



May/June 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
Zoo News 2
Animal News 3
Horticulture..... 4
CREW..... 5-6
Pollen Nation 7
Zoo La La 8

Calendar of Events for March & April

Date	Event	Location
May 1 - 31	<i>Zoo Babies</i>	Entire Zoo
May 1 - 31	<i>Zoo Fundraiser</i>	Taste of Belgium Clifton
May 16	<i>Wild About Wine</i>	Entire Zoo
May 18	<i>National Public Garden Day</i>	Entire Botanical Garden
May 29	<i>Barrow's - Dr. Fay</i>	Peacock Pavilion
June 7	<i>Zoo La La</i>	Africa Area
June 17	<i>Reds Day @ the Zoo</i>	Entire Zoo
June 18	<i>Zoo Night @ the Reds</i>	Great American Ball Park
June 22	<i>Zoo Night @ FC Cincinnati</i>	Nippert Stadium
June 22	<i>Pollinator Carnival</i>	Entire Zoo

Cincinnati Zoo Voted Best Zoo in the Nation!

Posted May 3, 2019

USA TODAY's 10Best editors announced this morning that Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden took the top spot in the Best Zoo category in its 2019 Summer Readers' Choice poll!

"We were honored to be chosen as one of the 20 nominees for Best Zoo and were in great company that included the top Zoos in the Nation," said Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard. "The Cincinnati community loves their Zoo and got behind us as soon as the poll was announced. We thank everyone who voted to make us the Best Zoo in the Nation!"

This award announcement comes just months after the Cincinnati Zoo's PNC Festival of Lights won USA TODAY's 2018 10Best Poll for Best Zoo Lights!



See for yourself why we're #1! The Zoo opens daily at 10 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. Cincinnati Zoo members enjoy early entry at 9 a.m.

Mourning the Loss of Our Beloved California Sea Lion “Duke”

CINCINNATI, OH (April 18, 2019) – The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden’s beloved California sea lion Duke, a favorite of many guests and employees, passed away earlier today. At almost 31 years of age, he was one of the oldest of his kind in any Zoo in North America. The median life expectancy for this species is 23.

“Duke was slowing down but could easily find his way around his habitat and participated in training and play activities with his care team,” said Senior Keeper Lisa Potter. “In recent months, his behavior and demeanor changed, and his appetite decreased. He just wasn’t the same old Duke.”

Duke’s care team, which included five veterinary staff members, a nutritionist, and five marine mammal specialists, had been



monitoring his health and doing everything possible to keep him comfortable.



“He was special... so laid back, smart and sweet. He was a great ambassador and enjoyed interacting with visitors and his caregivers,” said Potter. “I always knew this would be hard but still wasn’t prepared to lose him. We will miss him so much.”

Animals in zoos tend to live longer than their counterparts would in the wild, where there is no such thing as senior care. Duke’s longevity is a testament to the exceptional care, including a special senior diet, regular vet checks and TLC, he received at the Cincinnati Zoo.

“Our top priority for geriatric animals is maintaining the highest quality of life until the end of life. We feel that we accomplished this with Duke, with a highly capable and passionate group of staff dedicated to giving Duke all that he needed to feel comfortable and happy while he was with us,” said Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard.

Arthritis, high blood pressure, vision and cardiac issues are as common in older animals as they are in human seniors. As a result, the Zoo’s hospital is stocked with anti-inflammatories, diuretics and beta blockers. Cincinnati Zoo’s animal care staff does everything possible to make our animals comfortable in their golden years, including providing special diets, habitat modifications and specialized medical attention.



Horticulture News - May Gazette

Cheers to another year of beautiful spring blooms! Witch Hazel, Forsythia, Viburnum, Hellebores, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Tulips, and Snow Drops - Oh My! Many thanks to all of you who helped plant this year's bulbs— it truly was a gorgeous spring display and we could not do it without you!

As the cherries and magnolias give way to the redbuds and dogwoods, we approach late Spring and, with it, the fury of gardeners everywhere with so much to do and what seems like so little time in which to get it done! The month of May brings our transition from spring blooming tulips to summer and fall blooming annuals. During the next few weeks, we will be primarily focused on changing over the display beds from tulips to annuals. This will involve digging tulips, amending and tilling beds, laying out and planting annuals, and top dressing annual display beds. The tiny plugs that you planted into flats at the Fidelity Greenhouse will make their great migration back to Mother Zoo where they will find their new home within the garden. Many thanks to all who helped with this endeavor— together, we have potted over 40,000 annuals for use in our gardens.

Twilight 'n Tulips - a Blooming Success!

As you may know, this year's annual botanical garden fundraiser changed from the Tulip Luncheon, a mid-day event, to Twilight 'N' Tulips, an after hours event hosted in mid-April. The weather couldn't have been better and this outdoor evening event recruited a diverse audience of garden supporters - nearly 400 guests mingled through the gardens on this magical evening! Changes from previous years included: a champagne toast on the Centroid Lawn, 30-minute staff guided garden tours, garden booths for What's Blooming, Plant Trials, Browse, Animal Enrichment, and Garden Hotspots with information about plants and their pollinators. After being dazzled by the gardens and enjoying a casual dinner-by-the-bite experience, guests attended a presentation by Dr. Mark Plotkin, a renowned ethnobotanist who has studied plant use by traditional healers in tropical America for thirty years. A special thank you to everyone who helped to make this night a BLOOMING SUCCESS!!



Congratulations, Scott Beuerlein!



Congratulations to our very own Scott Beuerlein, Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach, on receiving the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati's Building Community Award on May 1st. This annually presented award recognizes individuals within the Greater Cincinnati area whose life and/or work embody the mission of this fine organization to build community through gardening, education, and environmental stewardship. Also receiving this honor is Cincinnati Parks' Land Management and Urban Forestry Manager, Dave Gamstetter.

CREW News– Celebrating Volunteers

Butterflies fluttered among the dogwood blossoms at the 2019 CREW Volunteer Recognition Potluck and Staff Update. A slight chill in the air did not dampen the spirits of those who came to Peacock Pavilion on April 11.

Highlighting National Volunteer Week, 29 volunteers were applauded for their service in the past year.

Nineteen earned certificates of recognition for 100 or more hours volunteering at CREW. In alphabetical order, Robin Anslinger, Mike Biere, Isabelle Brandicourt, Becky Budke received theirs from Dr. Terri Roth, Director of CREW, as did Barb Collins, Janet Dietrich, Lynn Edgar, Robin Harrington and Judy Helton. Also recognized were Sarah Koehlke, Robert Licht, Ann Marchioni, Linda McKinney, John Ray, Meg Riestenberg, Amy Sundstrom, Arlene Thorwarth, Kasha Vicknair-Hebert and Nancy Wickemeyer.

Clocking more than 200 hours, pictured below in the slide show, were Janet Mott, Mike Camery, Jackie Dieckman, Linda Corbett, Judy Stewart, Sue Roenker, and Nancy Mitchell. Carol Wehman dedicated more than 300 hours. Linda Finke Mary Chaiken contributed over 500 hours each. Topping the list was Sandy Fritz who accumulated over 600 hours of service.

Scottie Fahey, chair of the CREW Executive Board, emceed the program.



The 2018 Edward W. Wickemeyer Award was presented to Carol Wehmann by Nancy Wickemeyer. For more than a decade, Carol has been active in many aspects of CREW. She has served two terms as Chair of the Executive Committee. Currently serving as Team Leader of the CREW Cart Volunteers, she has created new biofacts for volunteers to use. In addition to being a ZVO, she works in the Endocrine and Plant Labs and at the Reception Desk. Amazing!

The CREW staff honored Sandy Fritz with the Vickie Stidham Award for Timeless Service and Dedication to CREW. Sandy spends hours at CREW in the Endocrine Lab. Her computer expertise led her to design a new slide presentation used by the Speakers' Bureau. Most recently as Executive Committee Secretary, she created a website for improved communication. She also teaches a fitness class each Thursday afternoon. Wow!

The CREW staff updated the highlights of their 2018 research. Volunteers learned about blood draw conditioning, AI procedures, plant propagation, cryopreservation and feral cat population control efforts. Aye-ayes, exceptional plants, jaguars, ocelots, polar bears, rhinos, sand cats and snow leopards represent the diversity of their work.

Friends! Good food! Amazing achievements! What more could one want?



CREW - Artificial Insemination with Frozen Semen Produces Two Litters of Endangered Ocelot Kittens

CINCINNATI (April 25, 2019) – Scientists at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden’s Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW), working in collaboration with colleagues at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum and the El Paso Zoo, have produced two litters of ocelot kittens following artificial insemination (AI) with frozen semen. The first (and last) ocelot born following AI with frozen semen was born in 1995.

A total of five kittens were born on March 1st and 2nd, with three of the kittens surviving and currently being raised by their mothers at the respective zoological facilities. The kittens’ father was moved from Brazil in 2006 to the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo where his semen was collected and frozen nine years ago. This male, now 16 years of age and living at the Houston Zoo, has no other offspring and is considered the most genetically-valuable male ocelot in any North American zoo.



These AI births represent the culmination of 25 years of research by CREW’s Director of Animal Research, Dr. Bill Swanson, who produced the first ocelot kitten from AI with frozen semen at the Dallas Zoo decades ago. Since then, CREW has improved its AI strategies for felids by modifying protocols for semen cryopreservation, ovarian synchronization and laparoscopic insemination. For the last four years, these research efforts have been supported by a Collection Stewardship grant from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Ocelot Conservation

Ocelots have been included on the U.S. endangered species list for more than 40 years, and a small population of 60-80 wild ocelots still survives in South Texas. Small sized cats, including the ocelot, have received relatively little attention compared to larger cat species, with limited information available on their ecology or conservation status in the wild. Population projections indicate that several small cat species, including the ocelot, will see their genetic diversity substantially reduced in zoos over the next 50 years. Reproductive sciences, including techniques such as artificial insemination and semen cryopreservation, are playing a key role in helping to address the conservation and management challenges associated with maintaining these small cat species within zoos, and possibly in the wild in future years.



Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Pollen Nation Announces Plant for Pollinators Challenge!

CINCINNATI, OH (April 24, 2019) – The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is challenging its neighbors to take the Plant for Pollinators Challenge, presented by Simple Truth and supported by these partners.

“As the Greenest Zoo in America, we’re serious about sustainability and taking care of our planet,” said Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard. “That’s why we’re challenging our neighbors in Greater Cincinnati to plant pollinator gardens and offering our horticultural expertise to help people select pollinator-friendly plants!”



It’s easy to participate in the challenge, and it can be as simple as planning a few pots. Take these three easy steps: 1) Plan your garden. 2) Choose the best plants. 3) Register your garden and order an optional yard sign.

“A healthy population of pollinators improves the health of all plants, which support all wildlife and human beings, supplying us with food, habitat, and a livable planet,” said Scott Beuerlein, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden’s Manager of Botanical Garden Outreach. “And, the plants that attract them beautify the landscape, so there’s really no downside!”

Share the challenge with your friends and **help the Zoo’s Pollen Nation reach its goal of registering at least 500 pollinator gardens in 2019**. The Cincinnati community can make a big difference for our littlest friends and most important neighbors!

Shout out to Clifton!

The City of Cincinnati has embraced the Zoo’s pollinator challenge and launched a neighborhood pollinator garden competition last month as part its Year of Living Sustainably initiative. Clifton won, registering 22 pollinator gardens with the Plant for Pollinators Challenge!





Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Volunteer & Intern Department
3400 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

One of the hottest events of summer season, Zoo La La is the region's wildest party for a purpose. Set in the Zoo's Africa area, this fun adults night out at the Zoo will include:

- Dinner-by-the-bite from 30+ local restaurants
- Zoo-nique cocktails
- Raffle for a weekend getaway
- Opportunity to mingle with our animal ambassadors and see some of your favorite animals up-close
- Evening of live entertainment by Cherry on Top

Friday, June 7th, 2019 from 7 pm - 11 pm

For questions about the event, please email: events@cincinnati-zoo.org

