



July/August 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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Volunteer Department:

Sabrina Calhoun (513) 559-7755

Mollie O'Neil (513) 559-7736

Email: volunteers@cincinnati-zoo.org

Calendar of Events for March & April

Date	Event	Location
Sept. 1 - Oct. 26	<i>Let Me Tell You A Story</i>	Entire Zoo
Oct. 1 - 31; weekends only	<i>HallZOOween</i>	Entire Zoo
Oct. 4	<i>The Drunken Botanist</i>	Zoo & Botanical Garden
Oct. 10	<i>Zoo Brew</i>	Entire Zoo
Oct. 26	<i>Thane Maynard's Night of Stories</i>	Peacock Pavilion

Cincinnati Zoo Manatee “Daphne” Returns to Florida Waters

CINCINNATI (August 20, 2019) – The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden’s female manatee Daphne has gained almost 400 pounds since she arrived at Manatee Springs last April as an orphan in need of rehabilitation and is ready to return to Florida waters. She is the 19th Florida manatee to be rehabilitated at the Cincinnati Zoo in the 20 years that it has participated in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s Manatee Rescue & Rehabilitation Partnership (MRP).

“Daphne has done really well this past year. She has reached her target weight and is a candidate for early release since she experienced a winter in Florida waters before she lost her mother,” said Manatee Curator Winton Ray. “Daphne will spend some time at SeaWorld Orlando getting re-acclimated and could be back in her native waters by the end of the year!”

Her companions in Manatee Springs, three male orphans (Matthew, Miles, and Pippen) that came to Cincinnati in October 2017, are on track to be released in Florida next spring.

“Providing homes for non-critical care manatees like Daphne, Pippen, Matthew, and Miles in Cincinnati opens up valuable space at critical care facilities like Sea World Orlando, The Miami Seaquarium, and Zoo Tampa, and gives the Zoo’s 1.8 million annual guests an opportunity to learn about these remarkable animals and the collaborative effort to rescue and rehabilitate them,” said Ray.

Daphne has made a big impression during her short time in Cincinnati! She is one of ten animals that Zoo Director Thane Maynard selected to include in the “Let Me Tell You a Story” photo and story exhibit that is currently on display at the Zoo. The Florida manatee, downgraded from endangered to threatened in 2018, is at risk from both natural and man-made causes of injury and mortality. Exposure to red tide, cold stress, and disease are all natural problems that can affect manatees. Human-caused threats include boat strikes, crushing by flood gates or locks, and entanglement in or ingestion of fishing gear. As of 2016, the population was estimated to include 6,000 animals.



“Blakely” Comes out of Retirement to Help with Baby Cheetah “Kris”

CINCINNATI (August 2, 2019) – Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has enlisted the services of retired Australian Shepherd “Blakely” to help its neonate staff care for a baby cheetah that was the lone survivor of a litter of three born on July 7, 2019, at the Zoo’s cheetah breeding facility in Clermont County to first-time-mom Neena. Cheetah moms do not receive enough stimulation from a single cub to produce an adequate milk supply, so the Zoo’s expert neonate team stepped in.

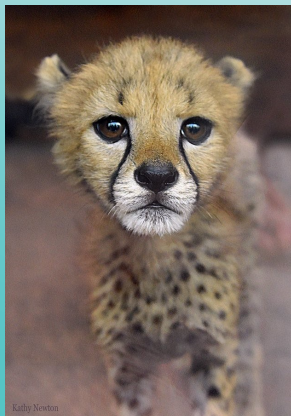


“We can provide nutrition, medical care and some of the TLC that baby animals need, but Blakely can serve as a role model, companion and surrogate parent for them,” said Cincinnati Zoo’s Head of Neonate Care Dawn Strasser. “Blakely will teach the cub animal etiquette and handle some of the social responsibilities, like snuggling, playing and disciplining, that would typically be performed by a mother.”

Before retiring in 2017, when he was six years old, Blakely cared for several cheetahs, an ocelot, a takin, bat-eared foxes, an armadillo, a warthog, sibling wallabies, and a litter of Malayan tiger cubs! The tigers were his last charges before he left to live with a former Nursery keeper, who left the door open for him to return if his services were needed.

“Introductions are going well,” said Strasser. “We put them together for the first time two days ago, and Blakely went into work mode! His nurturing and patience skills kicked in, and he sat still while the cub climbed on him and tried to figure out what to do with him.”

The cub, named “Kris” after longtime Cat Ambassador Program (CAP) supporter Kris Kalnow, is healthy, active, and alert according to CAP leader Linda Castaneda. She added that she is “somewhat sassy”, which is a great quality for a strong runner. “We’re hoping that she’ll follow in the footsteps of eight-year-old Savannah, one of the fastest runners in the Zoo’s Cheetah Encounter and the first baby that Blakely helped raise.”



Cheetah News!

We’re 1 of 9 AZA-accredited zoos that participate in a cheetah Breeding Center Coalition (BCC). Working closely with the Species Survival Plan, the BCC’s goal is to create a sustainable cheetah population that will prevent extinction of the world’s fastest land animal.

Kris, a female baby cheetah, was the lone survivor of a litter of three born on July 7th. She is being cared for by the Cat Ambassador Program and you may even see her in the Kroger Cheetah Encounter next summer!

“Blakely” Comes out of Retirement...

Kris will move from the Animal Health Center, where she is currently receiving round-the-clock care from neonate staff, CAP trainers, and Blakely, to the CAP facility in a month or two. CAP staff is looking for a puppy that will become her new companion when she's ready. Blakely will most likely return to his home away from home at that time, leaving the puppy to grow up with Kris and be her constant companion for a year or two.

The Cincinnati Zoo is one of nine institutions accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) that participate in a cheetah Breeding Center Coalition (BCC). Working closely with the AZA's Cheetah Species Survival Plan (SSP), the BCC's goal is to create a sustainable cheetah population that will prevent extinction of the world's fastest land animal. Forty-four cubs born at the Cincinnati facility have become ambassadors and/or members of the AZA's managed breeding population.

Cheetahs are endangered, and their population worldwide has shrunk from about 100,000 in 1900 to an estimated 9,000 to 12,000 cheetahs today.



Thane Maynard's “Let Me Tell You A Story”

CINCINNATI (August 16, 2019) – Thane Maynard, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Director and Chief Storyteller, has been touched by countless individual animals during his 40-year Zoo career. For the next two months, ten of these animals, and Maynard's stories about them will be featured throughout the Zoo in the “Let Me Tell You a Story” Photo Exhibit and Story Safari.

“The purpose of the Zoo is to tell the story of wildlife and nature, and why they are so valuable to us all,” said Maynard. “My hope is that these positive, personal stories about individual animals will resonate with visitors and inspire them to do what they can to protect the habitats where the relatives of the animals that they see at the Zoo live.”

It's easy to enjoy the story safari. Look for signs featuring head-turning photos at habitats throughout the Zoo and use the QR code located at the bottom of each sign to hear Maynard tell a story about the animal you see! The stories, and video interviews with the people who care for the animals in the stories, are also available here.

“The photos, taken by my good friend Robert Flischel, capture the spirit of each individual! They convey the power and importance of the individual animals that touch us all,” said Maynard. “Their stories give me hope in a challenging time. Let Me Tell You A Story...”

Cincinnati Zoo's New Craft Beer Garden "Hops" On Tap

Fifty West, High Grain, MadTree, Braxton and Three Points Bringing Local Brew to the Zoo

CINCINNATI (August 19, 2019) – Excitement is brewing at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden for Hops, the Zoo's new craft beer garden. Local breweries from Fifty West, High Grain, MadTree, Braxton and Three Points partner to bring local brews to the Zoo.

In addition to the great selection of local craft beers, Heidelberg Distributing will offer a national rotating tap with Goose Island (Chicago, IL), Breckenridge (Breckenridge, CO), Elysian (Seattle, Washington) and Golden Road (Los Angeles, CA). There are also plenty of new food offerings as well including artisanal flat bread pizzas, oven-roasted meatballs and marinara, caprese salad, oven-fired chicken wings, roasted cauliflower and shareable pub pretzels and beer cheese. Grab and go menu items will be available for visitors who would rather snack as they stroll around the Zoo.



Rendering of beer garden deck at Hops

“Sustainability is important to us,” said Jordan Miller, General Manager, Service Systems Associates. “Our main restaurant, The Base Camp Café, has been named the Greenest Restaurant in America, and we’re going for a 4-star rating from the Green Restaurant Association for Hops. Food operation will be disposable free, with real silverware and plates instead of single-use plastics. We’ll grow our own herbs, and source produce, cheeses and meats locally.”



“Cincinnati is a beer town, and we’re thrilled to expand our partnerships to offer visitors some selections that are brewed locally,” said Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard. “We’re glad that some of those partners could be here today to help us celebrate the final phase of Hops’ construction. We’re on track open in less than two months!”

Hops is one of several projects included in the Zoo's More Home to Roam campaign. Next Spring 2020, Zoo guests will be able to relax in the beer garden's multi-tiered deck and have an incredible view of Roo Valley, which features a kangaroo walk-about, a new little penguin habitat and Klimb, an adventure ropes course.

Hops will be open in time for Zoo Brew on October 10, so guests will be able to check out the deck, which seats 130 and can be booked after-hours corporate events as well.

CREW News – Reproductive Technique Developed by Cincinnati Zoo Scientists May Help Save Critically Endangered Texas Ocelots

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas A&M University-Kingsville, East Foundation and University of Tennessee Collaborate with Zoo to Conserve Species

CINCINNATI (August 19, 2019) – Thanks to a novel field-ready semen banking approach pioneered by scientists from the Cincinnati Zoo’s Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW), a wildlife biologist from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently collected and froze semen from a wild Texas ocelot for the first time!



“That one sample contained almost 200 million sperm which is enough genetic material to potentially conduct 5-10 artificial insemination (AI) procedures,” said Dr. Bill Swanson, who directs CREW’s small cat program and chairs the Ocelot Species Survival Plan (SSP) for the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA). “The U.S. ocelot population is on the edge of extinction so these efforts to collect and freeze semen from the few wild males that remain in the fragmented thorn-scrub habitat of South Texas may have important implications for their future survival.”

The entire Texas ocelot population is down to about 80 individuals, with ~15 ocelots residing in Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge (LANWR), where the sample was collected, and the remainder found on private ranchlands.

Dr. Swanson, with assistance from Dr. Tom deMaar at the Gladys Porter Zoo, trained USFWS biologist Dr. Hilary Swarts to collect semen samples from anesthetized cats using a urethral catheter and then quickly freeze the samples as pellets directly in liquid nitrogen. The ocelot semen was collected and frozen by Dr. Swarts opportunistically in the field as part of the USFWS’s ocelot monitoring program and then shipped to CREW for storage in liquid nitrogen tanks. Post-thaw analysis of a few sample pellets revealed adequate sperm motility to fertilize domestic cat oocytes *in vitro* and possibly be suitable for use with AI.

In March, CREW demonstrated the feasibility of using frozen semen from a zoo-housed ocelot for successful AI, with the birth of two ocelot litters and three healthy kittens at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and the El Paso Zoo.

“By banking semen from ocelots living on both public and private lands in Texas, one primary goal of this collaborative project is to conserve as much remaining genetic diversity as possible from this endangered population for future conservation and recovery efforts,” said Swanson.

CREW News –

CREW also is collaborating with Drs. Michael Tewes and Clayton Hilton of the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University-Kingsville and Dr. Ashley Reeves at the University of Tennessee to begin collecting and banking semen from ocelots living on East Foundation properties in Texas. The East Foundation’s ranchlands are used extensively for research efforts aimed at wildlife management and rangeland health. For this project, Dr. Reeves, a veterinarian now working on her PhD, will receive training at CREW later this year in more refined reproductive techniques for semen collection, analysis, freezing, IVF and AI in cats. Her study will provide greater insight into the reproductive status of wild Texas ocelots, while concurrently recovering valuable semen for genetic banking and potential use with assisted reproduction at a later date.



Volunteer Celebration!!

Please join us for a celebration of YOU, our amazing volunteers!

There will be food, fun, and giraffe prizes so it's a don't miss for you and a guest!

- The celebration will be in Peacock Pavilion from 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm.
- Please park in the Safari Lot (Security staff will open the Safari Lot gate on Dury Ave from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm).
- Check in at the welcome table when you arrive to pick up your giraffe and drink tickets (for 21 and older)!
- The buffet will be open from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.
- A brief program will begin at 6:00 pm.

Be sure you put your giraffe tickets in the buckets for your favorite prizes by 6:30 pm, when we will draw names and announce the winners!



Please RSVP by signing up on MVP no later than Monday, October 7th. When you click the “Sign-up” button a window will pop up where you can enter 1 if you’re coming by yourself, or 2 if you’re bringing a guest.

We hope to see you at the Zoo!!



Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Volunteer & Intern Department
3400 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Animals like the Bornean and Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered species due in part to the palm oil industry. Palm oil is used in many of the foods and products we consume every day from frozen vegetables to shampoo. Oil palm plantations are spreading across Indonesia, which produces 85% of the world's supply of palm oil, often to the detriment of its rainforests and wildlife. As consumers, we can choose to buy products made with sustainable palm oil as certified by the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

MAKE SMART SHOPPING CHOICES THIS HALLOOWEEN!

Sustainable Palm Oil (SPO) and Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

The Roundtable is a multi-stakeholder coalition that has members of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and is committed to using CPO. Please support companies that are doing their best to make a difference.

THESE COMPANIES USE SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

The world's most popular vegetable oil, palm oil is used in many everyday foods and products. Unsustainable palm oil plantations are taking over the Southeast Asian rainforests where orangutans live.



ORANGUTAN FRIENDLY TREATS

Chocolate Bars	GHIRARDELLI
Gummy Candy	HARIBO
Twizzlers, Reese's, Almond Joy, Mr. Goodbar, Heath Bars, Jolly Ranchers, Whooppers	HERSHEY'S
Caramels, Fudgies	Kraft
Buffles, Chocolate Bars	SHREVE & COMPANY
Snickers, Twix, M&M's, 3 Musketeers, Milky Way, Dove	MARS
Baby Ruth, Butterfingers, Crunch Bar, Smarties	NESTLE
Taberna, Sour Patch Kids, Cadbury, Nabisco Cookies	Mondelēz
Sweetarts, Bonte Cops, Laffy Taffy, Herbs, Pixy Stix, Gobotoppers, Fun Dip	Wm. Wrigley
Scatter, Life Savers, Starburst	WRIGLEY