Zoo Events:

Zoo Weekend

From the DD:

Thank you Sarah

Zoo Education:

Bird Friends

Ostrich

AM I IN A Flock OR Herd?

ZOO WEEKEND

MONTGOMERY ZOO AND MANN MUSEUM

APRIL 11-12, 9am - 6pm daily

Montgomery Zoo
MANN WILDLIFE LEARNING MUSEUM

facebook.com/montgomeryzooandmannmuseum

montgomeryzoo.com
Spring at Zoo

Janey Whitten Sabel, MAZS President

Spring has Sprung! And the Montgomery Area Zoological Society (affectionately known as MAZS) invites you and your family to enjoy the glorious days of Spring right here at the Zoo. Invite your friends and discover the wonders of your Montgomery Zoo.

ZOO WEEKEND is being held Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12, 9am - 6pm daily. All Zoo memberships are discounted this weekend only making it the perfect time to join or renew zoo memberships. A variety of membership levels are available to better match your family needs. The MAZS board hosts membership registration outside the zoo gates and provides wristbands for entry. Thank you to all MAZS board volunteers and organizers! With your membership cards, enjoy express entry to the Zoo through the membership tent area.

SAVE THE DATE Zoo Weekend, September 17, 2015. Many corporate and personal sponsorship opportunities are available. Please buy tickets, donate silent auction items, or provide food & beverage sponsorships. Contact me for details how your company, organization, or family may sponsor efforts at the Zoo at MAZSPresident@gmail.com, or contact Zoo staff.

Please welcome MAZS board members Class of 2015 who provide fundraising efforts, and many volunteer hours. Thank you New Members for your special talents toward the goals of the Society.

As always, we thank the Zoo staff for their continued leadership and expertise with our most valued Montgomery Zoo. And to all of you, we say, see you at the Zoo!
Spring has sprung and summer is right around the corner. Time to make this summer a wildlife adventure for that special camper in your life, and create a lifetime of memories.

Make summer vacation a wildlife adventure that you will never forget. Join kids of similar ages and interests for a fun-packed, educational experience themed around the animals of our planet. See daily live animal presentations; get up close and personal with some of the Educational animals at the Montgomery Zoo; enjoy scavenger hunts; craft time; classroom time; playtime, splash time and games at our playground; train, pedal boat and skylift rides; participate in animal encounters with the giraffes, river otters, deer and parakeets; see behind the scene tours and visits with our zookeepers and other staff members.

Camps are available for boys and girls, ages 5-12 years old; half-day and full-day camps are available. Camps and dates:

- **J** 11-12 year olds, full day camp (8:00am - 5:00pm)
- **J** 9-10 year olds, half day camp (8:00am - Noon)
- **J** 9-10 year olds, full day camp (8:00am - 5:00pm)
- **J** 7-8 year olds, half day camp (8:00am - Noon)
- **J** 7-8 year olds, full day camp (8:00am - 5:00pm)
- **J** 5-6 year olds, half day camp (8:00am - Noon)
- **J** 5-6 year olds, half day camp (8:00am - Noon)

This year’s theme is *Where the Wild Things Live*. Each day will present a different area of study, games, crafts and fun. Campers will learn about various animals at the Zoo and where they are from; like Africa, Asia, South America, Antarctica, Australia and North America. It is sure to be a blast for everyone that attends.

Tuition must be received with any registration form or online application. Any cancellations will result in a $25 processing fee. No phone reservations will be accepted. You may register online at montgomeryzoo.com or in person at the Montgomery Zoo’s admission office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M</th>
<th>Z</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt; Full day camps: $162 for the week / Half day camps: $126 for the week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Z always have a great time. Plus they get a super cool t-shirt.
Join us in celebrating Sarah McKemey’s retirement from the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Zoo. She will be greatly missed. Thank you Sarah for all those dedicated years of service and loyalty to the citizens of the River Region.

On Friday, February 6, 2015, Sarah McKemey retires from the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Zoo after 18 years of service as the Marketing and Public Relations Manager. Sarah started her career at the Montgomery Zoo as a volunteer over 38 years ago working alongside her husband, then local radio personality, Larry Stevens, in creating the Zoo’s first fundraising event called Zoo Day. As years passed, Sarah continued to volunteer at the Zoo in various capacities; including reaching out to the community at large to recruit other volunteers to the Zoo; marketing and promoting the Zoo to the River Region and the outlying areas; aiding in the growth and development of the Zoo’s fundraising board, the Montgomery Area Zoological Society; helping to host and coordinate special events; and evolving the Zoo Day event into the Zoo’s biggest annual fundraising effort, now called Zoo Weekend.

Sarah was officially hired on at the Zoo as a Recreation Aide in December 1996. She was promoted to a Clerk II in July 1997; and then in May 1998, Sarah was promoted again to Zoo Volunteer and Membership Coordinator. In December 1999, Sarah became the face and voice of the Montgomery Zoo as the Marketing and Public Relations Manager. Since then, Sarah has appeared countless times on local radio and television shows promoting and spreading the word about the Zoo, its special events and the residents that call the Zoo home. Sarah also served as the Zoo’s Volunteer Coordinator bringing countless people to the Zoo helping with special events, day-to-day activities and animal encounters, and local school and community projects. Sarah has made a tremendous impact of the lives of our volunteers, staff and board members; and they in turn have had a direct impact on the success and growth of the Zoo.

Join all the friends and family of the Montgomery Zoo in wishing Sarah a very happy retirement and many blissful years ahead. Thank you, Sarah, for all your longstanding years of dedication and loyal service to the City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Zoo.

It only seemed fitting that during Sarah’s retirement party, WSFA held a final interview recapping her years at the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Over the years, Sarah has done thousands of tv, radio and newspaper interviews helping to promote and tell the story of the Zoo and of all the animals that call this place home. Thank you Sarah and may you enjoy your retirement to the fullest!
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, aid in the office, 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. And there is no better place to volunteer than at the Montgomery Zoo.

In February, the Zoo hosted a brunch thanking all of our Zoo and special events volunteers. The guests were provided with breakfast, door prizes and then treated to a day in the Zoo with friends and family. It was a well-attended event and we were so happy to have this opportunity to thank our volunteers for loyal service and time.

Volunteers literally have volunteers at the Zoo on a daily basis, working at Parakeet Cove, Giraffe Encounter, Petting Zoo, in the office or just wherever needed. And those volunteer hours add up.

- Zoo Weekend – 1,000 hrs
- Earth Day Safari – 240 hrs
- ZooBoo – 7,775 hrs
- Christmas Lights Festival – 1,345 hrs
- Daily activities – 21,534 hrs
- Docents and Zooteen – 4,160 hrs

We have 36,054 total annual hours, which equals 901 40-hour work weeks or 17.32 years worth of work in one year. Boy, do we love our Zoo volunteers. Thank you!

If you are interested in volunteering and joining our Zoo family; especially during the upcoming Zoo Weekend (April 11-12), please submit an online application at montgomeryzoo.com. We would love to have you as a part of this wonderful team and family.
Celebrate the coming of Spring at the 39th Annual Zoo Weekend. See the Zoo transformed into a festival-like environment filled with rides, games, great food, live entertainment and your favorite furry and feathered friends.

Zoo Weekend 2015 is scheduled for April 11-12, 9am - 6pm daily. This popular two-day festival began in 1976 as a fundraiser to help support the Montgomery Zoo. The promotion began with WHHY 102-FM and McDonald's leading the way to bring hundreds of thousands of community supporters together at the Zoo to help enhance it through monetary contributions. By doing so, these additional funds have aided the zoo in building more animal exhibits, animal encounters, rides and attractions and education programs. Throughout Zoo Weekend's 39 years of existence it still remains to be a major fundraiser for the zoo to further enhance the animals and their habitats.

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!

Everyone is invited. Young, middle aged and older are welcome.

A shuttle will be available from the ADEM parking lot on Coliseum Blvd. Shuttles will run all day and until everyone leaves the Zoo.

Tickets can be purchased at the gate the day of the event. Adults are $15 per person, children ages 3 - 12 year old are $11 per person. A special discounted admission will be offered for the Mann Museum ($3 per person) during Zoo Weekend only. Montgomery Zoo members and toddlers 2 year old and younger will be admitted FREE.

Contact the zoo office by calling (334) 240-4900 to purchase advance tickets or purchase tickets online at montgomeryzoo.com.

Various local musical groups; including country, pop, classic rock, gospel, contemporary Christian, DJ style, rap, R&B and more. Ronald McDonald, Montgomery Police K-9 dogs, karate performances, dance performances and live animal presentations from the Zoo’s Education Department will be performing throughout the two-day event. Check out the Montgomery Zoo’s facebook page and web site at montgomeryzoo.com for a schedule of events.

There will be many wonderful food choices including delicacies from Southern Food Services Management. There will be hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, sandwiches, salads, cotton candy, barbeque, ice cream, slushies, an assortment of refreshing beverages and many more food selections.

Check out the newly renovated and enhanced Overlook Cafe. Customer friendly, grab and go, fresh and smart foods, and old time favorites.

Continued on page 7
Sure. There are picnicking areas throughout the Zoo for you to enjoy your food. However, outside food and beverages are not allowed at the Overlook Café area. That area is reserved for the strictly patrons that purchase food directly from the Overlook Café.

Yes, the animals will be on exhibit throughout the Zoo Weekend two-day event.

Yes, all of the rides and attractions will be in full operation. This includes the train, skylift ride, giraffe encounter, parakeet cove, pedal boats, camel and pony rides, petting zoo, bouncy houses, large inflatable slides, twin spin, rock climbing wall and the playground.

Monkey Island, African Elephant Habitat, the McMonty Express, the Spectacled Bear Exhibit, the North American River Otter Habitat and the Toucan Exhibit, etc.


Zoo Weekend take place on Saturday, April 11 and Sunday April 12, 2015 from 9am – 6pm daily. For more info, go to montgomeryzoo.com.
I am an African Ostrich here at the Montgomery Zoo. I reside in the African realm. I am feathered and have wings like a bird, but I do not fly. I have strong legs and am built to run fast speeds across the African savannas. So, when I travel in a group of my own species, am I traveling in a FLOCK or in a HERD?

The ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) is either one or two species of large flightless birds native to Africa, the only living member(s) of the genus *Struthio*, which is in the ratite family. It is distinctive in its appearance, with a long neck and legs, and can run at up to about 43mph, the fastest land speed of any bird. The ostrich is the largest living species of bird and lays the largest eggs of any living bird. Extinct elephant birds of Madagascar and the giant moa of New Zealand laid larger eggs.

The ostrich’s diet consists mainly of plant matter, though it also eats invertebrates. It lives in nomadic groups of 5 to 50 birds. When threatened, the ostrich will either hide itself by lying flat against the ground, or run away. If cornered, it can attack with a kick of its powerful legs. Mating patterns differ by geographical region, but territorial males fight for a harem of two to seven females.

The long neck and legs keep their head up to 9 feet above the ground, and their eyes are said to be the largest of any land vertebrate: 2 inches in diameter; helping them to see predators at a great distance. The eyes are shaded from sunlight from above. However, the head and bill are relatively small for the birds’ huge size, with the bill measuring 4.7 to 5.6 inches. Ostriches usually weigh from 139 - 320lbs, or as much as two adult humans. At maturity (two to four years old), male ostriches can be from 7-9 feet in height, while female ostriches range from 6-7 feet tall. New chicks are fawn in color, with dark brown spots. During the first year of life, chicks grow at about 9.8 inches per month. At one year of age, ostriches weigh approximately 99lbs. Their lifespan is up to 40 - 45 years in the wild.

The feathers of adult males are mostly black, with white primaries and a white tail. However, the tail of one subspecies is buff. Females and young males are greyish-brown and white. The head and neck of both male and female ostriches is nearly bare, with a thin layer of down. The skin of the female’s neck and thighs is pinkish gray, while the male’s is blue-gray, gray or pink dependent on subspecies.

Ostrich herds that typically contain less than a dozen birds. Alpha males maintain these herds, and mate with the group’s dominant hen. The male sometimes mates with others in the group, and wandering

*Continued on page 11*
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 the southern region of 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...

Continued on page 11
Saturday, February 21 marked Winter Animal Enrichment Day at the Montgomery Zoo. The day began with the sloth bear quickly shredding a treat-filled, termite mound. This enrichment highlighted her long powerful claws and keen sense of smell. Soon followed a trip to monkey island. They were provided colorful, hung treat-filled boxes. 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 Jaguar mother and her two cubs where they were given a catnip-filled kissing booth. Mmmm... a big cat favorite too. The lions went through a series of target training exercises and then were treated with large bones.

The elephants had an opportunity to brush up on their bowling skills by knocking down some oversized, treat-filled pins. All in all, 16 exhibits were featured in Enrichment Day, plus we had an enrichment display at the Overlook Cafe so guests could have an opportunity to get a better idea and an up close view of actual enrichment items. Also, the Zoo’s Education Department presented a live animal presentation time featuring various birds, reptiles and small mammals.

If you missed it, do not worry we will have another enrichment day, 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.

To see a gallery of various Animal Enrichment Day activities, please refer to page 15.
The Alabama wood duck \textit{(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 wooo-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 in 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 backends 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.
We are almost there. For the past few Zoo Weekends and Zoobilations, the Montgomery Zoo has been raising funds to build a touch and feel Stingray exhibit. This multi-functional building will house a variety of free swimming stingray where guests will have an opportunity to touch and feel these graceful creatures as they glide through the fresh and flowing waters of the exhibit. This exhibit will be an excellent addition to the Zoo and its collection of animal encounters. If you would like to donate to bring this exhibit to the Zoo, please donate online at: [donation link]. Thank you for your help in bringing this exhibit one step closer to the Zoo.

Congratulations to Christy Wells, Marcia Woodard and Doug Goode for receiving their longevity awards from the City of Montgomery. Each of these valued employees have worked with the Montgomery Zoo and the City of Montgomery for 20 years. Congratulations, and wishing you many more happy years serving the citizens of the River Region. Pictured left to right with Mayor Todd Strange, Christy Wells, Clerk II; Marcia Woodard, Zoo Deputy Director; and Doug Goode, Zoo Director.
Go on an archeological dig and discover bones from the past at the Montgomery Zoo, Saturday, May 2, 10am - noon. Geared for boys and girls ages 4-10 years old. Make new discoveries and new friends. Reserve our spot online at montgomeryzoo.com. Advanced reservations required.

Contrary to popular belief, ostriches do not bury their heads in the sand. The old saying probably originates with one of the bird’s defensive behaviors. At the approach of trouble, ostriches will lie low and press their long necks to the ground in an attempt to become less visible.
UPCOMING ZOO EVENTS

APRIL 11-12, ZOO WEEKEND. Festive environment with live entertainment, games, rides, bouncy houses and inflatable slides, 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. Saturday and Sunday, April 11-12, 9am - 6pm daily.

APRIL 15, OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR ZOO SUMMER CAMP. Open enrollment begins for Zoo Summer Camp, June 1 - July 24, for boys and girls, ages 5-12 years old, full and half day camps available. Register online at montgomeryzoo.com or during your next visit to the Zoo. For more information, contact the Education Department at (334) 240-4909.

APRIL 21-22, 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 games, see live animal presentations, keeper talks, and more. School group rates available, advanced reservations required.

MAY 2, DINO DIG EDUCATION PROGRAM. Go on an archeological dig and discover bones from the past. Make new discoveries and new friends. Geared for boys and girls, ages 4-10 years old. Reserve a spot online today at montgomeryzoo.com.

MAY 10, MOTHER’S DAY. Celebrate Mother’s Day at the Montgomery Zoo. All moms receive FREE admission to the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Thanks Mom!

JUNE 18, MILITARY DAY. All military personnel and their dependent families receive FREE admission to the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Food, drinks and refreshments are also provided. Thank you for proudly serving.

NEED MORE INFORMATION

Animal Enrichment Day onlookers. Flamingos. Maned wolf. Prehensile-tailed skink in Reptile House. Jaguars. Lion training. Siamangs. African elephants. If you missed this one, no worries, the next Animal Enrichment Day will be Saturday, July 18, 10am - 2pm.
Jungle Drums

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

MONTGOMERY ZOO
MANN WILDLIFE LEARNING MUSEUM

ZOO WEEKEND
MONTGOMERY ZOO AND MANN MUSEUM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY, APRIL 11 - 12, 9am - 6pm

SEE ANIMALS from AROUND THE GLOBE. ENJOY GREAT FAMILY FUN TIME. SEE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT and ANIMAL PRESENTATIONS. DELIGHT in PLAYING GAMES and WINNING PRIZES. RELISH in the ARRAY OF CONCESSIONS. SAVE on DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIPS. HOP ABOARD OUR TRAIN. FLY HIGH ON a SKYLIFT RIDE. ENJOY SOME PERSONAL TIME WITH THE ANIMALS @ PARAKEET COVE, GIRAFFE ENCOUNTER, PONY RIDES, PETTING ZOO, AND CAMEL RIDES.