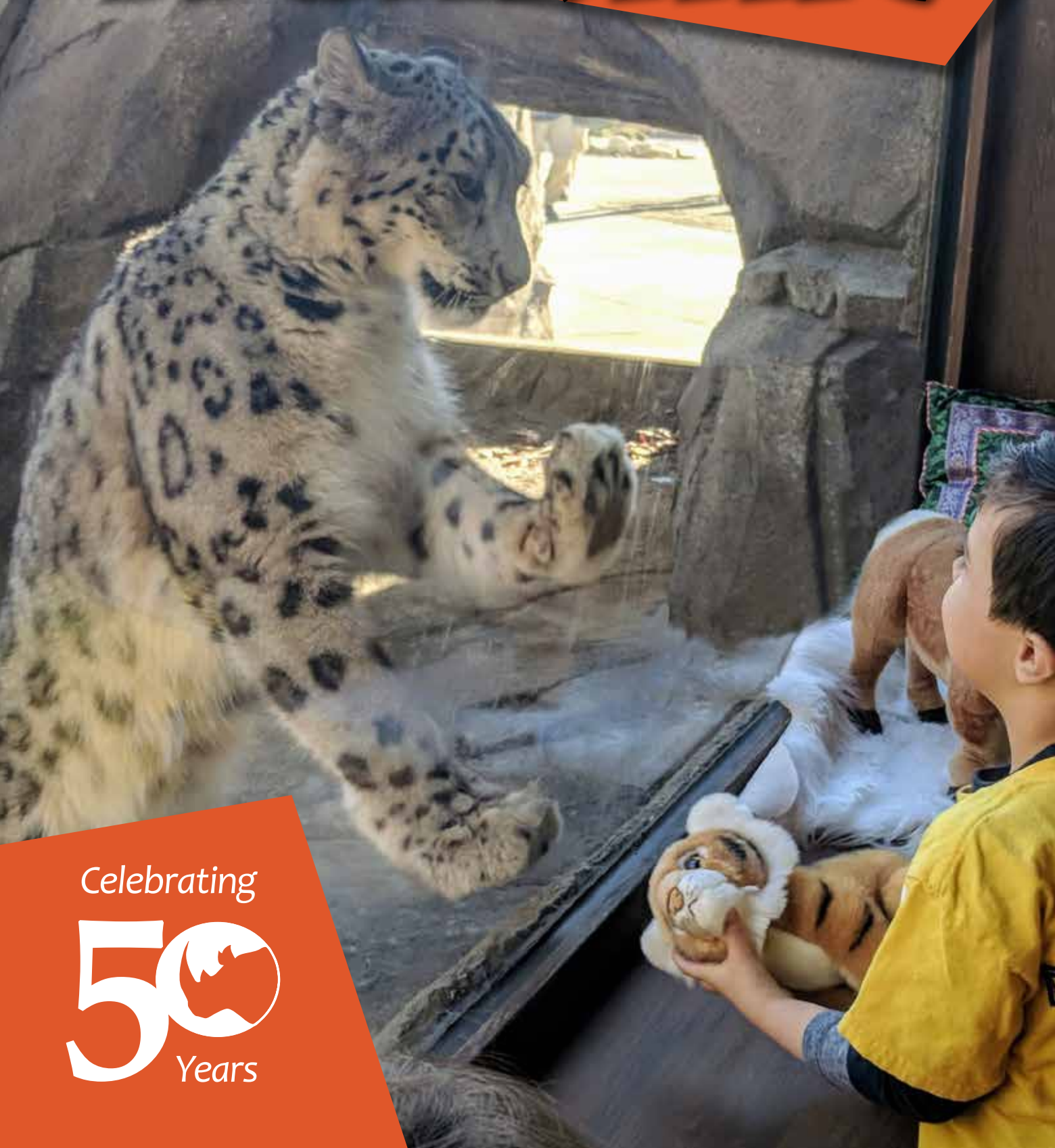


theZOO
LOUISVILLE
1969 - 2019

SUMMER 2019

Trunkline



Celebrating

50
Years



PROUD PARTNER OF THE LOUISVILLE ZOO

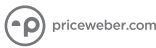





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PriceWeber is delighted to be part of the Louisville Zoo family.





HELLO!

I'M JOHN WALCZAK, DIRECTOR OF YOUR LOUISVILLE ZOO.

Summer is here and we're in the midst of celebrating the Louisville Zoo's 50th year! In this issue of Trunkline magazine, you'll find the latest news about the exciting things happening at your Zoo including upcoming events, animal updates, special stories from our keepers, conservation tips, 50th anniversary fun and more!

Below are a few of our feature stories:



50 YEARS OF WONDER

We're celebrating 50 amazing years. See the fun we've had so far and learn about more chances you'll have to participate in the celebration and show your Zoo pride!



ZOO STORIES – PART OF THE HISTORY

Learn about the incredible adventures of two longtime Louisville Zoo keepers — Jill Katka and Gary Michael.



JOINING THE MIGRATION

Butterflies n' Blooms returns for its third year. Take a virtual trip to Mexico with our butterfly enthusiasts!

Zoo Address

1100 Trevilian Way
Louisville, KY 40213

Telephone

Administrative Offices: (502) 459-2181
FAX: (502) 459-2196
Education: (502) 238-5358
Membership Office: (502) 459-2287

Zoo Hours — Open Daily

March 16 to Sept. 22, 2019
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (stay until 6 p.m.)

Sept. 23, 2019 to March 20, 2020
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (stay until 5 p.m.)

Check website for hours,
early closings & special notices.

Printed by LSC COMMUNICATIONS

Admission

Visit our website for seasonal pricing.

Children 2 and under
receive free regular admission.

Groups (15 or more) purchase online at
LouisvilleZoo.org/buyonline.

Visit Us Online

LouisvilleZoo.org

Follow us on social media

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The Louisville Zoo, a nonprofit organization and the state zoo of Kentucky, is dedicated to bettering the bond between people and our planet by providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and leadership in scientific research and conservation education. The Zoo, an agency of Louisville Metro Government, is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).

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AQUARIUMS

SAFE
SAVING ANIMALS
FROM EXTINCTION

Kentucky
UNBRIDLED SPIRIT



theZOO

L O U I S V I L L E

1969 - 2019

Celebrating

50 Years

Presented by



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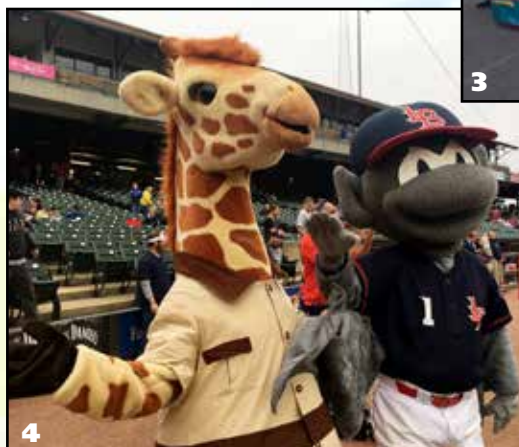
A YEAR-LONG CELEBRATION

This year has been a milestone year for your Zoo. We opened two new amazing exhibits: Colobus Crossing and Snow Leopard Pass. In January, we threw a party for over 400 former and current staff, supporters, board members, volunteers and docents to help celebrate and kick-off our 50th anniversary. We had a great time in the Kentucky Derby Festival Pegasus Parade, unveiling a WILD float with your favorite animals and a giant zooley cake. Slugger Field hosted a Zoo Appreciation Night with a fun Zoo t-shirt toss, a dance-off with Buddy the Bat and a first pitch by our new giraffe mascot. Hopefully some of you joined us for our 50Fest celebration in May to meet lots of wildlife mascots, play games and join us in building a commemorative community mural from pictures taken of you!

The celebration isn't over yet — there's lots more to come with fun ways for you to participate and show your Zoo pride. You'll have more chances this summer to add your photo to the Zoo mural; we'll debut our first children's book later this year; and you can catch us at special Pop-Up Zoo Parties around town throughout the summer made possible by Louisville Metro Council. Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/50 for more details, to take a trip through the Zoo's history and to see moving videos about your Zoo and its place in the community. Follow us on social media to share photos and stories with us about your personal Zoo history! We'd love to see them and will be selecting fan photos to share.

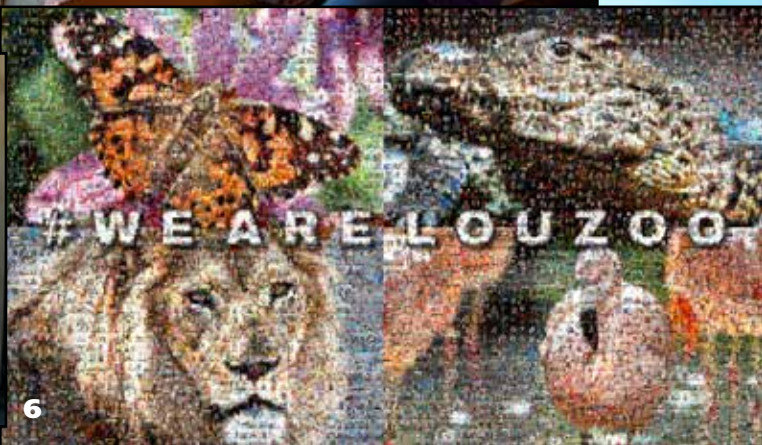
Thanks for helping us celebrate.

John Walczak
Louisville Zoo Director



Thanks to our many
generous friends and
supporters for making
our 50th Anniversary
activities
possible!





- 1) Kick-Off Party (left to right): Former FOZ member Suzanne Ronniger, Mayor Greg Fischer, Zoo Director John Walczak
- 2) Pegasus Parade 3) Pegasus Parade
- 4) Miles and Buddy Bat at Derby Field
- 5) Guest shows off her individual photo
- 6) Preview of Zoo photo mural
- 7) Family visits with orangutan
- 8) The Zoo Crew entertain guests
- 9) 50th anniversary poster
- 10) Polar bear mascot poses with family

SHARE YOUR STORY

Don't forget to follow us on social media and share your Zoo stories. Post your pictures on social media with the hashtag #LouZoo50 & #wearelouzoo.

Tag us on Instagram @louisvillezooofficial, or on Twitter and Facebook @louisvillezoo. Don't forget to make your post public!

The Stories that Move Us...

For 50 years, the Zoo has helped to inspire thousands of people to pursue careers in animal care, education and a variety of sciences — and stirred millions more to show compassion towards animals, the environment and appreciate having a Zoo in their community.

To celebrate, we're sharing incredible stories from the Zoo's last 50 years and the people who have brought the Zoo to where it is today — stories of hope, struggle and triumph, passionate dedication and friendship too. **On the following pages, meet two of our longtime keepers** and read about their adventures on the path to becoming champions of wildlife.

GARY MICHAEL A FEATHER IN THE ZOO'S CAP



*Gary Michael with
"Squirt" the little penguin.*

You've likely seen our Curator of Birds, Gary Michael, trekking through the Zoo wearing a snazzy pair of spectacles and a ball cap over his curly, brown hair. He moves with a sense of purpose — a busy day of bird care is surely ahead — but never without a smile. If you stopped Gary to talk to him, you would get the impression of a person who is a long-time Zoo keeper, and the enthusiasm of a person who is spending his days doing exactly what he wanted to most in life — caring for wildlife.

Growing up in St. Louis, Gary lived in the hometown of legendary wildlife icon Marlin Perkins, long-time host of Omaha's Wild Kingdom television show and then the Director of the St. Louis Zoo. Marlin Perkins was often called "Mr. Zoo." When Gary was 8 years old, he asked his older brother to write a letter to Mr. Perkins on his behalf. "My brother wrote Marlin

Perkins and asked him if I could have a job," Gary said. "Mr. Perkins responded and told me to see him when I turned 16."

Gary didn't forget and wrote the next letter himself when he turned 16. Mr. Perkins was true to his word and helped Gary get a job. Gary started his career in the zoo world as a seasonal keeper trainee at the St. Louis Zoo. Afterward, he worked in several zoos, strengthening his knowledge and experience in the care of exotic animals and organizational approaches to managing zoos. By the time he arrived at the Louisville Zoo in 1989, he was qualified for the position of Curator of Birds and the Small Animal Department.

Gary was responsible for the development of the Louisville Zoo's first bird department. He co-developed many of the bird exhibits, holding areas, and even a propagation center for the Zoo. He

also wrote the first collection plan for birds at the Zoo, emphasizing the conservation of species through breeding efforts and support of field conservation initiatives. Under Gary's guidance, the bird area was brought from a modest beginning in 1989 with a few birds and no dedicated aviculture staff, to 400 birds cared for by a permanent, trained staff and housed at 28 facilities Zoo-wide.

Gary has had many momentous achievements throughout his career — from developing the Zoo's bird department to winning the prestigious AZA Plume Award for the longterm successful breeding and management of the white-throated ground dove. Also, in 1984, while conducting field work in the tropical forests of the Mariana Islands in the United States



Beautiful fruit dove

Territory of Guam, Gary found the last Micronesian kingfisher in the remnant wild.

Gary's field conservation work in Guam was not easy nor glamorous. "I was in the field for 2 months, about 12 hours per day," Gary shared. "We created makeshift day camps as a base within the forest. The forest is thick, hot and humid. Moving through it typically required the use of a machete to clear paths." Once he and his colleagues from the Guam Fish and Wildlife Resources Department were able to identify the territory of the last male Micronesian kingfisher, they used audio tape playback of the bird's call to attract and secure him. "The species became extinct in the wild that very moment," Gary said. "It was the only way this last specimen had a chance to live a normal life with others of its species. It was an incredibly sobering moment. This was an important occasion for me in which I recognized the high level of responsibility I had then and have today for the welfare and conservation of each and every living creature that I care for and manage at the Zoo." Thanks to Gary, his team, and the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Micronesian Kingfisher Species Survival Plan (SSP), this last male bird was able to find a safe home, a partner, and others of its kind rather than dying in isolation. There are currently more than 150

Micronesian kingfishers living in managed environments. As the population continues to increase, zoos along with US Fish and Wildlife Services are exploring the possibility of releasing them into areas of Guam without invasive brown tree snakes or feral cats. However, deforestation and human activity are causing the availability of these sites to shrink.

Presently, Gary and his staff maintain SSP programs for five species: the Madagascar teal, Nicobar pigeon, and golden-crested mynah as well as the white-throated ground dove, for which Gary is the current SSP coordinator, and the beautiful fruit dove of New Guinea, which Gary has coordinated for more than twenty years. The Louisville Zoo has been the leader in the propagation for these rare ground and fruit dove species.

Gary and his staff are always working to ensure that any bird that comes into their care has a high quality of life. Most recently, in January 2019, Gary and his staff salvaged two little penguin chicks from eggs that were abandoned by the parents in the Zoo's Little Penguin Conservation Center located in the Islands. The youngsters would have perished if Gary had not rescued them from abandoned nests and hand-reared them. "For the first 100 days, I was here every day as their primary caretaker. I spent parts of the first two days getting the chicks out of the shell. The

crew and I then fed them throughout 13-hour days at first and then less often as they grew. Eventually, we added solid food and weaned them from a soup-like fish and invertebrate stew to whole fish. They are adorable, and the enjoyment I have had rearing them will be an unforgettable experience as time goes by," Gary said.

So far, the rescued penguins are doing well. They recently graduated from the rearing room to the little penguin barn where they are practicing swimming, and getting acclimated to living with their future flock mates. "Keepers Bryan Lindsay and Dana Prior deliver most of their care at this point. It's a tremendous amount of work to hand-rear birds," Gary said.

So many of the birds you see at the Zoo may not be here if not for Gary's dedication and love for wildlife. Thank goodness the zoo world was able to help inspire his love for animals as a child. Now, 46 years of amazing work later, Gary is sharing that enthusiasm for wildlife with all of us — just like the late Marlin

Perkins. With so many amazing achievements throughout the years, there's no doubt that if these birds could talk, they would definitely call out — "THANKS GARY!"



Gary and a beautiful fruit dove youngster.

JILL KATKA: BUILDING THE BOND WITH WILDLIFE

When you work in the world of wildlife, amazing moments are always just around the corner. Assistant Mammal Curator Jill Katka can certainly claim her fair share of incredible experiences over the course of her career caring for wildlife.

Even before she came to the Louisville Zoo, Jill was having all sorts of wildlife adventures. After receiving her Master's degree in animal behavior from Georgia Tech and spending time in Zoo Atlanta training hornbill birds and black rhinos, she traveled to Panay Island in the Philippines as part of a Frankfort Zoological Society Project. With a group of researchers and Peace Corps volunteers, she helped to educate the local community on ways to conserve their natural resources and wildlife, even assisting locals in growing crops to keep them from destroying important habitat. Jill and her team helped to protect the forest, monitored nests and rehabilitated hornbill birds, raptors, and other wildlife. They even helped to discover a new *Varanus* lizard called a Panay monitor. Afterward, Jill traveled again to southeast Asia, working on another project with elephants.

So, what could follow up such an exciting beginning? A career at the Louisville Zoo! When Jill came back to the states, she was ready to continue her wildlife career as



Jill and infant siamang Sungai in 2007

well as her hands-on approach to working with animals. "Relationship building with animals is what I was passionate about. I wanted to be a zoo keeper." Being a trainer at heart, one of the things that attracted her to the Louisville Zoo was the well-known Islands exhibit with its innovative animal rotation program. "Even as an undergraduate, I studied operant conditioning and that's what led me into graduate school. I loved the idea of the rotational exhibit and how it works to elicit natural behaviors in the animals

while being enriching for the animal."

She started as a night keeper at the Louisville Zoo and then progressed to working in the bird department. "I had experience with birds, and we have such a diverse collection. I really enjoyed working with them and I would absolutely do it again." However, when the opportunity to move to Islands came, Jill didn't hesitate.

While in the Islands, Jill stretched her training legs and looked for creative ways to improve animal care. One example Jill shared was when she and her team were able to train Leela the Sumatran tiger to allow the keepers to draw blood from her tail for health checks while she was awake and alert. So, how do you draw blood from an alert tiger? "Very carefully," Jill said. "It took a lot of

relationship building and training. Leela had to be comfortable going into a space where she couldn't turn around easily. Then, she had to lay down and let us manipulate her tail, shave the fur to get to the vein, and then draw the blood. It took a while to get her comfortable and confident enough. It was a huge accomplishment."

During Jill's time in the Islands, she also helped raise three orphaned siamangs: Zoli, Zain and Sungai. "Zoli's parents passed away," Jill explained, "and there

were these two young siamangs, Zain and Sungai, that were from another Zoo and were bouncing from foster parent to foster parent without much success." Eventually, the Island's staff stepped in to raise all three siamangs. "For about four years, we spent every day inside the exhibit with them, carrying them, helping them learn to climb and explore their outside environment, building their strength and providing them with social opportunities. When they got bigger, carrying all three together was like carrying around 50 pounds — and Sungai liked to leap onto us from 10 feet away!"

The two boys moved on to other zoos at the recommendation of their Species Survival Plan and were successfully paired with new partners last year. Sungai is still in Louisville, but she has a new partner: a male siamang named Darwin. Though it was a tenuous start, they are now a playfully bonded pair.

Zoli, Zain and Sungai aren't the only primates who benefitted from Jill's expert care, compassion and skills. Who can forget Kindi, our beloved juvenile western lowland gorilla? Kindi's mother Mia Moja passed away from complications following an emergency c-section in 2016, and the premature newborn

required round-the-clock care during her first five months. Jill, along with the Gorilla Forest team, provided her with that care 24 hours a day. "It was heartbreaking when Mia died, and we were determined to keep Kindi here," Jill said. "We were going to do everything we could to raise this gorilla." So, Jill and her team put on big fuzzy vests and crawled around the Gorilla Forest exhibit with Kindi on their backs so the young gorilla would understand how to hold on to a surrogate gorilla mother when the time came. The keepers also performed gorilla vocalizations, bottle fed her and trained her how to crawl to the mesh for a bottle — a behavior that would be critical for Kindi's life with a surrogate mother, as Kindi would need to take a bottle from staff for about four years. As soon as Kindi was old enough (5 months), the Gorilla Forest team introduced her to prospective surrogate gorilla mom Paki — but it wasn't a good match. "Paki wanted to be more like an aunt," Jill said. Undeterred, the keepers tried again with Kweli. "Kweli walked in, immediately picked her up and we never looked back," Jill said. "That little girl Kindi has my heart. She really is special."

When asking Jill what she's most proud of, she paused a moment

and then in her thoughtful way shared that "as the direct manager of the Gorilla Forest area and the supervisor of Islands, what I'm most proud of is bringing people together as a team for the common goal of taking the best care of these animals. Everything I have done so far, I couldn't have done it without my team. Every one of the people I work with has so much heart and passion. I am so proud of every one of them. Seeing what we have achieved together, to successfully get Kindi to a point where she was a healthy gorilla with a surrogate mom doing all the appropriate gorilla behaviors, watching her play, and be silly, and interact with people as this super confident relaxed gorilla — it's the best. Without the dedicated, passionate people I work with, none of us could do what we do."

When she's not working with her teams, you may spot Jill, a thought-filled expression on her typically smiling face and a long brown ponytail in tow, cleaning the Gorilla exhibit or training the orangutans in the Islands. If you stopped to ask what she was obviously mulling over, she might explain that she is thinking, "how can we better foster this connection to the animals? Whether you are looking at communities in an animal's native habitat or zoo visitors, people are the key to the animals' future. If we can help people understand that while the Zoo is fun, it can be and is much more than that: the research and animal welfare innovations that happen here, the survival plans and conservation work with animals in their natural habitat — there's something important happening here. The Zoo builds these bonds. When people leave, I hope they feel new bonds, that they have a better appreciation for the animals and their natural habitat and environment. I hope we can continue to strengthen that bond with wildlife."



*Jill and infant
gorilla Kindi
in 2016*

MEMBERSHIP



What you do counts!

Your membership helps to feed and provide world-class care for over 1,000 vulnerable, threatened and endangered animals. By supporting the Zoo, you also:

- partner with us in supporting and promoting wildlife conservation locally and globally
- provide nearly 200 people the opportunity to work at your Zoo during peak season
- allow us to provide thousands of children with inspiration and learning opportunities
- help ensure a safe, comfortable walking setting for health and peace of mind
- help to sustain one of the region's most popular family attractions
- help the State Zoo of Kentucky become world-renowned for innovation in animal enrichment and exhibit design
- help us to accomplish our mission to "better the bond between people and our planet"

Thank You For Your Support!

EARLY CLOSING NOTICES

The Zoo will close early
(close at 2 p.m., stay until 3 p.m.) on

- August 24 for **Brew at the Zoo and Wine Too**

Member-Only Early Entry

Start your morning off right! In June and July, all Louisville Zoo members can enter the Zoo early every day at 9:30 a.m. to visit animals. Also during June and July, members get early access to the Splash Park Monday – Friday.

Membership Application

Ditch your membership card and free up space in your wallet or purse. The Louisville Zoo Virtual Membership Card app is a FREE virtual membership card exclusive to Louisville Zoo members. Now you can carry a digital version of your card everywhere you go, conveniently stored on your iPhone or Android device!

Know Before You Go!

- Need to renew your membership? A few clicks into our online store can conveniently get a temporary card in your hands to use until you pick up your permanent card (reminder, these are not mailed). Have your member ID handy before going online to renew.
- For entry, bring your membership card and photo ID for adult members named on the card. Save time by getting your photo taken at the ticket windows.
- All guests covered on your membership must be accompanied by an adult named on the card.
- Additional guests (not covered on your membership) when accompanied by a member can purchase a discounted admission ticket at any of our ticketing windows.
- Children and grandchildren covered on your membership must be named on your account. Children ages 2 and under receive free general admission to the Zoo, but please be sure to list them on your membership so we can properly account for our attendance.
- Zoo memberships are not valid for school group visits, corporate sponsored events and select after-hours events.

EXPERIENCE AFRICA



For Louisville Zoo Experience Members Only.

As you may know our newest Experience Benefits Package is all the buzz! Three fun after-hours EXPERIENCES will treat our qualifying members to the ultimate Zoo visit. The themed event, "Experience Africa 2019", has two more dates for 2019 (June 26 and July 23) and requires an RSVP so we can better control the volume of guests each evening.

Invitations are sent via email to all of our Family Plus Experience and Upper Level members, so be sure we have your correct email address on file.

Not sure if you qualify to attend one of the events? Check out the package details online at LouisvilleZoo.org/experience.

Feel free to give our Membership Office a call at (502) 459-2287 or stop by any of the windows on your next visit to confirm your membership details or upgrade your membership and start EXPERIENCING YOUR ZOO IN A WHOLE NEW WAY!

Additional support by:



ZOO BUCKS

The Louisville Zoo is pleased to offer members coupons with various Zoo offerings like guest admission and activities. We hope you enjoy the following limited-time promotional offers. Please check the expiration dates and restrictions on the coupons.

ADMISSION

**HALF OFF
ONE CHILD OR
ADULT ADMISSION**

Valid Louisville Zoo Membership
and photo ID required.
Discount cannot be used
with any other offers or discounts.



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Expires 8/31/2019

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**BUY ONE
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Not valid with other offers,
discounts or for school groups.



§N02212019



Expires 8/31/2019

COMMUNITY COUPON

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ADMISSION,
GET ONE FREE**

Limit one discount per coupon.

Redeem at 3005 River Rd.
Louisville, KY 40207
(502) 897-1481



For hours & museum info:
LouisvilleWaterTower.com
From Louisville Zoo Bucks

A MIKKI UPDATE

Training is an important part of the animal healthcare program at the Zoo every day. Right now, African elephant Mikki is being trained in some very special moves in anticipation of the birth of her calf later this summer. She is practicing holding up a front leg to simulate a variety of nursing scenarios. And Mikki isn't the only one who's in training! As we near the birth window, Mikki's birth management team will assemble at the barn to participate in a practice birth session that includes reviewing and clarifying the birth plan as well as roles for each team member.



Mikki explores her yard and gets some exercise.



THE LITTLE, LITTLE PENGUINS

Did you know? Our little penguin chicks at Penguin Cove, the Little Penguin Conservation Center in the outdoor Islands, are already over 4 months old! Pearl (pictured) and Squirt have been hand-raised by our Zoo bird staff and have been introduced to our parent-raised chicks Rizzo and Kirby. Read more about the orphaned penguin chicks in our article on page 6. The chicks love to explore and are even old enough to eat on their own. The two pairs of chicks are currently getting accustomed to each other and will be with the rest of the penguins in their outdoor exhibit later this summer.

Little penguin chick Pearl poses for the camera.

LOWTIDE AT LAKESIDE

If you've been to the Zoo recently, you may have noticed the lake near the MetaZoo looks a bit low; not to worry — it's only temporary! We will be lowering the water in the lake periodically while we replace the footbridge near the HerpAquarium. In fact, you may see the volume of water increase and decrease while we remove and replace the footbridge. Expect to be able to enjoy the view from the brand-new bridge by the end of summer.

DISAPPEARING PENGUINS

Many of you have been asking – when will the penguins be back on exhibit inside the Islands? Unfortunately, the repairs on the indoor penguin exhibit are taking longer than expected due to leaking issues. Until the exhibit is fixed, the indoor penguins will be chilling out in their behind-the-scenes bedrooms enjoying the cool air. Stay tuned on our Facebook page to find out the latest on when the indoor Islands penguin exhibit will reopen. Until then, visit Penguin Cove and wave a flipper at our little blue penguins!



BEAUTIFUL BONGO CALF

The Louisville Zoo welcomed a male bongo calf in the early hours of Sunday, May 19. Our 10-year-old male bongo Watson sired the 50 lb. male calf. Mother Isabelle, age 9, and calf are doing well. Both have joined the other bongos in rotation on exhibit next to Butterflies n' Blooms flight house.

To see the results of the Zoo's bongo calf naming contest, visit LouisvilleZoo.org/contest.

Bongo baby during his first week.

SCHMIDT'S RED-TAILED MONKEYS MAKE A MOVE

Have you visited the new Colobus Crossing yet? If so, you've likely seen our playful black-and-white colobus monkeys leaping amongst the osage orange branches and running through the elevated passageways. In late spring, the colorful Schmidt's red-tailed monkeys made their public debut to the delight of Zoo visitors. Right now, the two groups of monkeys are rotational and will be on exhibit separately, either in the outdoor exhibit or the inside area. As the groups get acquainted, the plan is that they will eventually become one collective multispecies group with colobus and red-tailed monkeys combined!

If you visit during the very hot days of summer, be sure to visit the indoor exhibit area. Colobus monkeys have a low tolerance for very high temperatures and may be inside more often during the 90+ degree days of summer.



A red-tailed monkey explores the new exhibit.



Butterflies n' Blooms

Open NOW through Sept. 22, 2018
Daily 10:30 – 1 p.m. and 2 – 4:30 p.m.
FREE with admission or membership.

Wing It a Little This Summer!

Back by popular demand for the third year in a row, the Butterflies n' Blooms exhibit returns to the Louisville Zoo. Explore our 1,000 sq. ft. walkthrough flight house and experience these brilliant flowers of the sky flying freely overhead and sipping nectar from beautiful blooms.

The butterfly season has already begun with monarchs, red admirals, painted ladies and colorful pipevine, zebra and spicebush swallowtails. As the summer progresses, the species will change. Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/butterflies to see what's flying and to download your gorgeous butterfly screen saver. Visit again and again to see them all — don't forget your camera!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for Flutter Fest on September 21: a festival of butterflies complete with games, parade and butterfly release. Learn more about this fun celebration on page 18.

What's Flying This Season

Painted Lady • **Monarch** • Spicebush Swallowtail • **Pipevine Swallowtail**
Eastern Black Swallowtail • **Zebra Swallowtail** • Buckeye • **Giant Swallowtail**
Red Admiral • Eastern Tiger Swallowtail • **American Lady** • Mourning Cloak
Comma • Question Mark • **Orange Sulphur** • Viceroy • **Red Spotted Purple**
Gulf Fritillary • **Great Spangled Fritillary**



The Louisville Zoo is an official monarch waystation. These waystations provide butterflies critical habitat throughout the summer and migration season.

Learn how to create your own waystation at LouisvilleZoo.org/butterflies.



Learn more at LouisvilleZoo.org/butterflies

Joining the Migration

By Heather Dishon, Communications Coordinator

The spectacular Butterflies n' Blooms exhibit is open at the Zoo for the summer season. Inside, you'll see a kaleidoscope of various butterflies native to Kentucky, including swallowtails, painted ladies and the iconic monarch butterfly.

Did you know monarchs have the longest migration of any North American butterfly and seem to be born with an innate knowledge of where to go when that migration takes place? It wasn't until 1975 that scientists discovered where the monarch butterflies overwinter when they migrate. Though monarchs born in summer only live two to six weeks, the butterflies born in fall are larger and can live up to nine months as they make the migration all the way to the southern area of Mexico, nearly 2,500 miles away!

In February 2019, two of our own Louisville Zoo staff — Assistant Director Stephanie Moore and Assistant Education Curator Matt Lahm — along with Idlewild

Butterfly Farm owner and Zoo partner Blair Leano-Helvey and eight local butterfly enthusiasts, traveled to the Michoacán region of Mexico to experience the incredible butterfly overwintering site in person.

Stephanie assists Idlewild partner Blair to help care for the butterflies at the Zoo — sweeping, cleaning, replacing fruit dishes and more — these are in addition to her many regular duties as Assistant Director. Matt, who is responsible for our docent / volunteer educator training, teaches the docents all the ins-and-outs about butterflies, like insect taxonomy, anatomy, and life cycles including complete metamorphosis and how to properly tag butterflies during Flutter Fest, our annual monarch release that occurs in autumn.

"We talk a lot to the public about how monarchs migrate — but it's one thing to talk about it and another to actually see it," Stephanie said. "We decided we were going

to see it in person!"

The Louisville group traveled to two butterfly sanctuaries in the Michoacán region in Mexico: Cerro Pelon and El Rosario. Cerro Pelon is in the mountains of Macheros, about two hours outside of Mexico City. Macheros is a small, remote town of approximately 300 people — it has one restaurant, one church and one bed and breakfast. The bed and breakfast, JM Butterfly B&B, also operates a nonprofit called Butterflies & Their People. The organization helps pay for the workers who care for the sanctuary and protect the butterflies.

After riding horses up the mountainside, the guided group of about 20 enjoyed a few hours just watching the multitudes of butterflies at the Cerro Pelon.

"When you see pictures, it looks like a lot of butterflies,"

Monarchs at Cerro Pelon Sanctuary.



Stephanie said, “but it’s incredible when you arrive and actually witness firsthand just how many there are, especially in the oyamel fir trees. We had several people who cried. It was very emotional.”

“It’s also very quiet,” she added. “Everyone is trying to avoid disturbing the butterflies — and you can hear the constant sound of flapping, and then suddenly you realize what you’re hearing: the sound of millions of butterflies flapping their wings.”

“The population this year was much bigger than previous years,” Matt explained. “It has decreased significantly over the past 20 years; currently it appears to be about one-tenth of what it was 20 years ago, but still larger than recent years.” When looking at butterfly populations, researchers measure area because estimates of individual butterflies in a colony would vary too widely to be reliable — imagine counting millions of moving butterflies! In 2018, the estimated monarch population was approximately 6.12 acres. This year however, the population was 14.945 acres. Researchers are attributing this increase to the efforts of humans planting milkweed, the one plant monarch caterpillars need to survive; the planting of nectar plants may have helped as well since butterflies need the flowers for sustenance as they make the long journey to Mexico.

Although the monarch population was higher this year, it’s a delicate balance that can quickly change. “The population can greatly vary from year to year due to a number of factors,” Matt said. “If you look at aerial pictures of overwintering sites, you can see clumps of trees next to totally deforested areas. Their habitat is being lost to logging. There are many other factors that can affect the monarch’s migration as well— availability of milkweed, insecticides, even obstacles like cities, cars and structures as the butterflies funnel through Texas to Mexico.”

The good news is, people can get involved in helping these butterflies and other pollinators. “The thing I love about the butterfly exhibit at the Zoo is it introduces people to a native species where your actions in your own backyard can have a direct positive impact on the population,” said Matt. “By visiting this exhibit, people can see how they affect not just butterflies, but all pollinators, and learn how to help conserve them.”

“It’s amazing to see gorillas or snow leopards and know that by visiting the Zoo, we are supporting those animals in their natural habitat,” Stephanie said. “But this is an exhibit that can help people feel empowered to work directly with a species, to know they can create something like the Zoo’s exhibit



*(Left to right) (Back row)
Matt Lahm, Stephanie Moore
(Front Row)
Amy Shelton, Blair Leano-Helvey*

in their own backyard. They can make their own butterfly garden or Monarch Way Station. They can come to the Zoo for Flutter Fest in September and be part of a 20-year ongoing citizens’ science project. We don’t have gorillas and snow leopards in our backyard, but we have bumblebees and butterflies, and we can help them. And that’s definitely something to celebrate.”

Be sure to stop by Butterflies ‘n’ Blooms this year and see the butterflies in all their glory — and consider what you can do in your own backyard to ensure these beautiful “flowers of the sky” thrive for generations to come.



*Monarchs at
Cerro Pelon
Sanctuary on an
oyamel fir tree.*



FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIE SERIES

July 12: Incredibles 2 (rated PG)

Aug. 9: Black Panther (rated PG-13)

Sept. 13: Viewer's Choice!

Vote at LouisvilleZoo.org/movies

*Enter the Zoo from 5 – 8 p.m. **

Movie event area opens at 6 p.m.

Movie starts at sundown

Enjoy a movie under the stars at the wildest theater in town.

Watch your favorite movies on our giant inflatable screen.

The Zoo Crew will provide free entertainment before the show. Snacks and other refreshments will be available for purchase. Don't forget to pack your blanket or lawn chairs.

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Great Clips®

Movie title voting results will be posted at LouisvilleZoo.org/movies.

** Movie nights are FREE to Louisville Zoo members and only \$5 (from 5 – 8 p.m.) for non-members.*

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2019 NORTON HEALTHCARE GET HEALTHY WALKING CLUB EXPO

Saturday, July 13; 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Check in: 8:30 – 10 a.m.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Bring the whole family!

It's time to take steps toward a healthier you during the Get Healthy Walking Expo at the Louisville Zoo. It's FREE for Norton Healthcare Get Healthy Walking Club members and their children. To become a member of the Walking Club and register for this expo, please visit nortonwalk.com. There's no charge to join!

Fun activities include face painting, bean bag toss, Hula hoop games and other kid-friendly activities. Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/walkingexpo for a full list of activities, screenings and information.



EVENTS (cont.)

July 20, 2019

TEDDY GRAHAMS DAY



Come out and enjoy a fun day at the Zoo! We'll have scavenger hunts and sweet treats (while supplies last) courtesy of Teddy Grahams! Test your animal knowledge. Take the Teddy Grahams quiz and ENTER TO WIN a behind-the-scenes tour for four guests at the Louisville Zoo at LouisvilleZoo.org/bearquiz.



Saturday, September 21

FLUTTER FEST

*Brought to you in partnership
with Idlewild Butterfly Farm*

To celebrate the end of this season's butterfly adventure, we will tag and release over 1,000 monarch butterflies coinciding with the annual migration of monarch butterflies. "Bug out" while you participate in fun education activities before the release.

COMING SOON

SPECIAL TICKETED EVENTS

WILD WORKOUTS

Join us in the evening for a fitness program with the wildest workout venue in town — your Zoo!

ZOO TRIVIA NIGHT

Put on your thinking cap and enjoy some friendly competition while testing your knowledge during trivia night at the Louisville Zoo!

Vist LouisvilleZoo.org/events for more information



FROM MAYOR GREG FISCHER

During summer vacation, it's critical that we help young people find ways to be physically active, and mentally and emotionally engaged. Louisville families have many great options for keeping their bodies and imaginations active including the Louisville Free Public Library's summer reading and cultural pass programs, activities at all of our beautiful public parks and of course, our amazing Louisville Zoo. Though your kids may not be traveling internationally this summer, through a Zoo visit they can experience places like Africa, Indonesia, and Australia, and

learning about cultures through animal sights and sounds. Whether you are helping your children review discoveries made at Zoo camp, exploring the exhibits and new animals, or taking your family for an adventurous one mile walk around the Zoo by joining the free Walking Club presented by Norton Healthcare, you can make this summer one to remember. Be sure to take advantage of these and other resources this summer as we build a brighter future through lifelong learning.



SAVE THE DATE

August 24, 2019

**Craft Beer and Wine Tastings
Food Samples
Live Entertainment**

**Tickets on sale July 1st
at louisvillezoo.org**

21 and over



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Zoofari!
ONE WILD NIGHT 2019

Celebrating 50 years of the Louisville Zoo

*Friends of the Louisville Zoo thank you
for supporting Zoofari! 2019.*

Event proceeds will directly benefit the Zoo's superior
work to better the bond between people and the planet.

We simply couldn't do it without you.

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BETTER PIZZA.

Waves of Plastic

By Kathleen Johnson, MetaZoo Educator

Where can you find an ocean that has no water? On a map!

If you look at a world map, state map, or a local map, you can get a good view of some of the water that is around us and around the world. Everybody needs and uses water. Did you ever get to play, fish or swim in a river, lake or ocean? It's so much fun, but sadly we often find washed up bags, bottles, wrappers and other pieces of garbage along the shores or even in the water. Yuck! Plastic pollution is a big problem for our world's water!

But how did it all get there? Take a moment to think of all the plastic things you've used or seen today. What did you come up with? Cups, bags, electronics, food containers, toys, furniture and so much more might be on your list. You may have even noticed plastic trash outdoors today! Plastic litter can blow around anywhere and wash away when it rains. From there, it may end up in streams, rivers and even our oceans. Over time, it really adds up!

When animals like fish, sea turtles, pelicans and seals that live in and around water encounter plastic products, they may end up swallowing them, mistaking them for food. For example, some sea turtles eat plastic bags thinking that the bags are jellyfish floating in the waves. Animals can also get tangled in plastic items. There are even huge areas made up of mostly plastic

pollution swirling around in our oceans. Wind and ocean currents cause this stuff to collect. Gross!

Some of the plastic in our water is very, very small; this is called "microplastic." How does plastic become so small? Ocean waves that toss plastic around, sunlight, and even washing machines that wash clothing with synthetic plastic fibers can cause plastic to get broken down into these tiny pieces. Many of these little microplastic pieces are so small, they can't be seen by us, but scientists know they are there — and this can get into the bodies of any living creature, including our own.

So, what can we do about all this pesky plastic? Here are a few things we can do to make a difference:

- **Carry cloth bags:** Use cloth bags when going to the store, taking things to school, or even for your snacks or lunch. If you think you will forget them, store them in your car, handbag, bike basket or anywhere else you can think of. Don't forget to put them back where you need them after you use them. Or keep them by the front door so you remember them before you leave!
- **Say NO to straws:** When you go out to eat, just say "No thank you" when offered a plastic straw for your drink. These are only used once, and they can be very harmful to aquatic creatures when they end up in the water.

- **Try cool containers:** Try reusable containers for your food and drinks on the go! For example, stainless steel lunch containers and water bottles can be used over and over and last a long time.
- **Plastic pick up:** Join along with a community group that helps clean up school yards, local creeks or neighborhoods. Make sure that adults are leading, so they can give you instructions and proper equipment for picking things up safely. Leave things alone if they don't look safe to touch. If we clean our own local areas up, we can keep plastic pollution from making its way to the oceans!
- **Don't forget:** Recycle your plastic properly so it won't end up in places it doesn't belong — and get the word out there to your family and friends! Anybody can teach others how to be a friend to our planet. Bet you'll feel a sense of pride, too!

When we all work together to keep water clean, it helps people, animals and our awesome planet!



VOLUNTEERS

Generation Zoo

By Diane Taylor, Coordinator of Volunteers

The Louisville Zoo Youth Board, a group of young wildlife enthusiasts ages 13 – 18, raises funds for special Zoo projects through face painting and sand art sales to Zoo guests. This year, they donated funds to purchase kelp for Glacier Run animal enrichment. When placed in the pool, the kelp provides a stimulating new environmental effect through which the animals can swim and play.

In addition to their gift of animal enrichment, the Youth Board donated \$25,000 toward the Zoo's recent Leadership Capital Campaign. Did you know the Louisville Zoo Youth Board has been fundraising for the Zoo since March, 1997? Thanks to all our Louisville Zoo Youth Board Members past and present for your hard work and dedication to the Zoo!

To become a member of the Youth Board, you must be part of the summer teen program. Summer Teen Recruitment is open from January 1 – March 1, 2020. More information can be found online at LouisvilleZoo.org/volunteer.

Mercy Academy provided us with 143 fantastic volun-



2019 Youth Board members hold up their kelp donations.

teers this spring. These hardworking young ladies came out to the Zoo on April 11 and 12. They assisted our horticulture team in mulching near the Butterflies n' Blooms exhibit and the Oasis Festival Tent, adding wood chips to the Zoo's popular playgrounds, and also helped our Special Events team fill treat bags during our EGGstravaganza event.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who have supported the Zoo during our 50th anniversary season and over the last 50 years!

We couldn't have done it without you!

Staying Hydrated at the Zoo

Just a little dehydration could alter your mood or muddle your thinking. A scientific paper published last year in the journal *Physiological Reports* found that when people are even mildly dehydrated, they don't do as well on tasks that require concentration.

And it doesn't take much to become mildly dehydrated. If you took a brisk walk around the Louisville Zoo for about an hour, you could reach 1.5 – 2 percent dehydration.

The good news is it's easy to stay hydrated at the Zoo! Eight new drinking water stations were unveiled

throughout the Zoo last year through a partnership with Louisville Water Company and a grant from the Louisville Water Foundation. These stations are located at the Main Plaza, Glacier Run Splash Park, the Islands, Gorilla Forest, the MetaZoo Discovery Center, the African Outpost, the administration building and the Boma Petting Zoo. Along with the stations, the Zoo and Louisville Water have partnered on an education effort to spread awareness about the value of water for people, animals and their habitats.

On your next visit, be sure to

bring a reusable bottle or purchase a Louisville Zoo and Louisville Water co-branded bottle in the Zoo's gift shop to fill at the water stations during your visit and stay hydrated. These stations make it super easy to refill your reusable water bottle.

Besides the Zoo, Louisville Water has added more than 50 water bottle fill stations throughout the city, including stations at the Louisville International Airport, Yum! Center, the Kentucky International Convention Center and the University of Louisville, helping people to stay hydrated.

Fill. Hydrate. Repeat. Enjoy!

ZOO GOODIES

Hot days are here, but the Zoo has some cool new treats to keep you refreshed and energize you while you explore all the fun things happening in your Zoo this summer.

NEW FOR 2019

Did you know the Zoo is offering a **special Dippin' Dots** flavor in honor of our 50th anniversary? Check out Zoo Birthday Blast (birthday cake flavored) at our Dippin' Dots kiosks near Gorilla Forest, Australia and the Zoo's Main Plaza.

Also NEW this summer — the **Kona shaved ice station** near the carousel. Customize your frozen treat with a variety of flavors! If you're still feeling the heat, the Zoo also offers soft serve treats, ICEEs, fountain drinks and even frozen wine for the adults! **Frozen wine** is available at the Bomassa Soft Serve station near the African Outpost and at Wild Burger in the Australia Zone.

Speaking of **Wild Burger**, have you been down to Australia recently to try one of the fantastic smashed burgers? On your next visit, grab a tasty gourmet burger for yourself and pick up some chicken tenders for your little ones. You can relax under a shaded table umbrella while your kiddos play on the playground. Wild Burger has buzzers now so you can take it easy while you wait for your order to be completed for pick up at the new service window!



10%
DISCOUNT FOR
ZOO MEMBERS

SHOW YOUR ZOO PRIDE FOR 2019!

Share your love of the Zoo and display the vibrant colors of summer with our new gift shop merchandise. We have 50th anniversary swag, a cool commemorative poster by Artist Jeremy Reiss, throwback tie-dyed apparel, travel cups and more.

You'll also find some beautiful snow leopard-themed apparel, plush and accessories like hats and tote bags, as well as hand-crafted animal figurines, fun sticker books and more.

Don't forget to show your current membership card for a 10% discount!



trashformation

A Trash-to-Treasure Art Contest

Powered by
LG&E and **KU**
 Foundation

Our seventh annual Trashformation contest award ceremony was held March 23 to kick-off your Zoo's Party for the Planet: A Month-long Celebration of the Earth. Mayor Greg Fischer and Zoo Director John Walczak joined Angie Evans, vice-president of LG&E and KU to present awards to the talented students whose work showed the most creativity in repurposing recyclable trash into art objects. Louisville Orchestra's music director Teddy Abrams led students and the audience in a jam session with all the amazing instruments created from recycled materials.



Teddy Abrams conducts a drum solo.

2019 winners

Individual Awards

- PRE K TO K**
Joshua Bough
- GRADES 1 TO 2**
Zaria Collins
- GRADES 3 TO 5**
Emily Slahta
- GRADES 6 TO 8**
Parker Coleman
- GRADES 9 TO 12**
Kayla Hollenkamp

Group Awards

- PRE K TO GRADE 2**
Friends School of Louisville, Little Frogs
- GRADES 3 TO 5**
Spencer County Elementary
(4th grade, Stem Club)
- GRADES 6 TO 8**
East Oldham Middle School
(6th grade)

Musical Instrument-Individual Awards

- GRADES 3 TO 5**
Brady Dinsmore
- GRADES 6 TO 8**
(Tie)
Kendall Ball & Ty Westphal
- GRADES 9 TO 12**
Jillian Jeffries

Musical Instrument Group Awards

- PRE K TO GRADE 2**
Big Owls Tapp School
- GRADES 3 TO 5**
Gracie's Group
St. Michael (5th grade)
- GRADES 6 TO 8**
Abby's Group
St. Michael (6th grade)
- GRADES 9 TO 12**
Holy Cross High School
(9th grade)

Love for Animals & The Community Built The Zoo

Which still holds true today!

By Kelly Grether, Director of Development

Thanks to the support of philanthropist James Graham Brown, city and business leaders and Zoo advocates, the Louisville Zoo officially opened its doors full-time in May 1969. Getting to this moment was not an easy path, though it came to fruition because individuals from every corner of the community believed so strongly that a zoo would support a high quality of life. These visionaries dedicated themselves to making the Louisville Zoo a reality. Today, we are celebrating 50 years of making memories for millions of people and conserving species for generations to come.

We are your Zoo, and we enjoy being here for you. In good times and in tough personal moments too, we are the place you can turn to for fun, laughter, reflection and smiles. We are the place you can visit to escape the daily stresses of life and simply enjoy time alone with the

animals or together with family and friends. At each stop on your journey through the Zoo, you can connect with animals and create memories to cherish forever. Your visit offers us something in return, too. You're helping us fulfill our mission to better the bond between people and our planet.

We serve an average of over 800,000 guests annually and care for over 1,000 animals daily. Memberships, general admission tickets and events only cover about 70% of our annual operational needs. We need your support today — and every day — to continue to be the best place for you and your family to connect with animals, nature, the environment and each other.

Just like the donors who were there for us 50+ years ago, who believed so strongly the impact of a zoo in this community would be beneficial beyond measure, we



*James Graham Brown
Courtesy of the Courier-Journal*

need you now. We need you today to ensure we will always be your go-to destination to spend time with your loved ones, to enjoy a quiet early morning walk, for school field trips or to connect with your favorite animal.

Today, we are asking you to stretch beyond your Zoo membership or usual annual fund donation and to consider an additional gift to the Louisville Zoo Fund in honor of your favorite animal, keeper, exhibit or family memory. Gifts of any size will help offset the food, shelter, enrichment and outstanding care provided to all animals and ensures a community treasure remains a fixture in the community for generations to come.

From the very beginning, the commitment of advocates, community leaders, philanthropists and children who love animals built the Zoo — which is a formula that still holds true today. Thank you for always being there. Thank you for ensuring we will be here for you in the future.

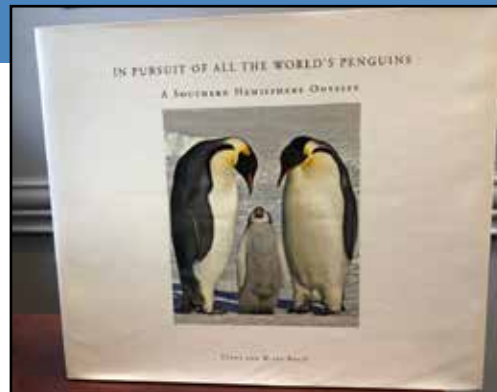
Use the enclosed return envelope or visit us online at **LouisvilleZoo.org/Donate** to make your gift today. If you would like to discuss how you and your family can support the success of the Zoo, please contact Kelly Grether, Director of Development at (502) 238-5615.



SPECIAL OFFER!

BECOME A ZOO SUSTAINER AND RECEIVE A FREE BOOK!

The first 25 donors to join the Louisville Zoo Sustainer Society before July 1 will be eligible to receive a free copy of the book, **"In Pursuit of All the World's Penguins: a Southern Hemisphere Odyssey,"** by Clint and Missy Kelly — a 200-page book with spectacular photographs! (value \$75)



The Sustainer Society is a dedicated group of donors offering significant support to the Zoo's Annual Fund. Gifts to the Sustainer Society are an annual investment in your Zoo and aid in providing exemplary animal care and enrichment, an array of education programs, and vital species conservation and scientific research efforts.

Sustainer Society members are people like you — individuals who support wildlife conservation, education, environmental sustainability and a financially strong future for your Zoo. Benefits include year-round Zoo admission, access to special after-hours events and discounts on special events and camps.

To learn more or register, contact the Development Office at (502) 238-5615 or (502) 238-4134 or visit us online at LouisvilleZoo.org/sustainersociety.

Give to the Zoo without any cost!

KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

The Louisville Zoo is now available as a choice in the Kroger Community Rewards program.

Kroger aims to give back to the charities, schools, and other nonprofit organizations that matter to you most by letting you choose to whom you assign your donation. Simply enroll at



Krogercommunityrewards.com. Choose the Louisville Zoo. Then, each time you swipe your Kroger Plus Card, Kroger will donate money to support the Louisville Zoo. Enrollment is required yearly, so please renew if you haven't already!

For more in-depth instructions, please visit our website at LouisvilleZoo.org/support/kroger

HONOR YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL WITH A GIFT!

Celebrate the upcoming animal birthdays (or any of our animal ambassadors) with a gift that will directly support animal care and enrichment.



Bella
(Sumatran orangutan)
turns 35 on July 1

Bart
(California sea lion)
will be 26 this
August 15



Etta
(Amur tiger)
will be sweet 16 on
June 23

**Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/donate
and check the tribute box.**

SPONSOR THANKS

Every day, the Louisville Zoo welcomes visitors, supports conservation projects, creates once-in-a-lifetime memories and cares for endangered wildlife. Just like our animals, corporate partnerships with the Zoo come in many shapes and sizes. Your business or organization can partner with the Zoo through many different opportunities including event or program sponsorships, group events and more! With attendance of over 800,000 this past year, your brand has the potential to reach a significant number of families in the region. **For information on how you can become a Zoo corporate sponsor, contact Zoosponsorship@LouisvilleKy.gov.**

Special thanks to our generous sponsors for these programs:

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River Metals Recycling	Kentucky Science Center	Louisville Metro Office of Sustainability
Jefferson County 4-H	Kentucky Heirs to our Oceans	Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District
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SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019

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2019 GET HEALTHY WALKING CLUB

Saturday, July 13
8:30 a.m. to noon
Louisville Zoo

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two of the Zoo's
oldest residents are
flamingos known
as Left Yellow 5 and
Left Yellow 6? They
have been at the
Louisville Zoo since
may 1969, the month
we officially opened.
They are 53 years old.**

theZOO
LOUISVILLE
1969 - 2019

Celebrating
50
Years

