Zoo Families

Welcoming a New Gorilla Group—and Celebrating Wild Living Arrangements
Hosting the Bachelor Party
Lincoln Park Zoo is welcoming a new kind of gorilla group—one with four males living together for the first time.

Meet the Bachelors
Who’s in the bachelor group? Amare and Azizi are familiar faces, but gorillas Mosi and Umande are new to the zoo.

Where Are They Now?
As we welcome the bachelor group, we also check in on JoJo, Makari and Tabibu in their new homes.

Group Dynamics
An inside look at some of Lincoln Park Zoo’s wild living arrangements, from red wolf packs to a dwarf mongoose matriarchy.

Family Planning
Zoo families are no accident—institutions across the country plan new arrivals with Lincoln Park Zoo’s Population Management Center.

Fun for the Whole Family
Ever wanted to camp at the zoo? Join us to Sleep Under the Skyscrapers—or enjoy other summer events.

Growing the Family
European stork chicks, cactus mice and green-naped pheasant pigeons are among the zoo’s newest arrivals.

Planting the Family Tree
Director of Horticulture Brian Houck shares how the oak and daisy families—among others—beautify the zoo.

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Cover: Gorillas Rollie and Kwan
Right: The meerkat group at Regenstein African Journey is one of the zoo’s most active families.

QUESTIONs?
Contact the Membership Department. Staff are on hand during normal business hours—phone 312-742-2322 or visit us online at www.lpzoo.org.
Making my way through the zoo every day, I’m surrounded by families. Many are of the wild variety. I drop in on Caruso, Burma and Sai as the white-cheeked gibbons swing through the Helen Brach Primate House. I see the red wolf pack prowl their exhibit at the Pritzker Family Children’s Zoo. Kwan’s gorilla group at Regenstein Center for African Apes, the Bourke’s parrot parents and chicks at the McCormick Bird House, the meerkat mob at Regenstein African Journey—each offers their own joys and idiosyncrasies, like any family.

It’s exciting to see some new family groups taking shape this summer. At Regenstein Center for African Apes, we’re welcoming a gorilla bachelor troop, a family consisting of four juvenile males—Azizi, Amare, Mosi and Umande—each with energy to spare. That should be a lively one.

Of course, the animals aren’t the only families you’ll find at the zoo. I come across families from throughout the city, the region, the world. Grandparents hold toddlers’ hands as they share old memories of leaps and roars. Moms and little ones cuddle close, a display that cuts across species. These families—like all our visitors—are part of the Lincoln Park Zoo family; indeed, they’re the reason our family exists.

The zoo family isn’t confined to visiting hours, though. I see it first thing in the morning, in Nutrition Center technicians chopping meals or keepers sweeping an exhibit one last time to ensure everything’s perfect. I see it at night in scientists loading samples or educators making sure field trip materials are all laid out before heading home for the evening.

Sometimes when I’m walking through the zoo, visiting the different groups that make up the Lincoln Park Zoo family, I’m stopped by someone who identifies themselves as a member or donor. Those are my favorite family members of all—they’re the ones who make everything else possible.
BY JAMES SEIDLER

Hosting the Bachelor Party

Here are two general truths about gorilla population planning:
1. Male and female offspring are born in equal numbers
2. Each family group can have only one adult male—the silverback

Zoos managing the species thus face logistical hurdles as infants from fact one grow into possible rivals via fact two. As a young male gorilla matures—typically around ages 7–10—the silverback and upcoming adolescent can begin to clash over alpha status. At the same time, because of the 50/50 sex ratio, there isn’t a troop of females waiting for each potential silverback. The adolescents have to go somewhere…but where?
Creating a Connection

Susan Regenstein rarely misses a chance to visit Lincoln Park Zoo’s chimpanzees and gorillas. “Whenever I’m in town, I drop in,” she says. “I end up with that passion—I want to go see my kids!”

Some of the “kids” in question are more than 50 years old (chimpanzee Keo); others tip the scales at more than 300 pounds (silverback Kwan). They all represent a connection with wildlife that stretches back to Regenstein’s childhood—a connection she’s committed to sharing with visitors through the immersive experiences at Regenstein Center for African Apes, Regenstein African Journey and Regenstein Small–Mammal Reptile House.

Regenstein Center for African Apes, in particular, offers the potential for nose-to-nose encounters with wildlife. Glass walls and an intimate, naturalistic setting help every guest experience the excitement she feels when she sees her favorite animals.

With the recent changes at Regenstein Center for African Apes, Regenstein has watched some longtime friends—Makari, Tabibu and particularly silverback JoJo—leave for new homes. As a second-generation zoo supporter alongside brother Joe III, she knows these changes are part of life at a living institution. “I’m going to miss them,” she notes. But she’s excited to see the potential of the new bachelor group—which includes JoJo’s son, Azizi. “I’m really interested to learn what they’re like, watch the behavior and see how different it is.” Thanks to her support, she’ll be joined by countless guests sharing that same passion.

A Historic Opportunity

With 49 gorilla births since 1970, Lincoln Park Zoo has long led the way in conserving and caring for this critically endangered species. Welcoming a bachelor troop to Regenstein Center for African Apes added a new milestone to this impressive legacy.

“It was tough to say goodbye to some old friends, but we were eager for this opportunity,” says Steve Ross, Ph.D., director of the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes. “Beyond doing our part for a sustainable population, the bachelor group is an excellent learning opportunity for researchers and guests. Now they can compare a traditional, silverback-dominated structure with a rarer all-male group right in the same building.”

While both gorilla groupings offer wild wonders, animal care staff expect a surge of energy from the latter. Where Kwan is the unquestioned alpha of his group, Azizi, Amare, Mosi and Umande will navigate their budding hierarchy with plenty of posturing and rough-and-tumble play (see “Meet the Bachelors,” p. 4). The building will offer a study in contrasts—one that makes each visit more rewarding.

What Does the Future Hold?

The changes are exciting now, but what will Lincoln Park Zoo’s bachelor group look like down the line? Will the males spend the rest of their lives sharing their bachelor pad? Or will they eventually say adieu as they set off to become silverbacks, leading family groups of their own?

It depends. Some bachelor groups stay together while others see members leave for breeding opportunities. Either possibility is determined by the Gorilla Species Survival Plan® (SSP), the group that guides North American zoos in working together to maintain the long-term health of this endangered population.

SSP recommendations, informed by data from the zoo’s Population Management Center (see “Family Planning,” p. 10), brought the bachelor troop to Lincoln Park Zoo. If it’s in the best interest of the population, SSP recommendations could direct Azizi, Amare, Mosi and/or Umande to new homes.

But for now, the youngsters are settling in, exploring their new habitat—and one another. Their bachelor troop is a first for Lincoln Park Zoo…meaning you’ll be able to learn with us as we discover all the fun it has to offer.

Amare (left) will be a founding member of Lincoln Park Zoo’s first bachelor troop while Susie (right) will live in a more traditional gorilla family group headed by silverback Kwan.
Meet the Bachelors

Posturing and pranks. Enrichment gone airborne. Full-contact chases from the floor to the treetops. And all the vocalizations of four adolescent males trying to assert their place in the hierarchy.

Animal care staff are ready for all that and more as the zoo’s first bachelor gorilla group comes together at Regenstein Center for African Apes this summer. As they meld the four juveniles—Azizi, Amare, Mosi and Umande—into one family unit, the caregivers will employ operant conditioning, extra enrichment, customary patience and the understanding that each ape arrives in the bachelor group from a different background.

“Mosi was the only juvenile in his group,” says Curator of Primates Maureen Leahy. “Umande was reared by a surrogate mom. Even here in the same building, our two guys grew up with very different family styles.”

Azizi matured with sister Susie under the laid-back leadership of experienced silverback JoJo, who set steady boundaries for the young gorilla. Amare, on the other hand, grew up under the watch of younger silverback Kwan, who rarely disciplined his only offspring. To view the dynamics through a human lens, Amare has been spoiled a bit by all the attention.

Despite the differences, both gorillas have been eager to play. Indeed, animal care staff got a head start on the bachelor group dynamic by introducing Azizi and Amare for “play dates” beginning in February. Behind the scenes at Regenstein Center for African Apes, away from the rest of their groups, the two chased and tumbled, wearing themselves out with 45 minutes of fun.

Now living together full time, the growing gorillas are learning how to pace their play. They’ll continue to adjust to one another—and to new arrivals Mosi and Umande—over the course of the summer, as the group takes form and the young apes become more familiar with one another. It will be a careful process, of course, but one that should be a lot of fun to watch.

Who’s in the Group?

Azizi
Born at Louisville Zoo in 2003, he’s the son of JoJo and the great-grandson of beloved silverback Otto. His name means “precious one” in Swahili. Azizi often takes part in voluntary cognition studies at the zoo, using a touch-screen computer to sequence objects.

Amare
Amare was born at Lincoln Park Zoo in 2005 to parents Kwan and Kowali. His name is Swahili for “handsome one,” although animal care staff say “mischiefous one” may be a better descriptor. Amare is highly energetic and a bit of a prankster, often goading group mates into games of chase.

Mosi
Mosi was born at Little Rock Zoo in 2006—the first gorilla ever born at that zoo, making him something of a local celebrity. His mother was a first-time mom but took to motherhood very well. Mosi came from a troop with no juveniles, so the “bachelor” lifestyle will offer new opportunities to interact with gorillas his own age.

Umande
Also a descendent of Otto, Umande was born in 2006 at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He is very energetic and enjoys interacting with other individuals in his group and playing with enrichment items. Hand-reared by zoo staff when his mother didn’t care for him after birth, Umande moved to the Columbus Zoo at 7 months of age to be reared by surrogate gorilla mother Lulu.
Where Are They Now?

It’s never easy parting company with animals who’ve lived at the zoo for years—especially when they’re western lowland gorillas, an iconic, highly social species at Lincoln Park Zoo. This past spring, three familiar faces at Regenstein Center for African Apes (RCAA) moved to other zoos under recommendations from the Gorilla Species Survival Plan®. Here’s an update on the trio.
JoJo
Male, 31
New Home: Brookfield Zoo

JoJo, a prodigious and popular silverback born at Lincoln Park Zoo in 1981, moved across town to Brookfield Zoo in mid-May. Since it was easy for Brookfield’s animal care staff to visit him here, JoJo was able to fulfill his mandatory 30-day quarantine period prior to the move. The arrangement proved especially beneficial because his new keepers were able to work alongside RCAA staff and observe how they conducted daily care regimens with the gregarious great ape. “It’s really been a great partnership,” said Curator of Primates Maureen Leahy at the time, “because JoJo is already comfortable and familiar with all his new caretakers.” Visit JoJo at Brookfield Zoo’s Tropic World exhibit, where staff plan to introduce him to four females, two of whom are currently of breeding age.

Makari
Female, 25
New Home: Kansas City Zoo

Makari, who was born at Lincoln Park Zoo in 1987 and gave birth to male Azizi with father JoJo, departed May 9 for Kansas City Zoo, which recently added aerial tram-ride viewing above its 17-acre African exhibit. RCAA Assistant Lead Keeper Jill Moyse spent a few days with her, working closely with Kansas City Zoo staff to acclimate Makari to her new home.

Tabibu
Female, 20
New Home: Columbus Zoo and Aquarium

Tabibu, born at Lincoln Park Zoo in 1992, made it to Columbus Zoo and Aquarium safe and sound on April 22. RCAA Lead Keeper Dominic Calderisi spent a few days with her in Ohio, working side by side with Columbus staff to help ease Tabibu into her new surroundings. Tabibu resides with other lowland gorillas at the zoo’s African Forest region, home to 55-year-old female Colo, the first gorilla born at a zoo, and an outdoor ape habitat with 360-degree visitor viewing. So far, so good. “The Columbus staff really like her!” reports Leahy.
Group Dynamics

Animal living arrangements—be they flocks, herds, packs, troops or colonies—come in all shapes, sizes and social dynamics at Lincoln Park Zoo. We take a closer look at three species here that define “extended family” in unique ways.

Dwarf Mongoose

The dwarf mongoose, averaging just 10 inches in length and 9 ounces, may be Africa’s smallest carnivore (the mammal feasts on insects, mice and small birds). But what they lack in size they more than make up for in camaraderie and curiosity.

The matrilineal groups are governed by an older dominant female and her mate, the only pair permitted to breed. Everyone pitches in to care for the youngsters, though, and large groups of 30 or more can drive off predators much larger than themselves.

“They’re a very social group,” says Zoological Manager Dan Boehm of the five females at Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House. “They include dominant and submissive animals, and they’re very scent-driven, marking the enclosure on a daily basis.”

The geriatric siblings, born in 1997 and 1998 and descended from the same dam, also swarm over enrichment items provided by keepers—though rocks are no longer on the agenda after the five mongooses began flinging them at the enclosure’s glass barrier in the same manner they’d employed to crack hard-boiled eggs.

Green Woodhoopoe

An altruistic spirit toward raising young also prevails in families of green woodhoopoe birds, a tropical species found in forests and woodlands throughout sub-Saharan Africa. When the birds in the McCormick Bird House’s savanna exhibit had clutches of chicks in January 2011 and again later in the year, big brothers and sisters helped mom and dad by bringing food to the nest, even after the youngsters had fledged.

“One big sister, in particular, learned how to be a good mom. It’s all about babysitting and pitching in because raising little birds is hard work,” says Hope B. McCormick Curator of Birds Colleen Lynch. “Everybody goes out to forage on the ground and find insects, masticate them and pass them along to the chicks. It’s a real assembly line.”

The zoo’s current family comprises the mother and two offspring, a female and a male from separate clutches. The species can have up to five or six chicks at a time, with mothers laying blue eggs in tree cavities. In the wild, families range up to a dozen members, with one breeding pair. The agile, arboreal birds protect their territory with noisy calls and group displays of fanning wings and tails.
The resourceful flock also gets double-duty use from the nesting cavities, adds Lynch. “They use them year-round, not just during breeding. The whole family crams into their little house at night to roost.”

**Red Wolf**

“Everything is about order,” says Boehm in reference to the red wolf pack visitors can view in a wooded outdoor habitat at the Pritzker Family Children’s Zoo. The family includes the original alpha male and female and two daughters born in 2010. “The male has no competition from other males, but the alpha female has to maintain dominance over her daughters. There’s a lot of posturing in how they greet one another.”

The zoo’s pack structure is typical of red wolves. Historically, litters averaging three to six pups have been reared in dens dug into tree hollows or stream banks in the canid’s native southeastern United States range, with entire packs caring for pups during their first year of life. Today, zoos participating in the Red Wolf Species Survival Plan® (SSP) play a major role in protecting this critically endangered species, which has been hunted by farmers and ranchers to the brink of extinction. Fortunately, “this pair is well represented by offspring both in zoos and in the wild,” says Boehm. Some of their pups have been reintroduced in North Carolina into a protected reserve tightly managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The zoo’s pack, like all wolves, is highly territorial. Minus an adjoining wolf pack to defend against, however, they’ve had to make do with encroaching patrols of another sort. “Police sirens sound like other wolves to them and make them howl,” says Boehm.

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**It's All Relative**

Animals aren’t the zoo’s only extended families deserving recognition. Learn how a young zoo member and her family pitch in to support their favorite species at www.lpzoo.org/magazine.
Family Planning

Bahati, a 26-year-old male at Lowry Park Zoo, is in need of a fellow male to lead his troop.

Lihso, a 28-year-old female at Montgomery Zoo, is a good genetic prospect for a new mate.

Doyle, a 42-year-old male at Dallas Zoo, is having problems fitting into his social group.

These are just three of the nearly 300 individuals the Chimpanzee Species Survival Plan® (SSP) has to account for in its regular planning process. Multiply that across 340 species, and you begin to get a sense of the preparation that goes into keeping individuals, populations and zoos healthy and happy over the long-term.
Planning the Process

Despite what visitors might think, zoo families are no accident. Modern zoos strive to reflect nature, but they don’t simply let nature take its course. Each new arrival is carefully planned, taking into account the long-term health of a species as well as zoos’ capacity to care for them.

The hub for zoo population planning is the Association of Zoos and Aquariums Population Management Center, housed at Lincoln Park Zoo. This is where future pups, chicks, cubs and joeys—among other cute diminutives—are given the initial green light.

How does the process work? Let’s use eastern massasauga rattlesnakes as an example. Curator Diane Mulkerin is the studbook keeper for the species; she keeps track of births and deaths—little snakes hatching at Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo and grandfathers reaching the end of their lives in Toledo or St. Louis.

When it’s population-planning time, Diane shares this data with scientists at the Population Management Center. They analyze family trees for every individual to see if any lineages are becoming overrepresented or underrepresented. Maybe, for instance, a Lincoln Park Zoo female has produced offspring for several years running and should take a breeding season off lest the population become too interrelated.

The PMC shares these analyses with the population manager—in this case, Conservation Biologist Joanne Earnhardt, Ph.D. Together, they collaborate on draft breeding and transfer recommendations that go to every zoo housing the species.

These recommendations have to juggle several goals. They want to match potential mates in a way that maintains the genetic diversity found in the population. They need to know that new eastern massasauga rattlesnakes have exhibits waiting for them. Finally, they want to produce new arrivals to ensure a diverse demographic age range; the whole population can’t be slithering into senior status together.

“In many ways, the SSPs are like families,” says Population Management Center Director Sarah Long. “We have more than 600 studbook keepers and population managers from 200-plus institutions across the country working together for the good of the animals.”

Social Living Spurs New Challenges

When planning for naturally solitary species, like eastern massasauga rattlesnakes, SSPs don’t have to worry about group dynamics. But as the chimpanzees we started with show, complexity skyrockets when hierarchies and alliances enter the equation.

Take gorillas. While the silverback is dominant in traditional family groups, females and offspring under him establish their own hierarchy, which can be harmonious...or fractious. Gorilla SSP decisions take these dynamics into account—or solve—problems.

“Moving a female who’s a leader could destabilize the group, whereas moving a ‘troublemaker’ could help,” says Long. “With males, you want a strong male role model, although older females can set boundaries as well.”

Refining the Process

Researchers affiliated with the PMC are constantly looking to improve the planning process. One refinement has them looking back at all the recommendations that have been made to discover how many were actually implemented. It sounds simple, but PMCTrack, as the project is called, offers an ambitious accounting of the obstacles that impede management.

“Are transfers never made? Are animals incompatible when they’re actually introduced? Are there other issues?” asks Lisa Faust, Ph.D., Alexander Chair of Applied Population Biology, who is leading the effort. “We typically haven’t known why a recommendation to move or breed an individual animal didn’t work. With PMCTrack, we can systematically collect this information to improve future recommendations.”

The findings, when complete, should further enhance the population-planning process. “It’s a technical toolkit, and we’re always looking to add to it,” says Long. “In the end, though, it’s about finding the best recommendations for these populations.” No matter how scattered the individual animals might be.
Fun for the Whole Family

When the gates close, the lights go out and all the visitors go home for the evening, what happens inside the zoo? Chimpanzees curling up together to sleep? Brush-tailed bettongs taking part in midnight play? An Amur leopard silently prowling at Kovler Lion House?

Sights like these were formerly only the stuff of imagination. But now visitors can enjoy them firsthand with Sleep Under the Skyscrapers: Outdoor Campout. Families with children ages 5–12 can pitch a tent on the South Lawn and join a night of fun including s’mores, stories and a sneak peek at wildlife after hours.

Sleep Under the Skyscrapers—Outdoor Campout
Fridays, June 29, July 20, August 3 or 17
From 6 p.m. Friday–8:30 a.m. Saturday
$70 per person
$60 for members
For families with children 5–12 years old. Includes dinner and continental breakfast.

Through September
Yoga at Lincoln Park Zoo
Presented by Walgreens
July 27, August 24
Jammin’ at the Zoo
Wednesdays, July 11, 18 & 25
Native and Prairie Plants of the Midwest: Advanced Class

Zoo Ball 2012:
The Great Catsby
July 14, August 11, September 8, October 13
Free Second Saturdays Garden Tours

July 21
Breakfast at the Zoo
(Curators’ Circle donors and above)

August 1
Wine & Wildflowers Garden Party

August 11
Members-Only Morning

September 6
Third Annual Night Hike
(Ecologists’ Circle donors and above)

October 6 & 7
Harvest Days at the Farm-in-the-Zoo

Learn more or register for programs at www.lpzoo.org.
African Wild Dog

Lycaon pictus

When hunting antelopes in the wild, African wild dogs don’t pull rank with each other. Solidarity reigns as carnivorous packs, from a few dogs up to 30 or 40 members, chase, tire out and take down fleeing prey mid-stride on the plains of eastern and southern Africa.

Breeding rights and family divisions are another matter. Only the dominant alpha male and female breed, remaining monogamous for life, while subordinates are prevented from following suit. A more altruistic attitude unfolds as pups, born in litters averaging 10 offspring, are fed meat by all of the pack’s members.

“The dominant female is sort of the ruler of the roost, but the pack will partake in the raising of pups,” says Curator of Mammals Mark Kamhout. “They’re very social carnivores.”

Genders have separate rank orders. Within packs males are closely related to each other but not to the females.

Girl power prevails at Lincoln Park Zoo where four sisters, born at Brookfield Zoo almost two years ago, recently took up residence at Regenstein African Journey. The new arrivals are part of the African Wild Dog Species Survival Plan® (SSP), a cooperative initiative among zoos to manage this highly endangered predator, whose wild population has been decimated by hunting, habitat loss and disease spread by humans and domestic dogs.

Visitors will see the youthful dogs’ social dynamics take shape as keepers meet their curiosity and athleticism with prey items and enrichment tools like bones and boomer balls.

“African wild dogs always want to know what the others are doing, and they’re very vocal—lots of high-pitched squeals and yelps,” says Kamhout. “They should be very entertaining for guests to watch.”
Growing the Family

Lincoln Park Zoo’s animal collection is hardly a static bunch. Every season brings an assortment of newcomers, from babies born on zoo grounds to arrivals from other institutions with which we cooperate to ensure healthy, genetically diverse and demographically varied populations. Here are a few new faces in the crowd.

**European White Stork (Above)**
*Ciconia ciconia*
Five European white stork chicks hatched May 5, 7 and 8 at the Regenstein Birds of Prey Exhibit. These large birds build nests several feet in diameter and can grow to 40 inches tall with wingspans of more than 5 feet. Their long, pointed bills are well adapted to spearing prey.

**African Wild Dog**
*Lycaon pictus*
Regenstein African Journey recently welcomed four female African wild dogs. The siblings, nearly two years old, come from Brookfield Zoo where they were part of the same large litter. Look for the young, athletic pack in the outdoor habitat at the south end of the building. (See “Field Notes,” p. 13, for more about the new pack.)

**Green-Naped Pheasant Pigeon**
*Otisiphaps nobilis nobilis*
There were only 57 green-naped pheasant pigeons in accredited zoos when the Association of Zoos and Aquariums released its last official count in May 2011. This exotic species, native to the New Guinean rain forest, just gained one more member: a chick who hatched April 16 at the McCormick Bird House. Keep your eyes peeled for the youngster on the ground in the Free Flight Area, where it’s tended by mom and dad.

**Cactus Mouse**
*Peromyscus eremicus*
A colony of cactus mice, a new species for Lincoln Park Zoo, debuted at Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House in mid-May. The burrowing nocturnal rodents are native to deserts in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. The zoo’s colony includes two males and six females. Visitors can see these nesters actively foraging for food in their simulated underground burrow.

**Bourke’s Parrot (Below)**
*Neopsephotus bourkii*
Baby Bourke’s parrots hatched in early April, and two chicks came out of the nest for the first time on April 29. The following day, animal care staff were surprised to see a third chick emerge from the nest of these small Australian parakeets. Chicks and parents can be seen in the Forest Edge habitat in the McCormick Bird House.
Honoring the Oak

“Oaks have a lot of history here,” says Houck. That’s an understatement. At about 350 years old, the venerable burr oaks on zoo grounds (such as the oldest specimen just west of the Helen Brach Primate House’s outdoor gibbon yard) predate not only the zoo but Chicago, too. The zoo’s horticulturists are honoring that history and helping to ensure a future for oak trees with long-term initiatives like the Black Oak Savanna at Nature Boardwalk. The young woodland community, which flanks the Grant Monument on the eastern edge of Nature Boardwalk, includes chinkapin oak, shagbark hickory, black gum, sassafras and other native plants. It will one day star 50-foot deciduous black oaks (*Quercus velutina*), an endangered species that’s a familiar sight in sandy dunal ecosystems along the southern shores of Lake Michigan.

Think Pink

Last summer the annuals displayed in containers across zoo grounds featured a unified color scheme—red, orange and purple—for the first time. Houck further sowed that concept this summer with pink annual flowers. Petunias, impatiens, penstemon, angelonia, begonia and verbena in various shades of pink will greet visitors from late May through October at the East and West Gate entrances. They’ll also surround the flagpole in the show-stopping planter bed on the Main Mall and enliven various pots around grounds. “They’ll be showing well in July and at their most full in August,” says Houck.

Crazy about Daisies

With more than 22,000 species distributed throughout the world, the *Asteraceae*, or daisy, family is no shrinking violet. Its varied members are well represented at Lincoln Park Zoo, most prominently by herbaceous flowering plants such as purple coneflower, lanceleaf and sand coreopsis, black-eyed susans, goldenrod and various asters (sky-blue and heart-leaf among them).

The ornamental leopard plant, with its white-spotted green leaves, nods to the Kovler Lion House’s feline residents, while the blue mistflower, a large shrub with massive clusters of bluish pom-pom-like flowers, is worthy of tropical bird plumage.

Keen-eyed visitors to Nature Boardwalk and other parts of the zoo will also spy native prairie plants within the daisy family, such as blazing star, with its spires of tiny, pale-pink, spider-mum-like flowers, wingstem, ratibida, wild quinine, veronica and prairie dock, with its clusters of large, sandpapery, spade-shaped leaves. Houck encourages visitors to take inspiration from these hardy specimens’ tenacity. “So many of the daisy plants are useful to the home gardener because they can flower generously, repeatedly and establish themselves quickly,” he says. “You have to admire that about them!”

Planting the Family Tree

Animals aren’t the only Lincoln Park Zoo inhabitants with deep ancestral roots. An astonishing array of plant families, from flamboyantly hued annuals preening like divas along the Main Mall to rustic prairie grasses at Nature Boardwalk, also reside on zoo grounds. Director of Horticulture Brian Houck shares snapshot portraits of three of his favorites.

Burr oak trees are rooted in Lincoln Park Zoo’s long history. Rattlesnake master at Nature Boardwalk. *Petunia mini-me* highlights the summer’s pink color scheme while purple coneflower is among the daisies flourishing at the zoo.
wild file

Swine and Dandy
Africa’s smallest and most colorful swine species is now on display at Lincoln Park Zoo, which welcomed its first-ever red river hog in May. The 5-year-old female, born in April 2007 at Cincinnati Zoo, is located at Regenstein African Journey in the former warthog exhibit. While she spends a lot of time rooting around in the soil with her long snout in search of grub, Lily lives up to her floral moniker with bright burnt-orange hair, a white stripe along her back, white tufted whiskers and tassles drooping from her big ears.

Bring Your Binoculars
Summer is the prime-time viewing season for native wildlife at Nature Boardwalk at Lincoln Park Zoo. Try to spot these varied species during your next jaunt around the ever-evolving ecosystem.

Herons: In June, expect to see plenty of heron chicks, which hatched and fledged from nesting colonies in the spring. The proliferation of the resident black-crowned night heron at Nature Boardwalk is a thrilling success story. Hundreds of these birds, which are endangered in Illinois, have been breeding, wading and shuttling between the pond’s island and the tree-lined allée just south of the pond. “There are other heron species as well: smaller green herons and larger great blue herons,” reports Mason Fidino, coordinator of wildlife management at Nature Boardwalk. “We should see them all through August and maybe into September.”

Turtles: Four turtle species live here. Three are basking types: red-eared sliders (with red patches of skin around ears), larger map turtles (with map-like markings on their shells) and painted turtles (with red markings on their shells). These species favor basking on rocks near the island, soaking up sun to jumpstart their metabolisms. Zoo biologists introduced the painted turtles to the pond ecosystem and track their movements with radio-telemetry equipment. “There are also snapping turtles in the pond, but they’re more random to run into,” says Fidino, who advises midday for optimum turtle sightings. “We’ve seen snapping turtle babies hatching as well as painted turtle babies. They’re really small but adorable.”

Dragonflies: Several dragonfly species have emerged at Nature Boardwalk, buzzing about with transparent double wings, metallic-sheened bodies and large multifaceted eyes on the lookout for smaller insects to munch. “The easiest to spot are the green darners [named for their resemblance to darning needles],” says Fidino. “They’re the largest dragonflies at Nature Boardwalk. Look for a blue body with a green head.”

Butterflies: “Ones that are kind of cool to look for are the monarchs and giant swallowtails,” says Fidino of butterfly species fluttering about Nature Boardwalk. Monarchs, whose larvae feed on milkweed, are notable for their resplendent orange-and-black markings. Males can be identified by a scent gland that appears as a large dot on an inner vein of their hind wings. Swallowtails, with a wingspan that can exceed 6 inches, are the largest butterfly species in North America. Their bodies and wings are dark brown to black with yellow bands and a yellow “eye” in each wing tail.

Aerial Maneuvering
Thanks to a generous gift bequeathed to the zoo by a former McCormick Bird House volunteer, the avian facility’s Free Flight Area recently received some much-appreciated upgrades. The pool and waterfall were reengineered to recirculate water, resulting in substantial water conservation. The bridge surface was rebuilt with a recycled plastic product, walls were patched and murals were repaired in many locations. Rockwork was added to improve keeper access to all levels, and pools were re-graded to better accommodate some species for whom the pool walls had proven too steep.

Over at the Pritzker Family Children’s Zoo, kids can also take to the air on an overhauled climbing structure featuring new cabling, flooring and other new-and-improved amenities.

Where Are They Now?
Curator of Birds Colleen Lynch tracks the final destinations of the 21 penguins and 45 seabirds who moved to other zoos after Lincoln Park Zoo closed its Kovler Penguin-Seabird House last December to make way for a new, state-of-the-art animal exhibit in the future. Learn more at www.lpzoo.org/magazine.
Takins take their time. “Rush hour” doesn’t factor into their migratory lexicon as these nimble but slow-moving goat-antelopes browse among the bamboo and rhododendron groves of their mountainous eastern Himalayan home turf. Their range winds through China, Tibet and Myanmar. (They’re revered as Myanmar’s flagship fauna.)

The kids are live wires by comparison. They make for rambunctious playmates and can follow their mothers across challenging terrain just three days after birth. Herds comprise cows, kids, juveniles and young males. Bulls are solitary, joining the herd only during mating season in late summer. Cows give birth to one kid, gestation lasts seven to eight months and takins sexually mature within three years.

Caregivers have hopes of welcoming a kid to the zoo’s herd. This past October, in response to a breeding recommendation by the Sichuan Takin Species Survival Plan® (SSP), Quan Li, the zoo’s 6-year-old male takin acquired in March 2011 from the Montgomery Zoo, was paired with Chabi, a 10-year-old female takin. The SSP is a shared conservation effort among zoos to protect the massive mammal, which has become vulnerable to hunting and habitat loss caused by farming, mining and logging operations. Lincoln Park Zoo General Curator Dave Bernier serves as SSP Coordinator.

The other two adult females in the herd include Jinse, 8, and Chabi’s previous offspring, Mae Li, born at the zoo in 2007.

These generalist herbivores—which look like creatures conjured by Dr. Seuss with bison-like bodies, moose noses, wildebeest horns and bear tails—aren’t picky about plants. In the wild, takins fluctuate between small herds in winter, descending to forested valleys to feed on twigs and evergreen leaves, and teeming congregations of up to 300 animals in spring and summer, when alpine zones provide a leafy salad bar. Here, keepers stimulate the resident herd’s grazing instincts by scattering grains, fresh greens and occasionally fruits and sweet potatoes. “Now that it’s summer, we give them browse again, too,” says Zoological Manager Dan Boehm, “edible trees and plants they’ll nibble on as they would in the wild.”
A Conservation Milestone

In villages surrounding Serengeti National Park, vaccination day is an eagerly anticipated event. People come from miles around, lining up dogs to receive shots inoculating the pets against rabies and canine distemper. People and park predators such as lions and African wild dogs are also shielded beneath the vaccines’ protective umbrella.

In April, the zoo-led campaign hit a conservation milestone by vaccinating its 1 millionth dog since the project began in 2003. “It’s demanding work,” says Felix Lankester, D.V.M., director of Tanzanian programs. “To access all the dogs, my team literally had to go off the beaten path—and then a few more miles.”

But the results have been worth the effort. Cases of rabies in humans and wildlife have dropped to zero since vaccination began. Similarly, distemper outbreaks that had threatened park predators have declined as well. Constant vaccinations are needed to maintain protection, though, meaning the zoo may see another million-shot milestone down the road.

Learning Across Continents

The students share animal observations, try to ID wildlife spotted in schoolyards, maybe even chat about plans for the weekend. It sounds like a typical school project, except the participants are separated by the Atlantic Ocean.

Welcome to Community of Conservation. This ambitious cultural exchange has students from Niamey, Niger, and Chicago’s Francis W. Parker School learning about wildlife—and each other.

The partnership is funded by a generous grant from the American Association of Museums and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs’ Museums & Community Collaborations Abroad Program. Students in Niger make animal observations at the National Museum of Niger Boubou Hama while Parker pupils take the short trip to Lincoln Park Zoo. They then compare findings over Skype, where talk occasionally strays from data points to day-to-day lives.

Educators have entered the exchange as well. In January, zoo educators Rachel Bergren, Chrissy Graszer and Katie Hawkins traveled to Niger with Parker science teacher Maryanne Kalin-Miller. By learning from peers and experiencing Nigerien wildlife and culture firsthand, the group brought unforgettable lessons back into the classroom and zoo programs.

In April, colleagues from Niger reversed the experience by coming to Chicago. Moumouni Yacouba, Bida Ali, Boubacar Hassane Oumarou and Niandou Kadi Seynia spent a busy 10 days observing classrooms, experiencing different zoo-based programming, touring Chicago museums and cultural institutions…and making time for deep dish pizza and a Cubs game as well.

Zoo Children’s Book Wins Honors

Chimps Should Be Chimps, the free, interactive iPad children’s book produced by Lincoln Park Zoo’s Project ChimpCARE, took home two awards from the Publicity Club of Chicago this summer: a Golden Trumpet in the New Media category and the prestigious Elynore Dolkart Meserow Creativity Award—an accolade for exceptional creativity in a public relations program that only goes to one project or organization every year. The book uses the story of Old Poe and granddaughter Lulu to share how chimps should be free to be themselves. It’s available for download in the App Store.
**Summer Event Highlights**

Summer is underway, and Lincoln Park Zoo has filled the calendar with fun events! Here are some early-summer highlights.

Adults and parents with toddlers are stretching again with Yoga at the Zoo Presented by Walgreens. Sessions run at Nature Boardwalk’s People Gas Education Pavilion through September, so practice your animal poses by signing up today!

On June 3, thousands of runners tried for personal bests under the gaze of new lion Sahar with United Run for the Zoo. Thanks to United Airlines, New Balance Chicago, Lifeway Kefir, Starfruit Café, ArcelorMittal, Midwest Foods, The Belden Stratford and Walgreens for supporting this highlight of the Chicago running calendar.

Guests at the Sixth Annual Heritage Society Luncheon enjoyed updates from President and CEO Kevin Bell and Steve Ross, Ph.D., director of the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes. The June 5 gathering was part of the annual recognition for donors who have included the zoo in their estate.

On June 15, more than 3,000 members attended our annual members-only party, SuperZooPicnic. This year featured an all-new blue ribbon state fair theme, with guests enjoying midway games and pie-eating contests. Thanks to sponsors Lifeway Kefir, Clif Bar/LUNA and Sweet Leaf Tea.

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**field note**

**African Lion**  
*Panthera leo krugeri*

Lions are a social species. On their native grasslands of Africa, they typically gather in prides of anywhere from 2–40 members, working together to bring down prey and defend territory and cubs.

The communal life extends to Lincoln Park Zoo, with the proud predators sharing the yard at the Kovler Lion House. Because of these social needs, animal care staff immediately began looking for a new companion for 16-year-old Myra after much-loved lion Adelor passed away in February. In March, with assistance from the Lion Species Survival Plan® (SSP), they found their fit: Sahar, a 2-year-old male from the Bronx Zoo.

Myra, a Lincoln Park Zoo resident since 1997, has reared three cubs and seen them leave for new homes. Sahar, who went on exhibit in April, is still waiting for his mane to fill in. Because of the age difference, animal care staff expect the two lions to develop more of a maternal relationship than a mated one. (No cubs are in the picture, as the pair lacks a breeding recommendation.)

The path to the new pride was a gradual one. Keepers first acclimated the animals to one another by trading objects holding their scent. They progressed to distant glances in the Lion House and finally side-by-side encounters through protective mesh. When the animals were ready, they introduced them together on exhibit, establishing a bond that continues to grow into something approaching family.

“Sahar is still learning from Myra as they spend more time together,” says Curator of Mammals Mark Kamhout. “She’s the perfect lioness to show him the ropes.”
Enjoy the Perks of Being an LPZ VIP!

Be sure to wear your members-only lanyard with your membership card when you visit the zoo this summer. The LPZ VIP treatment includes front-row access at select keeper chats, a reserved members’ restroom during peak zoo hours and special members-only giveaways. Plus you never know when zoo staff will offer an insider experience to show our appreciation for your support!

Construction at Fullerton Avenue Bridge

Roadwork continues on the Fullerton Avenue bridge near the entrance to the zoo parking lot. Traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction through December 2012. The lot will remain open, but please be aware that a drive to the zoo may involve a little extra travel time.

Stay Connected!

Want up-to-the-minute updates on new arrivals and the latest wild happenings at Lincoln Park Zoo? Visit www.lpzoo.org to discover how to sign up for ZooMail or follow along on Facebook, Twitter, Google Plus or the zoo blogs.

Conservators’ Council Close-Up

Donors at the Conservators’ Council level and above toured the zoo with President and CEO Kevin Bell on April 27, sitting down afterward for a question-and-answer session and continental breakfast. On May 16, these key supporters clinked glasses at the inaugural Donor Recognition Cocktail Reception, where Vice President of Animal Care Megan Ross, Ph.D., offered insider updates on the zoo’s world of wildlife.

Annual Fund donors of all levels can participate in special experiences like these throughout the year. For more information, call 312-742-2321.
In examining zoo families, we’ve looked at packs and herds, bachelor troops and zoo babies. But the people who work at Lincoln Park Zoo are a kind of family as well. Here they share what it means to them to be part of the zoo family.

**your story**

I’m constantly inspired at Lincoln Park Zoo. I came here with a passion for communicating science and inspiring people to care for nature, and every day I get to work with people who share those same values. People often ask me how I know so much about animals when I never studied zoology, and I honestly don’t know. But when you’re immersed in such a dynamic environment with people who are working so passionately, how can you not soak it all up?

*Allison Price, Manager of Guest Engagement*

To me, Lincoln Park Zoo is a family of do-gooders. As the zoo’s grant writer I work with educators and scientists to make their vision and passion a reality. Watching excited elementary school students observe animals on a field trip or learning about gorilla research in Africa, I feel like part of a family that is out to make the world a better place.

*Beth Ulion, Grant Writer*

Being part of the zoo family means I have a team of wonderful people that I can rely on for support during busy times…even if it’s 10 p.m. the night before a big event!

*Kelly Cook, Auxiliary Board Coordinator*

Joining the Lincoln Park Zoo family has allowed me to be a better husband, father and son. For many years I ran my own business, C.D.I., which involved traveling to different zoos for exhibit-fabrication work. I enjoyed the challenges, but it kept me away from Chicago—my home—for weeks, even months at a time. Here I’m able to assist with maintaining and repairing zoo facilities for the upcoming accreditation inspection and serve the zoo’s mission here in Chicago. Also, I’m available for my family as an active member. It’s good to be home!

*Rick Cortez, Facilities*

Growing up in Chicago, Lincoln Park Zoo was one of my family’s favorite spots to visit—especially the Great Ape House. In particular, my dad and I would make a point to see the gorillas and chimpanzees every visit. Looking back, I can’t believe how special it is to now be a part of the RCAA family too!

*Talia Gazlay, ChimpDATA Project Coordinator*

To me, Lincoln Park Zoo is a family of do-gooders. As the zoo’s grant writer I work with educators and scientists to make their vision and passion a reality. Watching excited elementary school students observe animals on a field trip or learning about gorilla research in Africa, I feel like part of a family that is out to make the world a better place.

*Beth Ulion, Grant Writer*
Join Us at the Patio!
The pondside view of the Patio at Café Brauer is the perfect place for summer fun. Stop by for drinks, dinner, lunch or breakfast in a relaxed outdoor setting.

ZooMail Shares What’s New
Who’s the newest primate to swing through the treetops? What’s the lineup for this summer’s Jammin’ at the Zoo concert series? Subscribe to our weekly ZooMail digest to receive the latest animal updates, program offerings and more!

Scan to subscribe or visit www.lpzoo.org/zoomail.

Wild dogs are among the summer’s new arrivals. See them all inside!