



FALL/WINTER 2021

LINCOLN PARK ZOO

FOR WILDLIFE. FOR ALL.



The Pride of Chicago

Welcoming carnivores,
celebrating leadership,
experiencing dazzling
holiday lights, & more

FALL/WINTER 2021

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2

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Kevin Bell is no stranger to the zoo world – after all, growing up inside the Bronx Zoo sparked his passion for wildlife. After 45 years at Lincoln Park Zoo, Bell will leave behind a legacy.

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Meet the residents at Pepper Family Wildlife Center, discover the secrets of restoring the historic building, and join in celebrating the new pride of the zoo.

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Youth-led co-created miniature golf course Douglass 18 opened in 2021 after years of design, modeling, and fabrication. See the course come to life!

Our Impact Depends on You

Who funds Lincoln Park Zoo? You do! Zoo members, donors, and visitors help cover around 80 percent 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.



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*Cover: Male lion, Jabari, at Pepper Family Wildlife Center
Photo by Chris Bijalba*

LINCOLN PARK ZOO MAGAZINE

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Thank You For 45 Wonderful Years

If you're reading this, you are one of Lincoln Park Zoo's most loyal friends and supporters. There's a good chance that we've met a few times, shared zoo stories, or spent some time watching polar bears swim together.

That has been the best part of being Lincoln Park Zoo's President and CEO for the last 26 years (and a zoo employee for 45): the connections. Working on behalf of wildlife is meaningful not just because it helps improve welfare in zoos or save species around the globe, but also because it brings people together with nature and one another. I work with an incredible staff and interact every day with volunteers, trustees, members, donors, and guests who have given so much to this place we share. And I am proud of what this place has become. Today, we are an urban oasis driven by science and a commitment to animal care, conservation, and learning opportunities—for free—we are open.

By now you may be aware that I am retiring at the end of this year. As of January 1, 2022, Megan Ross, Ph.D., will take over as Lincoln Park Zoo's President and CEO. Currently serving as our zoo director, Dr. Ross was selected to lead the zoo after a comprehensive, multi-year succession planning process facilitated by the Board of Trustees. Her vision for the growth of Lincoln Park Zoo's care, community, and conservation work is clear and strong. It focuses on not just ensuring we provide the best care to promote the best welfare outcomes, but also on finding ways to bring those care and welfare strategies more squarely into the public eye and telling the zoo's story. She will be a great leader for this institution's next chapter.

From my earliest days growing up in the Bronx Zoo to my 45 years here in Chicago with Lincoln Park Zoo, I have seen up close how life has its natural cycles. While my time leading the zoo is coming to an end, my love for this work, this organization and the people I've worked with will stay with me. I am deeply grateful and honored to have led this organization, and be a part of this community.

Thank you for your support of the zoo. I wish you all the best. ■

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin J. Bell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

KEVIN J. BELL
PRESIDENT AND CEO

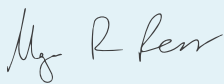
Looking Forward

For more than 150 years, Lincoln Park Zoo has been an oasis of beauty in a picturesque urban setting and a window into the natural world for generations of Chicagoans. For more than 20 years, I've been working here in a dream job in one of the nation's most dynamic cities, inspiring visitors, enhancing animal welfare, cultivating a sense of community, and—on occasion—riding the carousel. My personal vision, like the zoo's vision, is to connect people to nature and help us better understand our place in the world, while creating a sense of awe, wonder, and responsibility.

As a scientist working for a public-facing institution, I am deeply committed to what we call the four Cs: Care, Conservation, Community, and Culture. These values are our platform for engaging the people of Chicago around broader issues of animal welfare, coexistence with nature in an urbanizing world, and environmental issues such as climate change, habitat loss, and conservation of diverse and healthy ecosystems, both at the zoo and around the world.

Through our exhibits, the zoo offers a palpable link to the planet's savannas, jungles, forests, ice caps, and deserts, deepening our collective appreciation for nature's power and purpose. The zoo serves to both educate future generations about our environment and inspire them to support efforts to protect and preserve the natural world.

Just as we raised the bar under Kevin's leadership for animal care, conservation, horticulture, and community engagement, we will continue to challenge ourselves in the years ahead to meet the highest standards of science and service. Our efforts, and those of many others, will help make the world greener, brighter, and more enduring for all who share it.



MEGAN R. ROSS, PH.D.
ZOO DIRECTOR AND CEO-ELECT



Photo by Lisa Miller

Meet Dr. Ross

Megan Ross, Ph.D., has had an extensive career of learning about — and caring for — animals that has taken her across the world, from China to Atlanta to right here in Chicago. She joined Lincoln Park Zoo in 2000 as the Hope B. McCormick Curator of Birds, and over the next 18 years she served as the zoo's General Curator, Vice President of Animal Care and Education, Executive Vice President, and Zoo Director.

Dr. Ross was named Lincoln Park Zoo's eighth director in September of 2018 — notably, she is the first woman to hold that position in the zoo's 150-plus year history. Dr. Ross has a Master's degree and a Ph.D. in psychology, and she incorporates this broader perspective into improving animal welfare and helping zoo visitors connect with nature. For instance, ZooMonitor, an animal-behavior monitoring app that gives insight into the needs and best possible care of animals, became publicly available to accredited institutions in 2016. The app is now used in 52 countries, having been downloaded by more than 700 institutions. Dr. Ross is also widely regarded as an expert on zoo ethics as the former chair of the Ethics Board for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), and a newly appointed AZA Board Member.

A self-proclaimed science nerd, Dr. Ross lives in the Chicago area with her husband and two children.



New Kids on the Block

There was much to celebrate at Lincoln Park Zoo this summer! At Regenstein Macaque Forest, Mito gave birth to a healthy male infant on August 3 as part of the Japanese Macaque Species Survival Plan® (SSP). Mito, a snow monkey well-versed in using touchscreen computers as part of the voluntary cognitive research conducted by the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes, used a touchscreen to choose the name Minato for her infant. Minato is doing well and joins the troop of 13 snow monkeys, including 1-year-old youngsters Nikko and Ozu.

Over at the flamingo habitat, the zoo welcomed two Chilean flamingo chicks as part of the Chilean Flamingo Species Survival Plan® (SSP). Two male chicks hatched—one on July 17 and the other on July 27. Both the adult male and female Chilean flamingos feed their young with a self-produced, milk-like secretion called crop milk.

Bird is the word! The Hope B. McCormick Swan Pond welcomed northern pintail hatchlings, while Hope B. McCormick Bird House welcomed hatchlings from six bird species—including American avocet, blue-crowned laughingthrush, golden-breasted starling, green broadbill, Inca tern, and Nicobar pigeon.

From furry to feathery, stop by the zoo and see if you can spot the newest arrivals.



Looking Sharp

There's a new species at Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House. The zoo welcomed a pair of prehensile-tailed porcupines as recommended by the Prehensile-Tailed Porcupine Species Survival Plan® (SSP). Thirteen-year-old Pierre and 12-year-old Flora can be spotted munching and crunching on local browse to help wear down their teeth, which continuously grow throughout their lifetime.

An arboreal species, these rodents are excellent climbers and spend the majority of their time in trees.





Oh, Deer

A new species joined the Camel & Zebra area. Three male Père David's deer arrived from the Bronx Zoo as recommended by the Père David's Deer Species Survival Plan® (SSP). The trio's names, Shui, Youyong, and Lujiao, are of Chinese origin and translate to "water" "swim" and "antler" paying homage to their native range. They are doing well and enjoy spending time in the pool and mud wallows in their habitat.

A species with an affinity for water, Père David's deer are found in marshes and waterways in China.

Engaging Communities

Lions are threatened across much of Africa. Lincoln Park Zoo is a partner of the KopeLion Project based in northern Tanzania. This important and impactful project strives to foster human-lion coexistence in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Zoo conservationists support these efforts with their scientific and technical expertise to strengthen on-the-ground protection of lions in the ecosystem.

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area is a multiple land use area where people live alongside protected wildlife. Residents of this area rely on livestock for their livelihoods, and living with lions incurs many risks, such as losing livestock to lion predation. This human-lion conflict has historically resulted in retaliatory killing of lions.

To foster human-lion coexistence, conservation efforts include monitoring the lion population, mitigating conflict, increasing tolerance, restoring connectivity, and engaging with the community.

Lincoln Park Zoo is proud to be a partner of the KopeLion Project and provide critical support to conserve African lions. Visit the brand new Pepper Family Wildlife Center to learn more about the zoo's conservation efforts in Tanzania and see this majestic species up close.



Photo by Sarah Rutledge

Honoring Dr. Fisher's Legacy

Former Lincoln Park Zoo Director Dr. Lester E. Fisher celebrated his 100th birthday this year! To commemorate this milestone and his significant legacy at the zoo, professional portrait artist Craig Carlson donated a portrait in his honor. The realistic portrait of Dr. Fisher will be displayed in Laffin Memorial Building, the zoo's administrative offices, beginning this winter.

A Chicago native who grew up in the suburb of Alsip, Carlson enjoyed many fond adventures at Lincoln Park Zoo as a child.

"It was a great privilege for me to have the opportunity to paint a portrait of such a distinguished individual like Dr. Fisher," says Craig Carlson.

Photos courtesy of KopeLion

Leaving a Legacy

BY STEVE JOHNSON

Steve Johnson is a former Chicago Tribune reporter who covered zoos and museums for a decade.



Photo by Lisa Miller

An unusual thing started happening at Lincoln Park Zoo during the pandemic. Kevin Bell, a man who already held the title of president and CEO of the institution, also became its postmaster.

“I walk around the zoo every morning,” Bell says during, perhaps not coincidentally, a walk around the zoo. “I’m always looking at how do things look. ‘Why is this trash can there? That’s the first thing people see.’ Those kind of discussions go on in my head.

“I also deliver the mail—that position unfortunately went away in our reduction of force due to COVID. And since I’m making the route all through the zoo, I just pick up the mail from the main office and bring it around the zoo in the morning.”

It’s a mark of Bell’s devotion to the zoo—and his practical, whatever-works-best approach to running it—that parceling out its letters and packages while also guiding its long-term strategic plan made perfect sense.

At the end of the year, though, the zoo will need to get a new mail carrier. After almost 30 years at the helm, Bell will retire from Lincoln Park Zoo and step into a life that he hopes to fill with other projects: consulting on not-for-profit leadership and conservation are two that he mentions. “I’m not going to take another job some place, but, I’ll do some things that I like doing,” he says.

While he may not be a Chicago household name or a television showman in the manner of his two long-term predecessors, Dr. Lester Fisher and Marlin Perkins, his time as leader has brought about profound change in the way the zoo sees itself, operates, and presents itself to the public.

“Lincoln Park, during the tenure of Kevin Bell, has turned into one of the great zoos in the country,” says Fisher.

With its 3.5 million visitors in a normal year making it by wide measure the most visited of Chicago's museums and zoos, the zoo could have coasted on being free and accessible. But its growth and change since Bell took the job in 1993 have been relentless.

"Kevin has driven our culture of never being complacent about what we have today," says Megan Ross, Ph.D., Bell's protégé who was immediately named his successor upon his retirement announcement in early September. "He came to the zoo when it was a part of the Chicago Park District, and in a park district, you're just one of many parks, right? And then when we privatized I think he started to realize, 'Well, we can make this whatever we want to.'"

Ask Bell to name the most significant of the changes, and he'll immediately cite the institution's leadership role in zoos' move to animal stewardship rather than mere presentation. Some forty scientists now work on staff studying everything from chimpanzees in Africa to coyotes in Chicago cemeteries, and the zoo has shifted its animal focus from quantity to quality.

"We're not just keeping animals here, we're asking, 'Is their welfare good?' Not just their health, but their welfare," Bell says. "When I came as bird curator in 1976 we had more species of birds in the bird house than we have species of animals in the zoo now."

A backstage key to that change was the privatization Ross

mentioned. In Bell's early years at the helm, The Lincoln Park Zoological Society took over the operations of the zoo, giving it the opportunity to professionalize staff positions and chart its own fiscal course.

Among other things, Bell says, this meant not having to go before the park district board to get your eucalyptus vendor approved in order to feed the koalas the zoo used to house. Bigger picture, it has meant the zoo's budget has risen roughly threefold, from \$10 million annually to over \$30 million, while the endowment has gone from \$1.5 million to roughly \$60 million.

More meaningful to the average visitor has been the facility's physical transformation. Chain-link perimeter fencing was replaced by wrought iron. The pond on the zoo's southern border went from hosting garish plastic paddleboats to being ringed by the impeccable, half-mile-long Nature Boardwalk, which has become one of the city's great natural oases.

Bell is proud of not just the fauna on the grounds, but the flora—the way the botanical staff has beautified things so that the place is, literally, an officially-designated arboretum. And just as he's done with the mail, Bell pitched in.

"When COVID first hit last year, I would do a lot of gardening at the zoo because many of our staff couldn't come in," he says, standing on the west side of the Waterfowl Lagoon. "So spring of 2020 one of my jobs was weeding this entire area, all the way from the bridge, pulling out all these tall weeds. It was a lot of work, but it was fun."

"We're not just keeping animals here, we're asking, 'Is their welfare good?' Not just their health, but their welfare," Bell says.



Photo by Lisa Miller

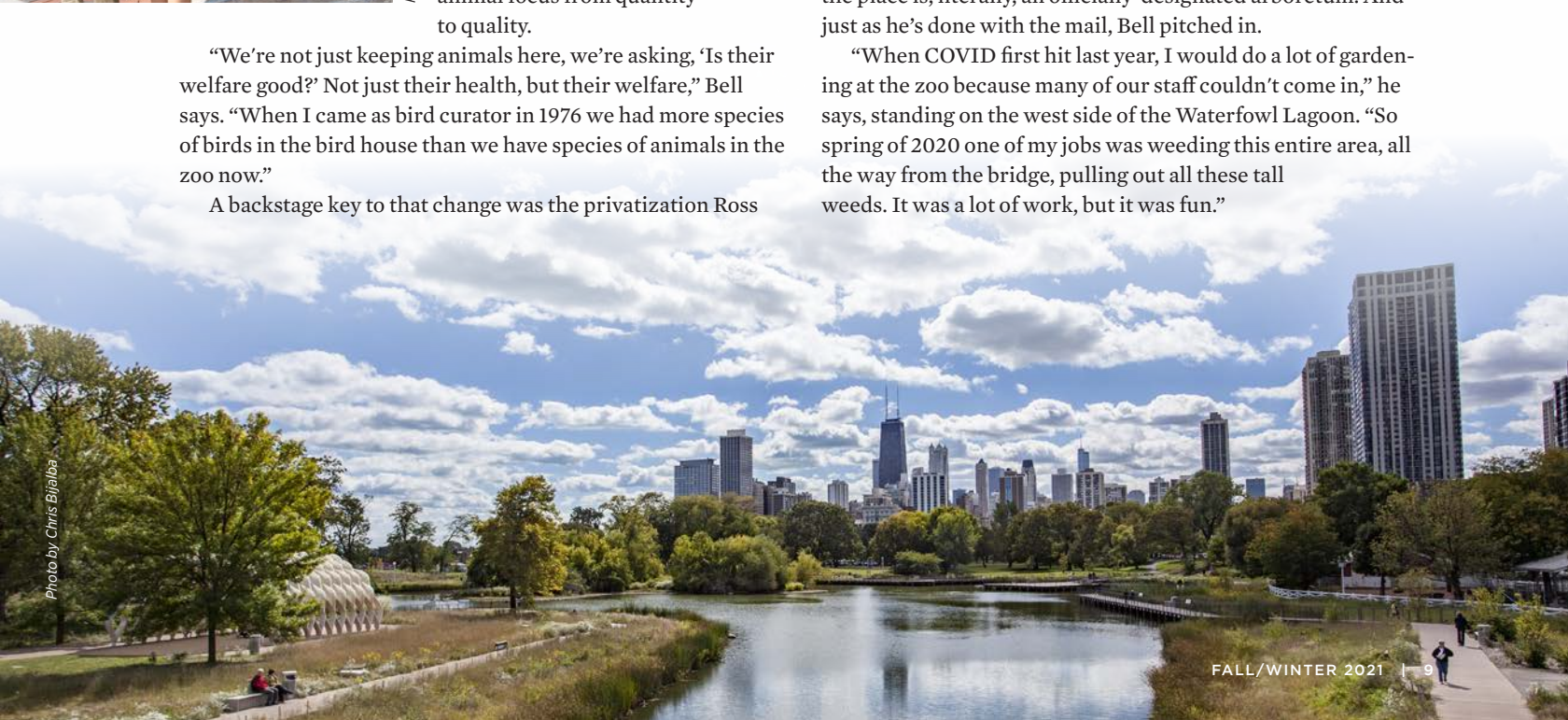


Photo by Chris Eijalba



Another point of pride: Keeping the zoo free. Before retiring, he made it a point to negotiate—even before the last contract expired—a new 30-year agreement between the zoo and the park district, which will keep the fundamental operating arrangement in place.

“To be able to say that you’re keeping the zoo free until 2050 is a big deal,” says Bell. “I think that’s where a lot of our support comes from—the fact that people know that by supporting the zoo they’re helping all of Chicago have this experience.”

Within the zoo grounds a more than \$140 million building spree, as part of *The Pride of Chicago* capital campaign, in Bell’s final years has seen the old penguin house replaced by a compelling hillside Japanese macaque habitat. New, similarly state-of-the-art African penguin and polar bear environments have gone in, and the crowning achievement, Pepper Family Wildlife Center, modernized for a smaller group of animals but retaining its historic character.

“We’ve raised a lot of money, there’s no question,” Bell says. “Some of my colleagues around the country say, ‘Oh, you’re the best fundraiser going.’ I say, ‘I don’t think I’m the best fundraiser, but I’m in a city that’s extremely generous.’ And when you’ve got resources available, if you can tell a story, if you can have that passion come through to donors, they’re going to support that.”

When Bell took the top job at Lincoln Park in 1993, the headlines almost wrote themselves. Bell, after all, had grown up in a house on the grounds of the Bronx Zoo, where his father was curator of birds.

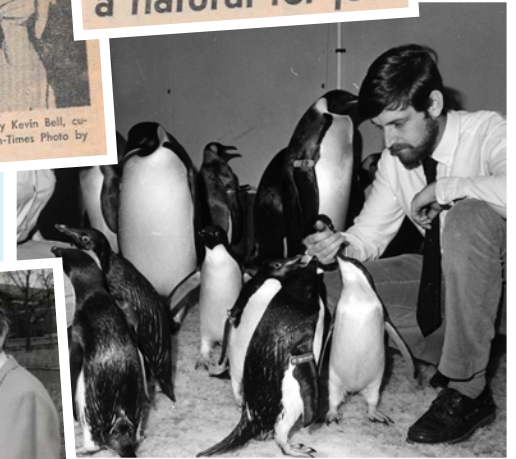
And, he admits now, he thought for a while that he was just marking time in Chicago until he could get back to his home zoo in New York City. But, he says, “first of all, I love Dr. Fisher—he was my second father; you couldn’t work for a nicer man—and there was so much going on here. And all of a sudden two years was like 20, right?”

By the time the odyssey ends in December, 20 years will be more like 45. And although he never lived on the Lincoln Park grounds, it’s fair to say he’s done just as much growing up here.

But that kind of reflection will have to wait for another moment. Kevin Bell, still the CEO for a couple of more months, spots a wayward piece of garbage on a zoo pathway, scoops it up, and deposits it in a trash can.



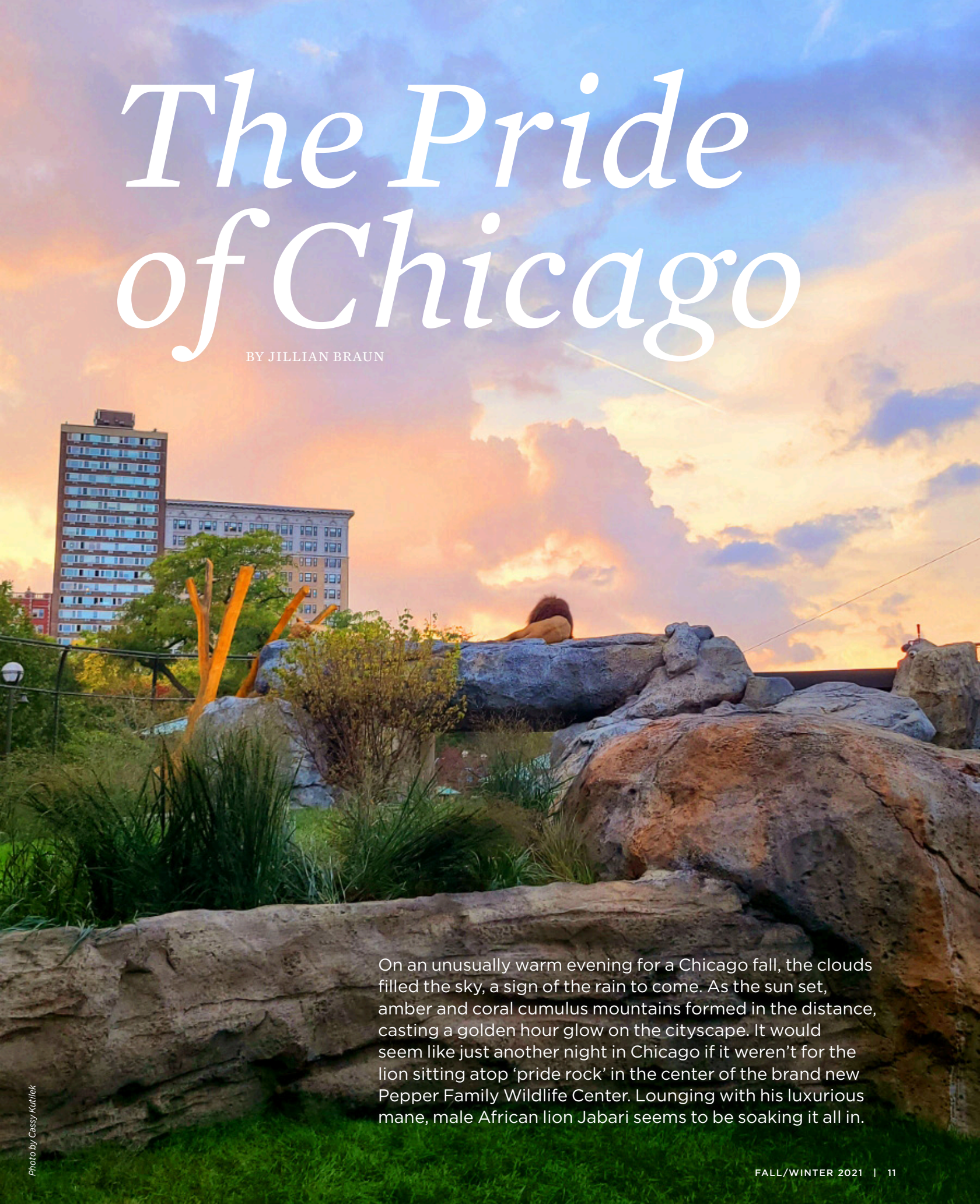
**Curator of birds
a natural for job**



Photos: Lincoln Park Zoo Archives

The Pride of Chicago

BY JILLIAN BRAUN



On an unusually warm evening for a Chicago fall, the clouds filled the sky, a sign of the rain to come. As the sun set, amber and coral cumulus mountains formed in the distance, casting a golden hour glow on the cityscape. It would seem like just another night in Chicago if it weren't for the lion sitting atop 'pride rock' in the center of the brand new Pepper Family Wildlife Center. Lounging with his luxurious mane, male African lion Jabari seems to be soaking it all in.



Photo by Chris Blalock

This is the moment Lincoln Park Zoo staff, volunteers, members, supporters, and zoo-goers have dreamt of for nine years since the launch of *The Pride of Chicago* Campaign. It was the incredibly generous donation from Richard and Roxelyn Pepper that made all these dreams a reality as we open Pepper Family Wildlife Center, home to African lions, Canada lynx, red pandas, and snow leopards. This is the culmination of years of passion, expertise, data-informed habitat design, and research on the iconic Landmark building. But it is also so much more than that.

Often, the lion house on Main Mall is referred to as the heart of the zoo. If that is so, then the renovation could be compared to a miraculous quadruple bypass surgery, keeping the essential organ intact—in this case, a historic building erected in 1912—while expertly manipulating the life-supplying arteries. A historic Landmark building comes with its breath-holding challenges, hence the surgical metaphor.

With its Landmark designation, the renovation of the historic lion house had to adhere to a specific set of guidelines to ensure the historic preservation of the building before reopening as the Pepper Family Wildlife Center. Detailed restoration includes protecting original ceramic flooring underneath carpeting, repainting the transom windows along the grand arched ceiling matched to the original 1912 Arts and Crafts color palette, significant masonry and tuckpointing on the original exterior brickwork and lion mosaics, and restoring each grand entrance to its historical integrity.

Adding to the depth of the historic renovation was the desire to outfit Pepper Family Wildlife Center with modern and accessible facilities. This includes leveling aggregate pathways for accessible entrances, installing automatic entry doors, and incorporating universal design restrooms at each entrance while updating mechanicals for air conditioning for guests, and animals.

“This has been one of the most unique habitats to build in the zoo’s history,” said Vice President of Animal Care and

Horticulture Maureen Leahy. “I am so grateful to our expert teams, from animal welfare scientists, to keepers, to facilities, horticulturists, and communications, for making this project a success. We also owe a great debt of gratitude to Col. Jennifer Pritzker and the TAWANI Foundation for underwriting the renovation of Great Hall, and Goettsch Partners who were instrumental in preserving the historic design of this magnificent building.

Some of the most beautiful work in the lion’s habitat, the public can’t even see,” said Leahy. “The lion’s behind-the-scenes space was built to provide world-class care and facilitate positive relationships with keepers and provide a private space for future denning.”

The lion behind-the-scenes space provides a 360-degree loop with several points of closure. This ensures the lions either have numerous pathways in and out of the habitat or, alternatively, can be safely separated in the instance of medical care, arrival of cubs, or other husbandry needs. The spaces are strategically designed with positive reinforcement training and optimal animal care in mind—spaces have small ports for voluntary blood draws from their muscular tails, a lion-sized scale for regular weigh-ins, and a special platform with protected access underneath so veterinarians can conduct ultrasounds while the lions lay down comfortably in their own space. There are also 29 cameras throughout the lions’ entire exhibit so keepers can observe the lions and their behavior 24/7.



Photo by Chris Blalock



Photo by Chris Blalock

The magic for guests, however, will be the immense habitat, viewable both indoors and out. The 18,300 square-foot space provides rolling green hills, stippled with tall savanna-inspired grasses, leading your eye to the intricate rockwork highlighted by tall Forest Steward Council-certified trees for lions to climb and lounge on.

The rockwork is much more than a façade. The rocks were inspired by actual images of kopje rocks in Tanzania, taken by Lincoln Park Zoo's Tanzania Conservation Research Program scientists, and then hand painted by Anna Tribbett, an artist with extensive expertise including *The Wizarding World of Harry Potter™* at Universal Studios. The rocks themselves were expertly designed using years of ZooMonitor, a behavior monitoring app created by Lincoln Park Zoo, research regarding lions' preferences for elevated spaces with high vantage points, options for shade, and comfort zones. With this data in mind, the habitat was strategically designed to provide vertical space to explore, heating and cooling elements throughout many rock features, and options for shade throughout 50 percent of the entire habitat.

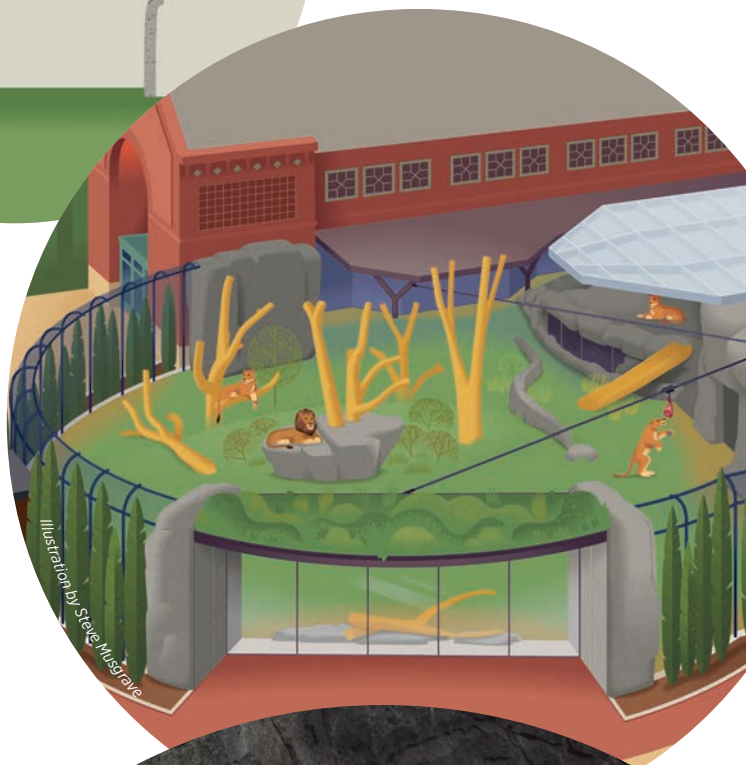
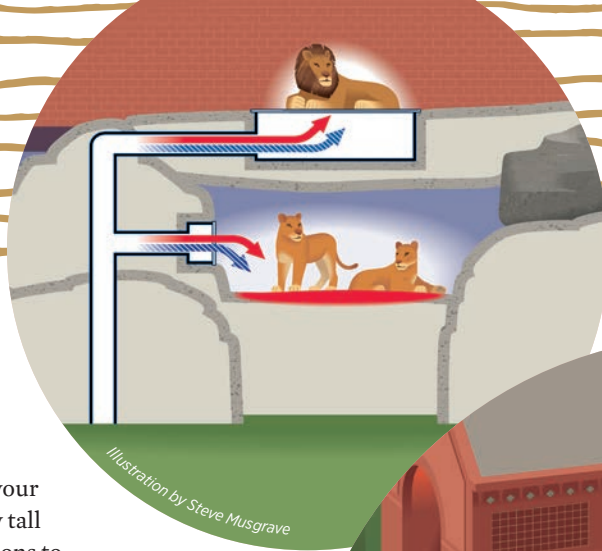
"Animal welfare is still a relatively new science because it isn't an easy feat asking a lion what they like or how they're feeling," said Director of the Animal Welfare Science Program Katie Cronin, Ph.D. "But with years of data from observing their behavior, including how they interact with their space and one another, we were able to design this habitat to their preferences—we like to think they helped build it themselves."

The habitat is also equipped with enrichment in mind, including numerous substrates, sights, smells, levels, and even a zipline for meaty bones and other preferred food items.

Back inside the TAWANI Great Hall sits the Lion Loop, supported by the Women's Board of Lincoln Park Zoo, an immersive pathway into the lion habitat with viewing windows on all sides, including skylights the lions can walk over. The pride has already been known to lay smack in the middle of the cool glass, or curiously crawl to the windows to catch a glimpse at their human visitors below.

On either end of the TAWANI Great Hall are expansive viewing windows, enabling nose-to-nose views of the majestic lions. Zoological Manager Cassy Kutilek peeks through and checks on the big cats before heading home for the evening and snaps a photo of Jabari, sitting on his rock, overlooking his new kingdom and gazing out into the sunset skyscape.

This is *The Pride of Chicago*.



Meet the Residents of Pepper Family Wildlife Center

Red Pandas

The red pandas, Xiaobo and Mei Lin, are siblings from the same litter and were born at Utica Zoo.



NAME
XIAOBO
SEX
MALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
JULY 6, 2019
2 YEARS OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
UTICA ZOO



NAME
MEI LIN
SEX
FEMALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
JULY 6, 2019
2 YEARS OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
UTICA ZOO

Canada Lynx

Canada lynx Thistle and Buttercup are named after plants and are sisters.



NAME
THISTLE
SEX
FEMALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
APRIL 17, 2020
1 YEAR OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
ZOOAMERICA



NAME
BUTTERCUP
SEX
FEMALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
APRIL 17, 2020
1 YEAR OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
ZOOAMERICA

Snow Leopards

Snow leopards are solitary, so it is rare you'll see Kennedy and Ozzy together.



NAME
KENNEDI
SEX
FEMALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
MAY 22, 2019
2 YEARS OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
OMAHA'S HENRY DOORLY
ZOO



NAME
OZZY
SEX
MALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
MAY 30, 2018
3 YEARS OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
ROSAMOND GIFFORD ZOO

African Lions

Female lions Hasira and Cleo are sisters from the same litter.

Zari, their half-sister, was born six months prior. This will be the first pride male lion Jabari leads.



NAME
HASIRA
SEX
FEMALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
OCTOBER 1, 2018
2 YEARS OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN



NAME
CLEO
SEX
FEMALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
OCTOBER 1, 2018
2 YEARS OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN



NAME
ZARI
SEX
FEMALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
APRIL 18, 2018
3 YEARS OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
RIVERBANKS ZOO & GARDEN



NAME
JABARI
SEX
MALE
BIRTH DATE/AGE
NOVEMBER 14, 2017
3 YEARS OLD
PREVIOUS INSTITUTION
BLANK PARK ZOO

A special thank you to our partners who made Pepper Family Wildlife Center possible:

Goettsch Partners

Pepper Construction

PJA Architects

*Project Management
Advisors, Inc.*

*Structural Engineer:
WSP USA*

*Civil Engineer:
Terra Engineering*

*MEP Engineer:
Primera Engineers*

*Façade Architect:
Revive Architecture*

*Lighting Design:
Charter Skills*

*Acoustic Consultant:
Kirkegaard Associates*

Winter Wonders at the Zoo

BY SABRINA CYNOVA
PHOTOS BY CHRIS BIJALBA

Every winter, Lincoln Park Zoo transforms into a dazzling wonderland, bringing seasonal joy and magic to all of Chicago—along with millions of sparkling lights! Celebrate the holiday season at the 27th Annual ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ. New this year, enjoy sensory-friendly visit times, new lighting concepts on the Main Mall and South Lawn, an enhanced Enchanted Forest experience, and a stunning 18-foot holiday tree at Pepper Family Wildlife Center.

'Tis the Season for ZooLights

Chicago's cherished holiday tradition returns. For the 27th year, ZooLights Presented by ComEd and Invesco QQQ will light up Lincoln Park Zoo with millions of dazzling lights!

To ensure all attendees have a safe and memorable experience, capacity is limited and tickets are required. Tickets are \$5 per person Wednesday–Sunday and are free Mondays and Tuesdays throughout the ZooLights season. All ticket sales support the zoo's world-class animal care, global conservation efforts, and innovative learning programs.

There's 'snow' many new elements at ZooLights this year. Be sure to catch a glimpse of the stunning 18-foot holiday tree at Pepper Family Wildlife Center and spot the new lighting concepts on the Main Mall and South Lawn. In addition, enjoy an enhanced Enchanted Forest experience. The zoo is also

Celebrate
Season?
the L

Each evening
guests can "fl
on the south la
Winter Won
availability and
events@l



...ing the
Light Up
awn!

...g at 4:30 p.m.,
...ip the switch”
...awn light show,
...derlawn. For
...pricing, contact
...pzoo.org.

offering sensory-friendly visit times on November 29 and December 15 from 4–6 p.m. During these special times, music and blinking or moving lights will remain static or turned off.

Make the most out of your ZooLights adventure and receive your holiday fill with several add-on experiences. Twist and turn your way through a dazzling path at Light Maze Presented by Invesco QQQ. Or, step into a magical Enchanted Forest at Pritzker Family Children’s Zoo, where you’ll be enveloped by flowers, mushrooms, and dripping lights. Each add-on holiday experience costs \$3 per person to enter. Free to enter this year, the zoo’s over-the-top holiday-themed pop up bar, Snowy’s Spirits & S’more, returns to offer available-for-purchase festive cocktails, sweet treats of all kinds, and the chance to roast s’mores.

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



ZOOLIGHTS SCHEDULE

Open 4–10 p.m.

- ZooLights (\$5, Tickets Required)
- ZooLights (Free, Tickets Required)
- Special Event (Tickets Required)
- Members-Only (Tickets Required)
- Sensory-Friendly Visit Times (4–6 p.m.)

November

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
14	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

Special Holiday Events

Sensory-Friendly Visit Times, 4–6 p.m.
November 30 & December 15

**The Chris White Trio
Tribute to A Charlie Brown
Christmas**
December 12

**BrewLights Presented by
Louis Glunz Beer, Inc.**
December 2

Zoo Year’s Eve
December 31

**Adults Night Out:
Holidaze!**
December 16



Members-
Only Night:
Nov. 19 &
Dec. 13

Melting for Members!

Members are worth melting for. Did you know Lincoln Park Zoo members receive free exclusive access to ZooLights on two Members-Only Nights? On Friday, November 19 and Monday, December 13, members have the zoo to themselves to roam around and enjoy the dazzling lights. Plus, members receive discounts on all holiday happenings throughout the season and receive access to regular night ZooLights tickets a week before the general public.

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



Holiday Happenings

In addition to ZooLights this year, the zoo is hosting several cheerful events sure to rouse your holiday spirit!

Have a ‘beer-y’ fun time at BrewLights Presented by Louis Glunz Beer, Inc. on Thursday, December 2. Hosted by the zoo’s Auxiliary Board and set against the backdrop of millions of sparkling lights, this craft beer festival is one-of-a-kind.

Back by popular demand, The Chris White Trio Tribute to “A Charlie Brown Christmas” returns to fill Café Brauer with soulful music. Tap your toes during this jazz tribute to the holiday classic on Sunday, December 12.

Calling all “glow-n”-ups! This one’s for you. Adults Night Out: Holidaze makes for the perfect date night, evening on the town, or excuse to spend time with friends. On Thursday, December 16, stroll zoo grounds with hot chocolate, mulled wine, or beer in hand—all while enjoying the magnificent light displays.

And last but not least, toast to the new year at Zoo Year’s Eve. Ring in 2022 at the zoo with plenty of sparkling lights, s’mores by the fire at Snowy’s Spirits & S’more, and champagne at midnight.

These ticketed events help keep Lincoln Park Zoo free and open to all. Learn more and buy tickets at lpzoo.org/zoolights.

Faire La Fête

Thinking of popping the question, or looking to host a holiday celebration? The zoo offers unforgettable holiday packages for those looking for a unique and intimate way to celebrate the season. Contact groupsales@lpzoo.org for more information.



Treats for All

Spread holiday joy this season with unique gifts. From one-of-a-kind ornaments to ADOPTing your favorite species, pick out the perfect present for friends and family.

The Gift of Membership

It's the gift that keeps on giving! Zoo members enjoy invitations to exclusive members-only events, free or discounted parking, and deals on programs and events all year-round. See membership options at lpzoo.org/membership.

Merry and Bright

'Tis the season for tradition. Annual ornaments from the zoo return, celebrating the opening of Pepper Family Wildlife Center. Choose between a porcelain-painted red panda and a brass ornament featuring the majestic African lion. Be sure to check out these ornaments and the rest of the holiday stocking stuffers at the zoo's Gift Shop.

ADOPT an Animal

Support wildlife this holiday giving season with a symbolic zoo animal adoption for family and friends. Provide world-class care to playful polar bears Siku and Talini at Walter Family Arctic Tundra or to the charismatic new African lions, snow leopards, and red pandas at Pepper Family Wildlife Center. Each ADOPT comes with a certificate, magnetic photo frame, and fun fact sheet. View the full list of species at lpzoo.org/adopt.

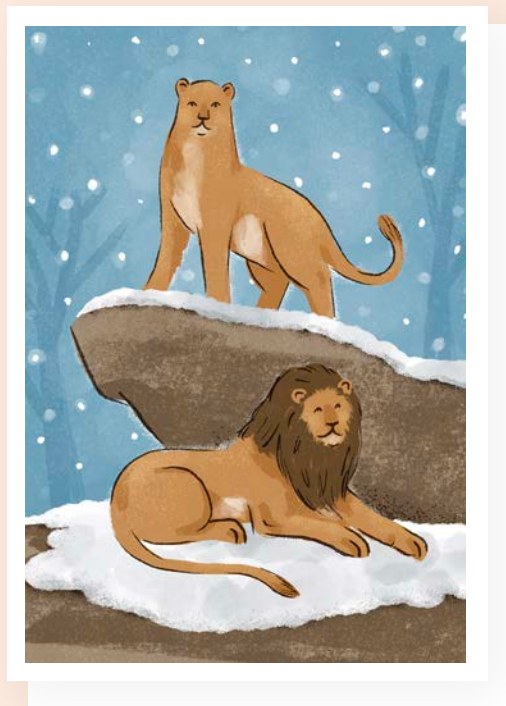


Illustration by Ashley Bedore



Wish List

Animal Care staff have been making a list and checking it twice, and all the residents at the zoo have been nice! Shop the zoo's Wish List to purchase an enrichment item or snack (or two!) for the species at the zoo. See the full Wish List at lpzoo.org/wishlist.

Holiday Greetings

Snail mail has never looked better! Spread some seasonal cheer with a one-of-a-kind Lincoln Park Zoo holiday card. The card celebrates the opening of the new state-of-the-art lion habitat, Pepper Family Wildlife Center, and is available purchase at the zoo's Gift Shop.



A Hole New World

BY JILLIAN BRAUN



Photos courtesy of Douglass 18 partners

On the southwest side of Chicago nestled between a field house and native wetland lives Douglass 18, a miniature golf course designed to inspire and inform people of the wildlife around them.

In 2018, Lincoln Park Zoo met with community partners to co-create an opportunity for North Lawndale residents to connect with nature, the heart of the zoo's mission. With the support of the Chicago Park District, the underutilized miniature golf course quickly rose to the top of a list of ideas that would provide a fun, active, nature-inspired community space.

Once the project was decided, 40 teens over the course of two years worked alongside lead teaching artists Eric Hotchkiss of the School of the Art Institute and Haman Cross III of Firehouse Community Arts Center to brainstorm different mini golf holes and obstacles for the course.

The obstacles were inspired by the 205 migratory bird species found in Douglass Park each year and were designed to highlight different species' history, diet, colors, and other distinguishing features. The designs were then modeled, tested, prototyped, and brought to life in the fabrication process.

"After years in the making, it's exciting to see our vision, imagination, and design finally come to life," said Tiffany Tam, a Douglass 18 youth participant and artist. "The transformation of the golf course is incredible! I'm proud to have been a part of Douglass 18 and to see the community coming together to enjoy the golf course."

The Douglass 18 miniature golf course will be open May 1–October 30 annually.

The project would not have been possible without the support of the many dedicated partners including the Chicago Park District, Haman Cross III, Eric Hotchkiss, Sheila McNary, Open Architecture Chicago, David Brown of the UIC School of Architecture, Firehouse Community Arts Center, School of the Art Institute of Chicago at Homan Square, The Trust for Public Land, site design group, ltd. (site), and Lincoln Park Zoo.

Douglass 18 was made possible by a zoo supporter who provided a generous donation to spearhead the co-created project. Additional financial support was provided by L.L. Bean and Ward 24 Alderman Michael Scott, Jr.

Step Inside the Savanna

BY SABRINA CYNOVA
PHOTOS BY CHRIS BIJALBA

Thanks to the zoo's Horticulture team, zoogoers can immerse themselves in a savanna-like atmosphere at Pepper Family Wildlife Center. Landscape design of the habitat was specially crafted to mimic an African lion's native range.

Tall grasses, small trees, and native plants create a savanna allusion at Pepper Family Wildlife Center.

It took a village to create, design, and execute the state-of-the-art lion habitat, from restoring the historic lion house to planting a variety of species both inside and out. The zoo's small but mighty Horticulture team played an important role in creating the new savanna-style lion habitat alongside experts from PJA Architects and Atrium landscaping.

"Animals spend a significant amount of time interacting with their environment, such as using plants as shade, food, and privacy," says Katrina Chipman, director of horticulture. "The goal for Pepper Family Wildlife Center was to create a space a pride of lions would enjoy spending time in, as well as resemble their native range. The new habitat reflects this with its landscape choices."

Planning which species to plant in and around an animal exhibit is no easy feat. It takes time, vision, and expertise to execute properly.

The lion habitat features tall grasses and small trees to mimic a savanna atmosphere. The public-facing landscape includes garden-style beds, grasses, a 30-year-old bur oak tree, and native plants to attract pollinators. A unique feature of the renovation includes the creation of six green roofs. Not

only installed for their green appearance, the green roofs keep the building cooler and absorb heat—reducing the heat island effect. Heat islands are urbanized areas that experience higher temperatures than outlying areas.

Chipman says, keep an eye out for the two new variety of hibiscus, blackberry merlot and spindrella, outside the lion habitat. They bloom in July through the first frost. Lincoln Park Zoo is proud to hold national accreditation from the American Public Gardens Association Plant Collections Network for its herbaceous perennial collection.

Step inside Pepper Family Wildlife Center, and you will discover the similarities between the prairies of the Midwest and the savannas in Africa. Although located far apart on a map and home to different animals, both ecosystems are open grasslands that share a similar appearance—reminding visitors how interconnected nature is.

"Whether you're exploring the prairies of the Midwest or the savannas in Africa, one thing is certain. Nature surrounds and connects us," says Chipman. "I hope one takeaway that visitors of Pepper Family Wildlife Center leave with is that you don't have to travel far to experience nature. It's right here in your backyard in the prairies of the Midwest."

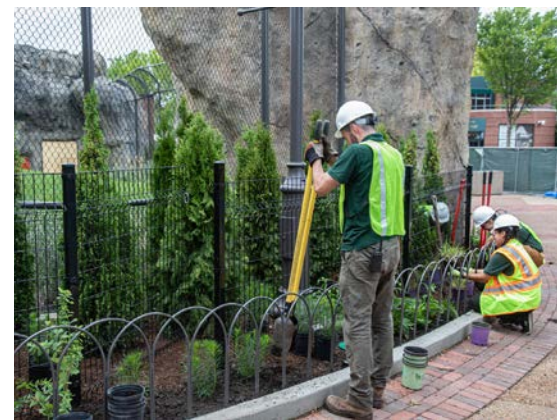




Photo courtesy of Jim Buik

Jim Buik

Owner of The Roscoe Company, zoo supporter

What is your connection to Chicago?

It's a great American story about a young Scottish immigrant named George C. Buik who sold his house in 1921 to raise capital to purchase space at the corner of Roscoe and Southport, newly named Roscoe Overall and Supply. Roscoe is a local, family-owned supplier of uniforms and more. Roscoe moved in 1926 to Harrison Street in North Lawndale and continues to serve as an economic anchor for the community. Supporting the community has been a constant for Roscoe and our family, recognizing the importance of giving both time and treasure to a wide variety of worthy philanthropic organizations.

How did Roscoe Company come to support the Pepper Family Wildlife Center?

I have fond memories of the zoo both as a child and adult visiting with family. I also enjoyed episodes of Ray Rayner with Dr. Lester Fisher! Decades later when the zoo announced the *The Pride of Chicago*, the campaign aligned perfectly with Roscoe's 'Take Pride' motto, illustrating the pride our customers and team members have in their vocation, community, and themselves – it was destined to be. Roscoe's logo also incorporates a lion!

Do you have a zoo or wildlife story close to you?

My wife, Teresa, and my daughter, Julia, visited Pepper Family Wildlife Center, and it was amazing to see the finished product and the beautiful lions as they enjoyed their new home. The cats, looking regal at times and uninspired at others, suddenly took notice of the visitors. It was beautiful and intimidating at the same time!

Sean Raju

Lincoln Park Zoo Videographer

You've accomplished a lot since you joined the zoo late 2020. Can you share a bit about the video series you produced?

In collaboration with the amazing Learning team, we produced *Stay Tuned to the Zoo*, the zoo's first web series. By publishing 16 episodes while the zoo was closed due to the pandemic, we were able to tell a variety of the zoo's incredible stories ranging from the different types of enrichment keepers utilize to promote animal welfare, to the conservation efforts the zoo engages in abroad.

What projects are you excited about moving forward?

I'm really excited that we've built upon the success of *Stay Tuned* to create a new web series: *ABCs of the Zoo* where the theme of each episode starts with a different letter of the alphabet. We're partnering with many departments throughout the zoo to provide a diversity of hosts, perspectives, and stories. We've already published episodes centered on animal welfare, black rhinos, and chimpanzees!

Do you have a favorite video or zoo memory to share?

The most rewarding aspect of my work has been sharing incredible stories from our staff with communities that are hungry to learn more about wildlife. My proudest accomplishment was knowing that episodes of *Stay Tuned to the Zoo* were screened at Lurie's Children's Hospital. The animals are so incredible and our teams at the zoo are undertaking so many commendable endeavors that I feel fortunate to be a conduit for their stories.

What is the one thing you hope viewers take away from watching your videos?

Living in a city like Chicago can make it easy to think of wildlife as being foreign or exotic, but I hope that telling the stories of the animals and the people behind community engagement and conservation efforts helps folks realize that they can make an impact on wildlife with every day decisions. ■



Photo courtesy of Sean Raju



Amazon Milk Frog

Trachycephalus resinifictrix

Got milk? As alluded to in its signature name, the Amazon milk frog emits a poisonous, milky secretion when threatened. This species sports a light grey color with patterns of brown or black banding, along with a unique black cross shape within its golden eyes.

This arboreal amphibian is found in the tropical rainforests of South America and spends its entire life cycle within the tree canopies, never journeying to the forest floor.

Amazon milk frogs have special, adhesive toe pads on their feet to help them climb, cling to, and navigate their habitat. These special toe pads can hold up to 14 times the animal's body weight.

Stop by Regenstein Small Mammal-Reptile House to spot this unique amphibian. ■

—Sabrina Cynova



LINCOLN PARK ZOO.
FOR WILDLIFE. FOR ALL.

2001 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60614
lpzoo.org

Upcoming Events

Go to lpzoo.org/calendar for details on upcoming events.

November

Friday, 19

Members-Only Night at ZooLights

Select Dates

ZooLights Presented by ComEd and
Invesco QQQ

Select Dates

Free Night at ZooLights

December

Select Dates

ZooLights Presented by ComEd and
Invesco QQQ

Thursday, 2

BrewLights Presented by Louis Glunz
Beer, Inc.

Select Dates

Free Night at ZooLights

Sunday, 12

Chris White Trio Tribute to "A
Charlie Brown Christmas"

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Thursday, 16

Adults Night Out: Holidaze

Friday, 31

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January

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ZooLights Presented by ComEd and
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