After years of fund raising and construction delays, March 6 was opening day for the public to visit Stingray Bay. Thanks to our zoo members, visitors, amazing donors, and hardworking Montgomery Zoo staff and MAZS board members, the dream came true.

Stingray Bay is an oasis for the senses. The slight taste of salt in the air, the gurgling of the water in the tanks, the rainbow of colors of the different fish, all invite you to enter, relax, and enjoy.

Upon entering Stingray Bay, you will be amazed at the colors inside the 6,700 gallon saltwater touch pool, home to stingrays, horseshoe crab, starfish, sea urchins, fiddler and clown fish and sharks. Visitors can touch and feel the stingrays as they swim by. There is also a coral reef tank filled with tropical fish of every color of the rainbow to view and enjoy. A big screen info center plays softly off to the side providing visitors with additional information and fun facts about the different animals on exhibit.

The entrance to Stingray Bay is adjacent to the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum and just beyond, and to the left of the chimpanzee exhibit. Admission is free with your paid Zoo admission. The hours of operation are 10am - 4pm daily.

Get ready for more fun and excitement! The next major project is the construction of a new Reptile House. The first fund raising event was Zoo Weekend. Save the date, September 13 for Zoobilation, one of our biggest and tastiest fundraisers with regional food and beverage vendors, great music, and a silent auction. This is an adult only event from 6pm - 10pm. Make plans to join us!
Director Talk | Thank you Doug!
Marcia Woodard, Montgomery Zoo Director

From zookeeper to director, Doug Goode built a legacy and made an impact at the Montgomery Zoo that will be enjoyed and treasured for generations. Thank you Doug!

As I sat down to begin writing for this month’s Jungle Drums I knew that it would be a difficult one. Doug Goode, the Zoo Director of the Montgomery Zoo for the past 17 years retired on March 28, 2018 after 20 years of service. So this article is a tribute to his legacy at the Montgomery Zoo.

Doug began his career at the Montgomery Zoo in January of 1994 as a Zookeeper I. He quickly moved into a Zookeeper II position in September of 1994 giving him management of the South American Realm of the zoo. Then in November of 1997, Doug left the Montgomery Zoo to further his management skills by becoming the Assistant Zoo Director of Zoo World in Panama City Beach, Florida. Eight short months after Doug’s departure, he made his way back home to the Montgomery Zoo to become the Deputy Zoo Director. Then in June of 2001 Doug was promoted to Zoo Director of which he held until his retirement.

During Doug’s twenty year employment with the Montgomery Zoo we have seen tremendous growth. The following exhibits/attractions and experiences have been added since 2001: Mann Wildlife Learning Museum, Elephant Exhibit, North American River Otters, New Playground, Parakeet Cove, Skylift, Alligators, Giraffe Encounter, Petting Zoo, Pedal Boats, and our newest exhibit, Stingray Bay.

All the employees and Montgomery Area Zoological Society board members worked as a team to fund raise, design and assist with all of these exhibits and attractions, but Doug had the vision to continue to steer us towards new and exciting ventures. His legacy is strong throughout the Zoo with the addition of the eleven exhibit/attractions during his tenure. When an idea was planted in Doug’s mind about a new project, Doug was determined to find a way to make it work. Doug loves the Montgomery Zoo and it definitely shows.

Personally, Doug’s retirement will be difficult for me. He was my partner in crime, best buddy, and like a big brother to me. We spent many hours laughing, creating, designing, eating, planning, monitoring, administering, and disagreeing with one another, but in the end we did what was best for the Montgomery Zoo. I will miss Doug but welcome him to come back home at the Montgomery Zoo for a visit whenever he gets the urge.

Thank you Doug for your vision and determination for our Zoo. You have left a lasting mark throughout our Zoo that many people will enjoy for years to come.

Golden Egg Award

The Golden Egg Award is the Society’s highest honor bestowed to an individual or organization. Recipients have dedicated multiple years of service, commitment, and loyalty to making the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum a fun-filled, affordable, educational attraction and zoological facility for children and adults alike. Golden Egg Award honorees have created a legacy of responsible stewardship, animal conservation, education, and preservation to be shared with the River Region community and the world. Past recipients include, but not limited to Jack Galassini, Leon Hadley, Larry Stevens, Bob Robinson, Sr., Hobbs Foundation, Dottye Hannan, Rita Sabel, Mrs. Jean Weil, Mayor Emory Folmar, Mayor Bobby Bright, and Betty Brislin.

Doug has spent many years dedicated to growing and expanding of the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Museum. His years here will be forever memorialized for generations of visitors, children and adults alike, to enjoy and to be transported to countries across the globe as they peer into the eyes of the animals that reside here at the Zoo.

Thank you Doug, and enjoy retirement!

Honoring Doug Goode at retirement banquet (left to right) Todd Strange, Mayor of the City of Montgomery; Doug Goode, Man of the Hour and former Zoo Director; Charles Jinright, President of the City of Montgomery City Council.
Let me take you back to any Sunday in the late ’60s. We are riding along Route 5 in upstate NY. Grandpa Champ and Gana in the front seat, and 3 very well behaved kids in the back. We were headed to the Utica Zoo, so behaving was not hard. We knew we were half way there when we stopped at the produce stand and bought a bag of carrots. In those days, they let you feed the deer and bunnies carrots from home.

No sooner was the car parked than we were out like a shot, headed for the deer. My favorite was a very old lion named Michael. He was the local “star” of the zoo. If my grandparents got separated from me, they headed for Michael, and there I was, a mini Dr. Doolittle, chattering away to the most beautiful animal I had ever seen.

Jump to 1976. I am now a freshman at Herkimer County Community College, in upstate NY, and golly, only 20 minutes for the Utica Zoo. Some days we did not feel like going to class, so the whole crew of us (7 people crammed into a Dodge Dart) headed for the zoo. How much more fun than sitting in a classroom learning statistics! And yes, we would still go on a Saturday or Sunday. At this point, they have added a petting zoo and if we got separated, there is where you would find me, still chattering away hoping that some animal would talk to me.

Next stop – 1995, Washington, DC. And The National Zoo – 163 acres of wonderfulness. I applied for, and became, a keeper aide at The Invertebrate Exhibit. After an extensive training program, I was allowed to help feed some of the animals. I was also able to explain the animals in the exhibit to our visitors. I have been inked by cuttle fish and squid, splashed with freezing cold water in the anemone tank and caressed by a female octopus during feeding time. And I loved every minute of it.

Final Stop – 2006 and The Montgomery Zoo. I hear that The Montgomery Zoo is looking for Volunteers for ZooBoo. I answer the call and then I add Zoo Weekend to the list of opportunities. I even volunteered for a whole season of summer camp. *(Not sure who had more fun, me or the campers, but I did learn a lot!)*

In June of 2010, the Giraffe Encounter Post opens and I am there once a week. In April of 2012, I started my paid career at The Montgomery Zoo, working in the gift shop. The opportunities I have been given with the animals is beyond compare. I even got to meet Jim Fowler. Having grown up watching him every Sunday night, this was a dream come true. Why no one ever suggested that I become a zoo keeper when they asked what I wanted to be when I grew up is beyond me. You would have thought telling them “lion trainer” would have led to some interesting discussions.

What do I like best about working at the Zoo? Hard to say. I love animals and the mission of zoos in the conservation and education of the public. If they fall in love with an animal, they are more apt to be concerned about their plight in the wild. The looks of enjoyment on the faces of our visitors, young and old alike. The fact that I am asked to come to the zoo five days a week. Who can argue with that? The Montgomery Zoo may be my “home zoo”, but not the last on my list. My bucket list is full of animal adventures I want to tackle. Galapagos Islands anyone?

And Tami still loves giving the animals treats. Tami (left) and sister Becky hanging out with the bunnies and other petting zoo animals at the Utica Zoo, NY. On the right, Tami giving Cynthia (kangaroo) a little treat at the Montgomery Zoo.
Day one: sunny, blue sky, and lots of Zoo lovers enjoying the day! Day two: Not so much. Rain and rain and rain. Even though the second day of Zoo Weekend was rained out, Saturday was still a huge success with over 8,000 visitors enjoying carnival games, live entertainment, animal presentations, bounce houses, giant slides, a rock climbing wall, a petting zoo, and tasty treats while spending the day seeing all the animals and visiting the new Stingray Bay.

Entertainment was featured on two stages with local groups including the Redland Elementary School Choir, Leap of Faith Dancers and the Youth Edifying Singers performing on the Jaguar Stage and NBC’s The Voice contestant, Charity Bowden, Tayanna Webb, Colonial Revival, and Russell Craig performing on the Cumulus Media main stage.

An event like zoo weekend would not be possible without the help of hundreds of volunteers. On Saturday over 200 people staffed games, inflatables, slides, animal encounters, as well as picked up trash, cleaned tables and so much more. While some were only able to serve for one shift, we had so many willing to stay from daylight to dark to ensure the day was a huge success. We had groups that served together and individuals who just wanted to give back to the community. Simply saying, “Thank you,” does not do justice to how much the giving of each volunteer’s time and talent is appreciated and valued.

Another big thank you is owed to this year’s sponsors, WCOV FOX 20, Cumulus Broadcasting (Mix 103.3, Y-102 101.9, WLWI 92.3, and Fox 95.1), Alabama News Network, Montgomery Coca-Cola Bottling, the Montgomery Advertiser, Guardian Credit Union, Caddell Construction, and Jack’s, as well as the City of Montgomery and Montgomery Area Zoological Society. Without the continued financial and in-kind support of our sponsors events like Zoo Weekend would not be possible.

Zoo Weekend began in 1976 to raise funds to support the zoo’s capital improvement projects. A River Region cherished tradition, despite being only one day, this year’s Zoo Weekend raised over $60,000 that will go toward the building of a new Reptile House and exhibit. Thank you to everyone that came and enjoyed the festivities.

Zoo Weekend 2018 featured an awesome collection of bounce houses and slides, games and rides for all ages, and world class entertainment on the Main and Jaguar stages.
One is known for its sinister smile and prehistoric armor while the other is quick as lightning, playful, and sports an adorable whisker-filled face. Both live in water. Both can be found in local rivers and ponds. But they are extremely opposite. Who could I be talking about?

North America is home to many great rivers, lakes, ponds, swamps and freshwater springs. Within these bodies of water live some of the most amazing creatures. All serving their purpose in the freshwater ecosystem. Among these are The North American Alligator (Alligator mississippiensis) and the North American River Otter (Lontra canadensis).

The Alligator has not only been spared from extinction, but is thriving. Residing in rivers, lakes, swamps, and marshes of the southeastern United States. While sometimes found in brackish waters, gators cannot live in salt water due to the lack of salt glands. This is an organ that expels salt from the body. Adult alligators are apex predators. They feed mainly on fish, turtles, snakes, and small birds. However they are opportunistic and will eat anything conveniently available, such as fallen birds.

These reptiles can reach an astounding 1000 pounds and a record 15 feet. That is large enough to consume a human, but it’s highly unlikely. Humans, however, are the only predator the gator must deal with once its reached about 4 feet.

Otters are not endangered at this time. They are however sensitive to pollution and habitat loss. Otters make their home at the water’s edge, relying on a series of tunnels one or more of which, leads to the water. They are equally comfortable in water and on land. They thrive in rivers, lakes, swamps, and estuary ecosystems. Otters are built for swimming. They possess water repellent fur, webbed feet, and ears and nostrils that close in the water. They are capable of holding their breath for eight minutes and remain active in winter using ice holes to breach the surface and breathe. While dining on crayfish, amphibians, and turtles, otters preferred meal is fish.

These are just two examples wildlife that lurk beneath the waters surface. One, a rugged, armored reptile of prehistoric proportions. And the other, a seemingly cuddly mammal capable of so much more than seen at first glance.
A lifelong resident of Montgomery and frequent zoo visitor, Melanie joined the Zoo team as the new Marketing and Public Relations Manager the day before our Annual Volunteer Appreciation Brunch and two weeks before Zoo Weekend. In this position, Melanie will aid in overseeing the Zoo and Museum’s marketing and public relations activities and promote special events. She will also coordinate the Zoo’s volunteer programs.

Melanie expressed early on that she is looking forward to building on the success of her predecessors, like Sarah McKemey (mother of her childhood friend, Angie), and continue to grow the popularity of the zoo not only in the River Region but throughout central, east and south Alabama.

“Successfully promoting the zoo and its many events, education programs, conservation efforts is very important to me, and I hope that my twenty-five plus years of experience will provide new opportunities for the zoo to continue to expand its reach, attract new visitors, as well as remind those who might not have been to the zoo in a while what they are missing. I know it takes a lot of people working together to make the zoo enjoyable for thousands of visitors each year, being part of one of Montgomery’s premier attractions is the chance of a lifetime,” Melanie said.

Melanie has over 25 years of experience in public relations and marketing in corporate, non-profit and state/local government environments. A graduate from Auburn University Montgomery (BS) and Faulkner University (MSM), Melanie believes education is key to anyone’s success. She received her Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) credentials in 2015.

Melanie and her husband, Warren, have two children, Sara and Joey, daughter-in-law, Mary Katherine and one grandson, Carter, who already loves the zoo as much as she does.
Welcome to Stingray Bay, the Montgomery Zoo's newest animal encounter and exhibit! I’m so happy to have this opportunity to tell you about the Montgomery Zoo’s newest addition, an exciting new experience for all ages to enjoy. Stingray Bay is home to two large marine exhibits; a 6,700 gallon touch pool and a 600 gallon observation tank.

Our large touch pool is home to three different species of rays. We have Fiddler rays, Southern stingrays, and Cownose rays. Fiddler rays are found off the southern and eastern coasts of Australia. Southern stingrays and Cownose rays are both found in the Gulf of Mexico and along the Atlantic shores of the Americas. When they feed, all three species act like vacuums as they search the ocean floor for invertebrates, crustaceans, shellfish, and mollusks. All three species are also ovoviviparous, meaning their young develop in eggs that stay inside the mother’s body until it’s time to hatch. If you are concerned about the STING in the rays, fear not! We remove the barbs of the Southern and Cownose rays just like trimming your fingernails, and the Fiddlers do not possess any barbs.

The rays have some wonderful neighbors. Porcupine and Dog-faced puffers, Blue Spiny lobsters, Emperor angelfish, Clown tangs, Red-tail triggerfish, Emperor snappers, and Miniatus and Blue Spotted groupers. There are also Tiger crowie, Babylonia snails, Horseshoe crabs, and Red Knob sea stars.

Our Reef Tank is built for viewing the active behaviors of a huge variety of colorful marine life. The hard and soft corals, sponges, anemones, zoanthids, Blue sea star, and Feather Dusters may look like plants, but they are in fact animals. They are absolutely fascinating invertebrates that have to have their own specific territory. Four tang species – Yellow, Sailfin, Powder Blue, and Regal – are some of the brightest fish, while the Longhorn Cowfish are some of the most curious. You can usually find the Ocellaris and Skunk Clownfish around the anemones, and the Longnose hawkfish is typically lounging on coral. The Pajama cardinalfish, Firefish, Purple dottyback, and the Lyretail anthias are all busybodies checking on everything in the tank. Last month we hung sharks eggs in our Reef Tank, and all four Banded Cat sharks have successfully hatched. They can be found hiding under rock structures and in crevices.

Stingray Bay is located adjacent to the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. If you are traveling through from the Zoo side, Stingray Bay is located directly across the train tracks from the Chimpanzee exhibit and African Elephant habitat. Stingray Bay is open 10am - 4pm daily. Entry is FREE with paid Zoo admission.

**STINGRAY FEEDINGS** Stingray feedings have begun, and we are so excited. Feeding will take place twice per day. These feeding times will give zoo guests an opportunity to enjoy a relaxed, one-on-one encounter with the stingrays while providing them food as a treat. Stingray feedings will take place daily at 11am – 11:30am and 3pm – 3:30pm. Feeding tickets will be sold at the Mann Museum and Front Admissions Office for $3 per person, per feeding. Guests will purchase tickets either for the 11am or 3pm feeding. So add a little adventure to your life by feeding a stingray at the Montgomery Zoo.
Openings night

**Stingray Bay opens to packed house**

Tuesday, March 6, 2018 at the Montgomery Zoo. Friends, sponsors, City representatives, MAZS board members, media, and Zoo staff all gathered for the unveiling of a project that took seven years of fundraising and planning to come to completion. With speeches made, flashes popping, the ribbon was cut, and people eagerly entered the building in awe and surprise of the new exhibit.

Stingray Bay welcomes guests to an aquatic animal encounter like none other in the region. This new exhibit features live stingrays in a 30 x 12 foot oval shaped, temperature controlled, 6,700 gallon saltwater pool. Observation panels are placed along the sides so guests can watch the animals swim by. Stingray Bay houses a variety of species of stingrays; cownose, southern, and fiddler rays. In addition to stingrays, the new exhibit will include other aquatic species such as horseshoe crabs, lobster, puffer fish, red and blue starfish, sea urchins, and living coral.

Stingray Bay is located adjacent to the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. If you are coming from the Zoo side, directly across the train tracks from the Chimpanzee exhibit. Open daily 10am - 4pm.

There is more to Stingray Bay than just stingrays. We have an assorted collection of colorful fish, sea creatures, and living coral. From the brightly colored Ocellaris Clownfish to Black and White Banded Cat Sharks to Emperor Angelfish, Horseshoe crabs and so much more, Stingray Bay is like visiting the sea without the sand.

Stringray Bay features two species of stingray; Southern and Cownose. Both can be found in the Gulf of Mexico and western Atlantic Ocean.

Stringray Bay features two species of stingray; Southern and Cownose. Both can be found in the Gulf of Mexico and western Atlantic Ocean.
“Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you!” Who doesn’t love their birthday?! Nothing is more exciting than celebrating someone’s special day. Why not celebrate at the Montgomery Zoo with hundreds of animal friends?

Starting in June, the Montgomery Zoo’s Education Department will be offering birthday party packages on Saturdays and Sundays. Bring your friends and presents and we will provide the rest. Our basic package, the Zebra package, starts out at $350 and includes 10 passes into the zoo, a small snack and drink for 10 guests of the birthday person, a zoo-themed birthday cake, table settings, and an animal visitor. Or maybe you want a little more for your special birthday person. Our Elephant package includes 20 zoo passes for your 20 birthday guests, 4 cheese pizzas, a zoo-themed cake, table settings, drinks, 3 animal friends, a photo of the birthday boy or girl with an animal friend, and a special take home plush animal for the birthday person. We also offer a package in between. Want more animal visitors, you can add that on to your package. Maybe you’d love Zoobeedoo to come visit. We can add that on as well.

Birthday parties will be held on Saturday’s and Sunday’s from 10am-12pm, and 2pm-4pm. Reservations must be made two (2) weeks in advance. You may make your reservations online at montgomeryzoo.com. You may call the Education Department at (334) 354-6034 with any questions. Come celebrate your birthday with the Montgomery Zoo.

*Reservations must be made two (2) weeks in advance, no exceptions will be made. There is a fee for each additional guest, plus the cost of admission into the zoo. Train, Skylift, and the Mann Museum are not included with admission. No balloons or straws are allowed on Zoo property. There is a $100 cancelation fee. Zoo members receive 10% discount on packages only. Please contact our Education Department if you have any questions.

JOIN THE TEAM!

Become part of the Montgomery Zoo’s Education Department. Learn how to care for and handle exotic animals while learning to interact one-on-one with animals, a team, and the general public.

Our next training class is August 11, and all applications are due by August 4, 2018. For more info, check out montgomeryzoo.com or give us a call at (334) 625-4900.
Zoo Camp | Mission Zootopia

Zoo Summer Camp: Mission Zootopia, June - July

Summer is just around the corner. Summer break is also quickly approaching for the kids. Summer break means only one thing…. SUMMER CAMP! Each year Montgomery Zoo host summer camp for children ages 5-12. A week long, fun filled, action packed week of adventure and wild experiences. MISSION: ZOOTOPIA is the theme for this year’s summer camp. Campers will have the opportunity to explore Zootopia, and become detectives themselves, searching for clues to solve mysteries. Summer campers will also get the opportunity to ride the train, feed a giraffe, and even visit our new Stingray Bay. Campers will participate in games, get to paint and make crafts and camp keepsakes, and visit the various animals around the Montgomery Zoo.

Camp begins in June and goes through the end of July, with each week designated for specific age groups. Camp dates and age groups are:

- **June 4-8**: 11 - 12 year olds – Full day camp (8am - 5pm)
- **June 11-15**: 9 - 10 year olds – Half day camp (8am - 12pm noon)
- **June 18-22**: 9 - 10 year olds – Full day camp (8am - 5pm)
- **June 25-29**: 7 - 8 year olds – Half day camp (8am - 12pm noon)
- **July 9-13**: 7 - 8 year olds – Full day camp (8am - 5pm)
- **July 16-20**: 5 - 6 year olds – Half day camp (8am - 12pm noon)
- **July 23-27**: 5 - 6 year olds – Half day camp (8am - 12pm noon)

Register online at montgomeryzoo.com or during your next visit to the Zoo. SPOTS DO FILL QUICKLY, so do not delay in registering your camper. Full day camp tuition is $180 for non-zoo members, $140 for zoo members. Half day is $162 for non-zoo members and $126 for zoo members. Please call our Education department at (334) 354-6034 with any questions you may have.

**Mission Zootopia: This summer is sure to be a wild one.**
The Mann Wildlife Museum features several aquatic animals and semi aquatic animals. An aquatic animal is an animal, either vertebrate or invertebrate, which lives in the water for most of or all of its lifetime. A semi aquatic animal is an animal growing or living in or close to water, or carrying out part of its life cycle in water.

**Catfish** are a diverse group of aquatic, ray-finned fish. Named for their prominent barbels (fleshy filament growing from the mouth or snout of a fish), which resemble a cat’s whiskers, catfish range in size and behavior. Most catfish are bottom feeders. In general, they are negatively buoyant, which means that they will usually sink rather than float due to a reduced gas bladder and a heavy, bony head. Catfish have a variety of body shapes, though most have a cylindrical body with a flattened ventrum to allow for benthic feeding.

**Terrapin** is a species of North American turtle that lives in or near fresh or somewhat salty water. They are one type of Chelonian, which means they have four legs and a tough shell made of two parts, which join at the sides. They also have strong, horny mouths and no teeth. Terrapins mostly catch their food in the water. They eat frog and fish spawn, small fish, mollusks, including snails, crabs and clams, and insects. Some terrapins also eat young plant shoots and others eat worms.

The North American *beaver* have webbed hind-feet, and a broad, scaly tail. They have poor eyesight, but keen senses of hearing, smell, and touch. A beaver’s teeth grow continuously so that they will not be worn down by chewing on wood. Their four incisors are composed of hard orange enamel on the front and a softer dentin on the back. The chisel-like ends of incisors are maintained by their self-sharpening wear pattern.

Beavers are known for their natural trait of building dams on rivers and streams, and building their homes (known as “lodges”) in the resulting pond. Beavers also build canals to float building materials that are difficult to haul over land. They are known for their alarm signal: when startled or frightened, a swimming beaver will rapidly dive while forcefully slapping the water with its broad tail, audible over great distances above and below water. Once a beaver has sounded the alarm, nearby beavers will dive...

Mann Wildlife Learning Museum at the Montgomery Zoo

Hours of operation: 9:00am - 5:00pm
Seven days a week.
Last Mann Museum entrance is at 4:30pm.

**Admission to Mann Museum**

Adults: $7
Children (3-12): $6
Toddlers (2 years and younger): FREE
Seniors 65+: $6

**Combo admission to Zoo and Museum**

Adults: $20
Children (3-12): $15
Toddlers (2 years and younger): FREE
Seniors 65+: $18

Groups large and small are welcome.

On display at the Museum. Beavers and minks are good examples of semi aquatic animals while catfish and terrapin are good examples of aquatic wildlife.
“The unselfish effort to bring cheer to others will be the beginning of a happier life for ourselves.”

— Helen Keller

Volunteering one’s time and talent can have immeasurable benefits, both personally and within the community. No matter how small the task or little time you serve, seeing the effect of your service can be the greatest benefit of all. The zoo relies heavily on volunteers to help with special events and daily operations. The heart of making memories for visitors throughout the year are those volunteers who serve on a daily basis.

One such volunteer is Amy Applegate. Amy and her husband came to Montgomery over ten years ago in conjunction with the Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama project. With two degrees in Animal Science, Amy knew right away that giving back to the community by volunteering at the zoo was what she wanted to do. She quickly found a niche at the Giraffe Encounter and has been volunteering there two days a week since 2012. Amy had special talent for encouraging people who seemed insecure about feeding the giraffes to give the experience a try. Amy said her greatest joy was seeing those same faces come out with big smiles on their faces ready to take another turn.

When not at the zoo, Amy enjoys walking through Old Cloverdale and reading. Amy and John have one daughter who is a veterinarian in Oregon and three cats.

The Montgomery Zoo is fortunate to have dedicated, long-term volunteers such as Amy who we can rely on year after year to support our daily operations. Sadly, we have had to say “farewell for now” to Amy and her husband, John. They retired to Henderson, Nevada in March to be closer to family. Her commitment to making each day an enjoyable experience for guests is appreciated more than they know.

If you are interested in becoming a Zoo volunteer, please contact Melanie Golson at mgolson@montgomeryal.gov or (334) 625-4930.

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 Melanie Golson at (334) 625-4930, register online at montgomeryzoo.com, email mgolson@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: Melanie Golson, Montgomery Zoo, 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36110, (334) 625-4930 or mgolson@montgomeryal.gov

Continued from page 12

Beavers can stay under water for as long as 15 minutes.

American Mink are semi aquatic animals and hence are found in wetland environment, usually near the streams, rivers or any other water bodies. Mink have a long slender body which is around 12-22 inches long. They have short webbed legs which make them an excellent swimmer. The little minks have a long tail and its tail itself comprises of one-third of its body. It has thick glossy hair usually brown to black in color throughout its body and a patch of white under the chin and throat. The soft furs of the minks are covered with waterproof oily hair.

You can see all of these and more wildlife on your visit to the Mann Museum.
Let’s take a look at the facts:
- 70% of Earth’s surface is covered by oceans.
- The world’s oceans contain enough water to fill a cube with edges over 621 miles in length.
- Ocean tides are caused by the Earth rotating while the Moon and Sun’s gravitational pull acts on ocean water.
- While there are hundreds of thousands of known marine life forms, there are many that are yet to be discovered, some scientists suggest that there could actually be millions of marine life forms out there.
- Oceans are frequently used as a means of transport with various companies shipping their products across oceans from one port to another.
- The Earth’s largest ocean is the Pacific Ocean, it covers around 30% of the Earth’s surface.

Levi wins hippo calf naming election!

On May 8, the Zoo held an election to determine the name of our male pygmy hippo calf. He was born January 31 to mother Lola and father Nile. The public had three names to VOTE for: Al, Blue, and Levi. With over 1,200 votes cast, Levi was the clear winner. Thank you to everyone that voted!
75 million years ago, Alabama and the Southern United States, were the stomping grounds of many pre-historic dinosaurs and creatures. Alabama is the best place east of the Mississippi to find dinosaur remains.

The skeletal remains of a juvenile Appalachiosaurus was found by an Auburn geologist in 1982 in the Demopolis Chalk Formation. This young dinosaur is estimated to have weighed in at 1300 pounds and was 23 feet long. Can you imagine the size of mom and dad? The Appalachiosaurus was the dominate, bipedal predator in prehistoric Alabama. Alongside him you might have found a few Ornithominosaurs, an 8 feet long, slender necked dinosaur, with a small skull, big eyes and powerful claws. His hind limbs were long and powerful ending with hoof like claws. The Ornithominosaurus has also been called the Ostrich Dinosaur because of its slight resemblance to today’s ostrich, and the fact that his hide was feathered instead of scaled skin.

Partial fossils of a Lophorothron, Greek for crested nose, were discovered in the 1940’s near Selma, AL. Judging from the skull found, it is believed that this dinosaur was about 14 feet long, lived about 80 million years ago and was a plant and veggie eater.

Ever wonder why fossils of prehistoric sea life were found in Northern Alabama? From 145 – 166 million years ago, during the Cretaceous Period, there was a large inland sea that stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to Canada. This sea was 620 miles wide, from the Rocky Mountains the Appalachians, and was 2,600 to 3,000 feet deep.

Swimming in these warm waters was a prehistoric whale, known as a Basilosaurus. This marine mammal was between 49 - 59 feet long and had a diet of fish and sharks. The Basilosaurus had an eel like body shape with small dorsal fins and a small fluke. This body type suggests that they swam close to the surface.

Joining him in this sea was the Squalicorax, the very hungry pre-historic shark of medium size (about 6 feet in length). They feasted on marine reptiles, turtles, mosasauras, ichthyodectes, and other bony fish and sea creatures. The body shape suggests that they were extremely fast swimmers.

Other skeletal remains that have been found in Alabama are of the Nodoasur, a slow moving, 13 feet armored dinosaur and the Dromaesaurus, a pack hunter with fearsome claws on its fingers and toes. Pteranodon fossils have also been found in Alabama. The Pteranodon had a 25 feet wing span and is considered a flying reptile. They could soar long distances. The Ichthyornis, also living in our area, was a small bird with teeth in its beak and looked for fish in the Late Cretaceous Inland Sea.

The largest collection of Alabama Dinosaurs is found at The McWane Science Center in Birmingham. Right here in Montgomery, the Mann Museum at the Montgomery Zoo offers a close up look at some dinosaur fossils. The saber-tooth tiger skull was found in California and is estimated to be 40,000 years old. The canine teeth in the sculpture are also real and from another fossil find.

There is a display of sharks teeth and bones, crabs and an oyster from 63 million years ago. These were all found in Central Alabama.

The largest fossils on display are the jaw bone, vertebrae and rib bone of a Bowhead Whale found in Alaska and are 3,500 years old.

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