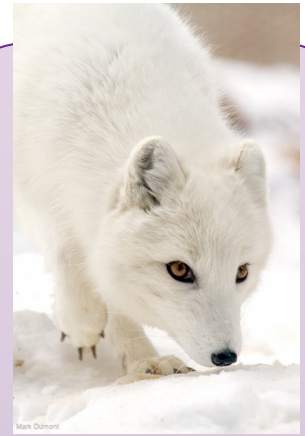




February 2018

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 February & March

Date / Time	Event	Location
All of February	Half-Priced Days	Entire Zoo
Wed. Feb. 7	Landscape for the Homeowner -Tickets needed	Frisch's Theater
Tue. Feb. 20	Keeper Lunch-Potluck	Frisch's Theater
Sat. Feb. 24	Milkweed for Monarchs Family Community Service	Cincinnati Nature Center Longbranch Farm - Goshen, OH

Nature Events Around Greater Cincinnati

Feb. 18 **My Great Park in Pictures Photo Walk @ Sharon Woods - 10 am - 11:30 am (Free)**
- Photojournalist Malinda Hartong shares tips for getting great photos!

YOGA at the Zoo!

February 13, 2018 – April 17, 2018

Here is how it works: The prices for these classes are being offered to us at a hefty discount, and to continue that pricing, **we need a commitment of at least 10 people** who will be **pre-paying for the full session.**

If you are interested in participating, you can pay the instructor, Nikki, directly or you may just drop in if you don't want to commit to a full session. However, anyone who will commit to at **least 10 classes** (1 session), they will pay **\$50 up front (that's only \$5 per class!)**.

DATE: Yoga is every Tuesday (4:30pm – 5:30 pm). Classes are held in The Lodge, but please check your MVP Home page every Tuesday for updates; as yoga sometimes gets moved. *You are welcome to park in the Safari Lot if you are arriving just before class starts, or move your vehicle from the Dury lot.*

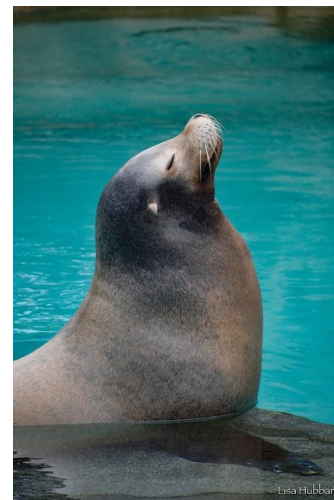
Employee & Volunteer Price: Prepay \$50.00 for a session (by check or cash directly to the instructor Nikki)

- * Each session is 10 classes (\$5 a session)
- * Note that these are 10 consecutive classes and you will not be refunded for missed classes

Employees & Volunteer: Walk-in to any class and pay \$7

- * This requires no pre-commitment on your part
- * Must bring money with you to class

No sign-up or RSVP required, just show up WITH YOUR MAT and MONEY :)



Valentine's Dinner at the Zoo

Spend your Valentine's Day at the sexiest Zoo in America! Love is in the air this year at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Where else can you experience close up animal encounters *and* enjoy a romantic meal with a complimentary champagne toast while cozied up with your special someone? It's sure to warm up you and your sweetheart this Valentine's Day!

Experience *zoonique* opportunities during the love-filled evening as valentines will learn about the *Wild Side of Love*. To what extreme did you go to get your mate... or are you still working on it? Either way, it is nothing compared to the courtship extremes found in the natural world. Join us for a sizzling night of insight into the lengths to which some species go to get some! Very sexy indeed!

There will be a cash bar available, but valentines can also add on a Wine & Dine option for only \$18 to receive a flight of wines (red, white, and dessert) paired with dinner. Heat things up and ignite the passion for a *wild* night this year at the Cincinnati Zoo!

Cost: \$175 per couple (plus tax) | Wine Flight: \$18 per person | Champagne Toast is included | Cash Bar is available from 6:00pm – 8:30pm.

Please call 513-487-3481 if you have any questions.
Guests must be 21+ to enter.

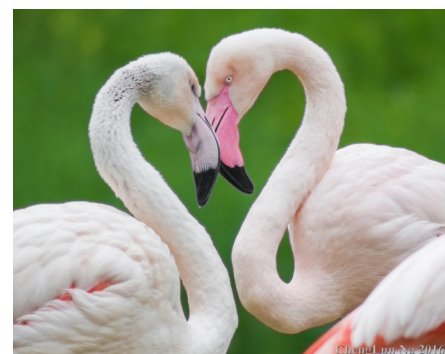
Dates:

Saturday, February 10, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Sunday, February 11, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Wednesday February 14, 6:30pm – 9:30pm

-If we do not reach a minimum of 65 guests on a given date, we will cancel the program and issue a full refund.



Barrows Conservation Lecture Series

Our annual Lecture Series features an exciting lineup of internationally-acclaimed scientists, explorers, and conservationists.

2018 Speakers

- ◇ **March 7: Gerry Creighton** - Giant footsteps: The future of Asian elephants in human care
- ◇ **March 21: Julie Scardina** - Mission: Wildlife
- ◇ **April 11: Paul Smith, PhD** - Can botanic gardens conserve all the world's rare and threatened plant species?
- ◇ **April 25: Dr. Amy Dickman** - Money, myths, & man-eaters: Big cat conservation in Tanzania and beyond.

-Dr. Amy Dickman is the 2018 Cincinnati Zoo Wildlife Conservation Award winner.



Dr. Amy Dickman

For 2018 Tickets & Information call: 513-559-7767

Zoo News - Tax Levy Message - Thane Maynard

As many of you know, our Zoo is up for a Tax Levy renewal this year. There's been some news coverage so we wanted to be sure you have the full picture and that you're up to speed on the levy details. This is our 9th Zoo Levy campaign, and we are after it all the way to finish line, but **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** -We'll get there. Thanks, Thane

What are we asking for?

To continue to be an awesome Zoo we are asking the three Hamilton County Commissioners (Monzel, Driehaus, Portune) to put a property tax levy renewal on the ballot with a modest inflationary increase. We have until February 7 to convince them to do so. **Details about what you can do to help are at the end of this message!**

Why are we asking for a Renewal with a slight increase?

The costs associated with maintaining a world-class zoo with aging infrastructure and providing excellent animal care have increased 54% while taxpayer support has decreased 10% over the last 10 years. For those reasons, we remain committed now more than ever to convince the Commissioners to put the Zoo Levy on the ballot with a modest inflationary increase.

Background You Should Know.

This levy is 2nd smallest in Hamilton County, \$10.07 annually per \$100,000 of property value, yet contributes over \$150 million to our regional economy and offers a better quality of life for tens of thousands. If approved, the levy would cost \$13.92 per \$100,000 of property value (\$3.85 more annually).

The residents of Hamilton County have supported a Zoo levy since 1982 and it's vital to our success. Tax dollars can only be used for the care and feeding of animals, horticulture, and maintenance of Zoo facilities. New habitats like Fiona's hippo pool and indoor Gorilla World are funded by private donations.

The current levy constitutes 17% of our operating budget. That's far less than other zoos across the country receive.

The Tax Levy Review Committee (TLRC) recently recommended the Zoo be placed on the ballot with a renewal without an inflationary increase.

The Commissioners will make their decision about the increase before February 7.

There are three reasons why the Zoo needs a slight increase:

The levy helps keep the Zoo affordable for everyone. We have a variety of programs offering discounts to County residents, and a terrific program that ensures that any school can afford to visit the Zoo.

It helps to maintain our aging infrastructure of more than 80 buildings, 40% of which are over 75 years old. The Elephant, Reptile, and Passenger Pigeon facilities are nearly 150 years old and on the National Register of Historic Places.

Zoo News - Tax Levy Message - Thane Maynard

The Zoo levy enables us to keep up with rising standards of care. The Zoo is dedicated to giving our animals the best lives possible, and keeping up with higher standards of care required by the USDA, the Animal Welfare Act, and the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) has increased costs. For example, over the past five years, the Zoo has grown our animal excellence and welfare program strengthened our life support systems and water quality program and added to our veterinary team.

How Can You Help?

We encourage you to take a few minutes to email the Commissioners and ask them to place the Zoo on the ballot with a modest inflationary increase. Here is their contact information and a sample message to help get you started. And, please encourage your friends, family, and neighbors to do the same.

Commissioner Todd Portune

President of the Board

Todd.Portune@hamilton-co.org

Commissioner Denise Driehaus

Vice-President of the Board

Denise.Driehaus@hamilton-co.org

Commissioner Chris Monzel

Chris.Monzel@hamilton-co.org

Sample Message:

Thank you for your leadership of the County. [Add any personal connection/support/story to the individual Commissioner]

I am writing in support of the Cincinnati Zoo, which I hope will be on the ballot with an inflationary increase this May on the primary ballot. **FOCUS: Tell your personal connection/story to the Zoo and the impact on your family.**

Supporting messages:

- This levy is one of the smallest on our tax bills, yet contributes over \$143 million to our regional economy and to an increased quality of life.
- We must continue to maintain the zoo's aging infrastructure.
- We must keep admission rates affordable for everyone.
- We must continue to provide excellent care for animals.
- Again, thank you for your service and attention to studying this important issue.

Okapi update!

A new door was installed to help animal care staff interact & train with okapi. Okapi are curious by nature, so this new system gives them a chance to keep an eye on things going on throughout the barn. Here's Kuvua & baby Moyo's first time exploring the new area!



Horticulture

SAVE THE DATES!

Please join us on **Saturday, March 3rd at the Safari Lodge at 10:30 am** for our annual Welcome Back Brunch & Awards ceremony.

We will enjoy a lovely meal (provided by the horticulture staff) and recognize everyone's contributions to the botanical garden. We will be giving awards to individuals who have served 100 or more hours during the passed year and/or are celebrating benchmark anniversaries in volunteer service with the Botanical Garden.



Horticulture Orientation/Education Sessions

****Please note that these sessions are not required for returning volunteers, but do provide an excellent atmosphere to refresh your skills, get in the gardening frame of mind, and become acquainted with the newest additions to the Horticulture Volunteer team.****

Thursday, March 8th 12:30pm – 2:30pm – Horticulture Orientation and Tour. During this session, we will take a stroll through a brief history of the Botanical Garden, discuss our mission, look at the day-to-day tasks and accomplishments of horticulture volunteers, provide logistical information, and promote an atmosphere for new volunteers to meet and speak with returning volunteers. We will end this session with a tour of the Botanical Garden. Location: Education Building – McCaw/Sloth classroom.

Thursday, March 15th 12:30pm – 2:30pm – Practicum. This session is designed to familiarize volunteers with items and tasks that they are likely to encounter on a regular basis. We will identify and discuss various weeds found throughout the zoo grounds, visit the basics of visitor engagement and garden interpretation, and familiarize ourselves with materials, methods, tools, and techniques that we employ while working in the garden on a daily basis. Location: Education Building – McCaw/Sloth classroom.

Thursday, March 29th 12:30pm to 2:30pm – Splendors the Botanical Garden. Become inspired by the beauty and uniqueness of our Botanical garden as you learn about some of our favorite trees, perennials, annuals, and native plants that are found within our gates. Location: Education Building – McCaw/Sloth classroom.

****We will try to inform you of any changes to this schedule as soon as possible.****

Sustainable Urban Landscape Symposium

Thursday, March 22nd from 9am to 5pm at Frisch's Theater. This year's symposium is focused toward planting for pollinators and should prove to be a very interesting program highlighted by thoughtful and informative speakers. Details about this program are available online and will included in a follow up email. *Volunteers will receive a \$30 discount on tickets. Tickets can be purchased online or at the desk in the lobby of the education building. Be sure to show your badge if you are getting your tickets at the desk and use the volunteer discount (To Be Announced) if you are planning to purchase tickets online.*



Holiday at CREW

Homemade soup and a taco bar, penguin hors d'oeuvres, mini bundt cakes ---these were a few of the favorite things at the annual CREW Holiday Potluck, December 5.

CREW volunteers and staff celebrated the occasion in style! Mike Camery chauffeured volunteers and their favorite dishes to Safari Lodge in a new eight-passenger electric cart.

While everyone was arriving, good friends shared holiday greetings with new acquaintances' as they examined the pet photos among the decorations with Santa hats and candy canes. Each person was to identify the CREW staff member whose pets were pictured.

After a delicious meal, Scottie Fahey, in-coming Executive Committee chair and emcee, revealed cat owners---Valerie Pence and Lindsey Vansandt; and dog owners---Elizabeth Donlan, and Sarah Huskisson. Erin Curry and Stacie Bickley each have a cat and a dog. Jackie Newsom surprised everyone with her red-tail boa. Terri Roth and Bill Swanson manage a menagerie---two dogs, two ponies, and three cats---across the Ohio River.

After Executive Committee members were recognized, Jackie Dieckman, out-going chair, expressed her appreciation to the volunteers for their faithful dedication to CREW.

At the Holiday Marketplace, participants could shop for a last minute gift. Where else can you buy a unique zoo gift---a plush mudpuppy sperm, for example? How about a messenger bag with Fiona on it? Or a back pack with Kendi or Anana? A new collection of travel bags with zoo animals?

Later in the afternoon, CREW hosted a reception to distribute gifts from the Giving Tree and the registry.

So ends another year for CREW volunteers at

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden!





Cincinnati Zoo &
Botanical Garden

Volunteer & Intern
Department
3400 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

STAY SAFE & STAY WARM!

