a 6 foot tall bundle of joy
Connie, Ashley and Willie are on display daily in our African realm

Animal Enrichment Day
Animal Enrichment Day, Saturday, July 18, 10am - 2pm

Magical Creatures
Education program, Saturday, August 8, 10am - 1pm

Zoo Animals:
Giraffe calf

Zoo Education:
Zoo Summer Camp
Bringing Rays

Janey Whitten Sabel, MAZS President

I’d like to share a recent vacation adventure in Panama City Beach, Florida. Several schools of Manta Rays were lazily swimming parallel to the beach, as were ocean turtles, enjoying the abundance of plankton to eat. A group of us made our way out to the chest deep water, quietly awaiting the Rays to pass by, when we were startled by the curiosity and quickness these ocean animals possess. They swam all among us and then were gone! The rays were so close I could see their skin, gills, body shape, and color patterns. I was reminded of the future Stingray Bay exhibit coming to the Montgomery Zoo, and hopefully the exuberance I felt will be shared by Zoo visitors. Currently, the Montgomery Area Zoological Society is raising funds for completion of StingRay Bay exhibit. And we need your help. Currently we are about 70% of budget on this multi-year fundraising effort.

September 17 at 6pm, the Montgomery Area Zoological Society hosts its annual fundraising soiree called Zoobilation. It’s an adults only evening of cocktails with live music, dinner and dancing under the stars. Browse the Auction Tent, bid on favorites generously donated by local businesses and individuals. If you wish to support this effort, whether through corporate sponsorship, Zoobilation ticket purchases, auction item donation for the silent auction, or as a food and beverage vendor, please contact me at mazspresident@gmail.com. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

Continued on page 3
Joining the Zoo was a smart decision for you and your family. You may know about all of the benefits that come with membership. However, summer is always a good time for a brief benefits overview.

The membership benefit that gives all year long is the unlimited visitation to the zoo and/or Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. For many families, this is the economical and primary reason that they joined the zoo. After just a few trips to the zoo, most families can see the savings add up.

As a comparison, I have highlighted below two families of four, with two parents and two children that are 13 years or older. Both families visit the zoo often, but one family has a zoo membership, and the other does not.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family with a zoo-only membership</th>
<th>Family without a membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$85 annual membership fee</td>
<td>$0 membership fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 visits/year, no additional cost</td>
<td>4 visits/year to just zoo = $240 annually</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Lights Festival, free</td>
<td>Christmas Lights Festival, $60 for family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children attend Zoo Weekend, free</td>
<td>Children attend Zoo Weekend, $30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Annual Cost = $85</strong></td>
<td><strong>Annual Cost = $330</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Show this comparison to your friends who are not zoo members and they will easily realize what a wonderful value a zoo membership is. Important to note is that most families will likely visit the zoo more than four times per year, so the annual savings are often greater. Family memberships can include up to six (6) children 18 years old and younger, while a Grandparents membership includes up to eight (8) children in addition to the named grandparents.

In addition to the admission savings, members receive free or discounted admission at select zoos and aquariums throughout the United States. For an updated list of reciprocating zoos and aquariums, please visit our web site at: montgomeryzoo.com/reciprocity-list.html.

Other benefits include free admission to Zoo Weekend and the Christmas Lights Festival, 50% discount on Zoo Boo admission (free for Upper Level members), and a 10% discount on gift shop purchases, Overlook Cafe food and drinks, education programs, shelter rentals, summer camp, brick pavers and animal adoptions.

A few other reminders for our members… Remember you can always park at the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum and enter the zoo there, even if your membership does not include the museum. Museum staff can provide you with your wristbands and attraction tickets. This is often the quickest way to enter the zoo, as lines are minimal compared to the main gate. Also, members can enter the zoo after 4pm, but remember that major animal exhibits close daily at 4:30pm and the last train ride is at 4:45pm. Lastly, members can renew their membership online, by phone, or in person at the gift shop.

There is not enough thanks to give to our members. Through the years, it is because of members like you that we have made new and improved exhibits a reality. Your membership also benefits the Montgomery metro area, because a vibrant zoo adds to the quality of life for those living in the river region and beyond. Many cities of Montgomery’s size do not have a zoo, so you are a part of something that makes Montgomery a unique place.

For complete information on all of our membership levels, visit: montgomeryzoo.com/memberships.html.

---

**Bringing Rays to the Zoo**

**Continued from page 2**

Special offer for Zoo Members: Because we value your membership and support of Montgomery Area Zoo, please accept this offer to buy Zoobilation tickets online through montgomeryzoo.com, saving $10 off the Zoobilation ticket price. Enjoy an Early Bird Special and discounted price from August 1-8 only. Members use ZOOEB1 as code to obtain discount. Purchase your tickets online between August 1-8, and enjoy a nice discount and a wonderful evening at the Zoo.

Imagine the fine addition of rays swimming gently through a shallow pool; the docile Rays slowly swim by you as you stand outside the pool. To feed them, simply open your hand, palm facing up, and then feel its gentle mouth as the Rays nibble away. Nothing to fear. Only delight, and maybe a squeal!

Thank you for your kind and generous support of the Montgomery Zoo. We hope to exceed your expectations with the new exhibit, Stingray Bay.

Temporary stingray exhibit during Zoo Weekend: Guests enjoy the one-on-one experience of touching and feeding the free swimming stingray. This year’s Zoobilation, being held on Thursday night, Sept 17 at the Zoo, will aid in raising funds to build this new and exciting addition to the Zoo.
Help me in welcoming aboard one of our newest team members, John Greene. He is our new Marketing and Public Relations Manager, as well as, taking on the responsibilities of recruiting and coordinating all the volunteers at the Zoo. Welcome John!

Aiding in marketing the Montgomery Zoo is now the job of John Greene, who started April 1. Greene replaces Sarah McKemey who retired in February after working 19 years at the Zoo. Greene holds a B.A. and M.P.A. from Auburn University and has over seven years of public relations and marketing experience in state government, higher education, and nonprofits.

John is also currently the volunteer co-coordinator with Christy Wells and enjoys matching volunteers with their interests, gifts and talents. Like most Zoo employees, he wears many hats and serves many needs. He is helping with the production of Jungle Drums, writing press releases, advertising coordination, media relations, customer service and community relations.

“I’m having fun learning more about the Zoo’s animals, encounters, attractions and exhibits. And I try to learn something new each day,” said Greene. He particularly enjoys watching the animals in the African realm interact behind the Giraffe exhibit.

Greene is originally from Birmingham but has lived in Montgomery six years now. He knows what an asset the Zoo is for the River Region community and outreach areas. “The Montgomery area is fortunate to have a zoo like this, and the zoo adds to the overall quality of life for its residents and guests,” added Greene.

So, help me in welcoming John Greene to the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum team and family. We are happy to have him here, and look forward to see how his talents will impact the Zoo.

---

**first tv interview at the Zoo**

**Early morning interviews** are part of John’s many newfound responsibilities at the Zoo. Here John (center) is with Olivia Dees (left), morning WAKA CBS-8 anchor and Jennifer Hutcheson (right), Zoo Education Curator appearing on the morning show promoting an upcoming Zoo event while also using this time to teach viewers about Dusty, our Screech Owl.
So Julia, tell us a little about yourself? I am an animal lover at heart, and a senior at Alabama Christian Academy in Montgomery. I have always lived in Montgomery and have been visiting the zoo since I was two years old.

Where do you volunteer at the zoo, and what do you like about it? I help at the Giraffe Encounter, which is a blast! It is so much fun, and I like seeing people feed the giraffes and have fun interacting with the giraffes. As a volunteer, I get to watch families build memories as they feed the giraffes together. I also help keep the Giraffe Encounter clean as well and answer general questions about the zoo as needed. Volunteering there also gives me a great view of all the animals roaming around the African Realm.

What are your favorite animals to see at the zoo? The lions are always fun to watch, and as a Giraffe Encounter volunteer I get to see them while I volunteer. The lion training is one of my favorite attractions at the zoo. I also enjoy visiting the elephants when I am here. I have lots of favorite animals though.

You were featured in a volunteer promotional video spot, what was that like? I had lots of fun with it and we even recorded the giraffe eating hay. There was a producer from Capital City Connection television station, and he was there with Troy Public Radio who was recording their weekly radio show. I just mentioned in the video my name and that I was a volunteer with the zoo, and that anyone interested in volunteering should call 240-4900. I was able to say my lines correctly on the second take, so I was happy about that.

Outside of class, what activities do you participate in? I have been a member of my high school band for seven years, and have participated in the color guard for the last five years. This keeps me busy, especially during football season. I am also an active member of Key Club, a national service club sponsored by Kiwanis Club.

Besides the zoo, where else do you volunteer? Volunteering is an important part of my life and I enjoy helping others. Along with the zoo, I volunteer with Montgomery Area Non-Traditional Equestrians (MANE) and Compassion 21. MANE is a therapeutic horseback riding program and Compassion 21 is a Montgomery inner-city youth ministry.

What are your career interests and continued on page 7
The big party is coming up soon, Thursday night, Sept 17, Zoobilation will take center stage at the Montgomery Zoo. Zoobilation is an annual fundraising event hosted by the MAZS. This year’s event will be raising funds for the new, touch-and-feel Stingray exhibit.

The Zoo is very fortunate to have a fundraising arm, the Montgomery Area Zoological Society (MAZS), that aids in raising funds to help grow and expand the Zoo and Museum. Past efforts have included bringing the Mann Museum, the African Elephant exhibit, the North American River Otter exhibit, the Zoofari Skylift Adventure ride and the newly-opened North American Alligator exhibit to the Zoo. The MAZS is dedicated to the growth, development and continued expansion of the Zoo and Museum for the generations of River Region citizens, city guests and zoo-lovers alike to treasure and enjoy.

Zoobilation is the center annual fundraising effort of the MAZS. The goal for this year’s event is $185,000. Should they reach this goal, this will complete the fundraising efforts for the Stingray exhibit and construction could begin shortly after. So, please help the Zoo and Museum by supporting Zoobilation as either a sponsor, vendor or participant. We will gladly accept your support and all contributions. For more info about Zoobilation, please refer to page 2 of this issue of Jungle Drums, follow updates on our web site (montgomeryzoo.com) and all of our social media, including Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
**Animal Care | Enrichment Day**

Ken Naugher, Conservation and Enrichment Manager

---

**Volunteer spotlight**

*Volunteer opportunities at Zoo*

**Continued from page 5**

Volunteer opportunities at Zoo

**Volunteer spotlight**

Volunteer spots

**Volunteer opportunities at Zoo**

Saturday, July 18, 2015, 10am-2pm, the Zoo will be hosting Summer
Animal Enrichment Day, featuring 16 animal exhibits. We will start
in the South American realm, then work our way around the Zoo. The
first enrichment will begin at 10am.

**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 results in increased physical and mental exercise.

In order to choose an enrichment item we keep a database of tried enrichment items used 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 enrichment use 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.

**Enrichment can be fun, entertaining, but most importantly beneficial to our animal residents.**

---

Guests and onlookers will shift from exhibit to exhibit until the event concludes around 2pm. Maps will be provided with exhibit names and times. Summer enrichment items are typically geared around cool treats, water and cold items.

**Animal Care | Enrichment Day**

Ken Naugher, Conservation and Enrichment Manager

---

**Volunteer opportunities at Zoo**

**Volunteer spotlight**

Volunteer spots

**Volunteer opportunities at Zoo**

**Continued from page 5**

goals? College is the first step, and right now I am looking at Auburn University
Montgomery, Troy University, Faulkner University, and Huntingdon College. I like
to help people and want to work in the community counseling field, specifically
with those people struggling with addiction. I hope to be a licensed counselor after I
graduate from college.

Do you have anything else to add about volunteering at the zoo? I would recommend
volunteering at the zoo for sure. The zoo’s staff trained me well and I was able to get a
hang of it quickly. Anytime I had a question or needed something, a zoo employee was
able to assist me. I am looking forward
to volunteering more this summer and at
Zoo Boo in October. It is a fun way to get
volunteer service hours as well.

**Volunteer opportunities at Zoo**

**Volunteer spotlight**

Volunteer spots

**Volunteer opportunities at Zoo**

**Continued from page 5**

goals? College is the first step, and right now I am looking at Auburn University
Montgomery, Troy University, Faulkner University, and Huntingdon College. I like
to help people and want to work in the community counseling field, specifically
with those people struggling with addiction. I hope to be a licensed counselor after I
graduate from college.

Do you have anything else to add about volunteering at the zoo? I would recommend
volunteering at the zoo for sure. The zoo’s staff trained me well and I was able to get a
hang of it quickly. Anytime I had a question or needed something, a zoo employee was
able to assist me. I am looking forward
to volunteering more this summer and at
Zoo Boo in October. It is a fun way to get
volunteer service hours as well.
I am six feet tall at birth and will grow to be one of the tallest land animals on the planet. My spot pattern is unique to me, and me alone. I have large eyes giving me excellent vision. I am the newest addition to the Giraffe exhibit at the Montgomery Zoo, and my name is Connye. Oh, I am the cutest thing ever.

The Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum proudly announces the birth of a female giraffe calf named Connye. Connye was born on March 23rd at the Montgomery Zoo to proud parents Ashley and Willie. This is Ashley’s (mother) first calf, and Willy’s (father) third calf. Ashley is eight years old and Willy is nearly 12 years old.

Connye made her grand, public debut onto the Giraffe exhibit Wednesday, April 22 at 10:30am, during Mayor Todd Strange’s weekly media briefing. She galloped out on display following closely to mom hearing a collective sigh, gasps, oohs and aawws from the gathering crowd. Prior to Connye’s debut, mother and calf spent about a month off display restricted to their barn and sideyard area. This time alone allows for solid, one-on-one bonding and nurturing, which is extremely important and valuable for the health and overall well-being of the calf. “Ashley is an extremely good mother. She is very good about showing Connye exactly what she needs to do, and quick to nip out any bad or unhealthy traits,” Zookeeper Leann Casey said. “We usually keep large animal offspring on a bonding time from anywhere from three to six weeks. Connye has been with her mom. She’s just wide-open, running in loops, looking at how much room she’s got! She’s loving it, she’s having a blast and enjoying herself.”

The Montgomery Zoo’s African realm features the reticulated giraffe (Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata), also known as the Somali giraffe, a subspecies of giraffe native to Somalia, southern Ethiopia, and northern Kenya. The reticulated giraffe is among the most well-known of the nine giraffe subspecies. Its coat consists of large, polygonal, liver-colored spots outlined by a network of bright, white lines. The blocks may sometimes appear deep red and may also cover the legs.

The average gestation period for a giraffe is approximately 15 months (453-464 days). Giraffes give birth in a ‘calving ground’ and mothers will often return to where they were born to have their own calves. At the Zoo, keepers prepared the giraffe’s night quarters with several inches of sand which provides secure footing. The average height at birth is just under 6 feet with a tendency for the females to be slightly smaller than the males. A newborn calf will hit the scales at approximately 220lbs. Newborn calves grow very quickly and can nearly double their height in their first year of life.

Connye, Ashley and Willie are on display daily from 9am - 4:30pm, pending weather and animal husbandry needs. Come out soon. Connye is growing fast!
Like most newborns, Connye is curious, cute and loves to explore. She remains close to mom, but from time to time enjoys some time to venture out. Far right, Mayor Todd Strange introducing Connye to the public and the media for the first time during his weekly media briefing.
In Montgomery, summer typically means school is out, temps get a little warmer and Zoo Summer Camp is in session. Let the wildlife adventures begin, new friendships start, learn about wild critters and have a blast!

During the course of the summer, the Montgomery Zoo will host nearly 250 campers ranging in age from 5 - 12 years of age, boys and girls; some repeaters and some new to the program. The campers have the opportunity to enjoy and participate in various unique experiences while making new friends, seeing our Education animal collection up close and personal, touring the Zoo and Mann Museum, going on behind the scene tours, arts and craft time, games, engaging in keeper talks and having tons of fun.

Each day of camp is dedicated to a different continent represented here at the Zoo; Australia, Asia, Africa, North America and South America. This year’s theme is “Where do they Live?” The day may begin with a scavenger hunt, then a live animal presentation, arts and craft time, a visit to one of our rides or attractions, plenty of snack and lunch time, play time and so much more. Campers have the choice of attending a full-day camp (8am - 5pm) or half-day (8am - noon).

If you missed out on this year’s camp, no worries. Next summer will be here before you know it. And remember, Montgomery Zoo members have about a six-week advanced opportunity to enroll. If you are looking for an end of summer Education program, let me remind you of our Magical Creatures program on Saturday, Aug 8, 10am - noon. This program lets guests get an up close and personal experience with many of the animals found in the Harry Potter and The Hobbit series. It will be fun and educational. For more info, please visit our web site at montgomeryzoo.com or give us a call at (334) 240-4909.
Thank you Taoist Tai Chi Society

Thank you to the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Montgomery. On Saturday, May 16, 2015 9am - 1pm, the Taoist Tai Chi Society visited the Zoo and treated guests to various demonstrations. The group also generously donated $875 to the Zoo on behalf of the North American Big Horn Sheep (Ram). The Year 2015 is declared as the Year of the Ram.

Thank you to all the members of the Taoist Tai Chi Society of Montgomery that participated in the day’s event as well as the donation to the Zoo. Your generosity and sense of community will help serve generations to come.

The pic above is a snapshot of Willie, our male, 18-foot giraffe and resident ham. It was recently contributed by a zoo friend and member, Martha Abbott White. As you can see, Willie loves having his picture taken. Or does he think he is about to get a snack? Either way, it definitely gave Ms. White and her guests an opportunity to snap a memory that she and others will remember for a very long time.

When we posted this pic to our Facebook pages, we were shocked by its response. This single post collected over 3,400 likes and shares within a 24 hour period. Wow, this is definitely evidence of the power of social media and a cute, adorable giraffe face.

We love to see your pics. Help us share your experience at the Zoo and Museum. Whether we share your pics on social media or in our annual Jungle Drums calendar, we love seeing your wildlife adventures here at the Zoo and Museum through your eyes (and camera lens).

So, if you are interested in sharing your favorite zoo moments, please send them to Steven C. Pierce, 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36110 or email to scpierce@montgomeryal.gov. Please send high-resolution photo files that are at least 9x6 inches, 350dpi and saved in a JPG, PSD, TIF or PDF file format. We can’t wait to see what you send, and send as many as you like. We post items daily, and we are excited about sharing your wildlife adventures with our friends, members, guests, and the world.

Questions? Call (334) 240-4920.
Summers in Alabama can get a little toasty. So what better place to visit when you are getting a little hot in the Zoo... why that would be the cool corridors of the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. You know, where the Polar bears hang out.

Polar bears only enjoy hanging out where it is nice and cold. So on those hot summer days when you are visiting the Zoo, the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum is an excellent retreat from the heat. The Museum is always 72 degrees, breezy and not a cloud in the sky. Plus, you might just bump into a friendly Polar bear, or two.

Polar bears are typically found in colder regions of the world, like the Arctic. They are big, powerful, white bears. Adult males normally weigh 775 to 1,200 pounds. Adult females are much smaller, hitting the scales at 330 to 650 pounds.

Polar bears are perfectly adapted for life on the sea ice. They hunt their main prey there: seals. Polar bears especially like to eat seal blubber. That’s because it has a high fat content. They sometimes eat other foods like walruses or beached whales, but seals are their most important food source.

Unlike other bear species, Polar bears do not hibernate. Most of them remain on the sea ice all winter long to hunt seals. This aids in building and storing body fat, which helps them survive the harsh Arctic winters, which can last 6-8 months.

Pregnant female bears dig snow dens in the fall to give birth. They remain in the dens for four to eight months. When they give birth, it usually is to twins. Polar bear cubs weigh just over one pound at birth and they have fine, soft fur. Cubs remain with their mother in the den until they are three or four months old, drinking her rich milk.

To learn more or to see a Polar bear standing tall and only inches away (or you just need to escape that Alabama heat), stop by the Mann Museum and check out our furry collection. See you soon!

Polar bears aren't actually white! Polar bear fur is clear and hallow, containing no pigment. The refractive light makes it appear white. Depending upon the lighting, the bear’s surroundings and time of day, polar bears can look yellow, brown, or even grey.
Almost everyone uses social media to some extent. Knowing that, the Zoo is increasing its social media presence to expand our brand to better communicate.

In late May, the Zoo launched its Instagram page, montgomeryzoo. In just a few weeks, the page has already attracted over 500 followers. The followers consist of zoos, museums, animal conservation groups, media outlets, and individuals. Instagram works similarly to Twitter, but users can only access it on a phone. Ideal for photo sharing, some people prefer it over Twitter or Facebook for pictures. Every Instagram post must contain one photo or video, and users have the option to add a caption. Instagram also includes a photo editor, which is very helpful. Download Instagram on your phone and follow our page so that we can reach more people.

We are now posting to Twitter@ZooMannMuseum frequently to update our followers on events, as well as sharing photos. Twitter is limited to 140 characters per tweet, compared to Instagram, which does not limit the text for each post. Although we have doubled our Twitter followers since May, we are trying to reach 500 by the year’s end. Follow us, retweet our tweets, and tell others to follow us.

In addition to Twitter and Instagram, the Zoo has reached 5,951 likes and maxed out at 5,000 friends on Facebook. We post to Facebook daily and usually include a picture with each post. Facebook is a useful tool for keeping the public informed about our events and animal updates. The April 22 post announcing Connye, the giraffe calf debut, reached nearly 16,000 people. Facebook also provides visitors a great way to leave feedback about their zoo experience. We are averaging 60 new likes per week, so we hope to exceed 7,500 likes by the end of the year.

Our social media platforms continue to be an effective way to supplement our website for daily visit information, animal trivia, event updates, new exhibits, animal updates and admission specials. If you want to share photos from your zoo trips for use on our social media, please email pictures to: JFGreene@montgomeryal.gov. Please include photo credit, contact info and little info about the pic.

Train 1 retires after 22 years

THANK YOU MISS CONNYE
FOR ALL THE WONDERFUL
TRAIN RIDES AND YOUR
ENDEARING SMILE.

If you or your children have ever ridden the train adventure ride at the Zoo, you have definitely encountered Miss Connye. Her bright smile and welcoming demeanor have welcome thousands and multiple generations to this wonderful Zoo attraction and ride. After 22 years of loyal service to the City of Montgomery, the Montgomery Zoo, the citizens of the River Region, and countless guests of the Zoo, Connye Collins (Train 1) has retired.

Connye’s last day at work was the Sunday of Zoo Weekend, April 12. During these 22 years of service to the Zoo, Connye worked in our maintenance department, as a zookeeper and finally as our main, and much loved, train driver... and every now and then, you might just catch her over at the petting zoo.

Connye was a valued member of our team, and she will be greatly missed. However, we wish her the very best in retirement, and many wonderful years ahead. Thank you Connye!
Color Me Giraffe calf
Can giraffe calves walk almost instantly? Yeppers, pretty much. Giraffe calves typically are able to walk within 10-15 minutes after birth and can run within 30 minutes. If born in the wild, a calf would be easy prey if unable to walk. So being able to walk and run so quickly aids them in their survival.

AUG 8: MAGICAL CREATURES zood program
See some of the magical animals that are featured in the Harry Potter and Hobbit series, Saturday, Aug 8, 10am - noon. Geared for boys and girls ages 5-12 years old. Make new discoveries and new friends. Reserve our spot online at montgomeryzoo.com. Advanced reservations required.
The Gallery | Animal trivia, did you know

1: Do you like my big eyes? Yeppers, I do have big eyes. In fact, the African ostrich has the largest eyes of any land mammal in the world. Larger than an elephant, zebra, tiger, even a giraffe. An ostrich’s eye will measure two inches across. Those big eyes help me see approaching predators, so I can “escape” a bad situation... if you know what I am talking about. Those big cats love my drumsticks. And, I like them too. Pic contributed by Andrea McTaggart, zoo friend and member.

2: When you see me, it might just be too late. The jaguar is an opportunistic, stalk-and-ambush predator at the top of the food chain (an apex predator). Its spotted coat (or melanistic black coat) blends well with the jungle backdrop and foliage allowing it to closely stalk its prey until the time of attack. Jaguars are also known to ambush-style attack from trees not even allowing their prey to know what has hit them.

3: Lions are the second largest big cat species in the world (behind tigers). The average male lion weighs around 400lbs, while the average female lion weighs around 290lbs. The heaviest lion on record weighed an amazing 826lbs. Pic contributed by Gary Seals, zoo friend and member.

4: For your next Hump Day. For some, Wednesday is a tuffy. They just need a nap or a pop of energy to get them to Friday. Maned wolves have the same probably. In fact, you may notice them sleeping on the job (display) from time to time. Reason for that, the maned wolf is actually a nocturnal animal. They hunt and prowl at night and sleep during the day. So, if you catch them taking a quick nap, no worries, it is just the nature of being a maned wolf. Pic contributed by Diana Bunch, zoo friend and member.

JULY 6 - 24, ZOO SUMMER CAMP. Zoo Summer Camp, July 6 - July 24, for boys and girls, ages 5-8 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.

JULY 18, ANIMAL ENRICHMENT DAY, 10am - 2pm. From zoo animals to our pets at home and even including us, we all need enrichment: a chance to smell a new scent, taste a new flavor, play a new game or figure out a puzzle. Enrichment is an effort to tap into and stimulate our basic five senses: touch, sight, smell, taste and hear. The result is to stimulate behaviors resembling those for that species in a wild. It is a lot of trial and error, but it is always fun.

AUG 8, MAGICAL CREATURES, 10am - NOON. Meet some of the magical animals that are featured in movies like Harry Potter series and The Hobbit. You will get a chance to meet animals up close, learn about them in their habitats, and take home some special prizes for yourself. Make new discoveries and new friends. Geared for boys and girls, 5-12 years old, advanced reservations required.

SEP 17, ZOOBILATION, 6pm - 10pm. Dance to the groove, delight in drinks and food samplings from the finest eateries in the River Region, try your luck at the vast collection of auction items and rub elbows with the area’s finest animal lovers. Zoobilation is a fundraiser geared for adults only. All guests must be 21 years old or older to attend. Tickets are $50, purchased online at montgomeryzoo.com, at the Zoo’s gift shop and museum.
WE KNOW WILD

July/August events

July 6-10: Zoo Summer Camp, ages 7-8, full day
July 13-17: Zoo Summer Camp, ages 5-6, half day
July 20-24: Zoo Summer Camp, ages 5-6, half day
July 18: Animal Enrichment Day
August 8: Magical Creatures Education Program

Please check online at montgomeryzoo.org or call (334) 248-6900 for more details concerning each of these dates and events.

ALWAYS MORE TO SEE & DO @ YOUR MONTGOMERY ZOO & MANN WILDLIFE LEARNING MUSEUM

Two fantastic attractions, one location.