Jaguar

The orange and black cat of South America
Zoobilation 2013

Bill Hardin, MAZS President

On behalf of this year’s honorary chairpersons, Mayor and Mrs. Todd Strange, myself, Montgomery Area Zoological Society (MAZS) Board members and Montgomery Zoo staff members applaud and appreciate the many generous contributions to the Montgomery Zoo made during this year’s Zoobilation. Today, thousands of families flow through our gates enjoying the fruits of past Zoobilations including the Mann Museum, the African Elephant exhibit, the North American River Otter exhibit and the newly opened Zoofari Skylift Ride. All of these additions have made a positive impact at the Zoo and for all our guests to enjoy. Proceeds from this year’s Zoobilation will be used to build a touch-and-feel Stingray exhibit. Children and adults alike will be able to gather at Stingray Bay and experience a one-on-one encounter with a multitude of free-swimming stingrays.

Thank you to all the Zoobilation sponsors, auction donors, food and drink vendors, entertainment, guests, MAZS Board members and Zoo staff members. A special thank you to our two Event Chairpersons, Denise Blake Greene and Rachael Saucer. You did a wonderful job! Thank you!

If you missed this year’s event, no worries... be sure to save the date for next year: Sept. 18th @ 6:00pm, 2014. By attending such events and by being a Montgomery Zoo member you are helping to support education, conservation and exceptional care for our animals and the superb recreational outlet the Zoo provides. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the Zoo!
The next time you visit the Zoo, stroll around and take notice of all the signs and plaques honoring various donors through the years. The Montgomery Zoo is proud to have a longstanding history of community involvement and support. From large corporations and independent business owners to longtime Zoo members, local school children and social clubs, donations large and small are responsible for what now stands as the Montgomery Zoo.

A legacy has been built here at the Montgomery Zoo greatly in part from generous donations from friends and members just like you. Either as a dedication, class project, memorial or as a holiday year-end gift, your gift is contributed to the general fund allowing the Montgomery Zoo to continue to expand, develop new exhibits and programs while continuing to touch the regional and outlying communities. Your generous donations aid the Montgomery Zoo, but it also benefits and educates thousands of school children and guests per year.

Supporting the Zoo does not necessarily mean writing a big check. It can also be done in the form of support and your patronage of the Zoo. Visit the Zoo on a regular basis either by becoming a member or by regular admission. Attend our many special events; like kid and family-friendly, ZooBoo (Oct 17-20 and 24-31) and our holiday light spectacular, Christmas Lights Festival (Dec 5-8, 12-15 and 19-31) soon approaching. Special events like these help support the Zoo and add to its yearly general operating budget. Another way to help support the Zoo is to volunteer. Your time is the most valuable and precious commodity you can contribute to the Zoo or any organization. And don’t forget to tell all your friends about your many wildlife adventures at the Zoo. It has been proven time and time again. The best advertising is word-of-mouth. So get out there and spread the word about great times and wild adventures at the Montgomery Zoo.

Our goal is simple yet true. We want to create and maintain an environment that is safe and healthy for our guests and animals alike while creating a positive and learning experience for all. Won’t you join us at the Montgomery Zoo?

Education programs

Education presentations are a great way to bring wildlife up close and make your experience unique and personal... and best yet, you can enjoy these presentations at the Zoo or we can bring the Zoo to you!

**Animal Adaptations** - Meet a variety of our educational animals from all over the world. Learn about their unique characteristics that enable them to survive in the wild.

**Birds of Prey** - Meet the majestic predators of the sky! Experience the hunters and the hunted in this rare opportunity to view the perfect predator up-close and personal. See hawks, owls, eagles and more.

**Reptiles Alive** - This is a must see. Conquer those unjust fears and misconceptions. Learn why reptiles deserve protection and respect.

**Creatures of the Night** - Ever wonder what kind of creatures come out at the dark of night? Delve into the world of animal night life through this exciting live animal presentation. See snakes, spider, owls, bats and more.

**Alabama Wildlife** - What do flying squirrels, the great horned owl, and the black king snake all have in common? They all make their home in our beautiful state of Alabama. Meet these Alabama natives and more.

**Guided Tour** - Learn more about the animals on exhibit at the Zoo and/or Museum by taking a tour with a member of the Education Department.

**Guided Behind the Scenes Tour** - See what goes on behind those large walls and fences. See the animals’ night quarters and holding stalls. Chat with zookeepers and learn more about the individual animals and the people that work here at the Montgomery Zoo.

Another way to support the Zoo is like & share pics of your visit on facebook. Enjoy these facebook pic postings: (top left) Amber Reaker-Cox posted Aspen with Senior Docent Valerie Castanza, (top right) Barbara Sikorski posted Danielle Berezo with Jane Abbie Alford on a behind the scenes tour, (bottom left) Barbara Sikorski posted Danielle Berezo at the Zoo’s Parakeet Cove and (bottom right) Scarlett Moore Tuley posted a pic of her painted face daughter and happy zoo camper. Post and share your good times at the Montgomery Zoo.
A special thank you goes out to all our Zoobilation sponsors, vendors, guests, board members and zoo staff for making this year’s event a grand success.

Zoobilation World Tour 2013 was a continuing effort and part of a multi-year project to raise money for the new stingray exhibit at the Montgomery Zoo. This exhibit will be a touch-and-feel encounter allowing children and adults alike the opportunity to gather at Stingray Bay and experience a one-on-one encounter with a multitude of free-swimming stingrays. Past Zoobilations have aided the Montgomery Zoo in building the African Elephant, the North American River Otter habitat and the newly opened Zoofari Skylift ride. Another project Zoobilation has contributed fundraising for is the new Alligator exhibit coming aboard soon.

If you attended this year’s Zoobilation, then you know the event was a great time to enjoy visiting with friends and making new friends over some casual drinks, great food and fun-filled entertainment. The night was indeed a grand success. All our guests had a great time enjoying the delectable food and spirits over 30 River Region restaurants and bars; the fine tunes of Rick Hendrick, Sam Bonfe and the 3 Goatees and Cockeyed Camels; and the adventure of weeding through all the specialty items and auction fanfare.

This year’s event raised over $80,000 for the Stingray exhibit. See some pictures from the evening below. Again, thank you to everyone for your support!

Next year’s event is scheduled for September 18, 2014. Please make plans to join us for the Zoo social event of the year!
A special thank you to the evening’s sponsors and friends

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**ZOOBILATION ENTERTAINMENT**
- steel drums at the entrance: Tony McCutchen
- Music under the big tree main stage: The J-Ruckpers
Jaguars

The orange and black cat of the Americas

The jaguar (Panthera onca) is the third-largest feline after the tiger and the lion, and the largest in the Western Hemisphere. This spotted cat most closely resembles the leopard physically, although it is usually larger and of sturdier build and its behavioral and habitat characteristics are closer to those of the tiger. While dense rainforest is its preferred habitat, the jaguar will range across a variety of forested and open terrains. It is strongly associated with the presence of water and is notable, along with the tiger, as a feline that enjoys swimming. The jaguar is largely a solitary, opportunistic, stalk-and-ambush predator at the top of the food chain.

The build. The jaguar is a compact and well-muscled animal. Size and weight vary considerably: weights are normally in the range of 124–211 lb. Females are typically 10–20% smaller than males. A short and stocky limbed structure makes the jaguar adept at climbing, crawling, and swimming. The head is robust and the jaw extremely powerful. The jaguar has the strongest bite of all felids, capable of biting down with 2,000 lb. This is twice the strength of a lion and the second strongest of all mammals after the spotted hyena; this strength adaptation allows the jaguar to pierce turtle shells. While the jaguar closely resembles the leopard, it is sturdier and heavier, and the two animals can be distinguished by their rosettes: the rosettes on a jaguar’s coat are larger, fewer in number, usually darker, and have thicker lines and small spots in the middle that the leopard lacks. Jaguars also have rounder heads and shorter, stockier limbs compared to leopards.

(continued on page 16)
Nakita (above and left) is a prime example of typical spotted jaguar sporting her orange and white coat with black rosettes. Kaalya (far left) is part of that 6% jaguar population that has color morphism that makes him appear black in color. After closer inspection, Kaalya’s coat displays a rosette pattern very similar to Nakita. To see them on display, please visit the Montgomery Zoo’s South American realm. On Sunday, October 6, Nakita gave birth to three cubs. She and the cubs are healthy and bonding. Be on the lookout for more news and the date of the cubs’ public debut. Pic above contributed by Gary Seals, Montgomery Zoo member.
It is that magical time of year for the 22nd annual Christmas Lights Festival, December 5-8, 12-15 and 19-31, 5:30-9:30pm nightly. The lights will be glowing and so will the children’s faces. The Zoo is transformed into a magical winter wonderland complete with animal scenes holiday splendor and more. Families will enjoy strolling through the Zoo or taking a ride on the Montgomery Zoo’s miniature train, or take to the skies on the new Zoofari Skylift ride. Either way, guests will be awed by the thousands of twinkling and sparkling lights.

When you enter the Zoo gates you will see the spectacular 20 foot Animated Christmas Tree. As you start your tour, you will see some of the favorite displays such as the Beary Christmas which features bears eating from a honey pot with animated bees, Santa’s Toy Factory with elves making toys and the crowds’ favorite the Singing Frogs who carol all through the night. In addition visitors will see an animated Riverboat with moving paddles and a Snowball Fight with two children throwing snowballs at each other. Many other displays will be all around the Zoo for the visitors to enjoy.

One of the highlights of the Christmas Lights Festival is visiting with Santa, where every girl and boy can give Santa their very special Christmas wish. Start a family tradition by taking holiday pictures with Santa. Santa will be at the Zoo nightly until December 23rd. Take a ride on the Zoofari Skylift. The skylift gives visitors a sparkling view of the Zoo.

As you walk around the Zoo and hear music playing or someone singing, stop by the Overlook Café to enjoy a hot chocolate or spice cider while watching the entertainment. Local schools, churches and civic organizations from the River Region will provide entertainment each night at the Overlook Café starting at 6:15pm.

If you have last minute shopping to do for that person that has everything stop by the Zoofari Gift Shop during Christmas Lights Festival. You can purchase unique gifts that please anyone.

Admission is $12 per person ages 3 years and up, including your train ride. Take advantage of the Early Bird Special for $16.00 per person ages 3 years and up, including your Christmas Lights train ride. Visit the Zoo and remain for the Christmas Lights Festival at one special price. Montgomery Zoo members and children ages 2 years and under are admitted free. Train ride is $3.00 unless your membership includes the annual train ride pass.
At Hyundai, we believe that tomorrow’s big ideas get their start in today’s classrooms. We are proud to be able to support the Montgomery Zoo’s efforts to bring new and interesting exhibits for teachers seeking to expand the knowledge of their students. We proudly sponsor educational programs in the Montgomery area, like exhibits at the Montgomery Zoo, because we believe the students of today will be the leaders of tomorrow.
A tail of two species of deer: one from close to home, North America and the other from the Far East of Japan and Asia. The two are very similar; however, very different.

The white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) also known as the Virginia deer, is a medium-sized deer native to the United States, Canada, Mexico, Central America, and South America as far south as Peru. The species is most common east of the Rocky Mountains.

The conversion of land adjacent to the northern Rockies into agricultural use and partial clear-cutting of coniferous trees has been favorable to the white-tailed deer and has pushed its distribution to as far north as Prince George, British Columbia. Populations of deer around the Great Lakes have also expanded their range northwards, due to conversion of land to agricultural uses favoring more deciduous vegetation, and local caribou and moose populations. The western most population of the species, known as the Columbian white-tailed deer, once was widespread in the mixed forests along the Willamette and Cowlitz River valleys of western Oregon and southwestern Washington, but today its numbers have been considerably reduced, and it is classified as near-threatened.

The white-tailed deer is well-suited for its environment.

The Sika Deer, *Cervus nippon*, is a species of deer native to much of East Asia. Previously found from northern Vietnam in the south to the Russian Far East in the north. The Sika deer is one of the few deer species that does not lose its spots upon reaching maturity. Spot patterns vary with region. The mainland subspecies have larger and more obvious spots, in contrast to the Taiwanese and Japanese subspecies, whose spots are nearly invisible. Many introduced populations are from Japan and thus also lack significant spots.

Sika deer in Shiretoko Peninsula, the color of the fur ranges from mahogany to black, and white individuals are also known. During winter the coat becomes darker with less spots and a mane forms on the back of the males’ necks. They are medium sized herbivores, 20–37 inches tall and weighing 66–150 lbs. Males are noticeably larger than females. All Sikas are compact and dainty-legged with short, trim with wedge-shaped heads. When alarmed, they will often display a distinctive flared rump, much like the American Elk.

Sika stags have stout, upright antlers with an extra buttress up from the brow tine and a very thick wall. A forward-facing intermediate tine breaks the line to the top, which is usually forked. Females carry a pair of distinctive black bumps on the forehead. Antlers can range from 11 to 18 inches to more than 30 inches depending on the subspecies.
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Join us for 12 nights of horror and fun at ZooBoo! Climb aboard the thrill ride of a lifetime Haunted Hay Ride or mosey on over to a traditional, non-scary hay ride at the Pumpkin Pull. Enjoy games, bouncy castles, concessions and much more at ZooBoo. Gates open at 6:00pm, the first Haunted Hay Ride will pull out at dusk.

Admission: $12 for ages 3 years and older. Admission includes one ride ticket (either to the Haunted Hay Ride or the Pumpkin Pull) and 10 game tickets (one sheet). FREE for ages 2 years and younger. Montgomery Zoo members receive a 50% discount. Additional ride tickets are $5.00. Additional game tickets (one sheet) are $6.00.

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The noises you hear at night... just could be from a creature of the night!  Humans are what we call a diurnal species which basically means we are active during the day and we sleep at night.  Have you ever wondered what goes on while we are sleeping at night?  Did you know that a large percentage of animals are nocturnal or active at night, due to the huge advantages that nocturnal behavior affords?  Many people are amazed at just how many animals are active at night instead of during the day.  Most species of spiders, amphibians and reptiles are nocturnal.  Several mammals are active only at night, namely marsupials, rodents, bats, and some carnivores and primates.

These animals have fascinating adaptations that allow them to survive with little or no light.  One advantage is the competition for basic needs such as food, water, shelter, and space, is less at night. Many of these animals may live in hot and arid places, and being active at night help them to avoid the heat of the day.  They can also avoid predators that are diurnal or active during the day.  There are a number of animal species that visit breeding sites at night to reduce the risk of predation.  They are able to protect themselves as well as their offspring due to the pattern they adapt to.

The bodies of these animals have special adaptations to enable them to survive in the dark. Some of these animals, like lemurs, have special eyes, while bats use echolocation, which refers to the bat’s ability to emit a high-pitched sound.  Almost all nocturnal animals have larger eyes to capture more light.  The eyes of owls and tarsiers are so large that they cannot move in the socket.  Special auditory adaptations allow for excellent hearing in many nocturnal species, and some animals even have hairs with sensory receptors that aid in navigation and finding food.  Last, but not least, snakes have a Jacobson’s organ that allows them to use their tongue as a primary sense for navigation and prey.

If seeing and learning about these animals holds an interest for you, then you just might be in luck.  During ZooBoo in October, the Education Department has a feature presentation called “Creatures of the Night” in the Main Events area.  It will run three times a night and give visitors a chance to see some nocturnal animals up close and personal.  Many schools also get into the spirit of Halloween by having these animals brought to their school or by having a program done at the Zoo during a visit.

To schedule a program, please call Jennifer at (334) 240-4909, register online at montgomeryzoo.com or email at jhutcheson@montgomeryal.gov.
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Color morphism. A near-black melanistic form occurs regularly. Jaguars with melanism appear entirely black, although their spots are still visible on close examination. The black morph is less common than the spotted form but, at about six percent of the population, it is several orders of magnitude above the rate of mutation. Hence, it is being supported by selection. Some evidence indicates the melanism allele is dominant.

Jaguar homeland. The jaguar has been an American cat since crossing the Bering Land Bridge. Its present range extends from Mexico, through Central America and into South America, including much of Amazonian Brazil. The countries included in this range are Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, the United States and Venezuela.

Kaalya (far left) is a black, male jaguar born at the Montgomery Zoo, but has just recently returned to the Zoo after a stay at the Philadelphia Zoo. Nakita (left) is spotted and comes to the Montgomery Zoo from the Akron (OH) Zoo. Both of our jaguars are approximately 7 years old. To see them on display, please visit the Montgomery Zoo’s South American realm.
JUNGLE DRUM CALENDAR CONTEST
Send us your best picture from the Zoo and it may appear in the 2014 Jungle Drums calendar edition. Submission needs to be 8.5x11 horizontal print or digital 350dpi. Send all submissions to Montgomery Zoo Calendar Contest, 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36110 or email to scpierce@montgomeryzoo.com. BTW: Let us know who you are. Deadline for submissions is Dec 7, 2013.

Color me Turkey Gobbler

Did U Know?
> Turkeys live in hardwood forests with grassy areas.
> Turkeys can be seen best on a warm clear day or during in a light rain.
> Turkeys spend the night in trees.
> A spooked turkey can run at speeds up to 20 miles per hour. They can also burst into flight approaching speeds between 50-55 mph in a matter of seconds.
> Only male turkeys are called gobblers.
> Benjamin Franklin wanted the United States’ national bird to be a turkey.

Color me Santa Claus

Did U Know?
> He is real. St. Nicholas (Santa Claus) was born in 270AD, and was the Bishop of Myra, a town in what is now Turkey.
> Why does Santa wear red? The cape of the Bishop of Myra was dark, patterned crimson, but Norman Rockwell painted it as red and Coca-Cola agreeded; creating the modern image of Santa Claus in 1931.
Looking for a holiday pet alternative? Try adopting from a local and/or regional animal shelter. With so many wonderful dogs, cats, reptiles and birds in dire need of a homes this time of year, there is no better place to search than your local animal shelter. While this is a popular starting point for many people who are hoping to bring a new family pet into their world, sadly, not enough are being rescued. Often new pet owners look at breeders and pet shops first. Don’t make the common mistake of discounting an animal shelter as a potential source for obtaining a purebred pet. According to the Humane Society of the United States, approximately 25% to 30% of shelter animals are purebreds.

Knowing your future pet. While the historical records of shelter animals are not always known, it is required that all animals are given a thorough physical examination and receive proper medical attention prior to being released to a new owner. Be aware that it’s a common shelter practice that all dogs and cats must be spayed or neutered, if they haven’t already been, prior to leaving the facilities or shortly after if they are still a puppy or kitten.

Personality. Due to the interaction between shelter animals and the shelter employees, volunteers and veterinarians who provide services to the shelter, often they can provide you with valuable input and insight about the animal's personality, habits and individual needs. They can greatly help you and your family find an animal that matches your personality, family dynamics and lifestyle. Making the appropriate fit will greatly increase your chances of making a successful connection between you, your family and your new pet.

Source: Humane Society of the United States www.hsus.org

Recycle Christmas

Gift paper: Shred pretty wrapping paper to use as light but protective packaging around future gifts. • Like newspaper, wrapping paper is great for cleaning windows and leaving them streak-free. • One for the kids: thin paper like wrapping paper is great for origami. Use it to make Christmas-themed decorations or decorate dull notebooks.

Christmas cards: Cut out a square or rectangle from the design to use as a gift tag on your presents next year. Taller strips could be used for bookmarks too. • They can also be use to make spherical Christmas tree decorations/cat toys! • One for the kids: Keep a stash for using throughout the year. Use them to make stencils or templates.

The tree: Shred the tree to make ground-cover or planting beds. • Strip the needles and use as naturally pine scented potpourri or to stuff pin cushions. • Compost heap – they’re acid balances out alkaline things, like wood ash. • One for the kids: Get an adult to help you cut some of the bigger branches in small sections then make them into cute little animals – like reindeer decorations for next Christmas for example.
Jungle Drums

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