



Sept/Oct 2019

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Volunteer Connections



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



Volunteer Department:

Sabrina Calhoun (513) 559-7755

Mollie O'Neil (513) 559-7736

Email: volunteers@cincinnati-zoo.org

Inside this issue

Calendar &

Events..... 2

Zoo News 2-6

CREW 7

Horticulture..... 7

Calendar of Events for March & April

Date	Event	Location
Nov. 16 - Jan. 4	<i>PNC Festival of Lights</i>	Entire Zoo
Dec. 12	<i>A Very Fiona Christmas</i> <i>-Book Signing</i>	Main Gift Shop
Dec. 31	<i>Happy Zoo Year</i>	Entire Zoo

Cincinnati Zoo Devastated by Loss of Male Giraffe

CINCINNATI (November 17, 2019) – The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is sad to announce that beloved male giraffe Kimba passed away early this morning. The Zoo Volunteer Observer (ZVO) team has been monitoring the giraffe barn for weeks, watching a pregnant female for signs of labor, and called vets when they saw Kimba fall to the ground a little after 1 am.



“The giraffe team is devastated. He had been dealing with pain related to chronic lameness since last summer, and we were looking forward to him feeling better after he had a successful procedure last week to fix his hooves,” said Cincinnati Zoo’s curator of mammals Christina Gorsuch. “Unfortunately, there were complications following the procedure. We’ll know more after the vets complete a necropsy.”

Twelve-year-old Kimba sired six calves, and his seventh is on the way. He came to Cincinnati in 2008 from the Roger Williams Park Zoo in Providence, Rhode Island, on a breeding recommendation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan (SSP). One of his calves, three-year-old Cora, lives there now.

Baby Bearcat Arrives!

CINCINNATI (October 18, 2019) – Go Bearcats! Say hello to Lucille! The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden and representatives from neighboring University of Cincinnati Department of Athletics welcomed a one-month-old female baby bearcat this morning outside its new home in the Zoo’s Animal Ambassador Center (AAC). The future UC live mascot, born at the Nashville Zoo, arrived in Cincinnati on Tuesday and has been settling in and getting to know her caregivers. Starting today, visitors will be able to see her!



“Our students and fans loved Lucy and were sad to see her retire from being the school’s live

mascot earlier this year,” said Director of Athletics, Mike Bohn. “We’re thrilled that the Association of Zoos and Aquariums was able to identify a young bearcat from the Zoo population that is well suited to continue the live mascot program that UC and the Zoo started 35 years ago.”

“The baby will receive care, TLC, and ambassador training in the Zoo’s ambassador center until she is ready to venture out,” said Associate Curator of Interpretive Animals Amanda Chambers. “We hope to get her up to UC to make her Fifth Third Arena debut in the second half of the 2019-20 season.

Prior to that, we’ll work on getting her accustomed to the sights and sounds that she will encounter off site. She has already been exposed to black and red!”



Another name for bearcat is binturong. The new bearcat is a subspecies known as a Palawan binturong, which is native to an island with that name in the Philippines. The average adult weight is 20-40 pounds. The baby weighs 2.2 pounds now.

Cincinnati Zoo Returns Two Manatees to Florida and Brings One Back in Less Than 24 Hours

CINCINNATI (October 17, 2019) – The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden returns manatees Miles and Matthew to Florida as it prepares to rehabilitate Trufflesuffle, the 20th manatee to be cared for in the 20 years that it has participated in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Manatee Rescue and Rehabilitation Partnership (MRP), a program designed to rescue and treat sick, injured and orphaned manatees and then release them back into the wild.

In the wee hours of October 15, Miles and Matthew flew, accompanied by two Zoo staff members, via DHL from Cincinnati to Orlando, where the SeaWorld Orlando care team was ready to transport them to their facility. Hours later, another rescued orphan began his journey back to Cincinnati to be rehabilitated along with a male, Pippen, that was not quite ready to be returned to Florida with the other two residents of Manatee Springs on this trip.

“When we brought Pippen, Miles and Matthew to Manatee Springs our hope was that they would return to Florida together. But just as human children experience variable growth rates so to do young manatees,” said Cincinnati Zoo’s Curator of Invertebrates & Manatees Winton Ray. “Pippen, who currently weighs about 500 pounds is thriving, he’s just naturally a smaller animal and will need another year to reach to the minimum release weight of 600 pounds. He will be a great companion for Trufflesuffle, who currently weighs 435 pounds. We expect Pippen and Trufflesuffle to return to Florida next fall and to be released in early 2021.”

It takes planning, cooperation and plenty of muscle power to move multiple manatees between facilities that are hundreds of miles apart, but the Cincinnati Zoo has been doing just that for the last 20 years with help from DHL.



Cincinnati Zoo Returns Two Manatees to Florida and Brings One Back in Less Than 24 Hours

“DHL has been working with the Cincinnati Zoo for many years and is always honored to play a key logistics role in the effort to return and release manatees into the wild,” said Cain Moodie, SVP of Network Operations, DHL Express Americas. “The DHL team reviewed every detail of the transport to ensure that Miles and Matthew received VIP treatment for their safe return all the way home, and we brought Trufflesuffle back the same way.”

The Cincinnati Zoo is one of two U.S. Zoos outside of Florida that participate in the MRP. “It’s an honor to participate in the MRP and to have the opportunity to help these amazing animals get a second chance at life in the wild,” said Ray.

- **Miles (male)** was rescued from the Sykes Creek on Merritt Island, Florida in August 2016, weighing only 43 pounds. After receiving extended critical care at Sea World Orlando, he moved to Cincinnati and has gained enough weight to be eligible for release.
- **Matthew (male)** was rescued from New Smyrna in October 2016, just after Hurricane Matthew. He weighed 56 pounds when rescued but has gained more than 700 pounds while at SeaWorld and the Cincinnati Zoo.
- **Trufflesuffle (juvenile male)** was rescued by FWC in November 2018 and brought to SeaWorld Orlando suffering from cold stress. He has gained approximately 230 pounds in the past year and will continue to be cared for and rehabilitated at the Cincinnati Zoo, which a goal of returning him to Florida waters.



ZOOSTER HOLIDAY SHOP IS OPEN!!

Please swing by the Education building to purchase wonderful hand-made crafts from our amazing Zoosters!

Open during Festival of Lights - 5 pm - 9 pm.

“Kendi” Heading to New Home at San Diego Zoo Safari Park



In a move recommended by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’(AZA) Species Survival Plan (SSP), the body that manages animal populations for its member organizations, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden’s wildly popular young black rhino, Kendi, is heading to [San Diego Zoo Safari Park](#) to do his part to save his critically endangered species. He will roam in an expansive, mixed-herd habitat.

“Members and staff will be sad to see Kendi go,” said Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard. “The good news is that he is going to a great facility and will be paired with a female when he’s ready to breed. There are fewer than 60 eastern black rhinos in the North American Zoo population, so getting pairs that are good genetic matches together is important.”

Kendi was [born at the Cincinnati Zoo in July of 2017](#) and was one of only five eastern black rhinos born in North America in 2016/2017. Only one surviving calf was born in 2014/2015.

“The SSP has given us the green light to breed Kendi’s parents, [Seyia](#) and [Faru](#), again,” said Maynard. “Faru has sired two calves, one at the Atlanta Zoo, so we’re optimistic about having another calf here. With a 15-month gestation period, the soonest we could hope to see a little one is next winter.”

Kendi will be leaving in the next couple of weeks. He has already started training behind the scenes to make the move as easy as possible, so he’s not out all the time.

Eastern black rhinos, native to Eastern and Central Africa, have two large horns made of keratin that they use for defense, intimidation, and feeding. An adult can weigh anywhere between 1,760 and 3,080 pounds, and newborns (calves) weigh between 73 – 121 pounds. The species is Critically Endangered due to poaching and habitat loss. Fewer than 5,000 black rhinos remain in the world.

CREW News – Tis the Season... The Giving Tree is here!

The Best Way to Give a Gift to Our Zoo Plant and Animal Friends!

Located in the Education lobby and at CREW, you are invited to select a Wish List ornament(s) from either of the trees. All Giving Tree ornaments have been approved by the Enrichment Committee, so please purchase the exact item requested. You may choose to have the item shipped to CREW or deliver the wrapped gift, along with the ornament tag, to either the Volunteer Office or to CREW before noon December 4, 2019.

Please include your name as well as an email address and/or mailing address. If you do, we can send you a thank you. We are VERY appreciative ! Gifts will be distributed at a reception hosted by the CREW volunteers on December 5, 2019, from noon to 2:30 pm.

Questions? Please contact Lotus at 513-569-8202.

Garden Gazette – November is Here!

As Thanksgiving approaches, we are reminded that the gardening season will soon come to a close – and what a fantastic year we have had! Now is the time to wrap up

loose ends and put things to bed before the cold of winter arrives. In the coming weeks we can look forward to: Tulip Planting, Lighting Garden Hoops for FOL, Adding greens to Food Wall & FOL Containers, Fall Garden Maintenance, Potting up Elephant Ears at Fidelity, Nursery Winterization, & the Seasonal Holiday Potluck & Party!



Cheers!



Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden

Volunteer & Intern Department
3400 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

She was struck by a vehicle in January and suffered multiple fractures. Due to the severity of her injuries, vet staff at the Memphis Zoo had to perform a partial wing amputation. She recovered well but is not able to fly.

Please come visit her, Griffin, & Klaus, in the Bald Eagle habitat next to the Reptile House.

Meet Irene! Our New Rescued Bald Eagle!

