Gators in a new home
NEW HABITAT OPENS AT THE ZOO
So, do you have your ticket for the big shindig, social event, fundraiser of the season? If not, no worries, there is plenty of time and tickets available. So pull out that party attire, dust off those dancing shoes and get ready to have the night of your life.

Zoobilation is an adult cocktail party that will be held at the Montgomery Zoo. The party will kick off at 6pm. When you arrive at the Zoo, park at the front gate area, check in and get ready to make merry. Zoo Ambassadors will be there greeting you and pointing you to the vast array of festivities, food and drink, live entertainment, auctions and fun, fun, fun, fun!

This year’s event will be raising funds for the new Stingray exhibit. This touch and feel exhibit will allow guests to actually touch a stingray as it swims along within its enclosure. Zoobilation will feature a variety of food and spirits from various local bars and eateries, live entertainment, a silent auction and lots and lots of fun. Also, be on the lookout for new items and new activities. And just a quick reminder: this is an adult cocktail party so all attendees must be 21 years old or older to attend. Tickets are $50 per person and are currently on sale online at montgomeryzoo.com or at the Zoo’s Admissions Office.

Zoobilation is a fundraiser for the expansion and the improvements to the Zoo. Without your help and support the Zoo could not grow and attract new visitors. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at the Zoo and at Zoobilation: The Wildest Party in Town!
Director Talk | New gator exhibit

Doug Goode, Montgomery Zoo Director

The new alligator exhibit opened on a hot, muggy Thursday morning, August 21, to a crowd of zoo supporters and friends. This habitat gives guests the opportunity to view multiple alligators from above and below on the lakefront. Points of access will be directly behind the Black Bear exhibit on the lakefront. Guests can view the gators from up top or take the staircase or boardwalk down to the lake level and view the gators through four large cased windows. Guests and gators alike will enjoy the new exhibit’s free-flowing water fall and sunning beds.

The opportunity to view these animals up close is made available from the wooden deck at the lower viewing station. Submerged platforms are positioned under the observation glass which enables visitors to view these alligators sunning, swimming or actually feeding during select times of the day in warmer seasons of the year.

The alligator is the largest reptile in North America. It has a long, armored body with thick scales or bony plates called osteoderms or scutes. It has short, powerful legs and a long, round snout. Alligators are carnivorous. They have strong jaws and sharp teeth so they can eat almost anything; including fish, turtles, snails, birds, frogs, and mammals. Alligators have up to 80 teeth in their mouth at a time. Over an alligator’s lifespan, it may go through 2,000-3,000 teeth.

Alligators are found as far north as North Carolina down to the Florida Everglades and as far west as the Rio Grande in Texas. Alligators are usually found in fresh water, in slow-moving rivers. States with largest alligator population are: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. Male alligators prefer open lake water during the spring; while females tend to stick to the swamps and marshes to construct nests and lay their eggs. Both sexes may den underneath banks and clumps of fallen trees during the winter months to help maintain their body temperature.

Adult male alligators measure 11 to 15 feet in length and can weigh 1,000 pounds. Female gators are smaller measuring 10 feet in length and weighing 750 pounds. The average lifespan in the wild is 50 years. Being reptiles, alligators are cold-blooded using environmental temperatures to regulate their body heat.

Thank you to all the major contributors for making this new exhibit possible: Alabama Power, Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama and Mrs. Rita Sabel.
Zoobilation is an annual fundraiser held at the Montgomery Zoo. It is a fun-filled evening complete with entertainment, culinary samplings from area restaurants plus an auction. Decorators will magically transform the Zoo grounds into an evening of music, food, dancing and fun! Every year a theme is chosen. This year’s theme is World Tour 2014: The Wildest Party in Town in honor of all five of the continental realms featured at the Zoo.

Who can come? Everyone 21 years old and older is invited – both Montgomery Zoo Friends Members and non-members – but you will need to purchase a ticket.

Does everyone mean adults and children? No, sorry, this is an adult cocktail party. You must be at least at 21 years old to attend.

How much does it cost? Tickets are available for purchase for $50 each. This ticket includes admission to the event, entertainment, food and beverages. Sponsorship packages are available for corporate partners and include extra tickets, name recognition and more. Please contact the Zoo office at (334) 240-4900 for more information on sponsoring this event.

How do I purchase a ticket? Purchase online at montgomeryzoo.com, contact the Zoo office at (334) 240-4900 or during your next Zoo visit.
Zoobilation 101

What is the entertainment like? Local favorites, Cockeyed Camel will be performing throughout the evening providing a diverse collection of music to meet everyone’s musical taste. Dancing is always encouraged!

What do you mean by culinary samplings? Nearly 20 of the River Region’s finest restaurants and eateries serve menu specialties from booths set up in the Zoobilation celebration area as you enter the Zoo.

And beverages? Soft drinks, beer, wine, cocktails, mixed drinks and specialty drinks are available throughout the evening.

How about the auctions? Each year area merchants and individuals donate valuable goods and services that are auctioned off through a silent auction. Offerings include works of art, dining packages and jewelry.

What do I wear? It’s a safari-casual event, which means you can wear anything from khaki to animal print clothing or other comfortable attire.

So, how does the Zoo raise money from all this? Funds are raised through ticket sales, corporate sponsorships and auctioned items. We also receive strong community support from many companies and individuals contributing goods, services, supplies, equipment and time. These donations reduce our expenses and mean a greater percentage of proceeds are spent on capital improvements for the zoo.

What sort of things have past Zoobilations help fund? The Gift Shop and Admissions Complex, the African Elephant Habitat, the North American River Otter Habitat, Zoofari Skylift project, and the Alligator habitat (grand opening held Thursday, August 21, 2014) and Stingray Bay project.

When and where will the party take place? Zoobilation will take place on Thursday, September 18, 2014 beginning at 6pm. Arrive at the front gate, grab a drink or two, and start enjoying the music, drinks and food, auctions and fun, fun, FUN! This year, all the festivities will be taking place at the front gate and admissions area. Get ready for an action-packed evening of wildlife fun and adventure.

For you GPS users, our physical address is 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36110. It will be an evening to remember, so make your plans to attend. Tickets may be purchased by visiting montgomeryzoo.com, contact the Zoo office by calling (334) 240-4900 or during your next Zoo visit.

Zoobilation is an adult cocktail party and fundraiser for the Zoo. This year’s event benefits the new touch and feel Stingray exhibit. The event includes food and drinks from the finest local eateries, live entertainment, dancing, live and silent auctions, good fellowship and mingling opportunities with local dignitaries and politicians, fun times and so much more. Join us!
New American Alligator habitat opened at the Montgomery Zoo on Thursday, August 21, housing five adult male gators. This new exhibit will give guests the opportunity to view multiple alligators from above and below on the lakefront. Points of access will be directly behind the Black Bear exhibit on the lakefront. Guests can view the gators from up top or take the staircase or boardwalk down to the lake level and view the gators through four large cased windows. Guests and gators alike will enjoy the new exhibit’s free-flowing water fall and sunning beds.

The new habitat opened on Thursday, August 21 with a ribbon cutting ceremony, reception and a hosts of special guests; including Mayor Todd Strange; representatives from Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama, Rita Sabel family, City officials, MAZS board members, regional media, Zoo staff members and friends. It was a warm day, but guests were pleased to pay witness to the opening of this grand new exhibit at the Montgomery Zoo.

**Here are a few facts and items of interest about our newest friend, the alligator.** The alligator is the largest reptile in North America. It has a long armored body with thick scales or bony plates called osteoderms or scutes. It has short, powerful legs and a long, round snout. Alligators are carnivorous. They have strong jaws and sharp teeth so they can eat almost anything; including fish, turtles, snails, birds, frogs, and mammals. Alligators have up to 80 teeth in their mouth at a time. Over an alligator’s lifespan, it may go through 2,000-3,000 teeth. Alligators are found as far north as North Carolina down to the Florida Everglades and as far west as the Rio Grande in Texas. Alligators are usually found in fresh water, in slow-moving rivers. States with largest alligator population are: North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma. Male alligators prefer open lake water during the spring; while females tend to stick to the swamps and marshes to construct nests and lay their eggs. Both sexes may den underneath banks and clumps of fallen trees during the winter months to help maintain their body temperature. Male alligators measure 11 to 15 feet in length and can weigh 1,000 pounds. Female gators are smaller measuring 10 feet in length and weighing 750 pounds. The average life span in the wild is 50 years. Being reptiles, alligators are cold-blooded using environmental temperatures to regulate their body heat.

The alligator became the official state reptile of Florida in 1987. Spanish sailors when arriving to the New World, thought alligators were large lizards calling them le legarto. English sailors took the name as allagarter, in time becoming alligator. 

We look forward to seeing you enjoy this new exhibit at the Montgomery Zoo.

*Photo of ribbon cutting contributed by Dennis Culbertson, DC Studios Photography*
Opening day: (Top) Alligator exhibit sign featuring Alabama Power, Rita Sabel and Hyundai; (left) ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Todd Strange, Cheryl Sabel, Doug Goode, Bill Hardin, Rick Neal and Patrick Purdue; (first middle) media covering event; (second middle and right) window views of exhibit and information signs; and (top right) view of exhibit of lakefront.
Everyday is enrichment day. It is the practice of adding various stimuli to one’s environment. It can be as simple as adding food, treats, scents, toys, puzzles... anything new to the animal’s environment. Here at the Zoo our goal is to provide enrichment that will stimulate behavior in captivity that is typical of the species in the wild. It is also our goal to provide enrichment resources to our animal collection that will result in increased physical and mental exercise.

In order to choose an item to be used for enrichment we keep a database of tried enrichment items with results on specific animals. We also consult national animal enrichment databases developed by government agencies and other zoos. When an item is evaluated for use as enrichment it must go through an approval process with certain requirements. First safety is our primary concern and the following conditions must be addressed before using any enrichment item.

> Can the animals get caught in it or become trapped by it?
> Can it be used as a weapon, or used to cut or otherwise injured by it?
> Can it fall on an animal or destroy an exhibit?
> Can the animal ingest the object or a piece of it?
> Is any part (including vegetation) of it toxic, including paint or epoxy?
> Can it be choked on or cause asphyxiation or strangulation?
> Can it become lodged in the digestive tract causing gut impaction?
> Can the enrichment item promote aggression or harmful competition?
> Does the enrichment cause abnormally high stress levels?
Everyday is enrichment day. It is the Zoo’s practice to provide enrichment to our animals on a daily basis; providing physical and mental stimulation that promotes safe and normal behavior that would be found in the species in the wild.

Where do you start with pet enrichment? Think about the things your pet would normally do. For example, cats might stalk, hunt, and catch small prey items punctuated by climbing, running, and resting during a normal day. Look for activities that encourage or mimic these:

- **Food based enrichment** – hide a small ball filled with food so she can hunt and find it, then it will zip around the house like a mouse when batted and pushed encouraging chasing, catching, and consuming behaviors.
- **Sensory Enrichment** – place a fleece covered perch near a window so that your cat can climb up and observe (sight, hear, smell) birds and squirrels at a strategically placed feeder.
- **Novel Objects** – offer your cat empty cardboard boxes and paper bags to climb on, around, and through to explore one afternoon.
- **Social enrichment** – multi pet households where the animals are in stable healthy relationships offer valuable opportunities to be social with their own species. Cross species socialization between you and your cat are important too. Remember avoiding punishment and creating predictable interactions for your pet are critical here.
- **Positive Training** – when it is fun, everyone likes to learn something new. Be sure sessions are not frustrating, and never use techniques that make your pet fearful. For more information see clickertraining.com

There are many enrichment items on the market for almost every species imaginable, but also allow yourself to get creative. No one knows your animal better than you!

**Source:** The Ohio State University, College of Veterinary Medicine

*Photos contributed by:* Karen Brantley, zoo friend and docent. Chimp photo contributed by Gary Seals, zoo friend and member
Elephants can be best described as the largest land mammal, strong, bold, powerful, loyal, intelligent, family-oriented and steadfast.

Tina, Star and Makena are the Montgomery Zoo’s prime residents of the African Elephant exhibit. African elephants are the world-largest land mammal. On average, African elephants stand 10-13 feet tall and weigh 10,000-13,330 pounds. Both male and female African elephants have tusks. Elephants also have four molars; each weighs about 11 pounds and measures about 12 inches long. As the front pair wears down and drops out in pieces, the back pair shifts forward, and two new molars emerge in the back of the mouth. Elephants replace their teeth six times. Elephants travel in herds typically made-up of females and offspring. The oldest and most dominant female serves as the matriarch (or leader) of the herd. An African elephant lives in captivity upwards of 60 years and has an 18-22 month gestation period.

A little bit about the girls. Star is the largest and oldest of our three African elephants. She is a female, 32 years old and hits the scales at a mere 8200 pounds. Star was wild-born in Africa and came to the Zoo from South Carolina. Her most distinguishing physical characteristic is her large tusks. Tina is our first elephant mother here at the Zoo. She is 29 years old and weighs in at 6200 pounds. Despite being smaller than Star, Tina is the dominating personality and the matriarch of the herd. Like most elephants, Tina is smart, in fact smarter than your average fifth grader. Makena, the youngest and smallest of the herd, will be six years old in November. She like most ‘children’ is very curious, rambunctious, at times a terror, but extremely bright and adaptive. In fact, when she was one year old, she had already learned and mastered all the commands and instructions that the fellow adults in her herd knew.

Tigers can be best described as the fiercest of the big cats, wild, bold, powerful, majestic, charismatic, mythical, solitary, loyal and true.

Bengal tigers are the largest members of the cat family and are renowned for their power and strength. Bengal tigers live in India and are sometimes called Indian tigers. They are listed as an endangered species and considered solitary animals aggressively scent-marking large territories to keep their rivals away. They are powerful nocturnal hunters that travel many miles to find buffalo, deer, wild pigs, and other large mammals. Tigers use their distinctive coats as camouflage (no two have exactly the same stripes). An adult tiger will grow to be 5-6 feet long and weigh 240-500 pounds. Females give birth to litters of two to six cubs, which they raise with little or no help from the male. Cubs cannot hunt until they are 18 months old and remain with their mothers for two to three years, when they disperse to find their own territory.

Morte, an orange male, and Shanti, a white female, are not siblings, but have been raised together and come to the Zoo from South Carolina. Of the two, Morte is the more outgoing and playful. Often, he will be found in the bushes waiting for Shanti to pass by for a surprise ambush. Like many species of cats, both enjoy their play time; however, nap time is also a top priority in their daily routine.

White vs. orange: The white tiger is a recessive gene of the Bengal tiger, which is reported in the wild from time to time; however, it is not to be mistaken as albinism. The only authenticated case of a true albino tiger was discovered in Chittagong in 1846.

Endangered species: Bengal tigers are considered an endangered species and vanishing quickly. The wild tiger population has been reduced by 97% in just over a century due to poaching, loss of habitat and climate change.
War Eagle
Auburn 2014 schedule
8/30 - vs. Arkansas
9/6 - vs. San Jose State
9/18 - @ Kansas State
9/27 - vs. Louisiana Tech
10/4 - vs. LSU
10/11 - @ Miss. State
10/25 - vs. South Carolina
11/1 - @ Ole Miss
11/8 - vs. Texas A&M
11/15 - @ Georgia
11/22 - vs. Samford
11/29 - @ Alabama

Roll Tide
Alabama 2014 schedule
8/30 - vs. West Virginia
9/6 - vs. Florida Atlantic
9/13 - vs. Southern Miss
9/20 - vs. Florida
10/4 - @ Ole Miss
10/11 - @ Arkansas
10/18 - vs. Texas A&M
10/25 - @ Tennessee
11/8 - @ LSU
11/15 - vs. Miss. State
11/22 - vs. West. Carolina
11/29 - vs. Auburn
EDUCATION  ZOO SUMMER CAMP

For seven weeks a summer, the Montgomery Zoo plays host to hundreds of school-aged boys and girls eager to have a whole lot of fun while learning about one of their most favorite things: animals. Campers are treated daily to live animal presentations, scavenger hunts, behind the scenes tours, arts and crafts projects, animal encounters, play time and so much more. Campers range from ages 5-12 and are exposed to a multitude of different animals and wildlife experiences. This year’s theme was It’s A Jungle Out There. Each day provided a host of different animals and learning experiences. So, if you missed out this year, it is never too early to plan. Member registration for Summer 2015 will begin in February. Can’t wait!

Zoo Summer Camp is all about having fun, interaction and enjoying a one of a kind educational wildlife experience. From feeding giraffes to holding sea urchins or perhaps making a wild and crazy painting. Or making new friends at Parakeet Cove, pedaling boats on the lake or just enjoying a warm summer afternoon playing on a huge slip and slide. Whatever it is, one thing we do know for sure, zoo summer camp is a blast!
Why volunteer at the Zoo?
Volunteers play a vital role in providing an exciting and educational experience for the more than 300,000 annual visitors to the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Volunteers donate their time and talents to interpret exhibits, lead educational programs, help maintain zoo grounds and exhibits, work special events and assist with the care of the animals as well as administrative efforts. If you’re thinking of working at a zoo or aquarium, volunteering is a great way to gain some valuable experience and shed some insight on if this is the right career choice for you.

Opportunities for young people. Our Zooteen volunteer program, offers teens the opportunity for classroom instruction as well as an opportunity to work with animals and the public. Our Zooteen program also is an excellent introduction to a zoo, animal medicine or wildlife management career. Many of our Zooteen graduates have gone on to have successful zoological careers.

Teens may also volunteer in the zoo gaining community service hours for school assignments, working with special events and animal encounters or participating in job shadowing programs. Benefits to volunteering. Adult and teen volunteers alike can receive education and training, earn community service hours for school, spend time working along side friends and family, make some terrific new friends, build skills and resume entires, be part of a very special team and have a great excuse to hang out at the Zoo. Plus, you could play an important role in educating the public about animals and wildlife conservation.

We love our Zoo volunteers. In fact, many of our volunteers have grown to become employees of the Zoo. What started off as a passion to volunteer turned into a paying career.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Zoo, please submit an online application at montgomeryzoo.com. We would love to have you as a part of this wonderful team. And don’t forget ZooBoo will be here before you know it and we need all the zombies we can get.
SEPT 26: BALLET and the Beasts
JOIN US FOR BALLET and the Beasts at the Montgomery Zoo, Friday, Sept 26, 6pm - 10pm. FREE ADMISSION. Performance of Peter and the Wolf presented by the Montgomery Ballet. Bring picnic blankets, chairs, and enjoy an evening under the stars. Gates open at 6pm, performance begins at dusk.

Lions are one of the four big cats with some males exceeding 550lbs, it is the second-largest living cat after the tiger.

Color Me Auburn Tigers
Color Me Alabama Crimson Tide
Color Me African Lion
The Montgomery Zoo is very blessed to have an assortment of extremely talented photographers that donate their photography skills to the Zoo. Below is just an example of some of their fine work. To see more, please log onto our facebook page at facebook.com/montgomeryzooandmannmuseum. If you would like to donate your pics, please email them to scpierce@montgomeryzoo.com. Thank you!

1: Chimps during Animal Enrichment Day, Gary Seals. 2: Lion with pumpkin treat during Animal Enrichment Day, Gary Seals. 3: Solomon Islands skink, Pam Smith. 4: Maned wolf with enrichment item, Pam Smith. 5: Bengal tiger paw, in Asian realm (Morte), Dennis Culbertson. 6: Zebra in African hoofstock display (Morte), Dennis Culbertson.

The Gallery | Point. Focus. Capture.

SEPTEMBER 18, 6pm - 10pm, ZOOBILATION: The Wildest Party in Town. Dance to the groove, delight in drinks and samplings from the finest eateries in the Region, try your luck at the silent auction. Zoobilation is a fundraiser geared for adults only, must be 21 to attend. Tickets are required, $50 person, purchase online at montgomeryzoo.com or at Zoo’s Admission Office.

SEPTEMBER 26, 6pm - 10pm, BALLET & THE BEASTS. Enjoy the Montgomery Ballet in a FREE performance under the stars at the Zoo. FREE admission, picnic blankets and chairs are welcome. Gates open at 6pm, performance will begin at dusk.

OCTOBER 13, COLUMBUS DAY. The Zoo and Museum will be open Monday, October 13 for Columbus Day, regular hours, 9am - 5:30pm, last tickets sold at 4pm.

OCTOBER 16-19, 23-26 and 29-31, 6pm - 9pm nightly, ZOOBOO. Join us for 11 nights of fun and horror at ZooBoo. Climb aboard the thrill ride of a lifetime Haunted Hay Ride (zombie crazy scary) or mosey on over to the Pumpkin Pull for a traditional fall (non-scary) hay ride. Enjoy Halloween-themed games, bouncy houses, concessions and much more at ZooBoo. Gates open at 6pm nightly, first Haunted Hay Ride heads out at dusk. Montgomery Zoo members receive a 50% discount on ZooBoo admission.

NOVEMBER 9-15, VETERANS’ DAY WEEK. Join the Montgomery Zoo in thanking the proud men and women of the United States armed forces. During Veterans’ Day Week, all veterans, active duty military personnel and their dependents receive a 50% DISCOUNT on regular admission to the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Participants must provide a valid military identification to receive discount. Thank you for your service and dedication.

NOVEMBER 27, THANKSGIVING. The Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum will be closed Thursday, November 27 for Thanksgiving. The Zoo and Museum will re-open on Friday, November 28 at 9am. Join us for a Black Friday with a wildlife adventure twist.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?
For more info on these events, please visit montgomeryzoo.com or call (334) 240-4900.

ZooBoo

OCT 16-19, 23-26 & 29-31: 6pm - 9pm nightly. Join us for 11 nights of fun and horror at ZooBoo. Climb aboard the thrill ride of a lifetime Haunted Hay Ride (zombie crazy scary) or mosey on over to the Pumpkin Pull for a traditional fall (non-scary) hay ride. Enjoy Halloween-themed games, bouncy houses, concessions and much more at ZooBoo. Gates open at 6pm nightly, first Haunted Hay Ride heads out at dusk. Montgomery Zoo members receive a 50% discount on ZooBoo admission.
Jungle Drums

MONTGOMERY AREA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
PO BOX 3242 | MONTGOMERY, AL 36109

MONTGOMERY ZOO
MANN WILDLIFE LEARNING MUSEUM

ZOObILATION IS AN EVENING OF...
• LIVE MUSIC
  DANCE TO THE JAZZY BEATS
  OF LOCAL, DANCING COMPANY
• FINE FOOD
  RElish in a SMaSHING CHOICE
  OF DELICIOUS DISHES FROM
  THE REGION's FINEST EATERS
• COCKTAILS
  MIXED UP BY INNOVATIVE
  SPECIALTY DRINKS, SPIRITS
  AND COCKTAILS
• COOL STUFF
  BID THE NIGHT AWAY AT AN
  ELECTRIFYING SILENT AUCTION
& FUN!
  SMILE AND BE MERRY WHILE RAISING
  FUNDS FOR THE NEW SYNDICATE!

SEPT 18
AT THE MONTGOMERY ZOO
BEGINNING AT 6PM

$50 per ticket, per person

The City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Area Zoological Society
Need more info, check out montgomeryzoo.com, follow us on facebook or call (334) 240-4900.