



FALL/WINTER 2020

LINCOLN PARK ZOO

FOR WILDLIFE. FOR ALL.



Stronger Together

Unwavering animal care during the pandemic, dazzling holiday delights, animal welfare, & more

FALL/WINTER 2020

VOLUME 19, NUMBER 2

FEATURES

Excellence Continues / 9

Despite the global pandemic bringing Lincoln Park Zoo's first extended closure in 152 years and economic hardship, the zoo's dedication to providing the best possible animal and plant care continues.

Holiday Happenings / 12

'Tis the season for dazzling holiday delights at the zoo! Enjoy festive evenings and activities, unique gift ideas sure to spread cheer, and luminous displays at the 26th ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ.

Why Did the Chicken Receive Great Care? / 16

Lincoln Park Zoo is dedicated to using science to improve the welfare of the species in its care. Discover how the zoo's Feed the Chickens program sets the stage for great animal welfare while connecting guests to nature and fostering care.

Our Impact Depends on You

Who funds Lincoln Park Zoo? You do! Zoo members, donors, and visitors help cover around 80% of our annual operating costs to keep this non-profit, privately managed institution open and free every day and support its mission of wildlife conservation, animal care, and learning. Support the zoo at lpzoo.org/donate.



DEPARTMENTS

Perspective / 3

Wild File / 4

Holiday Haul / 15

Green Scene / 19

Zoo Family Album / 20

Field Note / 22

Cover: Seal Slater

Photo by Jill Dignan

**LINCOLN PARK ZOO
MAGAZINE**

**CONTRIBUTING
EXECUTIVE STAFF**

PRESIDENT AND CEO
Kevin J. Bell

ZOO DIRECTOR
Megan R. Ross, Ph.D.

VICE PRESIDENT OF
MARKETING AND
COMMUNICATIONS
Beth Krauss

CREATIVE LEAD
Chris Bijalba

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
RELATIONS AND
COMMUNICATIONS
Jillian Braun

MAGAZINE STAFF

EDITORS
Jillian Braun
Chris Pullam

ART DIRECTOR
Joann Raia

CONTRIBUTORS
Sarah Anderson
Ashley Bedore
Chris Bijalba
Sabrina Cynova
Hyson Gibbon



Our New Normal

It's hard to believe that more than seven months have passed since we first felt the impact of COVID-19 on Lincoln Park Zoo.

So much has happened since March. We closed for four months and reopened again under City and State guidelines for operating during a pandemic. We lost a beloved eastern black rhinoceros and white-cheeked gibbon but welcomed a beautiful Grevy's zebra foal and an adorable African spoonbill (one of our favorite species). We cancelled several events but were honored when many people donated the cost of their ticket. We limited our capacity for on-grounds visitors but expanded our live streaming options to bring the zoo to guests virtually.

While continuing to operate has meant navigating a series of changes, one thing has remained constant: you. When times are tough, our zoo family swings into action. We are very, very grateful.

The holidays are a special time at Lincoln Park Zoo. Taking this year's circumstances into consideration, we've mapped out the holiday season at the zoo with great care and cautious optimism. Our plan prioritizes safety (always) and allows us to continue our most precious traditions, like ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ. We can't wait to safely enjoy this season with you all. But, there are some changes.

Due to financial challenges presented by the pandemic, we made the tough decision to charge for ZooLights. It was a lose-lose choice between charging for a historically free event or forgoing the tradition completely. We just couldn't imagine a Chicago winter without ZooLights, so we chose the former and set tickets at \$5 per person. We are also offering five free nights of ZooLights to ensure we remain accessible for all and are sharing hundreds of tickets with our community partners. We've implemented a few other safety protocols (read more on page 12), so it will be a little different than the ZooLights you know, but we're confident it will still be a ZooLights you'll love.

Thank you for supporting Lincoln Park Zoo. As the year comes to a close, we hope you will take one more opportunity to make a gift to the zoo. Whether you attend ZooLights or participate in the new ZooLights Virtual Challenge, whether you renew a membership or buy an ADOPT plush stocking stuffer, your contribution matters. Every dollar helps us give animals their favorite foods, provide exceptional veterinary care, continue our conservation work, and offer a top-notch guest experience. We can't do it without you. ■

KEVIN J. BELL
PRESIDENT AND CEO

MEGAN R. ROSS, PH.D.
ZOO DIRECTOR

BY CHRIS PULLAM

The Three Little Pigs

There are three new piglets at Farm-in-the-Zoo, and they are here to stay.

The new arrivals, one male and two females, arrived the same way as every other piglet over the past two decades: each year, through a partnership with a local farmer, pregnant guinea hogs come to live at the zoo. Then, after giving birth and nurturing their offspring for a few months, the sows and their piglets return to the farm.

But this time, three of the new-borns have found their forever home.

“They are going to be the last hogs to be born here for a long time,” says Curator of Mammals Mike Murray. “This will be a different kind of experience for guests, who will spend season after season with them and get to know about them as individuals.”

Mother pig Raspberry gave birth to 10 piglets on June 29 at Farm-in-the-Zoo. Raspberry and seven of the offspring have returned to the farm, but the other three are making themselves at home, forming bonds with Animal Care staff, and enjoying enrichment that hones their problem-solving skills.

To learn more about recent changes at Farm-in-the-Zoo, read pages 16–18.



Photo by Alycia Darst

A Light in the Darkness

Amid the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Animal Care staff found a little hope when African spoonbills Luke and Annabelle welcomed their first offspring, Lucia, to Regenstien African Journey.

To learn more, read page 9.



Photo by Taylor Conter

Studying Chicago's Unpopular Neighbors

Lincoln Park Zoo researchers with the Urban Wildlife Institute have been studying the ecology and health of Chicago's rats since 2017 in order to help prevent human-wildlife conflict and public health risks from rat infestations.

Their hope is that a better understanding of urban rat ecology will help prevent the risks associated with rats—including the spread of disease and damage to property—and reduce human conflict with urban wildlife. To minimize these damages, pest management experts spend billions of dollars annually to manage rats in the U.S. alone.

So far, the research has shown a direct correlation between the number of rat complaints and the number of captured rats in Chicago neighborhoods. According to wildlife disease ecologist Maureen Murray, Ph.D., the result was heartening because the City of Chicago uses rat complaints to prioritize rodent control. Zoo researchers then went into neighborhoods with high and low rat complaints and found that complaints were higher where there were piles of unsealed garbage in alleys.

Their studies also found that alleys with more standing water are home to more rats with Leptospirosis, a bacterial blood disease caused by direct or indirect contact with an infected animal's urine. More surprisingly, the rate of Leptospirosis increased in higher income areas, challenging the belief that rats are a bigger issue in lower-income neighborhoods.

“Leptospirosis is pretty rare in people but it has been increasing pretty steadily in domestic dogs that might be walking through these puddles,” says Murray. “That’s bad for our pets, but it also increases the chances that we’ll be exposed to the disease, which only makes our research that much more important.”

Prior to the pandemic, zoo researchers had hoped to gather information about how rat infestations affect human health,

attitudes, and behaviors by talking to residents in various neighborhoods about their observations. In order to honor social distancing, they have instead pivoted to online surveys to collect the data.

To learn more about the study, visit lpzoo.org/rats. To take part in the online survey, email Murray at maureenmurray@lpzoo.org.

Bigger Than Life

On July 9, Animal Care staff at Lincoln Park Zoo made the difficult but responsible decision to euthanize Maku, a 34-year-old male eastern black rhino. He had recently been experiencing age-related health issues and discomfort that led to reduced mobility, which Veterinary staff had been closely monitoring and treating to provide him with the best possible care.

The second-oldest male of his species in North America, Maku was renowned across the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) community. Over his lifetime, he helped sustain the population of critically endangered eastern black rhinos by siring six offspring, who then produced a granddaughter and two great-grandsons.

At Lincoln Park Zoo, he was seen by millions of guests since his arrival in 2003.

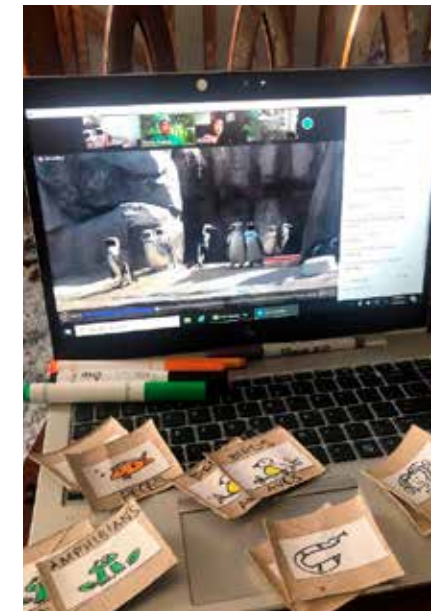
Beyond the zoo world, Maku will continue to help rhino conservation by supporting the fight against illegal wildlife trafficking; over the years, Lincoln Park Zoo has donated the shavings from Maku's horns to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help

Engaging Communities

Throughout the pandemic, Lincoln Park Zoo has continued partnering with neighborhood partners to explore nature topics through interactive activities.

Community Engagement staff successfully pivoted Artecito, a bi-monthly workshop co-created and co-hosted by Lincoln Park Zoo and OPEN Center for the Arts in Little Village, to an all-virtual format by early May, maintaining steady attendance on par with in-person participation prior to COVID-19. Virtual Artecito, now hosted every other Thursday, continues to inspire community members through live Zoom sessions.

In normal times, Artecito built lasting connections between participants and various topics by interacting with each gathering's physical location; for example, during an event focused on insects, staff might take participants on a walk to find some wild insects. In the new format, staff have continued to build



on that sentiment, allowing participants to display their pets or challenging them to find insects in their own outdoor spaces.

train airport security dogs to sniff out smuggled rhino horn that comes into the U.S.

“It’s difficult to put into words what Maku has meant not only to our zoo family, but to the community as a whole,” says Curator of Mammals Mike Murray. “We’re proud to have his legacy live on through his most recent calf, Romeo, but we will greatly miss his laid-back personality and seeing him wallow in the mud or romp through a fresh snowfall.”

OPEN Center for the Arts artists make each workshop as accessible as possible by designing the art activities around common household objects, like construction paper, crayons, and even flour, and participants can also ask questions throughout each workshop. By the end of September, the program had served nearly 500 kids and 250 adults.

The program has also expanded to include distribution of more than 600 art kits, through community food pantries, to families in Little Village to ensure full, easy participation in Artecito activities. And at some of the same pop up food pantries, Lincoln Park Zoo supported the Marshall Square Resource Network in replacing 2,000 single-use plastic bags with zoo totes that are being used for fresh produce giveaways.

For more information, visit OPEN Center for the Arts on Facebook.



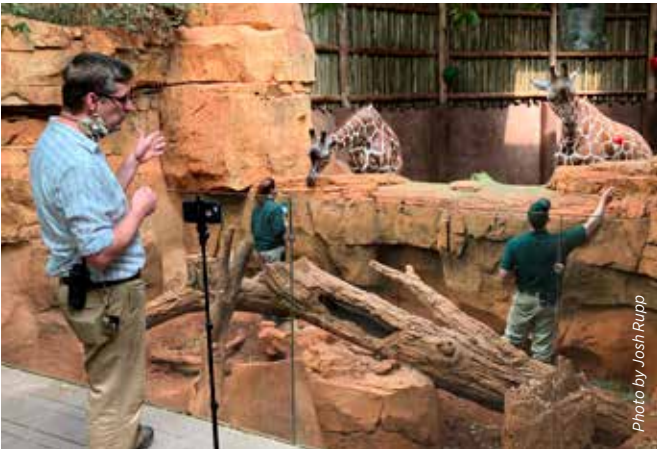
Photo by Lincoln Park Zoo

Fun with a Twist

Lincoln Park Zoo has remained a fun and safe destination for students, teachers, kids, families, and entire communities. Limited capacity, social distancing, and many other safety precautions have allowed guests to enjoy some of their favorite classics, and zoo staff have created an entire suite of virtual programming to keep guests engaged and enthused via virtual programming.

Over the summer, remote offerings included Virtual Craft Brews at the Zoo, Virtual Campout at the Zoo, Virtual Storytime and Sing Along with Mr. Singer, Virtual Construction Truck Show-and-Tell, and multiple Virtual Meet-and-Greets with various species at the zoo. In the fall, guests enjoyed Virtual

Haunted History Tours, an even safer twist on a seasonal favorite, and cherished the sights and smells of autumn while traversing the one-way path through the zoo. The zoo has also offered several hybrid events, blending both in-person attendees and remote viewers, like Breakfast



with the Animals and the upcoming Chris White Trio Tribute to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. “Over the past few months, we’ve really been able to refine these different offerings,” says Director of Events Josh Rupp. “With our in-person programs, which are still selling out really fast, we’re able to provide guests with our classics, but with a huge focus on safety. And with our virtual events, we’re able to introduce guests to some astounding zoo experts who you’d usually never meet.” To learn more about this year’s ZooLights, read pages 12–14. For other upcoming offerings, visit lpzoo.org/calendar.

The Virtual World of Wildlife

Over the past eight months, Lincoln Park Zoo’s youth programs have evolved to connect children with nature from the comfort of home.

During Virtual Conservation Camp, for grades preK–4, and Zoo Crew, for grades 5–8, campers participated in movement activities, games, and crafts. They saw animals at the zoo, met zoo scientists doing important conservation work, and interacted with their peers in breakout sessions—all enabling them to explore the fun and fascinating world of animals.

Even more recently, the zoo launched a selection of single-day Virtual School Holiday Camps, each with a different theme so that campers can choose which days to attend. Remaining Virtual School Holiday Camps take place on December 21, 22, 29, and 30, and the themes focus on animal opposites, like Big and Small or Quiet and Loud.

The zoo also rolled out a brand-new program: Zoo Investigations, a virtual opportunity for students to confront the real-life, science-based challenges that zookeepers and researchers face every day. “Teachers are trying to find high-quality e-learning resources and relatable stories that challenge their students to experience science rather than simply learn facts,” says Allison Price, director of learning experiences. “This program allows students to explore a subject matter they love, animals, while giving teachers a resource to make it happen from a partner they can trust.”

Following the cancellation of typical teen summer programming, zoo educators also developed engaging, interactive digital hangouts for older learners. Through Zoo Club, teens have

been able to stay connected to Lincoln Park Zoo during the pandemic while building skills in care, community, and conservation. During sessions, participants can chat with zoo experts, practice new skills, meet other conservation-minded teens, and even enjoy zoo trivia and Netflix watch parties of nature programming. To learn more about youth programs at Lincoln Park Zoo, visit lpzoo.org/youth-programs.



‘A Truly Legendary Animal’

The Lincoln Park Zoo community lost Caruso, a 30-year-old male white-cheeked gibbon and “a truly legendary animal,” on August 21.

Caruso was incredibly well-known throughout the community due to his gregarious and amiable demeanor. He enjoyed interacting in daily training sessions with keepers, even making vocalizations for his favorite food and enrichment items. Best known for his “singing,” Caruso and his mate, Burma, were often heard over the years performing their loud ritualized duet in the mornings. “Caruso is one of those individuals that will forever be a truly legendary animal here at the zoo,” says Maureen Leahy, vice president of animal care and horticulture.

“He touched so many people in so many personal ways.” Caruso began presenting mobility issues from a sudden disc-related problem in April. Following extensive diagnostic measures, Animal Care staff carefully managed his declining health over the next few months, providing him with the best possible care, until making the difficult but responsible decision to euthanize him. Caruso arrived at the zoo in 1993. During his time in Chicago, Caruso sired four offspring as part of the White-Cheeked Gibbon Species Survival Plan® (SSP). He was one of the oldest white-cheeked gibbon males in the current Association of Zoos and Aquariums population. “Having been an integral part of Lincoln Park Zoo for the past 27 years, it’s difficult to express the impact Caruso

has had on our zoo family, as well as the community as a whole,” says Jill Moyse, curator of primates. One such community member, 12-year-old Nicholas Earnhart, has sent Caruso several letters, plus a poem, since he was 8. Leahy, the curator of primates up until 2017, keeps one on the bulletin board above her desk and has given him updates on Caruso and the other gibbons over the years. “His behaviors were just so intriguing, and white-cheeked gibbons are a critically endangered species,” says Earnhart. “I missed half of school on his birthday one year, January 28. I have a picture from that day, of him sitting right inside the glass a few feet away and looking at me.” To learn more about Nicholas and his relationship with Caruso, read page 20.

Photo by Todd Rosenberg



True Stripes

Lincoln Park Zoo welcomed Abra, a female Grevy’s zebra, on August 14. The newborn can be found racing around Camel & Zebra area in a shared habitat with her mom, Adia, and other females of her species.

To learn more, read page 22.

Your Accessible Zoo

True to the zoo’s tagline—For Wildlife. For All.—staff have continued to improve accessibility and inclusion across grounds and programs. These principles ensure a full, just, and integrated experience at the zoo.

Staff, led by Bill Green, the Hart Prins Accessibility and Inclusion Manager, are constantly working on enhancements that touch on everything from navigating the zoo to enjoying zoo chats. When possible, learning programs and guest experiences utilize universal design, a way to build experiences and spaces so that no one needs an accommodation to participate. The zoo also offers free accommodations, available by request with advance notice. And while staff strive to ensure all programming can be enjoyed by all guests, the zoo also hosts a few specialized programs each year for particular audiences, such as DreamNight for children impacted by terminal illness and Zoos Go Blue to recognize and celebrate Autism Awareness month in April.

“We focus on accessibility because it’s simply the right thing to do,” says Allison Price, director of learning experiences. “Because everybody deserves to have a moment of inspiration, enjoyment, curiosity, levity, peace, empowerment—whatever they’re seeking—at the zoo or in a zoo program. Our job is to make sure that can happen, no matter an individual’s abilities or background.”

And the zoo is constantly making improvements. During the pandemic, for example, guests who rely on lip reading can now request that gate staff wear a clear mask to improve communication.

To learn more about accessibility, visit lpzoo.org/accessibility.

Excellence Continues

BY SABRINA CYNova

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic bringing forth challenges and the zoo’s first extended closure in 152 years, Lincoln Park Zoo remained an urban oasis, furthering animal care and welfare, as well as connecting communities to wildlife.

During these unprecedented times, Lincoln Park Zoo has become a beacon of comfort, sharing exciting animal news and uplifting content. While the world remains at a standstill due to the coronavirus, life and care at the zoo continue.

Essential staff, including the zoo’s dedicated Animal Care and Veterinary Services teams, are still providing unparalleled care to the nearly 200 unique species at the zoo. The small but mighty group of horticulturists is working hard to maintain the zoo’s gardens and accredited arboretum. Cleaning Fanatics is ensuring the safety of zoo family by keeping the buildings sanitized. And Facilities worked hard to improve zoo grounds and habitats.

From unwavering care on grounds to connecting with folks around the globe virtually, here’s how Lincoln Park Zoo is navigating the pandemic.

Unwavering Care

Despite the zoo being temporarily closed for the first extended period, species of all sorts continue to receive unwavering, albeit a bit different, care. Essential staff have been working with enhanced safety



measures to minimize potential exposure, and bonds among zoo family—and even between staff and animals—are quickly deepening.

“When the pandemic first emerged, Animal Care staff were asked to quickly adjust to new work schedules and split teams to minimize overlap, as well as hold off on taking scheduled time off, to ensure the zoo’s high standards of animal care would not be disrupted,” says Maureen Leahy, vice president of animal care and horticulture. “Staff rallied and swiftly transitioned to new modes of operation—a testament to their unwavering dedication to the health and well-being of the species in their care.”

Staff continued to prep diets, clean habitats, and work with animals during positive reinforcement training sessions.

The Nutrition Center is as busy as ever, curating diets for even the pickiest of eaters and delivering diets to keepers daily. The western lowland gorillas at Regenstein Center for African Apes continue to receive fresh greens, while the red wolf pack at Pritzker Family Children’s Zoo continue to enjoy tasty carcasses.

Although zoo grounds are much quieter, Lincoln Park Zoo



remained full of life. Thank you to the hard-working essential staff who are tending to the grounds and caring for the animals.

New Additions

Amid the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Animal Care staff found a little hope with numerous additions this year.

African spoonbills Luke and Annabelle welcomed their first offspring, Lucia, to Regenstein African Journey on June 5. Lucia hatched into a relatively quiet world; with all animal buildings closed to the public, only zoo staff have seen the new arrival.

“The name ‘Lucia’ means ‘light,’ which is fitting because this chick really is a light during a challenging time for everyone,” says Mike Murray, curator of mammals. “I almost feel guilty that only a handful of us have been able to see her grow in person, although we were able to share her story virtually on Facebook.”

At Regenstein Macaque Forest, two spirited snow monkey youngsters, Ozu and Nikko, joined the scene in March and April. Only a little over a month apart, they can be spotted playing with one other and exploring their habitat. And at Camel & Zebra area, a dazzling zebra foal caught the attention of zoo supporters everywhere.

Each new arrival serves as a reminder that Lincoln Park Zoo is an urban oasis teeming with life—both old and new.

Connecting Communities

The zoo’s social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter) have quickly become the best way to connect communities to the zoo and uplift spirits. Exciting announcements, adorable photos, and vivacious videos are putting a smile on zoo supporters’ faces and creating a sense of calm and consistency during an ever-changing time.

Zoo Director Megan Ross, Ph.D., is becoming a familiar face in households across the country over Facebook Live, showing what was occurring on zoo grounds during the closure and providing a way for viewers to tune into the animal world. Keepers are sharing behind-the-scenes photos and videos and are going the extra mile to keep avid zoo followers connected with their favorite species.



Bringing the Zoo to You

Although the zoo was temporarily closed, and has since operated at limited capacity, nothing has stopped



the Learning department and Events team from finding ways to bring the zoo to supporters in the comfort and safety of their homes. Members and guests are joining new virtual offerings to support the zoo and learn more about the unique species in its care. Both Virtual Conservation Camp and Virtual Zoo Crew engaged youngsters with animal sightings and introduced them to at-home conservation ideas and how to Take Action With Us. Virtual Meet-and Greet with a Lincoln Park Zoo Animal is bringing species front and center on screen, while families and animal lovers tuned in to a Virtual Breakfast with the Animals. Those of age enjoyed a drink or two during a Virtual Happy Hour, where they had the opportunity to learn more about beer and the zoo’s conservation efforts. Programs for all brought, and are still bringing, the community together during trying times.

Always Improving

Quieter grounds gave Facilities the opportunity to update and enhance habitats, furthering the zoo’s mission of advancing the highest quality of animal care. At Regenstein African Journey, a giraffe training wall was created and installed to help the giraffe herd with their positive reinforcement training. Several habitats, including the rhino yard at Regenstein African Journey, Camel & Zebra area, and Waterfowl Lagoon, were regraded and substrate was updated to meet animal needs.

Without guests present, Facilities was able to grind down concrete across zoo grounds to minimize uneven surfaces. Pathways are now much smoother for guests, zoo carts, and wheelchairs. In addition, construction at Pepper Family Wildlife Center roared along!



Stronger Together

For 152 years, Lincoln Park Zoo has been a pillar in the community, dedicated to connecting people to nature and creating environments where wildlife can thrive. The zoo has been and continues to be a magical place—a free oasis in the heart of Chicago. While the pandemic has left the zoo financially vulnerable, Lincoln Park Zoo will continue to provide the best care possible to the animals, as well as further worldwide conservation efforts and learning initiatives. All of this would not be possible without the support of members, donors, staff, and volunteers.

“If the pandemic has taught the world anything, it’s that communities are stronger together,” says Megan Ross, Ph.D., zoo director.

“If the pandemic has taught the world anything, it’s that communities are stronger together,” says Megan Ross, Ph.D., zoo director. “Chicago’s free zoo needs your support.

When you renew your membership, sign up for programs, visit the zoo and purchase concessions, or donate when possible, you help Lincoln Park Zoo continue to provide excellent care, as well as further conservation efforts and learning initiatives.”

During these times, one thing is certain: nature has reminded us of its healing power. For Wildlife. For All.

Take Action With Us

BY SUNNY NELSON, HOPE B. MCCORMICK
CURATOR OF BIRDS



The global pandemic has revealed a lot about the interactions between humans and wildlife. When imagining the wildlife trade or wildlife trafficking, most people think of elephants poached for their tusks, tigers poached for their pelts, or even rhinos poached for their horns. But many more species are also affected by the illegal wildlife trade, from pangolins, a species often cited as the most trafficked animal on the planet, to song-birds and reptiles. The wildlife trade’s impacts extend beyond individual animals and species; it can also have unforeseen impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and human health. And while not all wildlife trade is illegal, wildlife trafficking is contributing to the decline of many species in the wild.

As the fourth largest transnational crime, wildlife trafficking isn’t just occurring elsewhere; it’s happening right here in the United States. Whether it’s exotic animals destined for the pet trade in the United States or wildlife products passing through on their way to another destination, or even native wildlife poached and traded domestically or internationally, the United States plays a role in the illegal wildlife trade of many species. However, we also have the opportunity to end this illicit practice.

Lincoln Park Zoo is actively working to raise awareness of the illegal wildlife trade. We have partnered with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ Wildlife Trafficking Alliance, which works with private organizations and the public to fight wildlife trafficking. We’ve signed on to the #EndtheTrade declaration, which calls for an end to the commercial trade and sale of wildlife in markets. The zoo also endorsed the Prevent Pandemics call to action to increase efforts to combat wildlife trafficking. On top of all these initiatives, Lincoln Park Zoo supports legislation, such as the H.R. *Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act of 2019* and the *Preventing Future Pandemics Act of 2020* to strengthen enforcement and dedicate funds to stop wildlife trafficking.

Take Action With Us by supporting legislation that aims to eliminate the illegal wildlife trade, as well as avoiding products sourced from wild animals or parts, such as horns, skins, or furs, to reduce the chances of unknowingly supporting the illegal wildlife trade.

Holiday Happenings

BY JILLIAN BRAUN

The holidays are the most nostalgic time of the year and the perfect time to bundle up and spread holiday cheer alongside the animals at the zoo! With the new snow monkey babies playing in the winter flurries, polar bear Siku swimming in chilled waters, and bald eagle Ethan looking majestic in the crisp breeze, there’s always something to see at the zoo—not to mention the millions of holiday lights!

Join the zoo in person or virtually for the holiday happenings beginning November 20! Whether basking in the glow of ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ or virtually tapping your toes at the The Chris White Trio Tribute to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, there’s fun to be had for the whole family.

ZooLights Shines Bright

For the 26th year, **ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ** will fill the zoo with millions of sparkling lights!

This year, for the first time in more than 20 years, a ticket will be required to enter ZooLights. The \$5 ticket will help support the zoo in this financially vulnerable time and ensure reduced capacity for everyone’s safety. Without the crowds, and thanks to a one-way path around the zoo, zoogoers will receive a unique ZooLights experience unlike ever before!

ZooLights will also offer five free nights: November 24 and December 9, 17, 21, and 29. Reservations to attend these free nights are required and reservations will become available at 4 p.m. on the Sunday prior to the free evenings.

ZooLights will also offer several add-on experiences for those looking to receive their holiday fill! At Foreman Pavilion, the return of the **Light Maze Presented by Invesco QQQ**, a winding and glowing path designed to accommodate social distancing, is sure to heighten senses and entrance visitors. Pritzker Family Children’s Zoo will transform into a whimsical **Enchanted Forest**, complete with music, smoke machines, twinkling lights, and dazzling mirrors. Last but not least, **Snowy’s Spirits & S’more**, the over-the-top holiday-themed pop up bar, will return to offer festive cocktails and sweet treats for purchase, plus a chance to roast marshmallows over a bustling fire. Each add-on holiday experience costs \$3 per person to enter. Guests who visit any of the experiences during ZooLights will receive special 3D Holospex® Glasses for unique light viewing.

Learn more about ZooLights or secure your ticket by visiting lpzoo.org/zoolights.

ZOOLIGHTS SCHEDULE

Open 4-10 p.m.

- ZooLights (\$5 Tickets Required)
- Adults Night Out (Tickets Required)
- Free ZooLights (Reservations Required)
- Members-Only Night (Reservations Required)

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9



Photo by Phil Parceliano

Members-Only Night:
Nov. 20 &
Dec. 1

More for Members!

Lincoln Park Zoo members receive free exclusive access to ZooLights for two Members-Only Nights, on November 20 and December 1, plus discounts on all holiday happenings throughout the season.

In addition to holiday perks, members have special access to three members-only times to visit the zoo during the day and are able to book their free zoo reservations in advance.

Not a member? Join today at lpzoo.org/membership.

Holidays from Home

There are still several ways to support the zoo virtually this winter! **The Chris White Trio Tribute to A Charlie Brown Christmas** is back for an encore. The \$15 virtual admission option enables guests to tap their toes to this soulful jazz tribute on December 13 without having to leave their couch.

New this year, stay active with **ZooLights Virtual Challenge Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ**. This fun, virtual activity challenges friends and family to choose from four distances to complete at their own distance and at their own pace anytime between November 27 and January 3. Registration packages begin at \$24.99 and swag varies with each package.

Learn more about these holiday happenings at lpzoo.org/calendar.



Holiday Haul

Spread the joy this holiday season with gifts from and for the zoo! From stocking stuffers for the family to presents for penguins, there's something for everyone.



A Rhino-sized Gift

Say hello to Kapuki and Romeo, two of the eastern black rhinos at the zoo! Find Lincoln Park Zoo on the Cameo app or website for a perfect gift for the animal fan in your life. For \$15, a zoo educator will record and deliver a personalized message behind the scenes with the rhinos.

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

Have your gift last all year long with the Lincoln Park Zoo 2021 calendar! The wall calendar includes gorgeous photography of some of the zoo's most beloved animals and gardens. Bring the zoo to your home or office each and every day, or share with a loved one.



Deck the Halls

The tradition continues! Annual ornaments from the zoo return with a porcelain-painted beaver from Jan Heyn-Cubacub and a brass ornament featuring whimsical zebras.

Wish List

Zookeepers have been making lists and checking them twice for the animals in their care. Shop Lincoln Park Zoo's Wish List to provide zoo animals with their favorite snacks and enrichment (which is the animal equivalent of toys, puzzles, and games)!

Gift Cards

Share the love of wildlife by purchasing a gift card for select Lincoln Park Zoo programs! Purchase one for your child's class or the animal-lover in your life. Gift cards are valid for virtual and in-person camps (preK-8), Malott Family Penguin Encounters (ages 6 and older), Zoo Investigations (preK-5), and Zoo Explorers (preK-8).

Wear Your Support

Zoo illustrator Ashley Bedore created custom T-shirts and tote bags just in time for the holiday season. From "Animal Mask Fails" for quippy folk to an intricate "For Wildlife. For All." for the environmental advocates, there's an easy way to wear your support for the zoo.



ADOPT an Animal

ADOPT: Animals Depend On People Too! Support wildlife by giving family and friends a wildly unique gift: a symbolic zoo animal adoption! These precious plushes help the zoo provide its animals with the best care and promote animal welfare. Each ADOPT comes with a certificate, magnetic photo frame, and fun fact sheet.



 Find all these gifts, prices, and more at lpzoo.org/holiday-gifts.

Why Did the Chicken Receive Great Care?

Because of Lincoln Park Zoo, and guests like you.

Photo by Sarah Anderson

BY CHRIS PULLAM

At Farm-in-the-Zoo, guests can find a few zoo favorites sharing a habitat with the chickens: guest engagement, animal care, and science.

These elements form the backbone of decisions at Lincoln Park Zoo, but few spaces on grounds encapsulate the spirit quite like the chicken yard—where guests don’t just learn about animal care; they help make it happen.

“Using science, we were able to create a program that’s really the best of both worlds,” says senior animal welfare scientist Katie Cronin, Ph.D. “The science showed that many chickens preferred to be fed by guests when they had the choice, opting in to care provided by the guests and allowing a meaningful interaction to take place.”

Welcome to the Feed the Chickens program, designed to foster a message of care and stewardship to guests while setting the stage for great animal welfare. Inspired by a similar program at Cosley Zoo in Wheaton, Illinois, and piloted at Lincoln Park Zoo in 2019, the program is ready to resume when guests can return to Farm-in-the-Zoo.

Guest Engagement

Farm-in-the-Zoo has always connected guests with nature through special programming, although the strategy has evolved over time. In years past, visitors to the chicken yard, for example, could briefly touch a chicken while learning about the species. Thanks to the program, smiling guests were almost as common as the chickens.

But in order to further enhance animal welfare, the zoo revamped all touch-based programming across the zoo in 2019 so that guests could instead provide care directly to the animals.



Photo by Amanda Berlinski

The decision benefitted the animals but presented a new challenge to the zoo’s Learning team, which was tasked with developing new programs.

“We asked ourselves how we could tweak the programs to provide an emotional guest-animal connection that benefits both parties,” says Director of Guest Engagement Amanda Berlinski. “By doing this effectively, we could create empathy for animals in nature, which increases the chances that guests will make decisions that protect wildlife.”

So far, anecdotal evidence suggests a resounding success for both the zoo and guests. Both Berlinski and Curator of Mammals Mike Murray, who oversees Farm-in-the-Zoo, have witnessed mesmerized guests, often children, spending far more time in the space than ever before. And according to Murray, his 4-year-old son still talks about his experience during the pilot program more than a year later.

“Through this program, we are able to give people a sneak peek into what it’s like to care for these animals,” says Murray. “It’s a small sneak peek, but it can make a big impact.”

The zoo’s other care-driven programs are Groom the Goats and Feed the Cows, with others on the horizon.

Animal Care

In order to enhance animal welfare, zoo staff designed a program that provides the animals with the choice to participate or opt out, allows the animals to remain in their enclosure without separation from their conspecifics, and does not involve physical contact between the guests and animals.

The result: from outside the chicken habitat, guests use feeder sticks to offer small bowls of seed to the chickens through a fence at one side of the enclosure.



Photo by Sarina Benoit

One important aspect of the Feed a Chicken program, according to Murray, is that the chickens have access to more than enough food even without approaching guests. Plus, since the program takes place on only one side of their habitat, the uninterested chickens have plenty of space to ignore their visitors.

“As a care team, we want to make sure the animals have choice in what they do and how they interact with guests,” says Murray. “If a chicken doesn’t want anything to do with this, then that’s 100 percent okay, and it’s even encouraged. The experience for the guests is almost secondary. Luckily, these chickens find it very reinforcing, so it’s not something we have to choose between.”

Science

In typical Lincoln Park Zoo fashion, science has the final say when it comes to animal care: Animal Welfare Science Program staff continuously evaluate and enhance the experiences of animals at the zoo, especially when introducing a new element, like the Feed a Chicken program, to their routine.

Using ZooMonitor, the behavior monitoring app created by Lincoln Park Zoo, animal welfare research intern Maggie Ramont evaluated the welfare of the chickens during the program’s pilot season, focusing primarily on their behavior to infer their welfare and identify any changes associated with the new experience. According to Cronin, changes in certain chicken behaviors, such as more rolling on the ground to clean their feathers, would indicate enhanced welfare while others, such as more aggression, would indicate a decrease in welfare.

To isolate the effects of the program on behavioral changes, they compared the chickens’ behavior before, during, and after each program to the same time on days when the program was not offered. They also considered how the chickens used their space: if chickens were not comfortable with the guests, they should have avoided the feeding area as guest numbers increased, and vice versa.

“We expected that certain elements of the program—like the animals remaining in their habitat and giving them the choice

of whether or not to participate—should safeguard animal welfare, but we didn’t take that for granted,” says Cronin. “We relied on a scientific approach to draw conclusions about their welfare.”

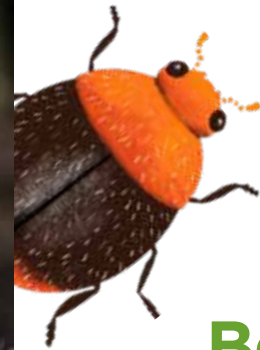
The results: the chickens exercised choice. Some chose to continue with their day as usual in the habitat, while most chose to eat from the feeder sticks

when the program was offered. Comparing observations between program and non-program days showed that their behavior didn’t change in a way that suggested their welfare was compromised. Taken as a whole, the data indicate a positive experience for the chickens that builds on the great welfare the chickens were already experiencing.

“The reaction from guests has been overwhelmingly positive,” says Berlinski,” but knowing that the animals also benefit is truly special.”

To learn more about animal care and welfare at Lincoln Park Zoo, visit lpzoo.org/welfare.

“As a care team, we want to make sure the animals have choice in what they do and how they interact with guests,” says Murray.



Beneficial Bugs

BY SABRINA CYNOVA

ILLUSTRATIONS BY ASHLEY BEDORE

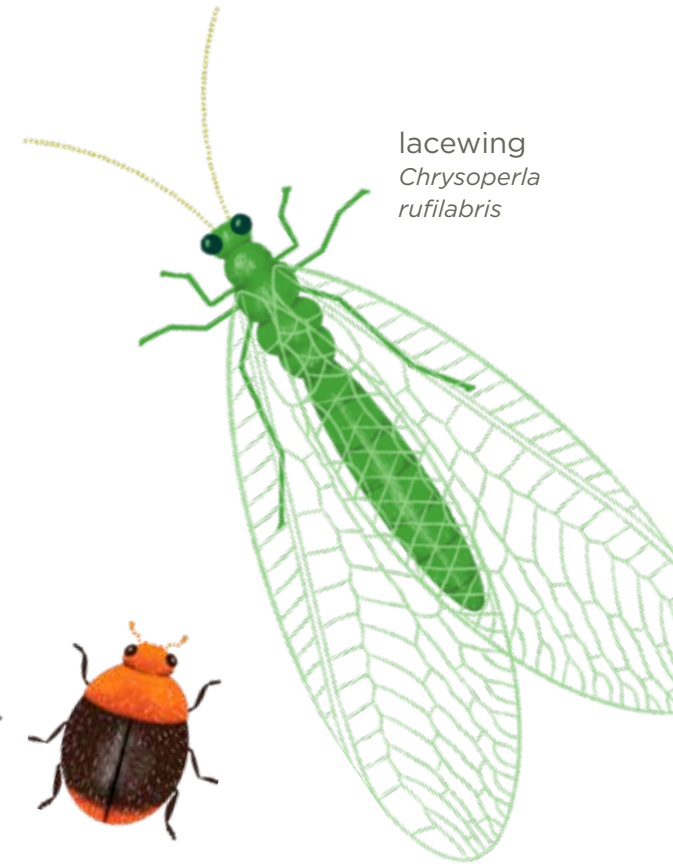
The Horticulture team uses helpful insects, known as beneficials, to control plant pests in zoo buildings.

Who let the bugs out? The zoo’s horticulture team did!

When asked to think about garden insects, most people would land on the term ‘pest’ before ‘beneficial.’ Although insects typically receive a bad reputation, certain species can help control plant pests. Inside Lincoln Park Zoo’s buildings, like McCormick Bird House and Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House, the Horticulture team releases insects, known as beneficials, to help keep the plants healthy. The introduced insects act as natural predators for the harmful pests that stress and often damage the zoo’s indoor plants.

Since late 2018, the Horticulture team has released three species of beneficials: mealybug destroyers (*Cryptolaemus montrouzieri*), spider mite predators (*Neoseiulus californicus*), and lacewings (*Chrysoperla rufilabris*). There’s a science and art behind releasing beneficials, as the team has to work to create an environment where the released insects will stay in the targeted area. This includes monitoring both humidity and temperature and creating a livable space for the beneficials. The Horticulture team also partners with Veterinary staff to ensure the insects are safe for zoo animals to ingest—just in case.

Beneficials are delivered to the zoo every two to three months and arrive in varying life stages. The Horticulture team releases lacewings in their larvae stage, when they are their hungriest, and mealybug destroyers as mated adults in the hopes that the released population will continue to grow. The goal is for the beneficials to sustain their own population, as well as control harmful pests.



lacewing
Chrysoperla rufilabris

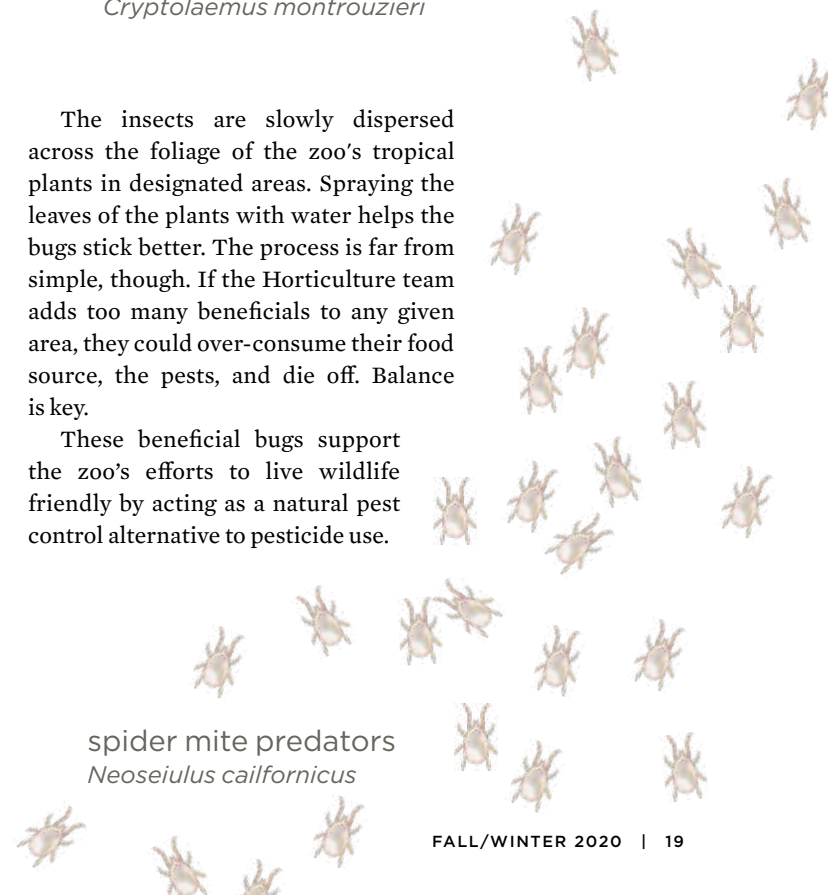


mealybug destroyers
Cryptolaemus montrouzieri

The insects are slowly dispersed across the foliage of the zoo’s tropical plants in designated areas. Spraying the leaves of the plants with water helps the bugs stick better. The process is far from simple, though. If the Horticulture team adds too many beneficials to any given area, they could over-consume their food source, the pests, and die off. Balance is key.

These beneficial bugs support the zoo’s efforts to live wildlife friendly by acting as a natural pest control alternative to pesticide use.

spider mite predators
Neoseiulus californicus





Nicholas Earnhart

12-year-old Zoo Camper and Friend of Caruso the White-cheeked Gibbon

Do you remember the first time you met Caruso?

The first time I actually remember, a zoo guide was telling us about how Caruso responds to his name and how he sings and does his call. He was her favorite animal. When I walked up to him, he came right over without me doing anything and just sat there looking at me. I became so interested in him and his species. Whenever I came to the zoo, I did ethograms on all the gibbons.

What's an ethogram?

It's basically a way for people to study an animal's behavior. Every thirty seconds, you use a chart to check off the behaviors that you saw during that time period. The very first time I did an ethogram was with the chimpanzees during the zoo's Conservation Camp. A few other camp kids and I were really interested in them, so we started doing them on animals across the zoo. I modified the ethogram for the gibbons.

Is it safe to say you know everything about white-cheeked gibbons?

No. Absolutely not. I've printed out so many fact sheets from different zoos and studied them all, and I've read several studies on the species, but there's still a lot to learn. I can talk about

them for hours, but even scientists are still learning. Eventually, I want to become a primatologist, an ecologist, or an astrophysicist.

Why is protecting wildlife important to you?

When you think about it, we're a type of wildlife and we're a part of our ecosystem, but we're destroying other wildlife's habitat by putting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere and through deforestation. We're driving these species to extinction, and that doesn't benefit anyone.

What does Lincoln Park Zoo mean to you?

Lincoln Park Zoo isn't only taking care of the animals at the zoo. In the Goulougo Triangle in Africa, its scientists are studying wild chimps and gorillas. And the Urban Wildlife Institute is studying wild life in cities and how humans affect them. There's no way for us to master these topics, but I'm glad Lincoln Park Zoo is working to make a difference.

To learn more about Caruso, read page 7.

—Chris Pullam

Sarah Anderson

Digital & Social Media Coordinator at Lincoln Park Zoo

How long have you worked at the zoo?

I've been at the zoo a little over a year and a half.

All attention turned to social media when the zoo closed due to the pandemic. What has that been like?

It was intimidating at first! Not only did the existing Lincoln Park Zoo community turn their attention to social media more, but we also gained an enormous volume of new followers from around the globe. It took a lot of deep breaths, scrolling, and realizing that nobody knew exactly what to do before I understood this was an opportunity for creativity. There is still a bit of trial and error, which is certainly anxiety-inducing with so many eyes on each post, but the feedback we've continued to get from our fans is overwhelmingly positive.

What is the best part of your job or favorite memory?

Everyone I know is jealous that I get to look at pictures of animals and learn new facts all day, which is a plus, but I would say the best part is being able to work with the coolest people ever. I enjoy being able to meet people from different departments and figure out how to share the incredible stories they tell! We also have some of the most supportive fans. There are "regulars" who share very sweet comments on our content, which is part of what makes everything worth it.



What are you excited to share on the zoo's social channels moving forward?

I'm excited to think about more ways to incorporate video! We placed a heavy emphasis on video during the zoo's extended closure, and our followers love it. I'd love to see something like a tutorial series that could show viewers at home how to create enrichment for their pets, prep their gardens for winter, or even make the Nutrition Center's yummy bars!

If you could only pick one social media for the rest of eternity, which would it be?

TikTok! I downloaded it during quarantine on a whim, and now can't stop myself from referencing memes or scrolling endlessly. The social media pro in me is impressed by how quickly people of all ages are adapting to fit within the constraints of the platform, but I also just think a lot of the people who are creating on that platform are incredibly funny and talented. I promise it isn't all dances! ■

—Jillian Braun

Dear Caruso,
You inspired me to learn all about you and your kind. You inspired me to tell other people about how to save you. You proved to them that small things can make a big difference.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Earnhart, Age 8

Grevy's Zebra

Equus grevyi

A striped bundle of energy has burst onto the scene at Camel & Zebra. On August 14, 13-year-old Adia gave birth to a healthy female foal as part of the Grevy's Zebra Species Survival Plan®. Sporting striking stripes and a pair of long legs, the foal, Abra, named after Life Trustee Abra Wilkin, has captured the attention of zoo supporters everywhere.

The newborn was walking 20 minutes after birth and running 40 minutes later—a critical survival adaptation in the wild for this endangered grazing prey species. Although zebras are well-known for their mesmerizing black and white stripes, foals are born with reddish-brown stripes that gradually darken.

While Animal Care staff assumed Adia was pregnant during the early stages of her 13-month gestation period, primarily based on her enlarged abdomen, their suspicions were definitively confirmed less than two months before the birth when a keeper caught the zebra foal kicking inside Adia's belly on video!

Spot Abra and her dazzling, long legs at Camel & Zebra area. ■

—Sabrina Cynova

Photo by Chris Bjelaba

This has been a year unlike any other in Lincoln Park Zoo's history.

COVID-19 brought a global pandemic to our doorstep and forced Lincoln Park Zoo to close for the first extended period in our 152-year history.

As a free institution, we rely on visitors—and the critical revenue they provide—for a significant portion of our operating revenue. Like so many other treasured institutions, we anticipate a significant financial loss this year.

We are confident that we will come roaring back from this crisis stronger and more knowledgeable than ever before. But in order for that to happen, your zoo needs your support. The animals in our care need your support. Our staff needs your support. This free institution—open 365 days a year before this unprecedented pandemic—needs your support.

Please support Chicago's free zoo today by making a gift at lpzoo.org/donate or calling us at 312-742-2321.