



March/April 2019

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Volunteer Connections



Volunteer Department:

Sabrina Calhoun (513) 559-7755

Mollie O'Neil (513) 559-7736

Email: volunteers@cincinnati-zoo.org



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

Inside this issue

Calendar &

Events..... 2

Animal News 2

Zoo News 3

Horticulture..... 4

CREW..... 5

Mason Bee House

Blog..... 6-7

Calendar of Events for March & April

Date / Time	Event	Location
March - May	<i>Barrows Lecture Series</i>	Peacock Pavilion
Mon. Mar. 11 - 10:00 am	<i>Continuing Education: Life Support Systems</i>	Frisch's Theater
Tues. in April - 6 pm	<i>Tunes & Blooms</i>	Vine Street Village
Apr. 7 - 13	<i>Volunteer Appreciation Week</i>	Entire Zoo
Mon. Apr. 8 - 6:30 pm	<i>Continuing Education: Curator Panel</i>	Frisch's Theater
Thur. Apr. 25 - 4 pm - 8 pm	<i>Party of the Planet</i>	Entire Zoo

Animal News - Meet “Maní” the Cincinnati Zoo’s Baby Tamandua

CINCINNATI (February 4, 2019) - The baby tamandua born December 20, 2018, at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has a name! The pup, sex yet to be determined, will be called “Maní.”

“We wanted to give the pup a Spanish name since Tamanduas are primarily from Spanish speaking countries and both of its parents have Spanish names. We chose the name Maní, which means “peanut,” because we were able to watch Maní grow from the size of a peanut via weekly ultrasounds on mom, Isla,” said Cincinnati Zoo Interpretive Animal Keeper Colleen Lawrence. “We fell in love with the pup when it was only a blip on a screen.”



Five-year-old Isla, a first-time mom, has taken care of the pup exactly the way she should, so it is healthy and growing fast. Care team members think the baby is a boy, but it’s difficult to be 100% certain of the sex of tamanduas when they’re this young.

Maní can be seen clinging to Isla through the windows of the Zoo’s Animal Ambassador Center (AAC).

Also called the lesser anteater, the tamandua uses its long snout to sniff out ant, termite and bee colonies. Long claws enable it 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 - 2019 Barrows Conservation Lecture Series

Our annual Lecture Series features an exciting lineup of internationally - acclaimed scientists, explorers, and conservationists. All lectures begin at 7 pm and are held at the Cincinnati Zoo's Peacock Pavilion. Please contact 513-559-7767 to order tickets.

Wednesday, March 20: Dominique Goncalves, PhD candidate - Gorongosa:

Park and People - Dominique Goncalves, Manager of the Elephant Ecology Project in Gorongosa, will share the story of how Gorongosa National Park in Mozambique is becoming a new model for conservation in Africa. Inspired by the vision of Nelson Mandela and Mozambique's former President Chissano, the park is deeply committed to benefitting local communities.



Wednesday, April 17: Dr. Anne Savage - Tamarins & Teamwork! What it takes to conserve the critically endangered cotton-top tamarin in

Colombia (Winner of the 2019 Cincinnati Zoo Wildlife Conservation Award) - Anne Savage has traveled the world studying animals and has developed many important long-term conservation programs. She founded Proyecto Tití, a program designed to conserve Colombia's most endangered primate, the cotton-top tamarin. Through scientific studies, sustainable community development programs, education initiatives, and establishing new protected areas, Proyecto Tití has made the conservation of the cotton-top tamarin a priority in Colombia.



Tuesday, May 7: Dr. Dino Martins - People, Plants and Pollinators: Lessons from the frontlines of biodiversity conservation

- Dino Martin is the Executive Director of the Mpala Research Centre and serves as technical advisor to the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) on issues relating to biodiversity, pastoralism and subsistence agriculture. His career has focused on fostering greater awareness for science and research in connection with conservation and human livelihoods. He was awarded the 2015 Whitley Gold award, a prestigious environmental prize for his work with local communities encouraging the adoption of more sustainable farming practices that conserve pollinators, boost crop yields, and benefit people in East Africa.



Single Lecture:	Lecture Series:
\$15	\$54
Zoo Members & Volunteers	
\$17	\$62
Non-Zoo Members	

Wednesday, May 29: Dr. Mike Fay - Never Give up (Winner of the 2019 Cincinnati Zoo Wildlife Conservation

Award) - In addition to being one of the most effective wildlife conservationists of the last 50 years, Mike Fay is one of the toughest and bravest men alive. He is best known for his "Megatransect," in which he walked the length of the Congo basin, over 2,000 miles, in 2000 & 2001. Through that work, Dr. Fay was able to document the remarkable diversity of the Congo, resulting in the establishment of 16 National Parks, 20 Marine Parks, and Reserves in Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, and Gabon.

Horticulture News - Sustainable Urban Landscapes Symposium

March 14, 2019

Our 8th annual Sustainable Urban Landscape Symposium has a really interesting roster of speakers covering wide-ranging subjects . Want to know how connection to nature supports cardiovascular health? We have the world's top expert, Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar. We have the Director of the Piet Oudolf designed Lurie Garden, Laura Ekasetya, coming in from Chicago. Learn how they maintain one of the world's best gardens...on a roof! See also how wise plant selection and a different type of design and planting has very diverse and abundant wildlife to the downtown environment. You probably haven't heard of Dale Hendricks, but among elite Horticultural literati, he is a legend. A former nurseryman, Dale has become one of the top sustainable horticultural experts in the world. He has two talks, one on soil, carbon, and more. The other is about Permaculture. Chad Peevy from Old Dominion University will deliver an eye-opening talk entitled, "Trading Turf for Trees." Our own Steve Foltz, whom we count as one of the country's best plants guys, will give a talk intriguingly entitled, "Finding Sustainable Uses in Unexpected Plants." Laura Kunkle from America in Bloom will combine with the Zoo's Scott Beuerlein to talk about the amazing work that organization is doing for American communities and why that matters. One more slot to fill. We'll be announcing that soon. Two really cool possibilities.

If sustainable horticulture is an interest of yours, you will not want to miss this eclectic and amazing set of speakers. \$79 covers the full day.

- ◆ Registration 8:00AM to 9:00AM | Talks 9:00AM to 5:00PM | Social Hour 5:00PM to 6:00PM
- ◆ Location: Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Schott Education Building, Frisch's Theater
- ◆ Parking: Main Zoo Parking Lot on Vine Street. Contact scott.beuerlein@cincinnati-zoo.org for handicapped parking instructions.
- ◆ Cost: Full Price: \$79.00 | Volunteer: \$30.00 | Student: \$30.00



CREW News–Save the Date!



SAVE THE DATE!

2019

CREW VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION POTLUCK

AND

STAFF UPDATE

Thursday, April 11

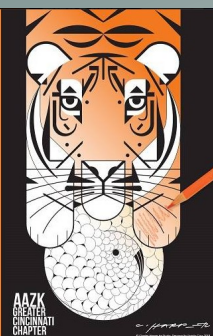
5:30 P.M.

PEACOCK PAVILION

FURTHER DETAILS TO COME!

Pints for Pangolins & Tigers: 2

Monday, April 1st | 6-10pm
Molly Malones in Covington, Ky



Join us on **Monday April 1st, 6-10pm** at **Molly Malones** in **Covington, Ky** for our Pints for Pangolins & Tigers: 2 event! The majority of the proceeds will benefit the Lao Conservation Trust for Wildlife (LCTW).

We will have an amazing raffle, music playing and \$1 from each beer purchased will come back to the cause! We hope to see you there!

These Houses are the Bee's Knees - Sarah Elam

Did you enjoy a cup of coffee this morning? You can thank the bees!

Of the 1,400 crop plants grown, nearly 75% depend on pollination, including coffee, almonds, many fruits, and chocolate. Without bees and other pollinators, our diets would be severely limited, and it would be more difficult to acquire the variety of vitamins and minerals that we need to stay healthy. Plants also support a wide variety of natural ecosystems that sustain life for many creatures, and those plants are supported by pollinators.

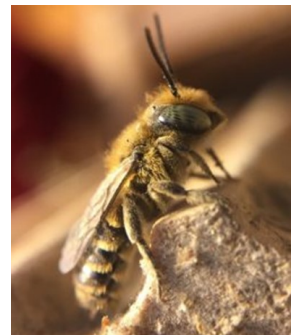


Recently, the Cincinnati Zoo's Family Community Service Program spent an afternoon building houses for mason bees. One of Ohio's 500 native bee species, the mason bee is a solitary and stingless super pollinator. Volunteers constructed houses that offer mason bees a safe place to lay eggs and raise young bees. With education and guidance from Justina Block of [Osmia Bee Company](#), our group learned about caring for mason bees and assembled 26 houses for them!

Mason bees are called mason bees because in a sense, they do masonry work. They use mud to build cocoons for baby bees. They are solitary, unlike the social honey bee that relies on a complicated relationship within the colony; mason bees work alone. And, they are some of the first bees to emerge in the spring. Mason bees are super pollinators, so it's very important to provide them with early blooming flowers to visit in addition to the houses.

Want to see a mason bee house in action? Next time you're at the Zoo, stop by to see the house we have up near World of the Insect. We're building a better home for wildlife by creating shelter for these super pollinators, and we invite you to do so, too!

If you decide to make your own mason bee house or purchase one for your residence or business (and we hope you will!), here are some tips for success.



These Houses are the Bee's Knees

- ◆ Grow [pollinator-friendly plants](#) in your yard to ensure plenty of sources of pollen for the bees. Early spring-blooming flowers are especially important for mason bees.
- ◆ Mason bees require clay mud for nesting. If your soil is not high in clay, set out a container or pile of clay mud for them to use.
- ◆ You may choose to paint the house, but it's not a requirement. Mason bees are attracted to blue.
- ◆ Hang your bee house full of empty natural grass reeds outside, at least **3 feet off the ground** facing southeast to receive morning sun. Make sure the house is stable and supported on a sturdy post or wall. Avoid placing it on a tree trunk, which makes it accessible to predatory ants and spiders. Place it under an overhang to protect it from wind and rain; the bees won't use wet nesting materials. The bees won't mind if you hang it close to your house; they aren't bothered by human activity. Once you've mounted it and bees have started nesting, however, don't move the house so the bees can still find it.
- ◆ Put out your bee house in spring when you start to see things bloom, typically by the end of March. It may take several seasons before bees start using it. In many areas, mason bees have disappeared and will need to be reestablished. You may choose to purchase bees that you can release from Osmia Bee Company to get things started.
- ◆ As reeds fill up with larvae and mud, you can increase the bees' chances of survival by removing and storing the reeds in a garage or an unheated room away from predators and parasites as the larvae develop. We recommend placing the reeds in a mesh bag for extra protection. Add fresh, empty reeds to the house as needed. Reeds will be available to purchase online from Osmia Bee Company soon.
- ◆ By October, the larvae will have developed into fully grown bees hibernating in cocoons inside the reeds. Cleaning the cocoons will reduce bee mortality by removing mites, etc. Gently split open the reed, remove the cocoons, and rinse them in a bowl of tap water. Place the cocoons in the refrigerator in a ventilated container with a moist paper towel until spring.
- ◆ Release the bees in the spring when you start to see blooms and the daytime temperatures reach 50°F. Place the cocoons in a small cardboard box with a 5/16-inch hole in one side. Place the box near your bee house as the cocoons produce a scent that encourages the bees to return and lay their eggs there. The adults should start to emerge from the cardboard box in a few days, depending on air temperature.



Cincinnati Zoo &
Botanical Garden

Volunteer & Intern
Department
3400 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

