



January/February 2019

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Volunteer Connections



**Special Thank You to all
volunteers & staff who
contribute, produce,
and distribute the
Volunteer Connections
Newsletter!**

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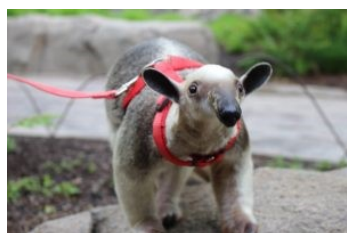
Calendar of Events for January & February

| Date / Time | Event | Location |
|----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Jan. 1 - Mar. 8 | <i>Penguin Days/Parades</i> | Entire Zoo |
| Feb. 9, 10, & 14 - 6:30 pm | <i>Valentine's Dinner: Tickets Needed</i> | Education Center |
| Tue. Feb. 19 - 10:30 am | <i>Continuing Education: Animal Care Luncheon (Potluck)</i> | Frisch's Theater |

Animal News - New Tamandua Baby Makes Cincinnati Zoo's Holiday Bright! - CINCINNATI (December 24, 2018)

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden welcomed a tamandua baby in the wee morning hours on December 20, 2018. Labor was quick and mom, Isla, and pup, sex and name to be determined, are doing great and bonding in the Zoo's Animal Ambassador Center (AAC).

"We have been waiting for this baby for what feels like forever and have been doing weekly ultrasounds since August," said Cincinnati Zoo Interpretive Animal Keeper Colleen Lawrence. "Since Tamanduas can be pregnant 130-190 days, we really didn't know when it was



going to happen. I actually don't have words for how excited I am for this pup and how amazed I am watching Isla learning how to be a mom!"

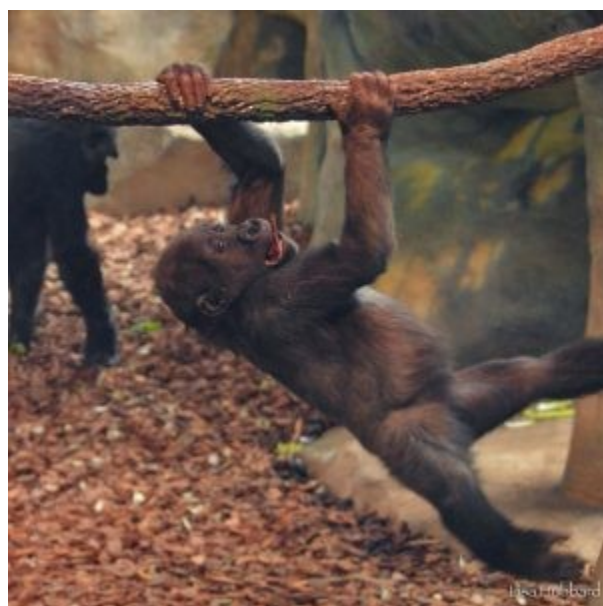
Almost-five-year-old Isla has been at the Cincinnati Zoo since 2016 and is a first-time mom. She is doing everything she should be doing, and if all goes well the keeper staff will slowly open the blinds of their AAC habitat after 1-2 months. So, visitors could get a peek as soon as four weeks from now!

Tamanduas are similar to anteaters and use their long snouts to sniff out ant, termite and bee colonies. Long claws enable them to dig into nests, and a long sticky tongue licks up the insects. A single tamandua can eat up to 9,000 ants in a single day!

Zoo News - Greenest Zoo in America LEEDing the Way in Sustainable Habitat Design CINCINNATI (November 27, 2018)

The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, aka the Greenest Zo in America, has achieved Platinum LEED certification for its new indoor Gorilla World habitat!

“Visitors may only notice baby gorilla Elle spinning around and playing in the gorillas’ indoor habitat, but there’s much more to admire in and about that space,” said Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard. “Almost half of the building products we used were manufactured using recycled materials and 44% came from local suppliers. We’re proud of that.”



The Zoo has been LEEDing the way in sustainable building practices for more than a decade and has built an impressive list of green awards and accomplishments. It earned the first LEED Silver certification in Cincinnati in 2006, the first LEED Platinum in the city in 2009, and was the first Zoo in the world and project in Ohio to receive Living Building Challenge recognition for its Painted Dog Valley habitat.

Today, we are working toward an ambitious goal to become a zero-waste facility by 2025, Cincinnati Zoo’s 150th anniversary,” said Maynard. “In addition to building LEED certified habitats and implementing smart water usage practices that have saved a billion gallons of water, we are growing food for our animals and helping our neighbors put LED bulbs in their homes and businesses.”

In 2011, the Zoo began an initiative to collect old cell phones to protect gorilla habitats in Africa, where a mineral used to make cell phones is mined. Since that time, it has recycled 100,000 cell phones! A collection bin is located in Gorilla World, so visitors can drop off phones and see the endangered species that will benefit from their donation at the same time!

ZOO News - Continued

“They may not notice the low-flow water fixtures, high-efficiency HVAC systems, and other elements above and below the gorilla building that helped us earned platinum certification, but the giant solar panel array over the parking lot is hard to miss! We’re working hard to LEED by example and inspire others to make sustainable choices,” said Maynard.

Earlier this year, the Zoo announced its plan to dramatically enhance animal habitats while also improving the visitor experience. The Zoo’s master “More Home to Roam” vision includes an interactive kangaroo walkabout, new home for our little penguins, an adventure ropes course, a parking garage, more home to roam for our rhinos and polar bears, a new nature-based play area and FIVE TIMES more space for elephants!

Horticulture News - Warm Winter Wishes

Dear Horticulture Volunteers,

Just a little note to wish you all Happy Holidays, Warm Winter Wishes, and Luck in the New Year! Thank you for all your hard work this season—your dedication to the gardens is truly inspirational. Each of you is an asset to our department and, together, the sky is the limit! Looking forward to seeing you next season (or for one of our winter meetings or work days!). Please check your email/horticulture hotline periodically for save the dates and general announcements throughout the winter.

PS—Please remember to log your hours before the first of the year!

All the best,

Tosh Dobias

Moe’s Return to Education!

Moe’s new habitat is taking shape. Our teams have been busy designing an expanded space that will include 2 artificial trees with cooling, heating, and resting stations. A total of 3 trees will be connected to allow Moe to travel, upside-down and at a top speed of about 40 feet per hour. We hope to wrap up all construction before mid-March!

CREW News– Holiday Celebration & Potluck - Judy Stewart, Social Chair

Decisions, decisions, decisions! What to do for the 2018 CREW Holiday Potluck, December 5? Someone suggested ‘Ugly Sweaters’. Why not? The wheels begin to turn.

At Peacock Pavilion, table decorations always get top priority. This year they were ugly sweaters surrounded by Twizzlers and sprays of yew. A ring of holly around the votive completed Sue Roenker’s masterpiece.

Many of the volunteers, laden with their favorite dishes to share, arrived early to complete their required OSHA. Mike Camery served as chauffeur from Safari Lot. With good weather on December 5, some preferred to walk up to Peacock Pavilion.

Inside, snowflake graphics colored the walls, adding to the festivities. “Happy Holidays” in many languages scrolled on the screen, followed by a list of CREW Executive Committee and CREW Staff who made the day possible. Selfie frames brought out the cell phones. Special greetings for Clara Dantic and Lesley Weingartner were composed and later mailed.

About seventy guests, no longer hungry, headed home with warm holiday wishes.

Zoosters Update!!

Hello, Everyone,

It’s been a good and bad year. Some of our members have had health problems, including myself, but our FOL Treasure House has been a great success!! Because of my heart surgery, my sister Beth took over running the Treasure House. I want to thank her very much for the great job she did on such short notice.

The Treasure House was set up and stocked. We had so many new things and we want to thank whoever brought in items. But, we wish whoever made items and just brought them in, would let us know who they are so we can thank you!

If you weren’t able to come, the Zooster’s Christmas Party was also a success!! We met at the Red Rose on Hamilton Ave, and 14 of us had a good time.

The Treasure House is making about what it has been the last few years, so things are looking good.

I want to thank everyone who helped to set up and take down this year. And also, everyone who signed up to work at the Treasure House.

I hope everyone had a great holiday this year!! And we will see everyone back all in good health on March 5, 2019. - Paulette Leppert

Happy 2nd Birthday to Cincinnati Zoo's Thousand-Pound Toddler

World-famous hippo Fiona reaches another huge milestone

Cincinnati, OH (January 23, 2019)— Cincinnati's favorite baby hippo will enter what her care team hopes will not be her "terrible twos" tomorrow! This is another major milestone for the preemie that almost didn't make it, weighing a fifth of what a normal baby hippo would weigh when she was born on January 24, 2017.

"Fiona is remarkable for being unremarkable now," said Cincinnati Zoo Curator of Mammals Christina Gorsuch. "She's just like most other 2-year-old hippos, except for the fact that she's a celebrity in Cincinnati and beyond!"

Last year, the Zoo hosted a big party to celebrate Fiona's first birthday, but this year the party will be behind the scenes and shared by the Zoo tomorrow via Facebook Live starting at 10 a.m. EST. The Zoo will also share special moments from the past two years on social throughout the day using #TeamFiona. It will be too cold for the birthday girl to go out on her big day, but Fiona fans who come anyway will get a discount in the Zoo's gift shops – 10% for non-members and 20% for members.

Some of the Zoo's local partners are joining in the birthday fun...

- Chunky Chunky Hippo is out "full" time at Graeter's Ice Cream
- Listermann Brewing Company re-released Team Fiona in cans (\$14.99/4 pack) and Team Fiona Hippo Party (16.99/4 pack).
- Cincy Shirts – Celebrate Fiona's birthday with a FREE #TeamFiona temporary tattoo with every Fiona item sold until 1/24.

The Zoo hosted a public party last month when Fiona reached 1,000 pounds, inviting fans to take a short walk for a big milestone. A thousand fans participated in the Fiona 1K Walk in the pouring rain!! "The enthusiasm and loyalty that Fiona fans have for her is like nothing I've ever seen," said Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard, who marched along with them and stood out for wearing the least amount of hippo-themed gear! "The positive energy is contagious!"

Happy 2nd Birthday - Continued

Some of her super fans gather at Hippo Cove almost every day to enjoy the company of other Fiona enthusiasts and catch a glimpse of her.”

Fiona the Hippo Ambassador

Fiona weighed 29 pounds when she was born, which is about 25 pounds lighter than the lowest recorded birth weight for this species. The normal range is 55-120 pounds. She has become an ambassador for her species and a great example of why zoos exist. She survived because of her animal care team’s tireless efforts to save her and has inspired so many to care about her species and wildlife, which is Cincinnati Zoo’s mission.

While not considered endangered, wild populations are currently declining due to habitat loss and degradation, increased incidence of drought, and some poaching. Increased drought and less rainfall means there is less grazing areas for hippos to rely on for food. They will travel upwards of 35km in one night to find food, but the larger issue is that by having to search for food or water, there is a much greater chance of conflict with people/livestock, especially since the human population is increasing.

Baby Animal Update!!

Two Little Blue Penguin chicks hatched on New Year’s Eve!! Most of the Little Blue Penguins in the colony are named after food & beverages. We would like to introduce you to Toast and Pierogi!!





Cincinnati Zoo &
Botanical Garden

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

