Two jaguar cubs born at Zoo
If you were there, then you know what a great event it was. Zoobilation could not have been more perfect. The evening was breezy and cool, the food was out of this world, refreshments were flowing, the dance beat of the bands was rocking and there was even football on the BIG SCREEN! Yes, indeed, the evening was a grand success. Zoobilation is an extremely important event to the Montgomery Zoo and to its continued success and expansion. Past Zoobilations have aided the Montgomery Zoo in building the African Elephant habitat, North American River Otter exhibit, the Zoofari Skylift ride and the new American Alligator habitat which just opened in August 2014.

Zoobilation 2014 is a continuing effort and part of a multi-year project to raise money for the new stingray exhibit. This exhibit will be a touch-and-feel encounter allowing children and adults alike the opportunity to gather at Stingray Bay and experience a one-on-one encounter with a multitude of free-swimming stingrays. This year’s efforts managed to raise an additional $86,000 towards the project. I want to express a special thank you to all of our sponsors, guests and vendors that made this evening a spectacular party; as well as, a valid fundraising effort for the Montgomery Zoo. If you were unable to attend or to participate in this year’s event, here is a heads-up. Next year’s Zoobilation will be held Thursday evening, September 17, 2015. We look forward to seeing everyone there dancing the night away and bringing bigger and better things to the Montgomery Zoo.
Director Talk | Laser show at Zoe

Doug Goode, Montgomery Zoo Director

Winter Holiday Laser Adventure presented by the Gayle Planetarium showing at the Montgomery Zoo’s Christmas Lights Festival, opening night and the three Friday nights before Christmas (Dec. 4-5, 12 & 19) at 6:30pm and 7:30pm.

In cooperation with Rick Evans, W. A. Gayle Planetarium in Oak Park and Troy University, the Montgomery Zoo will be presenting a Winter Holiday Laser Adventure on the opening night and the three Friday nights before Christmas (Dec. 4-5, 12 and 19) of Christmas Lights Festival, 6:30pm and 7:30pm. This laser light adventure will be played on a big screen with dynamic sound and will brighten the eyes of all ages. The show is approximately 40 minutes long and will be a great addition to everyone’s Christmas Lights Festival experience.

Herald in the season of peace and joy with the Winter Holiday Laser Adventure, a bright, colorful laser sing-along. Get into the spirit with Holiday songs such as Let it Snow, Jingle Bell Rock, and Sleigh Ride, as well as a handful of appropriately-themed current pop songs wrapped-up into one captivating laser-light show.

During the show, follow the adventures of the world’s only laser penguin, Squeaky, as he tries to figure out how best to return home to Antarctica for the Holidays, a big challenge for a small, flightless bird. The Winter Holiday Laser Adventure is one show sure to capture the imaginations of audiences of all ages.

Thank you to all our Zoobilation partners.

Pinnacle level: Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama and Cumulus Broadcasting;

Participating restaurants and vendors include: Abercrombie AquaSouth, Blue Bell Ice Cream, Capitol Oyster Bar at the Marina, Central, Chick-fil-a Midtown, Chris’ Famous Hot Dogs, Farmer’s Market Cafe, Gall’s Down the Street Cafe, Garrett’s, Golden Corral, Jimmy Johns Gourmet Sandwiches, King’s Table Catering, Midtown Pizza Kitchen, Sinclair’s, Southern Food Service Management, The House at the Renaissance Hotel, The Vintage Olive, Wickles Pickles, and Wintzell’s Oyster House.


Entertainment: Tony McCutchen and Cockeyed Camel

Thank you to all our Zoobilation committee chairs.

Honorary chairs, Mayor & Mrs. Todd Strange
Event: Marianne McLeod
Auction: Amanda Spiers
Decoration: Dottye Hannan and Betty Roberts
Entertainment: Bill Hardin
Food and drink: Cassandra Crosby McCullough
Publicity and marketing: Candy Capel
Sponsorships: Mike Hart and Janey Sabel
Ticket sales: John Mastin and Cassandra Crosby McCullough
October means hay rides, games, prizes, horror, fright and spooky fun-filled nights of ZooBoo at the Montgomery Zoo.

Combined with new scenes on the Haunted Hay Ride and the Pumpkin Pull, lots of fun Halloween-themed games, cool prizes and yummy candy, bounce houses, the Creatures of the Night live animal presentations, refreshing concessions, fright and horror around every corner, perfect weather and fun-filled zoo evenings, ZooBoo was a huge success. Nearly 10,000 guests visited ZooBoo during this 11-night Halloween event, grossing the Zoo’s General Fund over $125,000.

Thank you to every zoo member and guest that visited ZooBoo and enjoyed an evening at the Montgomery Zoo. Fun times for all. Also, a very special thank you to the hundreds of volunteers that came out nightly to work games and be transformed into scary monsters and zombies. Without our dedicated volunteers, ZooBoo would not be possible. During this 11-night event, volunteers worked a combined 7,150 hours. Wow, that’s a lot of game time, screams and zombie scares.

Thank you to our title sponsors Alabama News Network, Bluewater Broadcasting (98.9 WBAM, Q 96.1, 97.9 JAMZ, The Gump 104.9, and News Talk 93.1 FM), Montgomery Advertiser, Montgomery Area Zoological Society and the City of Montgomery, Alabama.

Thank you to our game and ride sponsors include Adam’s Drugs, Airport Trailers, Arby’s, Capitol Chevrolet, Capitol Tractors, Chick-Fil-A East Chase, Chick-Fil-A Midtown, Classic Buick GMC Cadillac, CollegeCounts Alabama’s 529 Fund, Dixie Electric Cooperative, Hardee’s, Hinson Wholesale, Hungry Howie’s Pizza & Subs, ITEC, Jack’s, J M Wood Auction, John Lee Paint, Keith Electronics & Satellite, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Little Caesars Pizza, McDonald’s/Galassini & Associates Advertising, Metro PCS Stores, Peaches’N Clean, Sun South Tractors, Snyder’s-Lance, Inc., Tidbits of the River Region, Texas Roadhouse, and Vista Terrace Apartments.

Calling all members

Annual members’ board meeting to be held Tuesday, November 18 at noon at the Mann Museum conference room. All Montgomery Zoo members are invited to attend. Please RSVP your attendance to zooinfo@montgomeryal.gov or call (334) 240-4900. See you there!
Why volunteer at the Zoo? Volunteers play a vital role in providing an exciting and educational experience for the more than 300,000 annual visitors to the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Volunteers donate their time and talents to interpret exhibits, lead educational programs, help maintain zoo grounds and exhibits, work special events and assist with the care of the animals as well as administrative efforts. If you’re thinking of working at a zoo or aquarium, volunteering is a great way to gain some valuable experience and shed some insight on if this is the right career choice for you.

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

Teens may also volunteer in the zoo gaining community service hours for school assignments, working with special events and animal encounters or participating in job shadowing programs.

Benefits to volunteering. Adult and teen volunteers alike can receive education and training, earn community service hours for school, spend time working along side friends and family, make some terrific new friends, build skills and resume entries, be part of a very special team and have a great excuse to hang out at the Zoo. Plus, you could play an important role in educating the public about animals and wildlife conservation.

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

If you are interested in volunteering at the Zoo, please submit an online application at montgomeryzoo.com. We would love to have you as a part of this wonderful team. And don’t forget Christmas Lights Festival will be here before you know it and we need all the elves and Santa’s helpers we can get. Plus Santa loves Zoo volunteers!
Two jaguar cubs make their public debut on Friday, October 24 at the Montgomery Zoo, on display 9:00am - 2:00pm daily at the Jaguar exhibit in the South American realm.

On July 28, 2014, two Jaguar cubs, one male and one female were born at the Montgomery Zoo. These two cubs are the second litter born to Nakita, a five year female spotted jaguar, and the father, Kai a nine year old black male jaguar. Both cubs are black like their father; which is melanistic, meaning they have an unusually high amount of melanin, a black pigment found in animals or plants.

After their birth, the two healthy and active cubs remained in the jaguar den bonding with their mother. The cubs spent their first six weeks nursing and then at 12 weeks of age were introduced to solid food. Once the cubs are completely weaned, their diets will consist of a commercially prepared, carnivore diet.

The Jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is the third-largest feline after the tiger and the lion, and the largest in the Western Hemisphere. The jaguar’s present range extends from Southern United States and Mexico across much of Central America and south to Paraguay and northern Argentina. This spotted cat most closely resembles the leopard physically, although it is usually larger and of sturdier build and its behavioural and habitat characteristics are closer to those of the tiger. While dense rainforest is its preferred habitat, the jaguar will range across a variety of forested and open terrains. It is strongly associated with the presence of water and is notable, along with the tiger, as a feline that enjoys swimming. The jaguar is largely a solitary, opportunistic, stalk-and-ambush predator at the top of the food chain. The jaguar has an exceptionally powerful bite, even relative to the other big cats. This allows it to pierce the shells of armoured reptiles biting directly through the skull of prey between the ears to deliver a fatal bite.

The jaguar exhibit is located in the South American realm of the Montgomery Zoo. The two jaguars cubs with mom in tow made their public debut on Friday, October 24, 2014 at 2:30pm with a crowd of onlookers, media and Zoo staff during a press conference with Mayor Todd Strange. The cubs and their mother will be on exhibit 9am - 2:00pm daily pending weather conditions and animal husbandry needs.

*Article pics and cover provided by Diana Bunch.*
This South American wolf is often compared to and called a red fox on stilts. Though there are similarities, the maned wolf is actually the largest of the canid family in South America and not a fox.

The maned wolf (*Chrysocyon brachyurus*) is the largest canid (domestic dogs, wolves, foxes, jackals, coyotes) of South America, resembling a large fox with reddish fur. This mammal is found in open and semi-open habitats, especially grasslands with scattered bushes and trees, in south, central-west and south-eastern Brazil. It is the only species in the genus *Chrysocyon* (meaning “Golden Dog”). It is locally known as aguará guazú (meaning “large fox” in the Guarani language).

The maned wolf bears minor similarities to the red fox. The average adult weighs 51 lbs and stands 35 inches tall at the shoulder, has a head-body length of 39 inches with the tail adding another 18 inches. The maned wolf is the tallest of the wild canids, the long legs are probably an adaptation to the tall grasslands of its native habitat. Fur of the maned wolf may be reddish brown to golden orange on the sides with long, black legs and a distinctive black mane. The coat is further marked with a whitish tuft at the tip of the tail and a white “bib” beneath the throat. The mane is erectile, and is typically used to enlarge the wolf’s profile when threatened or when displaying aggression.

The maned wolf is also known for its distinctive odor, which has earned it the nickname “skunk wolf.” So, when visiting the maned wolf exhibit, you may just discover a rather distinctive smell. No worries, the wolves are merely scenting their territory for others to know and be aware of. Enjoy, and hope for good breezes.
We’re Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama. Our commitment to Montgomery and the River Region goes well beyond our contributions to the local economy. With a group of uniquely passionate individuals assembling our vehicles each day, we are continuously reaching for new ways to help our community that are as varied as our Team Members themselves.

It’s our pleasure to support the Montgomery Zoo’s efforts to create new and interesting exhibits that will engage students and challenge them to expand their knowledge. We proudly sponsor these educational programs because we know the students of today will be the leaders of tomorrow.

From education, cultural arts, and the environment to health and recreation or the celebration of diversity, we are proud to support our neighbors and the projects that bring us together.

HYUNDAI
HYUNDAI MOTOR MANUFACTURING ALABAMA
www.hmmausa.com
Open to all zoo guests, daily lion training sessions at the African lion exhibit at 1:30 pm, located near the Black Bears.

So what are the benefits of having daily training sessions with zoo animals? Simply put, the sessions help:

- reduce the stress of veterinary procedures
- enables better, safer animal care
- provides mental stimulation
- encourages positive keeper-animal relationships, and
- promotes educational opportunities.

Daily, Dash and Buddy (our two African male lions at the Zoo) will go through a series of target training exercises with their keeper. Our keepers train the animals with positive reinforcement techniques. Prior to starting a new training program, keepers research the animals’ natural and individual history.

During the trust building stage, the keeper will establish a good rapport with the animal, then formulate a training plan, behavioral goals and the steps used to shape the desired behaviors.

In training sessions, keepers’ utilize a bridge, such as a whistle or clicker, to tell the animal what they did is right. When the correct behavior is performed a reward can be delivered.

Animals are trained to touch a body part (nose, hand, side) on a stick, plastic can lid or pvc. The purpose of this behavior is to direct body movement. Once the target behavior has been trained, many other behaviors can follow such as crating, scale training and even positioning for injections, blood draws and other care.
Pictured above: MAZS President, Bill Hardin; Cheryl and Wayne Sabel; and Mayor Todd Strange during Zoobilation sponsor check presentation.
Thank you Aaron Aronov, son of Lorrie and Owen Aronov (young man pictured in the middle). Aaron recently celebrated his 6th birthday. In lieu of presents, Aaron choose to have his friends and guests bring items to his party that could be donated to the Montgomery Zoo’s Education Department. These items will be used for the care and enrichment of the Montgomery Zoo’s Education animals.

Left to right: Pam Smith, Senior docent; Aaron Aronov, birthday boy; Jennifer Hutcheson, Education curator; and Marcia Woodard, Deputy Director.
The City of Montgomery launched a new web site on the Thursday, Oct 30, 2014. This new web site features the latest in web technology making the site much more functional, easier to navigate and user-friendly.

Soon the Montgomery Zoo will follow in launching a new web site of their own. So, if you have any suggestions, things you would like to see or ways to improve the site, please forward those thoughts, ideas and comments to zooinfo@montgomeryal.gov. We look forward to hearing what you have to say!
2015 Calendar

Be a part of our 2015 ZOO CALENDAR. Submit photos of you and your friends visiting the zoo, animals here at the zoo, and original pieces of art (colorings, paintings and drawings). If submitting your entry digitally, the file needs to be 11x8.5 (horizontal) inches, 350dpi resolution. For more info or to submit, email zooinfo@montgomeryal.gov or call (334) 240-4900.

Mail entries to: 2015 Calendar Entry, Montgomery Zoo, 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36110.

Deadline: Dec 15, 2014. Make sure to include all contact information with entry. All entries will be returned after the calendar is printed.

Doppler 12 Storm Vision

You use tools every day to improve your life. At WSFA 12 News, we use the best tools to keep your family safe.

Text WEATHER to 41212 for the FREE WSFA 12 Weather App. Text your COUNTY NAME to 41212 to receive breaking weather alerts.
Be a part of our 2015 ZOO CALENDAR. Submit photos of you and your friends visiting the zoo, animals here at the zoo, and original pieces of art (colorings, paintings and drawings). If submitting your entry digitally, the file needs to be 11x8.5 (horizontal) inches, 350dpi resolution. For more info or to submit, email zooinfo@montgomeryal.gov or call (334) 240-4900.

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DEC 4: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS opening night
JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL opening night at the Montgomery Zoo, Thursday, Dec 4. See the Zoo transformed into a winter wonderland decorated with thousands of sparkling lights. Help Santa flip the switch or watch it LIVE on WSFA NBC 12’s 6 o’clock report with Rich Thomas.

Color Me Christmas Lights Festival is a wonderful holiday tradition enjoyed by thousands in the River Region area for generations.
Events at the zoo

UPCOMING ZOO EVENTS

NOVEMBER 18, ANNUAL MEMBERS BOARD MEETING. Tuesday at noon, Nov 18, join us for the Annual Members meeting, held at the Mann Museum conference room. Hear the state-of-the-zoo information, as well as, about future projects. All Montgomery Zoo members are invited. Please RSVP your attendance at zooinfo@montgomeryal.gov or give us a call at (334) 240-4900.

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

DECEMBER 4-7, 11-14 and 18-31, CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FESTIVAL. See the Montgomery Zoo transformed into a winter wonderland sparkling with thousands of lights. Take a leisurely stroll, a brisk train ride or see the lights atop the Zoofari skylift ride. Visit Santa thru Dec 23, enjoy the nightly live entertainment and no winter’s night would be complete with some warming hot chocolate. Open 5:30pm - 9:30pm nightly.

DECEMBER 25, CHRISTMAS DAY. The Zoo and Mann Museum will be closed on December 25 for Christmas Day; however, the Zoo will open at 5:30pm for Christmas Lights Festival. The Zoo will re-open in the day, December 26 at 9am.

JANUARY 1, 2015, NEW YEAR’S DAY. The Zoo and Mann Museum will be closed on January 1, 2015, for New Year’s Day; however, the Zoo will re-open Friday, January 2 at 9am. Thank you, and have a safe and Happy New Year 2015.

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

AT THE MONTGOMERY ZOO

December 4-7, 11-14 and 18-31
5:30pm - 9:30pm

Admire thousands of lights - Meet Santa & have a photo taken
See dazzling light displays on train and skylift - Delight in nightly entertainment
Visit our holiday petting zoo - Savor festive concessions

(334) 240-4900 | MONTGOMERYZOO.COM