double the fun!  

ZOO WEEKEND  
April 6-7, 9am - 6pm
Zoo Weekend

As spring begins to bloom, I always begin to think of Zoo Weekend. Saturday and Sunday, April 6-7, the Montgomery Zoo will come alive with our annual Zoo Weekend. This is a fun-filled, family event, and it is one of the best ways to get to know the Montgomery Zoo.

Zoo Weekend is a festival for sure, featuring live entertainment; including Danika Knight, Camilla Tutt and DJ at Large, just to name a few musical acts. And, our good friend Ronald McDonald will perform both days for children of all ages, plus a variety of other interesting performances. The weekend will also feature a variety of games, inflatables, animal encounters and presentations, animal education and FOOD!

Zoo Weekend is a major fundraising event for the Montgomery Zoo. It is a perfect time to join as a member; memberships will be discounted over the two days, and just think, if you and your family visit the Zoo just twice a year, your membership has already paid for itself. Fundraising is vital to the success and growth of the Montgomery Zoo. Just look at the new Zoofari Skylift Ride and the Parakeet Cove and you will see the on-going improvements to an already great Zoo. We also have a brand new Alligator Exhibit, Stingray Bay and a Butterfly House, all coming soon.

I would like to thank Betty Roberts, the immediate Past President of the Montgomery Zoological Society for her service to this board, the Zoo and our community. Betty has worked tirelessly for the Zoo and MAZS for years, and her term as President saw growth and improvements beyond compare. Thank you again Betty for your commitment and direction.
Tigers are disappearing from existence in mind-boggling terms. In fact, their numbers are diminishing by nearly one animal per day - 365 days a year. Their easily recognizable, beautiful skins are not the only attraction to the poacher, they are now also poaching body part, primarily bones, used in ancient Chinese medicinal prepared prescriptions. Another reason for their endangerment is the loss of their habitat.

In 1997, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of Wild Fauna and Flora, an organization praised for their aggressive works in animal preservation and restoration, strengthened the tiger resolution by urging the CITES Standing Committee to periodically provide annual updates on country - by - country progress in law enforcement and legislative amendments to stop illegal trade. It was discussed prior to the passage of this amended resolution in 1997, that many parties affected by the export ban express their concerns. Concerns were that some countries were not making a sufficient effort to eliminate the trade in products which contained tiger parts or derivatives and that the minuscule fine of $140 for poaching a tiger was not much of a deterrent. This was mainly because the parts from one tiger would sell for up to $5,500 in the underground trade.

China is by far the largest consumer of tiger parts. Interestingly, China also represents the largest exporter of tiger parts in the world. One might think that this is a problem that other parts of the world should deal with; however less than 200 miles from Montgomery, in Atlanta, there are 7-9 shops that cater to the Asian American marked for herbal and organic medicines. These shops are reported selling remedies labeled ‘containing tiger parts’ as an ingredient.

In some cases, the products containing tiger parts have reached extreme temperatures while in the formulating stages and they are very difficult to legally prove positive for their origin. As a result, there have been very few prosecutions involving the illegal importation of manufactured tiger bone parts in this country.

It is clear to see that the best way to curb the appetite of illegal traders and poachers is by worldwide awareness of the status of tigers in the wild. Disproving myths of the Chinese medicines may also help.

Today there are less than 7,000 tigers existing in the wild. Of this, over half reside in major poaching areas in India. Perhaps if laws and penalties were to become more severe, this unnecessary slaughter of tigers would stop.

American zoos display these magnificent animals providing the education needed to help prevent the tiger poaching. Over the years, the Montgomery Zoo has exhibited these animals in a natural environment to hundreds of thousands of visitors. We continue to have hope that needless tiger slaughtering will cease. If so, there is a much better chance that we will have stripes forever.

Zoo joins ZAA

Effective January 15, 2013, the Montgomery Zoo became proud new partners with the Zoological Association of America (ZAA). This new partnership will allow the Zoo to grow and expand in a very positive manner. Please see the column to the right for our new reciprocal list and visit montgomeryzoo.com for the most up-to-date information.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Always call the Zoo you are planning to visit prior to your visiting date to confirm all discounts. Reciprocating policies change frequently and without notice. Also, visit montgomeryzoo.com for the most up-to-date listing. And remember to always take your Montgomery Zoo membership card and valid ID with you during your visit.
Mark your calendars! ZooWeekend April 6-7, 9am-6pm daily

Zoo Weekend 2013 is scheduled for April 6 & 7 from 9am - 6pm daily. This popular two-day festival began in 1976 as a fundraiser to help support the zoo. The promotion began with WHY 102-FM and McDonald’s leading the way to bring hundreds of thousands of community supporters together at the zoo to help enhance the zoo through monetary contributions so the zoo could build more animal exhibits. Throughout Zoo Weekend’s 37 years of existence it still remains to be a major fundraiser for the zoo to further enhance the animals and their habitats.

What is Zoo Weekend? Zoo Weekend is an annual fun-filled weekend held on the zoo grounds. It is a two-day event and one of the zoo’s major fundraiser complete with entertainment, food, petting zoo, animal rides, Ronald McDonald, games, animal shows and much more. Zoo Weekend is sure to bring the kid out in everyone!

Who can come? Everyone is invited. Young aged, middle aged and older aged are welcome.

Where do I park? Shuttle service will be available from the ADEM parking lot on Coliseum Blvd. The shuttles run throughout the day and until everyone leaves the park.

How much does it cost? Tickets can be purchased at the gate the day of the event. Adults are $12 per person, Senior citizens are $10 per person and children ages 3-12 are $8 per person. A special discounted admission will be offered for the Mann Museum during Zoo Weekend only. Members of the Montgomery Zoo will be admitted FREE.

How do I purchase a ticket? Contact the zoo office by calling 240-4900 to purchase advance tickets.

What’s the entertainment like? Danika Knight, Camilla Tutt, DJ at Large, local bands, Ronald McDonald, Montgomery Police K-9 dogs, Karate performances, dance performances and live animal presentation from the zoo’s education department will be performing throughout the two-day event. Check out the zoo’s web site at montgomeryzoo.com for a schedule of events.

What type of food can be purchased? There will be many wonderful food choices including delicacies from Peppertree Steaks and Wine, Nancy’s Italian Ice, Domino’s Pizza and Coco’s. The City of Montgomery’s Food Services Department will be serving hamburgers, hot dogs, turkey legs, cotton candy, barbeque and many more food selections.

Story continued on page 9
THANK YOU seems so small and inadequate to express the way the Zoo staff feels about our volunteer family. So many wonderful people give their time and talent to help whatever needed. Here are two stories we would like to share.

Kim Sanders started volunteering at ZooBoo and since continued to working in the office and Giraffe Encounter Post. When asked, “Why do you volunteer?” Kim replied, “I like to help people, give back to the community and I love animals. After I started volunteering, I got my husband and sons involved. I have been volunteering over nine years and I hope to continue volunteering for many more years to come.”

Elsie and Jim McCloskey have been volunteering at the Montgomery Zoo for 20 years. During this time period many changes have occurred that has really enhanced the Zoo in a positive manner such as; Elephant exhibit, Rhino exhibit, Giraffe Encounter Post, Parakeet Cove and now the new Zoofari Skylift ride. Volunteering at the Zoo is and has been a great experience, especially getting to know and working with the Zoo staff. The McCloskeys have been involved in working the ticket window, building scenes for ZooBoo, cutting bamboo, preparing items for animal enrichment and working at the train depot. Working along with other people that volunteer has resulted in making friends which has become part of our lives.

CALLING ALL ZOO WEEKEND VOLUNTEERS. We need volunteers for Zoo Weekend coming up April 6-7. This event cannot be successful without your help and support. We need volunteers for a variety of areas including games, Train ride, Skylift ride, Pedal Boats, Giraffe Encounter Post, Parakeet Cove, inflatables, admissions and many other duties.

Shifts are 8:00am-2:00pm, 1:30pm -6:30pm both Saturday and Sunday April 6-7. If you would like to volunteer you fill out the form and mail to Sarah McKemey at 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36110. Register online at montgomeryzoo.com; to talk to Sarah call (334)-240-4930 or email smckemey@montgomeryal.gov.

We thank you for the time, talent and effort given to the Montgomery Zoo.

If you are interested in volunteering at the Montgomery Zoo for special events or if you just want to become part of the team, please contact Sarah McKemey at (334) 240-4930, register online at montgomeryzoo.com, email smckemey@montgomeryal.gov or just drop the completed enrollment form below in the mail. We’d love to have you join us!

**Volunteer information**

- **Name**
- **Address**
- **City**
- **ST** ___________ **Zip** ___________
- **Phone**
- **Email**
- **Area(s) of interest**
- **Special event**
- **Best time(s) available**

**Thank you for your support!**

Please mail to: Sarah McKemey, Montgomery Zoo, 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36110, [334] 240-4930
Bengal tigers return to the Montgomery Zoo. Welcome Morte and Shanti, our two new residents at the Bengal tiger exhibit in the Asian realm.

After a two year absence from the Zoo’s Asian collection, the Montgomery Zoo introduced two Bengal Tiger cubs on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 10:00am. Morte, an orange male, is ten months old. Shanti, a white female, is 1 year old. Though they are not siblings, both cubs have been raised together and come to the Zoo from South Carolina. Of the two cubs, Morte is the more outgoing and playful. He will often be found in the bushes waiting for Shanti to pass by for a surprise ambush. Like many species of cats (large and small), both enjoy their time at play; however, nap time is also a top priority in their daily routine (see first picture below).

Bengal tigers (*Panthera tigris tigris*) 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. **White vs. orange:** The white tiger is a recessive mutant of the Bengal tiger, which is reported in the wild from time to time in Assam, Bengal, Bihar and especially from the former State of Rewa. 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. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), wild tiger numbers are at an all-time low. We have lost 97% of wild tigers in just over a century. Tigers may be one of the most revered animals, but they are also vulnerable to extinction. As few as 3,200 exist in the wild today. Population threats have come from poaching, loss of habitat and climate change. With conservations programs including international trade bans, habitat restoration efforts and zoo breeding programs for wild release, there are hopes that these big cats will be saved from extinction.
Welcome Morte and Shanti to the Montgomery Zoo
Lion, cheetah, jaguar, ocelot, cougar, lynx and tiger too.

The Montgomery Zoo cat collection spans four continents including; Africa, Asia, North America and South America. From the big cats to the small, they all very unique, but yet very similar in characteristics and features... even comparable to those household buddies curled up in your favorite chair.

**African lion:** Baron and Vulcan came to the Montgomery Zoo by way of the Birmingham Zoo. The brothers were born there as part of a staggering five cub litter. African lions (*Panthera leo*) are considered to be one of the four big cats in the genus Panthera. They are known as the second-largest living cat after the tiger. Male lions can weigh as much as 330 to 550 pounds and live for up to 20 years in captivity. Baron and Vulcan weighed in at 256 pounds and 273 pounds respectively, upon arriving at the Montgomery Zoo. These two cubs will be getting a specialized prepared feline diet here at the Montgomery Zoo that provides them with the necessary nutrients for their growth.

**Cheetah:** Two cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) reside at the Zoo. They are a large feline inhabiting most of Africa and parts of the Middle East. Running faster than any other land animal; cheetahs have been reported as fast as 70 - 75 mph with the ability to accelerate from 0 to over 62 mph in five seconds. The cheetah’s chest is deep and its waist is narrow. The coarse, short fur of the cheetah is tan with round black spots afford excellent camouflage. There are no spots on its white underside, but the tail has spots, which merge to form four to six dark rings at the end. The cheetah has a small head with high-set eyes. Black “tear marks” running from the corner of its eyes down the sides of the nose to its mouth keep sunlight out of its eyes and aid in hunting and seeing long distances. Its thin and fragile body make it well-suited to short bursts of high speed, but not to long-distance running. The adult cheetah weighs from 46 to 160lbs. Its total head-and-body length is from 43-59 inches, while the tail can measure 24-33 inches in length. Males tend to be slightly larger than females and have slightly bigger heads, but there is not a great variation in cheetah sizes and it is difficult to tell males and females apart by appearance alone.

**Jaguar:** The Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is the third-largest feline after the tiger and the lion, and the largest in the Western Hemisphere. The jaguar’s present range extends from Southern United States and Mexico across much of Central America and south to Paraguay and northern Argentina. This spotted cat most closely resembles the leopard physically, although it is usually larger and of sturdier build and its behavioural 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 jaguar has an exceptionally powerful bite, even relative to the other big cats. This allows it to pierce the shells of armoured reptiles biting directly through the skull of prey between the ears to deliver a fatal bite.

**Ocelot:** The ocelot is a wild cat distributed over South and Central America, including Mexico. It ranges from 27 to 39 inches in length, plus 10 to 18 inches in tail length, and typically weighs 18 to 40 lbs, although much larger individuals have occasionally been recorded, making it the largest of the generally dainty *Leopardus* wild cat genus. It has sleek, smooth fur, rounded ears and relatively large
front paws. The coat pattern of ocelots can vary, being anything from cream to reddish-brown in color, or sometimes grayish, and marked with black rosettes. The ocelot is mostly nocturnal and very territorial. Like most felines, it is solitary, usually meeting only to mate. Ocelots hunt mostly small mammals, reptiles and amphibians (lizards, turtles and frogs), crab, birds and fish. Almost all of the prey that the ocelot hunts is far smaller than itself, with rodents, rabbits, and opossums forming the largest part of the diet. Ocelots can be seen on exhibit in the South American realm at the Montgomery Zoo.

**Cougar:** The cougar (*Puma concolor*), also known as the puma, mountain lion, panther, or catamount, is a large cat of the family Felidae native to the Americas. Its range, from the Canadian Yukon to the southern Andes of South America, is the greatest of any large wild terrestrial mammal in the Western Hemisphere. It is the second heaviest cat in the Western Hemisphere, after the jaguar. Solitary by nature and nocturnal, an excellent stalk and ambush predator. Primary food sources include ungulates such as deer, elk, moose, and bighorn sheep, as well as domestic cattle, horses and sheep, particularly in the northern part of its range. It will also hunt species as small as insects and rodents. This cat prefers habitats with dense underbrush and rocky areas for stalking, but can also live in open areas.

**Lynx:** The lynx has a short tail and characteristic tufts of black hair on the tips of its ears; large, padded paws for walking on snow; and long whiskers on its face. Under its neck, it has a ruff which has black bars, is not very visible, and resembles a bow tie. Its body colour varies from medium brown to goldish to beige-white, and is occasionally marked with dark brown spots, especially on the limbs. All species of lynx have white fur on their chests, bellies and on the insides of their legs, fur which is an extension of the chest and belly fur. Also, the lynx’s colouring, fur length and paw size vary by its climate range - in the Southwestern United States, its short-haired fur is dark and its paws are smaller and less padded. As the lynx ranges to colder northern climates, its fur gets progressively thicker (for warmth), the colour gets lighter (for camouflage) and its paws enlarge and become more padded (for snowy environments). Its paws may become larger than a human hand or foot. The smallest species are the bobcat and the Canada lynx, while the largest is the Eurasian lynx, with considerable variations within species.
Mann Wildlife Learning Museum | Alabama wood duck

The Alabama wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) is a small multicolored duck from 15 - 18 inches in length. It inhabits creeks, rivers, floodplains, lakes, swamps, and beaver ponds. Their crested heads, broad wings, and large rectangular tails create an appearance unlike any other duck. Although their flight is only moderately swift, their broader wings enable them to thread through tree branches fairly easily. The male wood duck is brightly colored in iridescent greens, purples, and blues featuring a distinctive white chin patch and a long, red bill. In flight, the white belly contrasts neatly with the dark breast and wing feathers. Females are a mottled brown color with a white eye patch. Wood ducks make a loud woo-eek during flight or when under distress. During feeding and resting they make softer peet and cheep notes. On the water, wood ducks sit higher and are more buoyant than other ducks causing their tails to be more visible above the water.

The wood duck can be found throughout the North American East Coast, from Quebec to Florida. In the interior United States, the wood duck can be found from the Canadian border to south Texas and Mexico. The Pacific populations range from southern British Columbia to southern California. In Alabama, historical records indicate that the wood duck is found statewide.

Wood ducks are found small streams, rivers, creeks, lakes, swamps, beaver ponds, and even drainage ditches. Flooded hardwood timber and beaver ponds are prime wood duck habitat. The shallow waters usually contain large numbers of invertebrates and acorns, which are crucial to the wood ducks’ diet. Wood ducks are dabbling ducks that feed in shallow waters by dipping their heads under the water and tilting their backsends up in the air. The young wood duck’s diet consists almost entirely of small invertebrates and other animal matter. As the ducklings mature, they change to mostly plant matter. Adult wood ducks feed almost entirely on plant matter.
Saturday, February 16 marked Winter Animal Enrichment Day at the Montgomery Zoo. The day began with the sloth bear quickly shredding a melon to get to the juicy insides. The bears also shared a hay and treat-stuffed carpet roll. This enrichment highlighted her long powerful claws and keen sense of smell. Soon followed a trip to monkey island. They were provided boxed treats. The boxes were lined with various sized holes allowing them the opportunity to figure out which hole was large enough for the treat to exit. Then off to the Jags where they were given fish and catnip-filled barrels. Mmmm... a big cat favorite too. Lions and tigers were given a variety of cat treats and bloody meat. All in all, 16 exhibits were featured in enrichment day. If you missed it, do not worry we will have another enrichment day, Saturday, July 20, 2013, 10am-2pm. Make plans to attend then, it will be a great time to be had by both animals and humans.

More info on Animal Enrichment. Enrichment is the practice of adding various stimuli to one's environment. It can be as simple as adding food, treats, scents, toys, puzzles... just 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 an animal be cut or otherwise injured by it?
- Can the enrichment fall on or injure an animal?
- Can the animal ingest the object or a piece of it?
- Is any part of it toxic, including paint or epoxy?
- Can it cause choking, asphyxiation or strangulation?
- Can it become lodged in the digestive tract?
- Has browse been determined to be non-toxic?
- Does the enrichment cause high stress levels?
- Can the animal get caught or become trapped by it?
- Can the enrichment item promote aggression or harmful competition?

And yes, it is safe to build or provide enrichments to your pets at home. Just keep in mind all these helpful hints when building or purchasing an enrichment item.

Animal Care | Enrichment Day
Ken Naugher, Conservation and Enrichment Manager

Everyday is enrichment day at the Montgomery Zoo. 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.

HOW CAN YOU SAY NO TO MISS BETTY?

MISS BETTY NEEDS YOUR COOKIES. CAKES. BROWNIES. GOODIES OF ALL ASSORTED FLAVORS.

As many of you know, for years Miss Betty has organized the BAKE SALE during Zoo Weekend. She cooks many of the treats; however, she also depends on the generous contributions from members. If you are interested in contributing, please drop off your bagged baked goods at the Zoo’s Front Gate, Friday, April 5 between 8am - 5pm.

For more info, please call (334) 240-4900.

THANK YOU
Humans are fascinated by birds because they come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Here at the Montgomery Zoo, we have around 60 different species, and these birds can be found in each of our five world realms. There are actually over 9,000 different species of birds, and these are found all over the world. Which many of them can be found right here at the Montgomery Zoo.

Birds tend to be broken down into five different categories: The largest of the categories is the songbirds which incorporates robins, wrens, and swallows. Another category of birds is the parrots which includes parakeets and cockatoos. Eagles, owls, and hawks fall into a category of birds called birds of prey. These are hunting birds that capture their own food. You additionally have game birds which are turkeys, chickens, and quails. The last of the groups is the water fowl that comprise of geese, ducks, and swans. It makes it easy to identify birds by putting them into different classifications. The only problem is that this assortment does not include all birds. Some of the species left out are ostriches, penguins, cranes, kingfishers among many others. In reality there are over 50 different orders of birds.

The earliest known bird is the Archaeopteryx lithographica, which is said to have lived about 140 million years ago during the Jurassic period. We know about this bird from fossil records discovered in southern Germany. The fossil records give the impression that this bird was about the size of what we know today as a pigeon.

Having some knowledge about the different types of birds can greatly enhance bird watching. Bird watching is a hobby enjoyed by people all over the world. It can be done with the naked eye or with visual enhancement devices such as binoculars or telescopes. Many wild birds are detected more by sound than by sight, so it does involve an auditory component. Here at the zoo, our birds are easy to find and very enjoyable to watch. The zoo offers many shaded areas with benches, where you can sit for as long as you like to watch your favorite species. Furthermore, we offer a chance to get up close and personal...

Birds play a vital role in our planet’s ecosystem as well as at the Montgomery Zoo. From the vibrant coral feathers of the Andean flamingo in our South American realm to the iconic and fearless American Bald Eagle to our tiny colorful and energetic Parakeets located in Parakeet Cove. Humans have never-breaking kinship with birds.
ATTENTION TEACHERS

ATTENTION

ZOOPHORIA
PLAN YOUR NEXT FIELD TRIP NOW!

Visit the Zoo and Mann Museum There is nothing more fun than visiting the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Museum. Teachers can include their entire class, grade, school, group and/or organization. Group rates, concession prices and education program pricing are all available on our web site at www.montgomeryzoo.com. Register online or submit a downloadable form. Attractions, rides, lunches and educational programs may be added to your day to give your students a Zoo experience that they will remember the rest of their lives. Make your wildlife adventure complete, do it all!

Concessions are available at the Overlook Cafe; however, you can bring your own. Enjoy a class picnic or refreshments on one of our many shaded lawn areas or at one of our covered shelters.

Get ahead of the game and prepare for a grand day at the Zoo. Make your group reservation today. For more info or to reserve a group today, please call the Zoo Office at [334] 240-4900 or submit a group reservation form at montgomeryzoo.com

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BRING STRINGRAY BAY TO THE ZOO

All proceeds from this year’s Zoo Weekend will be earmarked for building Stingray Bay at the Montgomery Zoo. This touch and feel exhibit will house a variety of stingray allowing guests a unique, one-of-a-kind wildlife encounter. Large or small, all donations are needed, wanted and greatly appreciated. Please help us bring Stingray Bay to the Montgomery Zoo. Donations can be brought to Zoo Weekend, dropped in the mail or dropped in the collection pot in the Zoo Gift Shop.

Mail to all donations to:
STINGRAY BAY, c/o Montgomery Zoo, 2301 Coliseum Parkway Montgomery, AL 36110

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BRING STRINGRAY BAY TO THE ZOO

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zoophoria | zooˈfərə | noun
A feeling or state of uncontrollable happiness experienced only while visiting the Montgomery Zoo.
Did you know?

**The jaguar is (are)**
- largest cat in the Americas, an adult Jaguar weighs from 200 to 250 pounds
- a cat that loves to swim
- solitary animals who live and hunt alone
- their home range is for males 19 to 53 square miles, females range is 10 to 37 miles
- Aztec and Mayan civilizations used jaguar images to represent rulers or royalty and warriors
- Jaguars hunt mainly at night
- Name means “a beast that kills its prey with a single bound”
- Melanistic jaguar have been mistakenly called “black panthers.” Black panthers do not exist.

**The ocelot is (are)**
- found in Central/South America
- weigh 20 to 35 pounds.
- name came from the Mexican Aztec word tlalocelot, which means field tiger
- give birth to 1 to 4 kittens every two years
- without teeth for chewing, ocelots tear their food to pieces and swallow it whole
On January 29th, the Annual Docent Appreciation Banquet was held in the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum banquet room honoring the dedicated service of the Zoo’s Docents and Zooteens. It was an exciting evening where all the education volunteers had a chance to come together for good food, friendship, service awards, and door prizes. This event, sponsored by the Montgomery Area Zoological Society (MAZS), is a chance for the Montgomery Zoo, Zoo Staff and MAZS Board members to show their appreciation to people who give their precious time to the Education Department.

The highlight of the event every year is the announcement of the “Docent of the Year.” This is a hard decision for the staff to make every year because all our volunteers give so much and are so valuable. This year our honored winners were Valerie Castanza and Sarah Martin. They both have donated a lot of time to the Zoo, are always willing to help with programs and events, have knowledge of the animals in the Education Department, are always looking for ways to improve animal care, follow the guidelines and rules in the department, and most importantly, love what they are doing and always have a great attitude about the zoo and the department. Congratulations Valerie and Sarah!

APRIL 6-7, 9am - 6pm daily, ZOO WEEKEND. Festive environment with live entertainment, games, rides, concessions and animals from around the world. Enjoy the many activities, fantastic food and have fun together at an affordable price. It is also an excellent opportunity to take advantage of discounted memberships.

APRIL 17-18, 9am - 2pm daily, EARTH DAY SAFARI. Designed with school groups in mind, the Zoo’s Earth Day Safari is a fun and educational field trip for students. You can participate in an Endangered Species Scavenger Hunt. Play Earth Day Trivia Game. See Live Animal Presentations. Advanced reservations required.

MAY 4, 10am - NOON, DINO DIG. Go on an archeological dig and discover bones from the past. Make new discoveries and new friends. Geared for kids 4-10 years old, advanced reservations required. Join us May 4.

MAY 11, 10am - 2pm, MAYFEST with BTW. The Zoo partners with BTW Magnet School to provide live entertainment, drama, dance, face painting and games. This is fundraiser for BTW. Join us and support BTW on May 11, 10am - 2pm.

MAY 12, MOTHER’S DAY, FREE ADMISSION FOR MOMS. Celebrate Mother’s Day at the Montgomery Zoo. All Moms receive FREE admission to the Montgomery Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Join us for Mother’s Day.

JUNE 3 - JULY 26, ZOO SUMMER CAMP. Zoo Summer Camp is a fun-filled, educational wildlife experience. Geared for kids 5-12 years old, half-day and full-day camps available. Advanced reservations are required.

JUNE 16, FATHER’S DAY, FREE ADMISSION FOR DADS. Celebrate Father’s Day at the Montgomery Zoo. All Dads receive FREE admission to the Montgomery Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Join us for Father’s Day.

JUNE 20, MILITARY DAY, FREE ADMISSION MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES. All military personnel and their families receive FREE admission to the Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Food, drinks and refreshments are also provided. Thank you for proudly serving.

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

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APRIL 6-7, 9am - 6pm daily, ZOO WEEKEND. Festive environment with live entertainment, games, rides, concessions and animals from around the world. Enjoy the many activities, fantastic food and have fun together at an affordable price. It is also an excellent opportunity to take advantage of discounted memberships.

APRIL 17-18, 9am - 2pm daily, EARTH DAY SAFARI. Designed with school groups in mind, the Zoo’s Earth Day Safari is a fun and educational field trip for students. You can participate in an Endangered Species Scavenger Hunt. Play Earth Day Trivia Game. See Live Animal Presentations. Advanced reservations required.

MAY 4, 10am - NOON, DINO DIG. Go on an archeological dig and discover bones from the past. Make new discoveries and new friends. Geared for kids 4-10 years old, advanced reservations required. Join us May 4.

MAY 11, 10am - 2pm, MAYFEST with BTW. The Zoo partners with BTW Magnet School to provide live entertainment, drama, dance, face painting and games. This is fundraiser for BTW. Join us and support BTW on May 11, 10am - 2pm.

MAY 12, MOTHER’S DAY, FREE ADMISSION FOR MOMS. Celebrate Mother’s Day at the Montgomery Zoo. All Moms receive FREE admission to the Montgomery Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Join us for Mother’s Day.

JUNE 3 - JULY 26, ZOO SUMMER CAMP. Zoo Summer Camp is a fun-filled, educational wildlife experience. Geared for kids 5-12 years old, half-day and full-day camps available. Advanced reservations are required.

JUNE 16, FATHER’S DAY, FREE ADMISSION FOR DADS. Celebrate Father’s Day at the Montgomery Zoo. All Dads receive FREE admission to the Montgomery Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Join us for Father’s Day.

JUNE 20, MILITARY DAY, FREE ADMISSION MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES. All military personnel and their families receive FREE admission to the Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Food, drinks and refreshments are also provided. Thank you for proudly serving.

For more info on these events, please visit montgomeryzoo.com or call (334) 240-4900.
Follow the Montgomery Zoo on Facebook, Flickr, MySpace, Twitter and YouTube.