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1969 - 2019

Celebrating

50
Years

Trunkline

WINTER 2019



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Fitz!*



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HELLO!

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

The weather is getting chilly but your Zoo is warming up the winter season with lots to celebrate as we enter the final stretch of the 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:



THE STORIES THAT MOVE US

Rounding out our 50th year, read the incredible adventures of two of our longtime animal care veterans: Steve Taylor and Jane Anne Frankin.



AN ELEPHANT-SIZED UPDATE

Our elephant calf finally has an official name! What else has he been up to? How are mom Mikki and "Aunt" Punch doing? Find out here!



HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

We all want to give the perfect gift to show those important people in our lives how much we truly care. See some of our fantastic gift ideas that you won't find anywhere else.

Zoo Address

1100 Trevilian Way
Louisville, KY 40213

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Administrative Offices: (502) 459-2181
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Membership Office: (502) 459-2287

Zoo Hours — Open Daily

Now through March 20, 2020
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (stay until 5 p.m.)

March 21 through Sept. 20, 2020
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (stay until 6 p.m.)

Check website for hours,
early closings & special notices.

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Admission

Visit our website for ticket pricing
and to get the best deal!

Children 2 and under
receive free regular admission.

Groups (15 or more) discount tickets online

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LouisvilleZoo.org

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Trunkline is published four times a year by the Louisville Zoological Garden, John T. Walczak, Director.

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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50TH ANNIVERSARY NEWS!

Presented by



*And our many
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ENDING OUR 50TH YEAR

As we approach the end of 2019, I want to thank all of YOU for sharing and celebrating this milestone year with your Zoo. Since 1969, we've welcomed over 28 million visitors through our doors. This year has marked an incredible 50th year for the Louisville Zoo and for our community. We opened two remarkable new exhibits: Colobus Crossing and Snow Leopard Pass as well as our first early learning playspace, the PNC Cub House. Many attended the opening ceremonies including Tibetan monks who blessed Snow Leopard Pass to honor the area of the world where snow leopards are found.

We celebrated conservation heroes at the Kentucky Derby Festival Pegasus Parade with a WILD float featuring your favorite animals and a giant birthday cake. Slugger Field hosted a Zoo Appreciation Night including a dance-off with Buddy the Bat and a first pitch by our new giraffe mascot Miles. We hosted a big birthday celebration in May with 50Fest, where guests were invited to meet our new wildlife mascots, rhino Leroy and Miles the giraffe, play games and join in building a commemorative community mural from pictures taken of you!

We spread the fun to our enthusiastic community with special Pop-Up Zoo Parties around town that continued throughout the summer and fall thanks to the support of the Louisville Metro Council. We also celebrated the birth of elephant calf Fitz — the second elephant calf born in the Zoo's 50 year history — and the most successful naming contest in the Zoo's history with over \$6,000 donated toward the care and enrichment of the animals at your Zoo.

The celebration isn't over yet! There's even more to come before the year is through. We'll debut our first children's book, a sweet tale with original illustrations that your kids are sure to treasure for a lifetime — as well as our first-ever history book featuring the Zoo's milestones and some of our wild stories, nurturing the memories that connect us to one another through our love of wildlife.

Thank you all for being an integral part of the tapestry that is your Zoo. We can't wait to see what the next 50 years brings!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John'.

John Walczak
Louisville Zoo Director



DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT ZOOS

As part of our 50th anniversary celebration, the Louisville Zoo plans to publish its first children's book, "The Truth About Zoos."

Readers will meet Annie — a young detective, journalist, sleuth for the truth, and uncoverer of cover-ups, who puts the "gator" in investigator. Annie is suspicious by nature and prone to jumping to conclusions. This time she is questioning zoos. She sees herself as part spy and part avenger and takes very seriously her mission to discover what zoos are really like.

Annie and her friend Marcus explore the Louisville Zoo, ask questions of staff, and learn what the animals and their caregivers do each day. They discover the truth about zoos: that they are excellent places where animals receive wonderful care and guests can connect with each other, nature and animals.

"The Truth about Zoos" is scheduled for release in early 2020. Starting mid-December, you can visit the Zoo's Gift Shop to purchase your "Annie's Awesome Adventure Package" including an invitation to join us for a special reading of the book in March 2020; a plush elephant; a mustache disguise; a magnifying tool; and a gift card to purchase your very own copy of "Annie's Awesome Adventures: The Truth About Zoos" when it is released.



THE STORIES THAT MOVE US...

For 50 years, your 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.

Members can pick up a FREE copy at the Louisville Zoo membership windows starting Dec. 14, 2019.

While supplies last, one copy per membership.



TAKE A TRIP THROUGH TIME AND SHARE YOUR OWN STORY!

Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/50 for more details on our upcoming books, to explore your Zoo's history, and to see moving videos about your Zoo and its place in the community. Don't forget to follow us on social media and share your photos and stories with us about your personal Zoo history! We love seeing them and will be selecting fan photos to share. Use #louzoo50 and #wearelouzoo. Tag us on Instagram @louisvillezooofficial, or on Twitter and Facebook @louisvillezoo. Don't forget to make your post public!

Visit LouisvilleZoo.org/50 to learn more.

A LITTLE QUIET TIME WITH STEVE TAYLOR

By Jennifer Kemnitz

Steve Taylor speaks in a soft, gravelly voice. Everything he says is punctuated with a sly smile that reaches his eyes.

He began as the Louisville Zoo's first vet tech in 1975, assisting three consulting veterinarians before the Zoo had a full-time vet. Today, he serves as Assistant Director of Conservation, Education and Collections. After nearly 45 years with the Zoo, Steve has a few stories to tell.

"When you get a bunch of people together from different zoos, somebody will inevitably ask, 'what's the best escape story you know?' And I say, 'here's the best non-escape story.'"

It was about noon on a beautiful October day in 1997 when Steve got a call from giraffe keeper Silvia Zirkelbach. She couldn't locate Tsavo, the male African lion. There were really only two places he could be — indoors or outside in his exhibit.

Steve decided to look for himself. "Sure enough, I couldn't find him anyplace."

For the safety of guests, the Zoo closed during regular hours for the first time in its history. Everyone was sure Tsavo was somewhere in his exhibit, but until they could spot him, they weren't going to take any chances.

Zoo staff divvied up roles. Then General Curator Steve Taylor, Supervisor of Animal Training Jane Anne Franklin and Assistant Director John Walczak entered the exhibit with members of the SWAT team that had been called in to assist as a precaution. Down they went into the moat area, which at the time was dense with vegetation. Still no Tsavo.

They trudged through the moat, to check an area called a man-hide — a pocket built into the landscape where a person could hide if they fell into the exhibit.

"We all took two steps over," remembers Steve. "And to this day, it's ever so clear. Lieutenant Burbrick says, 'he's looking right at me.' The first thought that went through my head was that the officers were going to shoot if he comes charging out of there."

But Tsavo had no interest in moving. "That's where he was, and that's where he wanted to stay," Steve says. Ultimately, it took two days to coax the lion out of his hiding spot.

As with most stories Steve tells, this one has a happy ending. With Tsavo found, the Zoo opened up that evening for Halloween, and guests poured in, not at all deterred by the news of a possible escaped lion.

Over the years, Steve has seen a



lot of change, both at the Zoo and throughout the zoo profession. Most of the changes are positive. "One of the things I think we do a lot better now is manage animal behavior. All the types of enrichment activities we do, or especially the types of animal training we do — we encourage staff to develop relationships with the animals they take care of and it's



Tsavo, our lion "escapee," 1997. Photo by Derick McNair.



Steve Taylor using one of the Zoo's first computers.



Steve and Petey the camel after the Zoo reintroduced camel rides in 2016.

amazing the things we can accomplish with that."

But one change Steve has witnessed gives him pause. "With the urbanization of the planet, there are fewer wild spaces and fewer opportunities to get into those wild spaces to see what they're really like," he said. "I worry that people are losing a sense of what nature really is."

Perhaps that's why, early in the morning before the Zoo opens, Steve sometimes likes to go to the sanctuary at Gorilla Forest. "I enjoy spending a little quiet time in there, watching whichever gorillas are out. I'll just sit there, realizing how well the gorillas have used the exhibit."

That's another story Steve likes to tell. In the early stages of development for Gorilla Forest, the Louisville Zoo didn't have any gorillas lined up for the exhibit. As Mammal Curator at the time, that was Steve's job — to find some gorillas. He went to a conference in Boston to meet with the manager of the Gorilla Species Survival Plan (SSP), to explain Louisville's interest in getting gorillas.

The SSP manager laughed. "He said, 'Steve, all I can tell you is that probably, maybe, I can promise you a couple of male gorillas. And you'll be 51st on a list to get a female gorilla.'"

Steve had to come back to Louisville to tell then-director Dr. Bill Foster that all he could get were two male gorillas. "That was not a very nice day."

So Steve, Dr. Foster, senior staff veterinarian Dr. Roy Burns and assistant director John Walczak came up with a strategy, hoping to do better than two gorillas when the exhibit opened. They would meet with key gorilla people around the country and explain what they were trying to achieve with Gorilla Forest. The goal was to get the gorilla world's blessing.

As it turned out, when Steve met with the primate curator at Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, he learned they were getting ready to renovate their own gorilla exhibit. "I described Gorilla Forest to her, showed her our plans, and she really liked what she saw and what we talked about." John Walczak discussed the situation with General Curator of Lincoln Park, Dennis Pate. Lo and behold, Gorilla

Forest opened with a family of five gorillas on loan from Lincoln Park, "and we've never looked back."

Steve remembers the night the gorillas arrived in Louisville. "It was after dark. We gave them access and you could just see them move through the exhibit. They were very comfortable right from the start. They immediately told us that yes, we had done it right."

"To this day, that's one of my all-time favorite places to go."



Steve Taylor, former Elephant Supervisor Dave Campbell, and Mikki, 1987.

JANE ANNE FRANKLIN: THE ART OF BEING CONSISTENTLY INCONSISTENT

By Jennifer Kemnitz

Jane Anne Franklin knew the moment she came to the Zoo on a field trip with her University of Louisville mammalogy class — this was the place she was meant to be. She heard Dr. Bill Foster, who was the Zoo's veterinarian at that time, give a talk about zoo medicine. "I remember it like it was yesterday," she says.

That was actually 29 years ago. Today, Jane Anne is the Curator of Mammals and the Supervisor of Animal Training.

She was initially hired as a Keeper II in the giraffe area. She loved working with the giraffes, especially Mulberry, who was "a charismatic sweetheart" and very popular with the ladies. But when a position came open in aquatics, Jane Anne saw it as an opportunity to learn more about animal training. Back then, seals and sea lions were some of the few animals that

were formally trained, so she jumped at the chance to work with the pinnipeds.

In aquatics, Jane Anne began expanding her knowledge of behavior modification using operant conditioning, an approach to animal training that was just gaining traction.

With operant conditioning, keepers use positive reinforcement to encourage animals to exhibit desired behaviors. This allows keepers to make important, non-intrusive observations about the animals' health and well-being.

Meanwhile, the Zoo began developing plans for the Islands, a ground-breaking exhibit in which both predator and prey rotate through a series of indoor and outdoor areas. There was just one

rather enormous challenge: how to train the animals to move from space to space.

One thing about the Islands was clear right off the bat — in order to make the rotational design work, the animals needed to cooperate. So the Zoo decided to search nationally for a Supervisor of Animal Training. With the encouragement of Steve Taylor, who was then Mammal Curator, Jane Anne applied for — and got — the job.

Jane Anne and her team worked with the Islands' five different species of mammals: orangutans, tapirs, babirusas, siamangs and Sumatran tigers. Not all of the animals were interested in training. "Our first tiger wouldn't look at us," Jane Anne remembers. "He was an older male tiger, and he had a reputation. He was a tough customer. I knew we had to get past that, to open the door with that cat."



Top: Jane Anne with Sumatran tiger cubs, 2004; photo by Joyce Goldsmith and David Kennedy

Bottom: Jane Anne seal training, 2010; photo by Robert Kemnitz.



Jane Anne trains tapir Sarah in the Islands, 1996.

The animals have thrived in the Islands, and the rotational design influenced future exhibits like Gorilla Forest and Glacier Run. And while the animals benefit from the enrichment of shifting through different spaces, these exhibits also were

Applying a little creativity, the staff had an idea. “We invented a meatball catapult,” Jane Anne says proudly. “We’d launch a meatball and make it stick to the wall just above that tiger’s head. He had to look at it, and I knew we had his attention.”

Getting a tiger’s attention — and his trust — is no small feat, and just one example of the innovative training techniques that the Islands required. Jane Anne never had any doubt in her mind about the exhibit, but “we were going down a path that others hadn’t gone down before. A lot of people didn’t think we could make it work.”

The Zoo did make it work. In fact, it works so well that the staff at Islands has done up to 13 rotations in one day, to simulate natural roaming behaviors in the spring.

“Every time an animal goes to the same space, there’s something different,” Jane Anne explains. “Different toys, different scents, different bedding — it all changes all the time, but we stay consistent.” Jane Anne describes her training approach as being “consistently inconsistent.”

intentionally designed to facilitate interactions between the animals and the keepers. Even in the backstage areas that are off exhibit, the animals can see and hear the keepers.

“It’s all about building relationships,” Jane Anne says.

In Glacier Run, Jane Anne’s relationship with Qannik was critical when the orphaned polar bear cub developed a serious

fungal infection. John Walczak, Zoo Director, remembers how vital the keeper staff was in nursing Qannik back to health. “This little bear was splayed out on the floor, but she’d get up to take her medicine because Jane Anne asked her to come over. She trusted Jane Anne.”

After working with tigers, orangutans, gorillas, polar bears and a slew of other mammals, Jane Anne is up for her latest challenge: sloths. “I’ve never worked with them before,” she says. “But I’ve been studying them. That’s the thing about working with these animals — you’ve got to have a plan.”

Jane Anne’s plan is simple: take what’s good and make it even better. “We are responsible for giving the animals everything they need to succeed — to have longevity, to be comfortable, to be able to make choices. It’s my job to handle the details of bringing all those pieces together.” She likes hearing from other zoos that they have a recommendation to send an animal to Louisville, based on the Zoo’s reputation for excellent care.

“At the end of the day, I want every situation to be the best for every animal.”

Jane Anne at Zoo press conference announcing Qannik’s arrival.



A NATIONALLY RENOWNED KEEPER

This August, we were excited to announce that our Gorilla Forest keeper, Alexis Williamson, received the American Association of Zoo Keepers 2019 Lutz Ruhe Professional of the Year award, naming her one of the most outstanding keepers in the nation. The award was in recognition of her distinguished career. Mentioned in the award were her contributions to in-situ conservation efforts, generational record contributions for the gorillas housed at the Louisville Zoo, flagship conservation efforts for the black-footed ferret and work with the Zoo's Enrichment Tree Program. Alexis was president of the Louisville Zoo's AAZK chapter for the past 14 years and has worked tirelessly to ensure the best environment possible for the animals in her care. Congratulations Alexis! We are all so proud of you!



A PLAYGROUND FOR ALL

The African Outpost playground is getting enhancements including new inclusive play structures as well as a poured-in-place surface that allows kids and families with members of all abilities to have fun side-by-side learning through play. The new structures will also feature wide accessible ramps for entry, ground-based activities, slides and climbing structures, new sensory panels, a new inclusive spinner, and many other fun elements. The playground will be opening in early spring 2020. In the meantime, the Billabong playground in Australia is still open for your little ones to "run wild!"

A PRECIOUS PENGUIN CHICK

On Sept. 8, a little penguin chick hatched from parents Boost and Clark. To avoid disturbing the family, Zoo keepers have chosen not to determine if the chick is a male or female at this time — but the youngster is doing well! It has already lost most of its brown chick down and has started venturing out of the safety and security of its nest box. The chick is still young and shy, so it dashes back into its nest as soon as the penguin care team enters the barn. Boost and Clark have now reared three offspring with the last being hatched in January, demonstrating their excellent parenting skills. With their proven history in chick-rearing, when the pair showed an interest in breeding in July, Bird Curator Gary Michael set up a nest box for them. The species has been known to breed in most months of the year when in managed environments. *Photo by Dana Prior.*



DID YOU KNOW?

During the upcoming colder months, the little penguins will be off exhibit acclimating with some new friends — 12 additional little penguins that recently arrived from New England Aquarium. Look forward to seeing a larger flock of little penguins at the outdoor Penguin Cove this coming spring. In the meantime, the Islands indoor penguin exhibit is now re-opened with 7 new African penguins. African penguins originate from the coast and islands of southern Africa and can dive under water for up to 2.5 minutes while trying to catch their prey. Your Zoo continues to align its collection with the mission of helping endangered species. This penguin species is part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Saving Animals From Extinction (S.A.F.E.) program, which combines the power of zoo and aquarium visitors with the resources and collective expertise of AZA members and partners, all focused on saving vulnerable wildlife species from extinction and protecting them for future generations.



KINDI'S FAMILY

It's been a little while since we've given you an update on our "Kindi-rilla!" Late this summer, our small gorilla with a big personality and her surrogate mom Kweli joined their permanent family group which now includes female Paki and silverback Casey. It's been a process of three and a half years for the Gorilla Forest team — and they are beyond thrilled to see this cohesive family unit thriving. Congratulations to all of the gorilla care team on their huge success! See a heart-warming video of silverback Casey "tickling" Kindi, along with her sassy reactions, at LouisvilleZoo.org/Kindi.



Kindi and Casey, photo by Michelle Wise

A Wizard's Christmas



Presented by Michaelis Events

**Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
Jan. 24 – Feb. 15, 2020**

Special ticket required. "A Wizard's Christmas" invites you to attend its annual holiday event that includes a peek into the new North American Wizarding School coming to Kentucky: Alabaster School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, the American counterpart to Hogwarts.

This annual holiday event is inspired by themes from "Harry Potter," "Lord of the Rings," "Percy Jackson" and more! Fans of these wonderful magical worlds won't want to miss this spellbinding event!

Enjoy enchanting experiences you've seen in the movies like:

- A 3-course magical banquet meal including a dessert
- Meet and greet with student house leaders and teachers
- Forbidden Forest transition passageway into the magical school
- Charmed and enchanted store fronts
- Wizard and creature interactions
- A first look at Kentucky's upcoming Wizarding School: Alabaster School of Witchcraft and Wizardry
- Popular icons and sets from the movies
- Magical teacher performances with spells, duels and a fight against dark forces



For Tickets and more info, visit LouisvilleZoo.org/wizards

We Don't Hibernate



The Louisville Zoo is open daily, year-round — so, come out and embark on a fun winter adventure! Your Louisville Zoo has several indoor exhibits to explore, like the HerpAquarium, Islands and Gorilla Forest. Or bundle up and enjoy the Zoo while you watch our outdoor animals enjoy the cool weather. After curing your cabin fever, stop by the gift shop and use your member discount (10% off) to grab some cozy Louisville Zoo gear, a cup of hot chocolate and unique fair-trade gift items — the holidays are upon us!

Great Gift — Looking For Something Special?

We all have a person who is tough to shop for around the holidays. Well, your Louisville Zoo has a solution. An e-gift card in the amount of any membership level makes the perfect gift for anyone. The gift of a Louisville Zoo membership offers 12 months of exciting and memorable experiences for you and your loved ones or special friends. It's a Frequent Fun Pass — perfect for big families, little families and all of the nature lovers in your life. Let your gift recipient enjoy Louisville's award-winning Zoo FREE during regular Zoo hours with parking included. PLUS, they get discounts on events, camps, classes, rides, food and gift shop purchases.

Great Cause — Saving Wildlife

Zoo memberships have helped care for endangered wildlife, support global conservation programs and educate families in Kentuckiana for 50 years.

Great Deal — Save and Give the Gift that Gives All Year Long

Now through Dec. 31 you can purchase an e-gift card online in the amount of a Zoo membership and receive a **\$5 discount**. Plus the first 1,500 will receive a **FREE plush elephant** (like the one Kristen is holding below) when they redeem their e-gift card for a membership here at the Louisville Zoo. They also will pick the date their membership starts — so no time is lost if you do your holiday shopping early!



FOR DETAILS & ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS VISIT
LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/HOL19

Louisville Zoo Walking Club

Presented by



Returning March 1 – Oct. 31, 2020

**Enter the Zoo Daily
from 8 – 9:15 a.m.**

(You must exit the Zoo by 9:30 a.m.)

Walk your way to better health! The Walkers' loop at the Louisville Zoo is a hard-surface path through the grounds that combines flat areas and hills with a challenging twist on the traditional "morning stroll."

To become a member of this free program just call Norton Healthcare at (502) 899-6842 or visit Louisvillezoo.org/joinwalk

**KROGER
COMMUNITY
REWARDS**



Give to the Zoo without any cost!

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

ZOO BUCKS

The Louisville Zoo is pleased to offer members quarterly 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.

An ELEPHANT-SIZED UPDATE!

by Heather Dishon
Photos by Kyle Shepherd
& Robert Kemnitz

If you've been following the Louisville Zoo on social media, you've probably been watching the adventures of the Zoo's elephant herd and its newest addition – Fitz, the calf.

Since his birth on August 2, our calf has had many adventures. He spent time behind-the-scenes bonding with mom Mikki and "Aunt" Punch. Then, he and mom began walking and exploring the yard every morning before the Zoo was open to guests.

Finally, our calf was ready for his debut during regular Zoo visitor hours! It was a proud moment for the Zoo to be able to invite families in our community to see Mikki and her new calf. Fitz quickly delighted guests of ALL ages, adults and children alike.

CALF GETS A NAME

Our rambunctious elephant calf was now able to see all his fans — but he still needed a name! The Zoo announced a Naming Contest presented by Norton Children's on Sept. 13. Over the next 14 days, over 15,500 names were submitted! The elephant care team narrowed these thousands of names down to the three that seemed most fitting for the calf they had been caring for day and night: Fitz, Rocket and Walt.

The public voted on their favorite name by dropping their loose change and bills at the voting kiosk near the elephant exhibit and by donating online. Two weeks later, the public had spoken and our elephant calf finally had a name: FITZ!



Above: Little Fitz shows guests what he can do with his ears.

Left: The Alexander family reveals the new name of Mikki's calf.



of an elephant in his battle with a heart defect and later with a life-changing heart transplant at Norton Children's, so it seemed fitting that he would help us reveal the name.

Each of the final three names had duplicate submissions, so to decide our finalists, the Zoo performed a random drawing amongst the people who submitted each of these three names. Winner Kristin Hays from Prospect submitted "Fitz" after her great-grandparent who loved elephants and passed the love on to her.

Fitz is still as rambunctious as ever. Our little calf is currently almost 4 months old, and like most young individuals, he continues to discover new things about his body and his surroundings. He walks around with his trunk in his mouth from time to time, gathering intel about his surroundings through his Jacobson's organ that collects the data and sends information to his brain about smells and more. He's discovered the small mud wallow his keepers created for him in the yard and has been enthusiastically splashing around. He's also been

MEET FITZ!

The contest was a great success. Over \$6,000 (an all-time record) was raised for the care and support of Fitz, Mikki and Punch as well as the other animal ambassadors we have the honor and privilege of caring for at the Zoo.

Norton Children's heart transplant recipient Eli Alexander, his parents, Nick and Caitlyn, and his sister Abigail unveiled the winning name. Eli's parents have compared his strength and bravery to that



trying mom's food as well as running, playing and discovering all the things that he can do with a long nose and big elephant ears. Mom Mikki is showing him how things work, and he tags along wherever she goes.

Mikki is losing her baby weight; she's 8,300 pounds, down from 9,100. Fitz is up to 410 from his first weighing of 275. He will gain approximately 1 – 3 pounds per day through his first year of life.

Fitz, Mikki and "aunt" Punch are still bonding while the elephant care team continues its diligent watch over the herd. Punch, the elephant herd's matriarch, has been watching and listening to Fitz's progress. Although Punch and the calf have observed and smelled one another from adjacent stalls, they have not been together in shared spaces. As the calf gets older, Punch will take on the matriarch role and help the calf learn the "rules" of the herd. As with any new animal, the Zoo staff will observe the elephants' behaviors closely to determine when they are ready for each new step.

VIEWING THE ELEPHANTS

Mikki and Fitz are on exhibit daily from approximately 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for now. Punch will be

on a rotational schedule with Mikki and calf. As with any acclimation process, the daily exhibit time will be short, varied and subject to change based on the needs of the animals. Be sure to visit LouisvilleZoo.org/today for the latest updates.

Follow the adventures of our elephant herd including blogs, photo & video gallery, FAQs, press releases, conservation information and more at LouisvilleZoo.org/mikki.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) elephant breeding program is administered under the auspices of the Elephant Species Survival Plan (SSP), a cooperative program of all accredited zoos with elephants. The plan promotes the survival of elephant species into the future by providing links between zoo animal "ambassadors" and the conservation of their counterparts in the remnant wild.



FROM MAYOR GREG FISCHER

The Louisville Zoo is always the top nonprofit attraction in our region. It's a special place for generations of families that have grown alongside the zoo animals, including the exciting birth this year of an elephant calf.

In October, I had the honor of helping announce the elephant calf's name. Fitz is just the second elephant born at the Zoo in its 50-year history, a huge milestone for our city. His arrival this summer prompted a city-wide celebration with some of our iconic structures lit up with green, including the Twin Spires at Churchill Downs, Louisville Waterfront Park Big Four Bridge, and the LG&E building dome.

And this is a significant event not just for our city — but for world-wide conservation efforts to help preserve the African elephant, which is too vulnerable in the wild.

Thank you to all those in our community who have shown such support to our Zoo, and to the elephant keepers who have done such a fantastic job caring for our newest citizen.



DID YOU KNOW?

In Africa, elephants are at significant risk due to poaching and loss of habitat. Elephant habitat is disappearing due to human development, agriculture, logging and mining. The birth of African elephant Mikki's calf is important in helping to contribute to a genetically sustainable elephant population in accredited zoos. Learn more about the significance of Mikki's calf, Zoo conservation efforts and our conservation partners at LouisvilleZoo.org/mikki.





GIVE THE PERFECT GIFT

SHARE, CARE & CONNECT THIS SEASON!

The winter months bring a season of caring to our community. We all want to show those around us that we appreciate them in unique and memorable ways. Let us help you find a meaningful gift to celebrate your friends and family while nurturing and protecting wildlife. Every purchase at the Zoo supports our mission to better the bond between people and our planet and reinforces your role in bringing that mission to life.

ZOO MEMBERSHIPS: CREATING SPECIAL MOMENTS

A Zoo Gift Membership is a Frequent Fun Pass that provides a full year of shared adventures and memories and a commitment to support wildlife. Learn more about this Special Holiday Offer of \$5 OFF, valid through Dec. 31, 2019 on page 12.



**HOLIDAY
GIFT
MEMBERSHIP
OFFER!**

EXTRA, EXTRA SPECIAL GIFTS

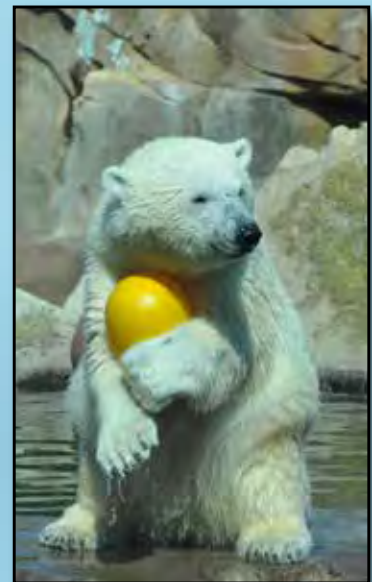
We all have people in our lives who deserve an extra special gift of recognition. Treat them to a private Behind-the-Scenes Tour or Experience led by passionate Zoo staffers and our stellar keepers. Celebrate a friend, family member, valued customer or client with an engraved brick in the Etscorn Garden or a personalized bench on Zoo grounds. Contact the Zoo at (502) 238-5386 to learn more.

SHARE THE FUN — ANIMAL ENRICHMENT TREE

Give a gift to our precious animal ambassadors and help enrich their lives by providing items that engage them in stimulating activities. Read more on page 22.

LET THEM DECIDE — GIFT CARDS & E-GIFT CARDS

Let them choose their own adventure with a Louisville Zoo gift card, available at the Zoo cashier windows in amounts from \$5 to \$150 and valid for 12 months after activation. Great for admission, rides and attractions, gift shop purchases or even a Zoo Membership! For maximum convenience, buy an e-gift card at LouisvilleZoo.org/giftcard.



AND HELP SAVE WILDLIFE

THE GIFT OF CONNECTION

The Louisville Zoo Gift Shop can take you and your loved ones on an incredible wildlife adventure this holiday season. Our toys, books and unique fair-trade gift items will introduce your friends, family and little ones to a world as remarkable as they are.

You can help to create a better life for artisans and protect the environment, all while providing one-of-a-kind delights. Hand-made and eco-friendly items, created in small villages and benefiting the residents of these communities, are available in the Main Plaza Gift Shop. Be sure to stop by and see our beautifully beaded animal-themed ornaments, Louisville Zoo shirts and amazing variety of animal plushies sure to delight any animal or nature lover on your gift list.

Present your Zoo Membership to receive 10% off all regular price purchases. The Main Plaza Gift Shop is open daily, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Zoo closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.) Admission to the Zoo is not required to shop. Our friendly staff provides a relaxing environment to help you find the best way to brighten up someone's holiday.



SAFARI DAY CAMPS

Treat them to the wildest camp in town! All camps include zoo walks, animal presentations, attraction rides, and up-close encounters with Zoo ambassadors. Plus, our extended hours for parents continue through the winter! See page 24 for details.

WINTER PRICING

The Louisville Zoo is teaming up with Kroger for our Wild Winter Days program. Receive an additional \$1 off already deeply discounted winter general admission at the gate when you bring in a canned good item for Dare to Care Food Bank. Valid Now – Feb. 29, 2020. More info at LouisvilleZoo.org/wildwinterdays.



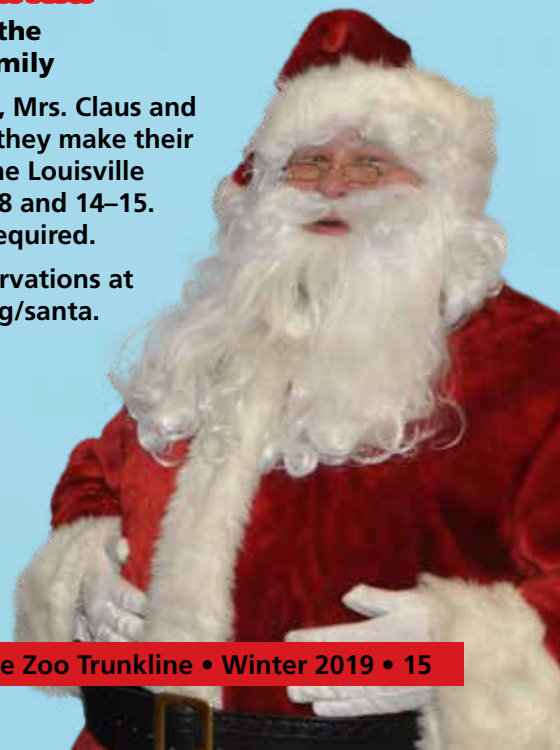
AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT SANTA...

SANTA'S SAFARI

Sponsored by the MacDonald Family

Visit with Santa, Mrs. Claus and their friends as they make their annual trip to the Louisville Zoo on Dec. 7 – 8 and 14–15. Special tickets required.

Details and reservations at LouisvilleZoo.org/santa.



WILD LIGHTS **ASIAN LANTERN FESTIVAL**

AT THE LOUISVILLE ZOO

Thursdays – Sundays, March 5 – April 25
Daily, March 30 – April 3 (JCPS spring break)

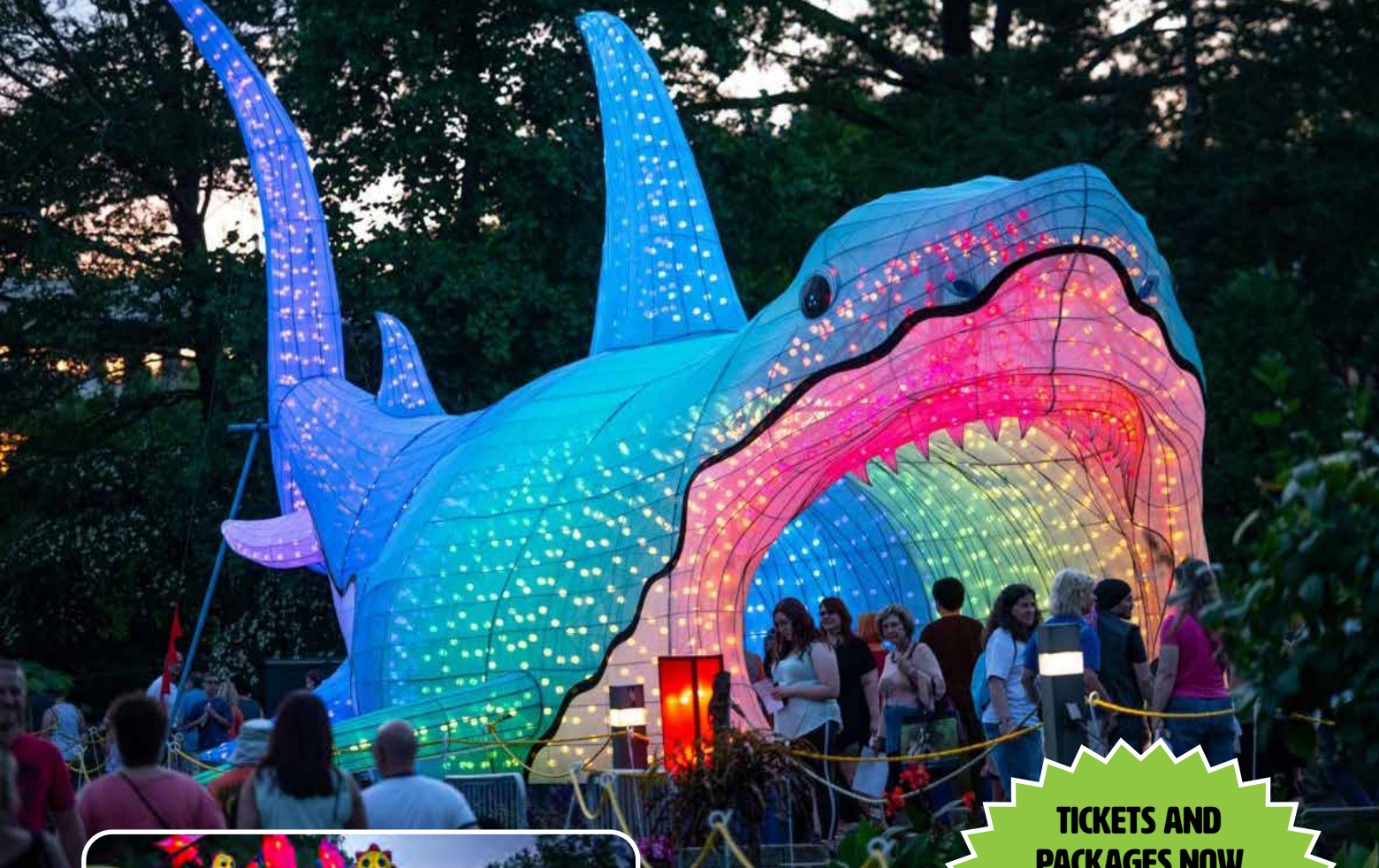
Times: 6:30 – 10 p.m.

**COME SEE THE ZOO IN A WHOLE
NEW LIGHT AND ENJOY ONE
OF THE NATION'S LARGEST
LANTERN FESTIVALS!**

Wild Lights Asian Lantern Festival features more than 2,000 intricate lanterns and 50,000 LED light bulbs creating 65 larger-than-life scenes. Join us on a fantastic journey on our 1.4 mile trail to experience some of your favorite creatures transformed into luminescent art, like a 130-foot-long dragon. Stroll through a 70-foot shark tunnel and explore the fairy forest! Interactive displays let you become part of the magic as you leap from lily pad to lily pad, glide through the air on amazing swings that change color as you soar and pose with wondrous glowing angel wings.



Written by Stephanie Bromback, Events Coordinator



**TICKETS AND
PACKAGES NOW
ON SALE!**

Louisville Zoo
members receive a
discount!

WILD LIGHTS IS MORE THAN JUST LANTERNS.

Stop by the entertainment stage to witness authentic cultural stage performances three times each night including acrobats and dancers. Embark on a culinary adventure as you enjoy specialty Asian food and drink items throughout the Zoo, including Asian beers, saké and bubble tea. Visit the festival marketplace featuring stunning handcrafted goods, some crafted by artisans before your very eyes!

Wild Lights is sure to be an experience to remember. It's a thrilling and immersive experience for everyone — a family outing, romantic date or even a coworker get-together. Special tickets are required for this after-hours festival.



FOR MORE INFO & TO PURCHASE TICKETS, VISIT WILDLIGHTSLOUISVILLE.COM

Keep your Holidays Green

By Amy Seadler, Keeper II, Islands

The holidays are known as a time of generosity. Many of us spend our free time shopping, trying to find that perfect gift to show our loved ones how much we care.

One thing that many people shop for during these colder months is clothing! We stop at the nearest department store, searching for the perfect shirt, jeans or sweater that fits our style or the style of the person we care about. However, what you may not know is that depending on where you shop, you may be supporting the “fast fashion” industry — an industry that is the world’s second largest polluter. Animals are also impacted by “fast fashion” when toxic dyes are released in waterways and microfibers are ingested by ocean life. Yuck!

There are many ways to still get some fantastic threads while being friendly to our earth and our wildlife. Below are some tips to help you keep your wardrobe sustainable!

- Consider how often you buy items and shop only when you have a specific need.
- Buy wardrobe pieces that can be used for many occasions.
- Shop for higher-quality garments that you can wear longer.



- Research before buying and choose garments made of sustainable fabrics like organic cotton or recycled polyester.
- Follow the garment care instructions to ensure the most mileage for wear.
- When buying online, choose a store with less packaging or packaging that is recycled or compostable.
- Choose one of our community’s many secondhand stores to purchase your clothing — or buy secondhand online.
- Try using your current wardrobe pieces in new ways. If you have a pair of pants that you only wear to work, can you pair them with something casual on the weekend?
- Consider what you currently own before buying. Do you have something similar to what you are looking at? How will this new item fit into your current wardrobe?
- When you do decide to organize your closet, don't just throw away your still usable clothing items. Donate, resell or have a clothing swap party with your friends.
- If you have clothes that have seen better days, reuse them! Old t-shirts can make great cleaning rags or even be made into yarn to create useful items like dog toys. Look on the internet for some great ideas!

There are many resources to help you shop more sustainably. One great resource to learn about what’s in what you wear, sustainable places to shop and ways to make your current wardrobe go the distance is Goodonyou.eco.

When we re-think our shopping patterns, we can build a more sustainable and eco-friendly world. Here's to a season of sustainable shopping!



Winter, Water and Our Plant Friends

By Matt Lahm, Assistant Curator of Education

During autumn, we all get to enjoy the fantastic foliage as our deciduous plants cease their summer photosynthesis, drop leaves and go into dormancy for the winter. The seasonal diminishing of sunlight hours is the primary signal to these plants to start their change — but did you know there's another factor that signals this change? **It's water!**

Wonderful Water

Water is one of the most important and common substances that we interact with, so it's easy to forget how unique it is, especially to life on Earth! Approximately 71 percent of the Earth's surface is water. The human body is about 60 percent water, and trees are more than 50 percent water. Water is the only natural substance found in all three physical states (solid, liquid, gas) at the temperatures that normally occur on Earth.

Water is highly cohesive and adhesive, meaning that water molecules "stick" to one another and other substances readily. For our botanical buddies, this quality is why water and dissolved nutrients are able to move through the cells of trees and plants, particularly from their roots to their leaves, against the force of gravity!

The Trouble with Winter Water

When autumn comes and temperatures begin to drop, deciduous plants drop leaves to conserve the water they would have needed to supply those now fallen leaves.

Why must plants conserve water in winter? You may be thinking, "we get plenty of water in winter through ice and snow!" The trouble is, plants can only absorb liquid water — so ice and snow are not usable by plants. When water begins to freeze, the molecules arrange themselves in an organized pattern. This creates more space than when water is in a liquid state, which is why ice expands as it freezes. Because of this expanding, if deciduous trees and shrubs did not expel most of the water out of and in between their cells, the cells would rupture and die.

Protecting from the Cold

One more way that plants protect themselves from freezing water is by producing protective and natural "antifreeze!" Overwintering plants secrete these antifreeze proteins to help increase their freezing tolerance. This natural antifreeze prevents the forming of ice crystals which would be fatal.

So, while we may not get the physical show in winter that we see during autumn, there are some truly amazing things happening on the molecular level so our plant friends can survive to re-emerge in all their glory for springtime. What an amazing world we live in!



LOUISVILLE ZOO ENRICHMENT TREE

'Tis the season of compassion and creating bonds. Show our animal friends how much you care with a gift to the Louisville Zoo Enrichment Tree. Enlist your kids, family members, students and friends to join the fun and help select and donate items to enrich the lives of our precious Zoo animals.

The Louisville Zoo Enrichment Tree, presented by the Louisville Chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), is similar to the Angel Trees seen inside malls. The difference is that your donations go to help your favorite Zoo animals get new enrichment items! These enrichment items increase behavioral choices, provide engagement and stimulation and draw out species-appropriate behaviors and abilities, thus enhancing animal welfare.

It's easy to participate. All through the month of December, there will be a tree located on the Zoo's front plaza that is decorated with paw print tags. Each tag lists a dollar amount. Amounts vary from \$5 to \$100 so everyone can participate.

Simply remove a tag and take it into the gift shop where you can make your donation. The money you donate will go toward purchasing enrichment items for the animals.

Want to purchase an item outright? Visit our website at LouisvilleZoo.org/tree to see a list of items.

Just be sure to provide your purchased item and selected tag to the Zoo receptionist during regular business hours by Dec. 31, 2019.

**HELP OUT AT
LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/TREE**

DID YOU KNOW?

Exhibit enhancements are underway in the Cats of the Americas area of the Zoo. We have added additional interior holding space for both the puma and lynx and are making improvements to the bald eagle exhibit as well. Guests will enjoy the new and improved path that leads to these exhibits. Look for this area to re-open to the public in early spring 2020!



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theZOO
LOUISVILLE



B222285M

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\$7.99

Not valid with any other offers.
Limit one coupon per customer.
Valid at participating Louisville
area salons.
Offer Expires: 1/31/20

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greatclips.com | greatclipscareers.com | greatclipsfranchise.com

Find us at   



The SLOTH Experience!

**Coming
Spring 2020**

This spring, slow down with the sloths at the Louisville Zoo!

Our new 1-year-old male and female two-toed sloths are getting acclimated to their new surroundings. This spring 2020, they will be waiting to meet you in the South America zone near the Chilean flamingos! Hang out with one of the most elusive and fascinating creatures on the planet and hear from the keepers who care for them.

This exhibit is made possible through the Friends of the Louisville Zoo and other generous donors. More information is coming soon!

Check LouisvilleZoo.org/sloth for future updates.

About Linneaus's Two-Toed Sloths

- This arboreal mammal hails from the South America forest canopy. Sloths are nocturnal, solitary and known for their slow movements as well as their tendency to hang upside down in trees. In fact, these sloths eat, sleep, mate and even give birth in this position!
- Although commonly referred to as two-toed sloths, did you know that all sloths actually have three toes on their hind legs? The fingers on their front limbs are what differs between species; some sloths have three fingers and some have two!
- The sloth's natural predators are big cats, snakes and eagles — but their largest threat is loss of habitat due to the rapidly expanding human population.
- Two-toed sloths are also a bit larger, reaching 31 inches in length and weighing up to 24 pounds. They have long, brown hair which will stand on edge when they feel threatened. The shape of these hairs allows for the growth of algae and fungi by trapping moisture. This growth can make the sloths appear green which helps to camouflage them in the rain forest canopy.
- Sloths enjoy a diet of mostly leaves but will also eat flowers and fruit. Due to their slow metabolism, two-toed sloths have one of the slowest digestive rates for any mammal. Research shows it takes approximately 30 days for them to fully digest what they eat.

METAZOO CLASSES

By Kim Allgeier, Curator of Conservation Education

SAFARI DAY CAMPS 2020

Camps make great holiday gifts; and with cool topics like Backstage Pass and ZooDunnit, you'll want to get them before they're gone! Purchase summer camps before Dec. 31 and save \$10 on each full week registration with the discount code **HOLIDAY**.

All Safari Day Camps include Zoo walks, animal presentations, attraction rides, and up-close encounters with Zoo ambassador animals. Plus, our extended hours for parents continue through the winter, spring and summer! Choose an option below based on your child's grade level. Parents should provide a lunch and snack for their child each day.

Drop Off: 8 – 9 a.m.

Camp: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Pick Up: 4 – 5 p.m.

Pricing

Full Week Programs:

\$285 Members/ \$315 Non-Members

Winter, Spring Break and 1 Day Camps:

\$57 per day Members | \$63 Non-Members

(Spring break programs may be purchased by day or week)

Winter 2020

January 2, 3 & 6

Pre K – K: Warm Fuzzies

When temperatures drop below freezing, it takes some cool adaptations to survive! Learn how our favorite cold weather animals withstand the chill of the Arctic.

Grades 1 – 3:

Around the World

Pack your bags for an exciting trip to the far reaches of the world and discover the animals and cultures that call those places home.

Grades 4 – 6: To the Extreme

Uncover the secrets of the animal kingdom's most extreme inhabitants. Campers will explore some of the most unforgiving places on the planet — from the deep sea to the hot desert! How do animals survive in these habitats?

Spring Break 2020

March 23 – 26 &

March 30 – April 3

Pre K – K: Elefun

What has four legs and can spend up to 18 hours eating grass, plants and fruits every day? Join us for this exciting camp where we celebrate our favorite pachyderms and learn about our newest addition to the elephant family.

Grades 1 – 3: Color Wonders

Channel your inner scientist and explore our wonderful world in this camp that investigates nature's boldest colors, what's wild about water, and the world around us.

Grades 4 – 6:

Zoo Exhibit Design

What if you could build a zoo? In this camp, you can! Learn what it takes to create our Zoo exhibits and design one of your own!

FAMILY PROGRAMS: ZOO PRESCHOOL

Now enrolling for Spring 2020! Zoo Preschool is a drop-off program best suited for children who are planning to enter kindergarten in the fall of 2020.

This immersive program is perfect for children with a natural love of animals. Inspired by diverse cultures to reinforce empathy and compassion for animals and people, Zoo Preschool will include daily Zoo walks, special animal experiences and encounters while focusing on social and emotional learning (SEL) — a key essential skill identified as one of the pillars for Kindergarten readiness.

Held in our new Cub House Classroom, this 8-week informal preschool program will prepare your child both in and out of the classroom.

Children must be at least 4 years old and potty-trained to participate. The program includes an open house March 1 and a closing party May 1, open to students and their families.

March 3 – April 30* (Tues, Weds & Thurs)

8:30 a.m. – Noon

(Excludes March 31, April 1 and April 2)

Pricing

Full Semester: \$1,200 (includes 24 program days, 1 family open house & 1 closing party)

Monthly: \$150 deposit plus two payments of \$550 each

**Give your child
an unforgettable
experience!**

**Enroll in Zoo Preschool
by Dec. 31 and
SAVE \$150 on your
registration**

For more information and to register, visit **LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/CAMPS**

NEW May 19, 2020
Special 1-day Camp

Grades K – 3: Pondering Primates

We'll explore our favorite primates, learn about their unique adaptations, and share what campers can do to help save primates from around the world.

NEW June 8 – 12

Grades K – 3: Summer Camp Preview

If you're new to camps or if you just want more Safari Day Camp fun, then this is the camp for you! We'll be previewing our favorite camps for the summer during our first summer camp preview week! Each day campers will participate in activities, keeper talks, and will visit Zoo attractions. Activities will change daily, and camps may be purchased by day or by week.

2020 SUMMER CAMPS

	PRE K – KINDERGARTEN	K – 1 ST GRADE	1 ST – 2 ND GRADE	2 ND – 3 RD GRADE	3 RD – 4 TH GRADE	5 TH – 6 TH GRADE
JUNE 15 – 19	SUN & SHADOWS	WHALE OF A TALE	ANIMAL GROSSOLOGY	ART SAFARI	COLOSSAL CREATURES	BACKSTAGE PASS
JUNE 22 – 26	COOL CATS	GLACIER FUN	MONKEY BUSINESS	SLOW POKES	MYTHBUSTERS	VET CAMP
JUNE 29 – JULY 1	DINOS	CAMP DISCOVERY	HERP HERP HORAY	ZOO DUNNIT	ZOO MAZING RACE	
JULY 6 – 10	HOP, SKIP & BUTTERFLY	ANIMAL SUPERHEROES	SKY STORIES	UNDERWATER ADVENTURES	JAWS & CLAWS	BACKSTAGE PASS
JULY 13 – 17	SUN & SHADOWS	WHALE OF A TALE	ANIMAL GROSSOLOGY	ART SAFARI	COLOSSAL CREATURES	VET CAMP
JULY 20 – 24	COOL CATS	GLACIER FUN	MONKEY BUSINESS	SLOW POKES	MYTHBUSTERS	
JULY 27 – AUG. 31	DINOS	CAMP DISCOVERY	HERP HERP HORAY	ZOO DUNNIT	ZOO MAZING RACE	BACKSTAGE PASS
AUG 3 – 7	HOP, SKIP & BUTTERFLY	ANIMAL SUPERHEROES	SKY STORIES	UNDERWATER ADVENTURES	JAWS & CLAWS	VET CAMP

PRE K-K

Sun & Shadows: Explore the science of shadows, wind, water and sunlight.

Cool Cats: Chill out at the Zoo and learn about the amazing adaptations of snow leopards.

Dinos: Be a dinosaur detective as you explore the amazing creatures that once roamed our planet!

Hop, Skip & Butterfly: Crawl, creep and flutter with us as we learn about some of our favorite insects.

K-1 GRADE

Whale of a Tale: Discover some of our most beloved stories, tall tales & legends. Learn about the animals featured in them and then create one of your own!

Glacier Fun: Polar bears, grizzly bears and pinnipeds, oh my! See how these magnificent animals deal with the harshest environments.

Camp Discovery: Join us for an epic adventure as we explore the Zoo through a week of field investigations!

Animal Superheroes: Investigate high flyers, speed racers and some of the strongest animals on Earth in this camp that focuses on animals that are in a league of their own!

1-2 GRADES

Grossology: Hold your nose while we explore some of the most stomach-churning

animals on the planet, in this camp that's an animal grossology adventure!

Monkey Business: Make mischief with the monkeys exploring their new exhibit. Learn how to tell a good joke while you are at it!

Herp, Herp, Hooray: Hang out with the amazing cold-blooded creatures of the HerpAquarium! These animals have no problem when the temperatures soar. Learn all their cool adaptations.

Sky Stories: Constellations tell the tales of animal stories from around the world. Join us as we explore the origins of these tales and the animals that inspired them.

2-3 GRADES

Art Safari: Bring your drawing, painting and sculpting skills to life at the Zoo! Use the world's best models for inspiration for your creative side.

Slow Pokes: Not all animals enjoy life in the fast lane. Join us as we explore the world's slowest creatures.

ZooDunnit: It's a Zoo Dunnit mystery! Campers will explore the Zoo and learn problem-solving skills to crack the case of the day. Join the fun and be a safari sleuth!

Underwater Adventures: There are so many creatures living under the surface — some so small you need a microscope to see. Explore the magical world of our rivers and oceans.

3-4 GRADES

Colossal Creatures: Think BIG as we explore the largest creatures in the animal kingdom and discover their fascinating features for survival.

Mythbusters: The animal world is full of myths, legends and sayings that are often not true. Campers will be busting myths all week during this fun and interactive program!

Zoo-mazing Race: This camp will include Zoo related clues and tasks based on the reality TV show "The Amazing Race." Complete with detours and roadblocks, campers will race around the Zoo!

Jaws & Claws: Explore the world's most ferocious creatures, big and small.

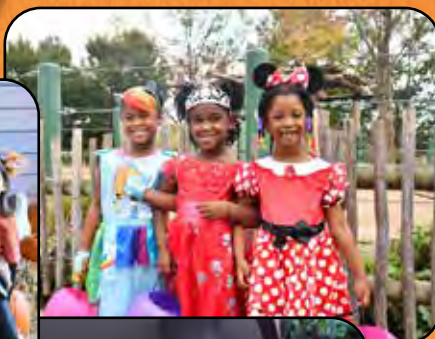
5-6 GRADES

Backstage Pass: Become a VIP this week! Campers will learn about the design of zoos as they get a behind-the-scenes look at some of our exhibits. Each day campers will go on behind-the-scenes tours of the Zoo and get exclusive access to areas that are not available to general visitors.

Vet Camp: Discover the ins and outs of animal health and learn how our Zoo doctors and keepers take care of our animals every day. This camp includes exclusive tours of the Animal Hospital, Commissary, and Black-Footed Ferret Conservation Center along with visits from our veterinary staff.

For more information and to register, visit LOUISVILLEZOO.ORG/CAMPS

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50 Years of Fun, Family and Favorite Animals

We've had a lot of fun celebrating 50 years of the Louisville Zoo. We held a kick-off event in January for current and former staff, volunteers, board members and community leaders. We celebrated in style during May at the Zoo, where the public was invited to join us for a weekend of anniversary fun and special activities. Spreading the fun, pop-up events were hosted throughout the community this past summer. We are also planning to end the year with the launch of a Louisville Zoo history book and our first-ever children's book.

Along the way, we've had the opportunity to hear so many compelling, fun and heart-warming stories from so many of our friends, members and supporters. We're incredibly honored that the Louisville Zoo has played a poignant role in the lives of millions of people over the past 50 years.

Many of you shared your favorite animals and how these specific animals have had an impact on your experiences at the Zoo. Many shared treasured memories about western lowland gorilla Kindi, polar bear Qannik and orangutans Amber, Bella, Teak and Segundo. Those animals that have moved on are fondly remembered as well, like gorilla Frank, Scotty the elephant, Trapper the lion or EQ the zebra. Regardless of the species, everyone had a very personal reason about why they felt a connection to these particular animals and in turn, the Zoo.

We love that so many of you value the role of your Zoo in this community and your lives, and we are thankful for those who continue to invest in us.

Today, we ask that you consider a gift to the Louisville Zoo in honor of our 50th year and your favorite animal. Join our family and help continue our story by visiting **LouisvilleZoo.org/donate** to make a gift to the Louisville Zoo Fund. Please remember to mark your support as a tribute gift and tell us which animal you would like to honor. We'd also love to hear your story along with your gift!

"We're incredibly honored that the Louisville Zoo has played a poignant role in the lives of millions of people over the past 50 years."

ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR ZOO

Philanthropic gifts round out our annual financial needs and provide new, innovative exhibits, programs and experiences to the community. Every gift, regardless of size, truly makes a difference.

As you make year-end plans, we ask that you consider a gift to the Louisville Zoo. There are many ways you can help!

- Join the Louisville Zoo Sustainer Society
- Set-up a monthly / recurring gift to the Annual Fund
- Contribute appreciated stock (security account #78973274, DTC #0547)
- Direct your 401K or IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) to the Zoo
- Add \$5, \$10, \$25 or more to your upcoming membership renewal in support of the Louisville Zoo Fund
- Plan to upgrade to a Zoo license plate next time you renew car tags

To learn more, contact Kelly Grether, Director of Development, at (502) 238-5615 or Kelly.Grether@Louisvilleky.gov.



A Long Wait for Winter

This year, Louisville Zoo educator Diane Moon visited the remote town of Churchill, Canada, in partnership with conservation organization Polar Bears International. Read all about her fantastic travels below!

Bright sunshine, cloudless skies and 40 degrees: a beautiful fall day. That was the weather on October 1, 2019 at Churchill, Manitoba, Canada. Many people that day said to enjoy the weather because it wouldn't last long. Winter's icy grip should have frozen the Western Hudson Bay, where the small town is located. However, days later the temperatures still hovered around 30 to 40 degrees. Back in Louisville, temperatures were well over 90 degrees, and it hadn't rained in over two months.

Churchill is called the Polar Bear Capital of the World. More than 800 bears travel through this tiny town as they migrate north. These polar bears are waiting for the Hudson Bay to freeze so they can begin their hunt for seals. Polar bears use the Hudson Bay sea ice as a hunting highway to the seals resting on top of the ice. Unfortunately, the sea ice is not freezing as early as it should. This leaves the Churchill bears that arrive early very hungry; they haven't eaten all summer long.

During our time in Churchill, Climate Alliance researchers, other zoo keepers and I explored this vast ecosystem from a large tundra buggy. The buggy has big tires with thick treads, which help us move through the permafrost and the bay waters. The ground is covered in rocks of all sizes.

As we looked through our binoculars for wildlife, we discovered many animals close to the buggy.



We saw ptarmigan, a large quail-like bird, still in their fall colors of white with brown speckles. They were so close we could hear them cluck as they ate the last of the red willow buds.

We saw Arctic hares in a boulder field and foxes walking through willow thickets. There was a bald eagle watching us from a small tree. The trees don't grow very tall here in Churchill. The ground stays frozen for most of the year.

We also saw beluga whales swimming in the bay. During the summer, they deliver their babies near the river mouth. They must travel out of the bay before it freezes or risk getting stuck. It was on the day we saw the beluga whales that we also saw our first wild polar bear. It was a young bear that showed up too early for the sea ice freeze. It walked along the rocky shore looking for something to eat. It hadn't eaten all summer and now it has to wait for the bay to freeze. It might be several weeks before this bear is able to begin its journey on the ice.

Just a few years ago, this entire landscape would have been white. But now, because of climate change, the bay won't freeze up for weeks.

Finally, on Oct. 27, it began to snow. Though it was finally cold

enough for the water to freeze, the bears will have to wait until the ice is thick enough to walk on. They have waited a long time already.

Many of our far northern animals are affected by climate change. As we use more and more fossil fuels to drive our cars, warm our houses and create products in factories, we release more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The thermal blanket around the Earth continues to grow thicker, holding in more heat and causing temperatures to rise. Polar bears are waiting months longer to hunt seals on the sea ice — too long. At times, they become too sick and weak from hunger to recover. Other Arctic animals are affected by climate change too.

The good news is that people can help our Arctic friends by moving toward renewable energy and thinking more sustainably. So what can you do to help? Write to your government officials and ask them to change our laws to make it easier to use renewable energy. Get your classmates involved in raising money for polar bear conservation. You can also take a personal pledge to reduce your use of fossil fuels by conserving energy. For more information and tips on how you can help, visit polarbearsinternational.org

Louisville Zoo's Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Dinner

The Louisville Zoo's Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Dinner was held Sunday, August 11, 2019. It was a beautiful evening with over 600 volunteers, family and friends in attendance. Two major awards are given out each year: the Jonathon Michael Heaton Award to recognize an outstanding youth volunteer, and the Diane Taylor Spirit Award to an outstanding adult volunteer.

2019 Jonathan Michael Heaton Award Winner Jasmine Skye Benningfield

Members of the Valley zoo keeper staff (who care for giraffes, big cats and hoof stock like the addax and bongos) shared their thoughts about this special volunteer: "Jasmine always shows up ready to work every weekend with a giant smile on her face and never complains about anything that is asked of her. She is extremely reliable, and we trust her to show new volunteers "the ropes" of the area. As a member of the Louisville Zoo Youth Board, she displays the utmost maturity in dealing with any situation. She has been a part of our area for two years and has gained the trust and friendship of all of the keepers that work with her."



2019 Spirit Award Winner Christopher Thomas Ramser

Chris has been volunteering with the HerpAquarium for over 10 years. He is a dedicated adult volunteer who started as a teen volunteer. "Chris has



been with us for 10 years but is still young," shared a member of the HerpAquarium team. "Because of this, he is able to train our youth volunteers who feel relaxed and comfortable around him. Chris is ready to help us whenever and however we need. His desire to help is matched only by his desire to have fun and enjoy what he is doing while he is here." Chris would love to work in the HerpAquarium one day and he is striving to make that dream a reality.

Special Thanks to those who assisted with summer and fall projects and events such as Brew at the Zoo, Zoofari!, Butterflies n' Blooms, Flutter Fest, as well as lending a hand to the Zoo's horticulture and maintenance departments. Many thanks to Don Blanton and Peggy Smith plus generous volunteers from Humana, Cummins Sales & Service, UPS, Papa John's Pizza, Compucom, CBS Interactive, Nur Islamic School, Rawlings Company and duPont Manual Key Club.

Halloween Recognition Our deepest gratitude to all those individuals, groups and organizations whose members and employees volunteered their precious time during the Zoo's "World's Largest Halloween Party!" presented by Meijer. Over 1,320 volunteers contributed 8,851 hours making it possible to accommodate 75,858 enthusiastic trick-or-treaters.

Additional thanks to UPS for providing team members who assisted with set-up, unloading candy and straw bales, manning treat stations and breaking down the event. Some of these tasks are the not-so-glamorous but vital tasks needed to put on this important fundraiser and community party.



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By Terri Lenahan-Downs, Sponsorship Director

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