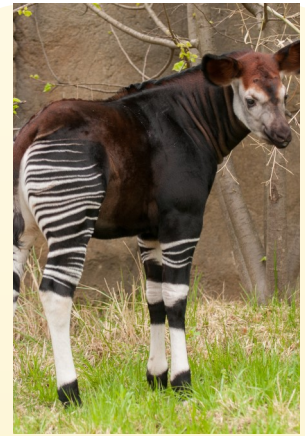




March 2018

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:

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Calendar of Events for March

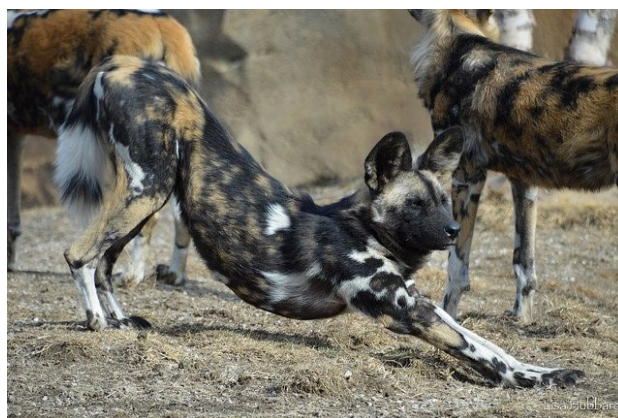
Date / Time	Event	Location
Now - Mar. 9	Half-Priced Days	Entire Zoo
Wed. Mar. 7 - 7 pm - 9 pm	Barrows Lecture- Gerry Creighton -Tickets needed	Peacock Pavilion
Mon. Mar. 12 - 10 am - 11 am	Continuing Education - Night Hunters	Frisch's Theater
Thur. Mar. 15 - 6 pm - 9 pm	ZooGeist- Support Zoo Education	Rhinegeist Brewery
Wed. Mar. 21 - 7 pm - 9 pm	Barrows Lecture- Julie Scardina -Tickets needed	Peacock Pavilion
Sat. Mar. 31 - 12 pm - 5 pm	Easter Celebration	Entire Zoo

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 (4:30 pm – 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 :)

ZOOGEIST: Share a Brew to Bring Kids to the Zoo!

Join the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden for this happy hour of fun for all ages at Rhinegeist Brewery to support the Living Classroom Education Access Fund, which provides opportunities for applicable students to participate in various Education Programs including camps, classes, and overnight adventures. Every \$65 raised will send 10 kids to the Zoo for a wild adventure!



When: March 15, 2018 from 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm.

Where: Rhinegeist Brewery - 1910 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202

Event Details: Zoogeist is **free**, and will feature a variety of fun in Rhinegeist Brewery's main taproom.

- Animal encounters from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- Raffle including items such as animal paintings, behind-the-scenes opportunities, education programs, Rhinegeist swag, and more! Raffle tickets are \$6.50 each or \$30 for 5.
- Games and activities highlighting what our world class Education Programs offer.
- Keep the pint - for an additional \$3, keep the limited edition pint glass with any beer purchase (while supplies last).
- Limited edition screen prints will be available for sale (while supplies last).
- Vale parking will be available for \$10
- Elevator access will be available for families with strollers!

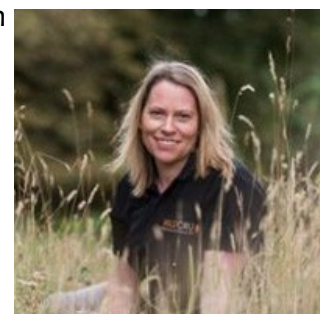
Barrows Conservation Lecture Series

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

Striving for Animal Excellence: Polar Bears

By David Orban

Modern zoos and aquariums have always sought to improve the lives of animals in their care. Over time, more resources have been put towards veterinary and nutritional care, habitats have been built more complex, and animal care staff incorporate more behavior training (asking and rewarding animals for performing behaviors that benefit their care), enrichment (novel experiences that provide choices to animals and benefit their physical and psychological well-being), and keeper-animal relationship building into daily practice. Science overlaps into each of these areas and is becoming more prominent throughout the modern zoo. The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden is host to the world-renowned Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW), which is working to conserve populations of endangered species. In addition, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden has implemented a new initiative which aims to incorporate more scientific elements into the daily care of our individual animals residing at the Zoo.



The Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) defines animal welfare as an “animal’s collective physical, emotional, and mental state over a period of time and [to which] can be measured on a continuum from good to poor.” Here at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden (an AZA-accredited zoo), we’re striving for our animals to constantly be experiencing the “good” end of the animal welfare continuum (and beyond!), which over time evolved into a new concept and core initiative: *Animal Excellence*.

To the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, *Animal Excellence* means a multitude of coinciding concepts. It means 1) that all animals entrusted in our care experience physical and nutritional wellness, 2) have environments that promote species-specific behavior and meet their social needs, 3) have the ability to cope with novel experiences, 4) develop positive relationships with care staff, and 5) have opportunity for meaningful choice and control. In striving for *Animal Excellence*, we’re beginning to take a more strategic and evidence-based approach towards continuously improving the experiences of the animals we care for. This strategy may involve behavior and welfare research, measurement of environmental variables, incorporation of scientific literature and best practices into future habitat design, and partnering with local universities and animal care experts.



One great example of our journey towards *Animal Excellence* is the work we’ve done to better understand and improve the experiences of our two polar bears, Little One and Anana.

When female polar bear, Anana, came to Cincinnati just over a year ago, visitors may have noticed that she was quite weary of her new male roommate, Little One. Despite her

loving interactions with care staff, Anana consistently kept a far distance from Little One and began to demonstrate some anxious behaviors. That’s when animal care and science staff came together to come up with a comprehensive plan to monitor the polar bears and make changes to promote Anana’s comfort. Since last spring:

Zoo News

- Months of behavioral and space usage research have taken place to better understand more about the bears' activity patterns throughout the day, how they interact with one another, and how they utilize the two habitats and their dens.
- Care staff have given the polar bears 24-hour access to more of their behind-the-scenes dens, thus giving the bears more control over where they choose to be.
- New enrichment and habitat opportunities have been tested and evaluated, including provision of giant ice piles and live fish, access to more vegetation and substrates, and new large enrichment items to manipulate and play with.
- Plans for an additional water chiller have been developed (we want the water even colder!).
- Care staff have made great strides in their relationship building and behavior training plans, including training Anana to voluntarily participate in body part presentations and abdominal ultrasounds.

After months of behavior observations, habitat and management modifications, and more complex enrichment opportunities – not to mention the work Dr. Erin Curry of CREW has done on researching polar bear reproduction – we've started to see Anana really settle into her new home. A few weeks ago, we observed another milestone – Anana and Little One playing together! (Finally!)

Together, our care staff have over 78 years of combined experience caring for polar bears, and yet they're still overjoyed with moments like this. Head keeper for the polar bears Lisa Vollmer had this to say, "I've been a part of the Cincinnati Zoo for over 30 years and have worked with 12 polar bears here. I am as awestruck with them today as I was then, and to see Little One and Anana getting along so well now after their rough start together makes all the hard work and sleepless nights worth it."

We're very excited about this development and look forward to continuing our progress towards *Animal Excellence* for our polar bears and other animal residents at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.



Takin Update! Our Charismatic Takin Dale was transferred to TN Safari Park after he was recommended by the Takin Species Survival Program (SSP) to breed with either of the two females there. Takins are listed vulnerable to extinction. We look forward to him starting his own family at his new home!



Horticulture News

Spring is in the air and it's just about time to get back into the garden. We will be kicking off our gardening season with our annual Horticulture Welcome Back Brunch & Awards Ceremony. Please join us later in the month for our Spring Horticulture Education Sessions where you can meet and welcome new volunteers and brush up on your horticulture skills. Don't forget about the Sustainable Urban Landscape Symposium that we will be hosting mid-March. We have a fantastic line-up of very knowledgeable speakers for this pollinator focused event – sure to be a thriller.

Meanwhile, April is right around the corner and will bring annual plugs, blooming tulips, Tunes 'n Blooms, garden clean-up, unpacking the nursery, visitor engagement, and our first "First Thursday" horticulture education session. We look forward to starting the 2018 season with you!

SAVE THE DATES!



Horticulture Volunteer Brunch & Awards Ceremony

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 past year and/or are celebrating bench-mark 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.

Thursday, March 15th 12:30pm – 2:30pm – Practicum –weeds, visitor engagement, & gardening.

Thursday, March 29th 12:30pm to 2:30pm – Splendors the Botanical Garden.

All classes will be held in the McCaw/Sloth classroom in the Education Building.

Sustainable Urban Landscape Symposium

Thursday, March 22nd from 9am to 5pm at Frisches' 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. Tickets for this event are available to volunteers at a discounted rate.

Stay Tuned for these Upcoming April Events:

"First Thursday" Horticulture Education Session – Splendors of Spring – Thursday, April 5 @ 12:30 pm

Tunes 'N Blooms – Thursdays in April 5pm – 9pm

Tulip Luncheon Fundraiser - details TBA



CREW News- Our Volunteers Help Us Soar!

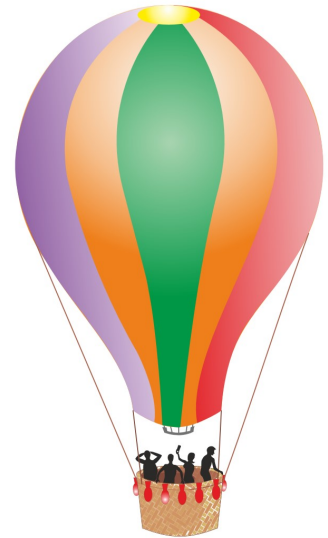
We are looking forward to you joining us for:

The 2018 Volunteer Recognition and Staff Update

When: Thursday, April 19, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Peacock Pavilion

Further details are forthcoming.



BE SURE YOUR HOURS ARE UP-TO-DATE ON MVP BY 3:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 30, 2018

Zoo Trippers 2018

Where are the Zoo Trippers going this year?

Monday, June 18 - Friday, June 22

For something different, the Cincinnati Volunteer Trippers are going out of the country! Headed into Canada, plans are to spend a summer day at the **TORONTO ZOO!** So dig out a passport or apply for a \$55 passport card at the local post office so we can cross the border. The last time the trippers visited Toronto was so long ago that it was much easier. The border guard just stepped onto the bus and asked if all were U.S. citizens and wished us a good time while in Canada.

Other stops to and from are still in the planning stages but will include interesting places.

The cost is kept as reasonable as possible and is usually about **\$625 - \$650 with a roommate**, and more for those wanting a single room. The price, as always, includes the bus, driver's tip, admissions, motel rooms, group dinner, drinks and snacks on the bus.

If anyone wants to make a reservation now, please write a check for a \$200 deposit made out & sent to:

BARBARA ZENTGRAF

26 Gambier Circle, Cincinnati, OH 45218

Reservations are first made by Cincinnati Zoo Volunteers in all departments and their spouse or a friend roommate. Others may put their names on a list to be called if space is still available (which it usually is).

Please call Barb at: 513-825-7059 with any questions. More information to follow.

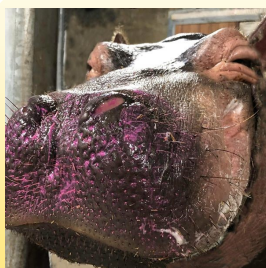
CONSIDER JOINING THE 2018 ZOO TRIPPERS FOR A FUN & DIFFERENT TIME!



Cincinnati Zoo &
Botanical Garden

Volunteer & Intern
Department
3400 Vine Street
Cincinnati, OH 45220

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



I Got A Kiss From Fiona!

Smooch! The next best thing to a Fiona kissing booth! Kiss shirts available today in **Cincy Shirts** stores!

