** have been up and active. Staff recently did exams on our three remaining residents and, unfortunately, one had to be euthanized due to health concerns. Therefore, we are now down to two but both are very healthy.



The **arctic foxes** are definitely not enthusiastic about the warmer weather. As noted previously, keepers have placed fans around their habitat to cool them off and offer ice blocks to them regularly.

Brown bear boys Brutus and Buckeye recently had medical checkups. Both are doing very well, especially for old men.

Polar bears Anana and Aurora are doing their best to prepare for denning season. You might only see Anana in the habitat as staff begin to give Aurora access to her maternity area. Anana can access hers as well but she will also have access to the habitat simultaneously. Keep those fingers crossed for polar bear cubs this fall!



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney

REGION NEWS—SHORES

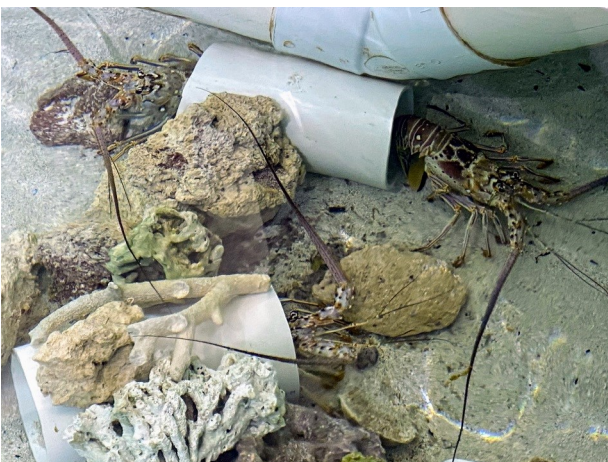
Taylor Hann is the new Assistant Curator in Shores and will be starting as soon as her position is filled in Heart of Africa. Everyone is very excited about this transition and can't wait for Taylor to officially join the Shores team. Sydnee Fenn is a new Shores keeper who will primarily be working with our reptiles. Sydnee is not a stranger to the Zoo though. You may recognize her from camel rides. In addition, she has worked with the Zoo's AZA Florida Reef Tract Rescue Corals.

Our **flamingoes** are done with breeding season, which means you will see a lot of feathers in the yard as they start to molt. Speaking of feathers, only a couple more **penguins** have to go through molting at the time of this update. Staff always appreciate docents at the penguin habitat to help explain what is going on to visitors and to help make sure items do not get thrown in the pool.

Seven of our **manatees** received physical exams recently. Stubby and Squirrel will receive theirs soon but, for now, here are the current weights (in pounds) on the others:

- o Scampi – 639.5
- o Einstein – 585
- o Acorn – 698.5
- o MaryKate – 428.5
- o Ashley – 416
- o Cardi-Tee – 375
- o Lizzo – 477

Pelicans Scoop and Ladle are settling in well in Manatee Coast. They are starting to catch on to the routine and figure out where the food comes from.



Four **American spiny lobsters** are now in Stingray Bay. Although we all love seeing an additional species in Stingray Bay for our guests to learn about, staff would appreciate us ensuring that no one touches them. That may change in the future but, for the time being, they want them to have plenty of time to adjust to their new pool.

Our **nene goose** left for another institution. Although we will miss her terribly, she will be with other nenes and will hopefully make some nene babies.

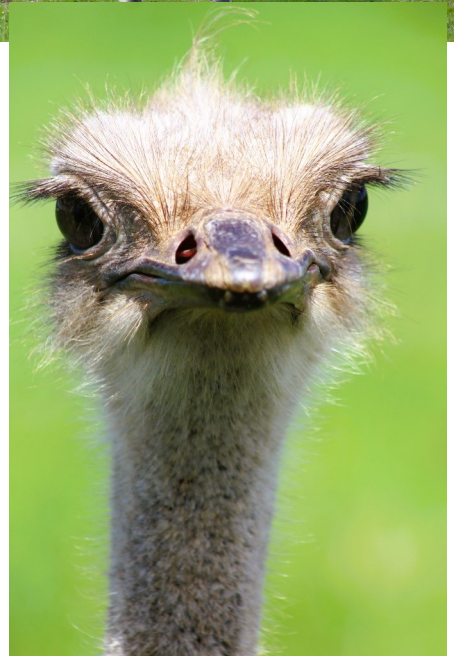
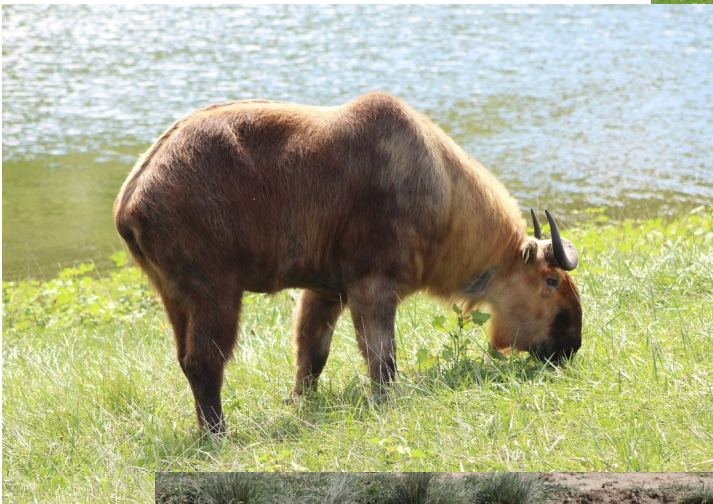
Photos courtesy of Peggy Heffelmire

REGION NEWS—THE WILDS



There have not been any significant changes at The Wilds in the past month; no new births and it is too hot for long transports between zoos. However, this is the time of year that staff start thinking about moves for the fall and where everyone needs to go when the temperature begins to drop.

The Wilds 09.08.22



Photos courtesy of Cindy Wesney