



May/June 2018

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Volunteer Connections

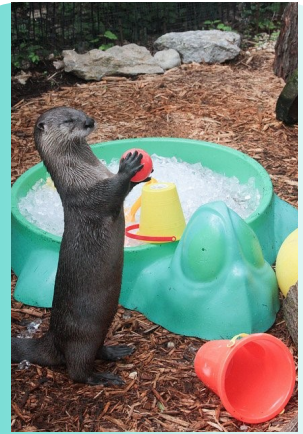


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**Special Thank You to all
volunteers & staff who
contribute, produce,
and distribute the
Volunteer Connections
Newsletter!**

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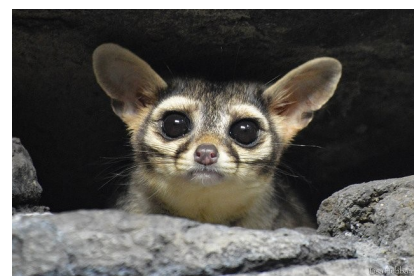
CREW 7

Calendar of Events for July/August

Date / Time	Event	Location
Every Tues. in July	<i>Twilight Tuesdays</i>	Entire Zoo
Mon.. July 9 - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	<i>Continuing Education</i> - Enrichment Team	Frisch's Theater
Thur. July 12 - 6:30 pm - 9 pm	<i>Cocktails for Conservation</i> -Tickets needed	Entire Zoo
Wed. July 18	<i>Macy's Kids, Cultures, Critters, And Crafts Festival</i>	Entire Zoo
Thur. Aug 9 - 6:30 pm - 9 pm	<i>Wild About Wine</i> -Tickets needed	Entire Zoo
Mon.. Aug 13 - 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm	<i>Continuing Education</i> - CREW/Polar Bears	Frisch's Theater

Animal News - Updates and New Friends

Meet Willow, the newest resident at the Cincinnati Zoo. Willow is a ringtail. You can see her on your next visit to our Night Hunters building. The name "ringtail" comes from the seven or eight black rings on the animal's tail. They are members of the raccoon family.



Work on the **new Bald Eagle habitat** is almost complete! Soon after, you'll be able to see rescued bald eagles that cannot survive in the wild. This species is an amazing conservation success story with now roughly 10k nests in the lower 48 states - with over 200 in Oh & 100 in KY!



More Zoo Babies!

The first of the flamingo eggs have hatched! Many more are still to come.

And more baby spitting cobras are on the way!



Animal News - Updates and New Friends

You can now come in and interact with our 4 **Galapagos tortoises** each day at 2pm in their **newly expanded and renovated yard**. This is the largest species of tortoise in the world. They can grow to reach 5 feet in length and weigh up to 550 pounds!

Speaking of tortoises, two experts from the Cincinnati Zoo, Melanie Evans & Paul Reinhart, traveled to a remote part of



Madagascar to help save the more than 10,000 critically endangered radiated tortoises that Turtle Survival Alliance rescued from poachers last month.

Animal News - Saying Goodbye to Friends



Our Zoo family was sad to say goodbye to 22yr old white tiger, Popsy. She was an animal ambassador for her species & favorite with guests. For the last 12yrs she was the “Queen of Cat Canyon” & let the other tigers know it. Her presence will be missed!

We also said goodbye to Willy the fossa. “After monitoring Willy the fossa’s health and quality of life over the past five months, keepers and vet staff made the hard decision to euthanize him. Having cared for him for almost two decades, I will certainly miss him.

He lived a good long life, and I’m grateful to have been a part of that. It was a lot of fun getting to know fossa behavior and hearing all their unique vocalizations. Willy and his mate, Banham, lived together for many years and got along great. They had two litters together. Two of his offspring are at Staten Island and another is at San Antonio Zoo.

Willy will be sorely missed. I don’t think we will ever have another animal like him. It has certainly been a unique and rewarding experience to work with fossa. Not many people get to do that!”

- Laura Carpenter



Zoo News-Sometimes Calm is Better Than Wild at the Zoo!

- By Aaron Davis



The Cincinnati Zoo has embarked on a mission to become the most accessible zoo in America. Thanks to a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), we're on our way to becoming a more welcoming, accessible, and inclusive zoo for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

To help us implement the needed changes, we have assembled an advisory council made up of 20 families that represent a full range of developmental disabilities. Cincinnati Children's Hospital, our partner in this endeavor, helped us identify and connect with the families.

The council has already proposed the addition of adult changing tables in Zoo restrooms and calming rooms for children with sensory stimulation issues. Cincinnati Children's is training the Zoo's full-time staff, seasonal employees, and volunteers, to better understand the needs of individuals with wide range of developmental disabilities so we can provide better engagement for them, and their families, at the Zoo. We will also test and evaluate what works and what doesn't and share those results with others who can learn from our experience.



Successful businessman and philanthropist Charlie Shor can relate to the kinds of challenges the Zoo is trying to address. At twenty-five years old, he experienced his first seizure. Soon after, he was diagnosed with epilepsy, a neurological disability that can cause seizures and unusual behavior. These episodes greatly affected his life and those close to him. He struggled with finding the right medication, medication addiction, and coping with the stress of building and running a business.

He needed a reboot to make life work again. In his case, this didn't happen until retirement, but better late than never. Today he studies nutrition and diet solutions to help with epilepsy. And thankfully, because of Charlie's love of helping others, finding economic solutions for vulnerable and low-income populations, and therapeutic horseback riding, many are benefitting from his life's second act.

Through a connection at the Zoo, Charlie learned that his love of animals and desire to serve families of those with disabilities could co-exist at the Zoo. Riding and caring for horses gives him perspective on his disability, and he knows the power that animals have to reduce stress and teach empathy for others.

It came to Charlie's attention that some kids can't afford to come to the Zoo. By making a gift to the Zoo's Living Classroom Education Access Fund (LCEAF) from his foundation,



Sometimes Calm is Better Than Wild at the Zoo!

he made it possible for low-income children to have an amazing Zoo experience — and one that they will remember for life.

Charlie saw an opportunity to do even more with his gift. He and others at the Charles L. Shor Foundation for Epilepsy Research understand the challenges that those with similar and different disabilities faced. Overstimulation, crowds, lack of quiet space — things that many enjoy about the Zoo — could make it a stressful place for those with a disability.

Today, Charlie is doing what he can to make a difference in the lives of those with disabilities. He funds an organization in Israel that uses horseback riding therapy and funds many epilepsy research organizations. Says Charlie, “those without disabilities often only look at you as if something is wrong with you. Kids with disabilities already look at themselves as lost. The social stigma makes it worse. They all ask the question, why did this happen to me?”



But he believes we can flip the script. Just because things like that can happen, doesn't mean that other things can't happen. The seizures could have kept him from being one of our region's most successful businessmen. The Zoo could have seen efforts to accommodate and provide more access as too daunting. But none of these things happened. Charlie has been successful with epilepsy. Because of his generosity and resolve, he is helping others have success in many ways.



Charlie's connection with horses reminds us of the health and well-being that respectful relationships with animals can have for each of us.

It doesn't matter how much money you have or if others see you as powerful or popular. More important is that you accept others for who they are, and others accept you. This is our hope for this new program and those it will benefit. At the Zoo, we can all belong.

In Our Thoughts...

Our dear friends Ruth Epstein, Robert Ponziani, and Roger Lindemann have passed away in the last few months. They were all loved volunteers, and we know many members of our volunteer family will miss them. Our hearts go out to their families and friends.



Horticulture News

What a transformative past few weeks for the garden! We want to send out a special thank you all for your hard work and dedication to our gardens and horticulture programs. During the past month we have:

- Dug and sold 100,000 tulips
- Turned over and planted nearly 40 display beds with summer annuals (we're almost there!!)
- Began our education program at the Gardening for Wildlife cart
- Hosted a very successful Pollinator Carnival
- Weeded many of our Native Gardens onsite
- Got our nursery up and running for the summer season
- Hosted a very successful Native Plant Sale at Bowyer Wetland
- Made a number of improvements to the Native Plant Nursery at Bowyer Wetland

SAVE THE DATES

"First Thursday Education Sessions"

July 5th – Browse Tour with Lyn Lutz – Become acquainted with the different plants grown onsite that are used for animal enrichment at the zoo.

August 2nd – Summer Pizza Party – Location TBA

Again, many thanks for all that you do for the gardens!

- Tosh Dobias



23 Zoo staff members & GE volunteers gathered at the Zoo's Bowyer Farm property to cut, collect, trim & stuff 124 boxes of fresh browse to freeze to be fed to our animals over the winter!

CREW News - Volunteer Recognition Dinner

By Judy Stewart

Hot air balloons with baskets full of violas awaited launching from each table as 72 guests arrived for the April 19th CREW Volunteer Recognition Potluck and Staff Update. Programs for the evening and a thank-you from the Executive Committee carried out the theme “Together We Soar.”



After a delightful meal, Dr. Terri Roth presented certificates for outstanding service to volunteers. Those reaching the first altitude (100 hours or more) were Emily Bach, Veronica Boyd, Diane Breig, Connie Bryant, Barbara Collins, Clara Dantic, Janet Dietrich, and Lynn Edger. Others included Carolyn Friedman, Sandra Germann, Robin Harrington, Sean Harrington, Martha Heil, Robert Licht, Donna Mancini, and Shelbey Moore. Still, others were Janet Mott, Meg Riestenberg, Gail Rose, Roselyn Schloss, Judy Stewart, Arlene Thorwarth, Kasha Vicknair-Hebert, and Nancy Wickemeyer.



Six volunteers gave 200 hours or more: Mike Biere, Mike Camery, Linda Corbett, Jackie Dieckman, Nancy Mitchell, and Sue Roenker. Carol Wehmann was recognized for more than 300 hours; Becky Budke, for over 400 hours; Mary Chaiken, for more than 500 hours, and Linda Finke, for over 600. Sandy Fritz was in the stratosphere with more than 700 hours!

CREW volunteer hours soared to 10,261 in 2017.

Becky Budke, the creator of the adorable plush sperm, received the Edward W. Wickemeyer Award, presented by Nancy Wickemeyer. Scottie Fahey, Executive Committee Chair, welcomed the new 2018 volunteers and recognized those who comprised each of the eight teams.

Researchers treated volunteers to concise updates about the year’s accomplishments. Presenters were Erin Curry, Elizabeth Donelan, Raquel Gonzales, Megan Philpott, Monica Stoops, Lindsey Vansandt, and Jessye Wojtusik. It was a very productive year at CREW.

Special thanks to Carol Wehmann, Sue Roenker, *decorations*, John Ray *photography* and Dave Stentz *chauffeur*.

As the evening ended, volunteers looked forward to another year of adventure!

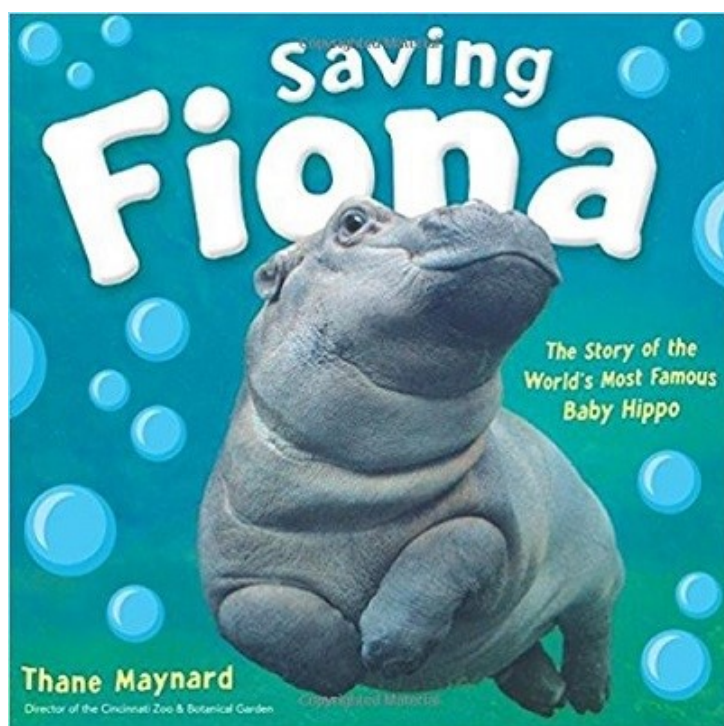




Cincinnati Zoo &
Botanical Garden

Volunteer & Intern
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Saving Fiona, a new book written by Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Director Thane Maynard and published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Books for Young Readers, is out now in local bookstores and online.

The book tells the amazing, true story of baby hippo Fiona and the team of scientists and caregivers who nursed her to health after she was born six weeks premature.