Zoo Weekend:
March 9-10
2019: The Year of the Gharial

What’s going on?
February 16: Winter Animal Enrichment Day
Feb 18: Zoo and Museum OPEN for President’s Day
Feb 23: Volunteer Appreciation Day
March 2: Volunteer Spring SERVE DAY
March 9-10: Zoo Weekend
April 22-23: Earth Day Safari
May 4: Volunteer Spring SERVE DAY
Happy Zoo Year Everyone!

H. Kenneth White, Jr., MAZS President

It is with great pleasure that I welcome 2019 with all its dreams, aspirations, and goals! Montgomery Area Zoological Society (MAZS) board, a 501(c)(3) fundraising arm of the Montgomery Zoo, welcomes you to our beautiful “ZooYear”. In 2018, we experienced an incredible amount of visitors to the Zoo and Mann Museum, logged thousands of volunteer hours from a brigade of Zoo supporters, and raised a record amount of donations for the newest exhibit, Stingray Bay, that opened in March 2018. Now our focus is switching gears and towards a new venture. We are raising funds for a new Reptile House to be located in the Zoo’s South American realm. The old Reptile House has served its purpose, but now needs to be replaced with something more accommodating to the needs of our new reptile collection to make the guests’ interaction a much greater and grander experience.

When making event plans, please consider attending the Zoo for family outings, birthday parties, special events, or giving a membership, or one-day adventure gift certificate, to further sponsor our area zoo. We encourage our Prattville, Millbrook, and Wetumpka neighbors also to be involved. Groups needing a volunteer project are welcomed and encouraged to join forces with the Zoo to accomplish goals. The Zoo hosts special events throughout the year that I hope you’ll attend. We invite you to enjoy Zoo Weekend (March 9-10), a family fun weekend that offers discounted yearly memberships, and Zoobilation (September 12), an adults only evening event featuring regional restaurants, live music, an assortment of adult beverages and an exciting auction.

The MAZS Board welcomes your suggestions and comments. Please email me at MAZSPresident@gmail.com if I may assist you in any way. If you can spare a few volunteer hours, or donate items for the Zoobilation auction, participate as a Zoobilation food vendor or sponsor, I most definitely am interested in speaking with you. If we may gain permission to present Zoo offerings at your Chamber of Commerce event, or any other group event considering a zoo donation or sponsorship, we can provide a MAZS board representative to speak to your group. Any and all help toward reaching our goals is greatly appreciated.

May 2019 be your ZooYear filled with good health, love of family and friends, and continued prosperity for everyone. Happy Zoo Year everyone!

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Who’s Who

The Honorable Todd Strange, Mayor of the City of Montgomery, Alabama.

Montgomery City Council Members
Fred Bell, Richard Bolingler, David Burkette, William A. Green, Charles Jinnight, Tracy Larkin, Arch Lee, Brantly W. Lyons and Glen Pruitt, Jr.

Montgomery Area Zoological Society
Board of Directors: President, H. Kenneth White, Jr.; 1st Vice President, Cassandra Crosby; 2nd Vice President, Michael Gallow; Treasurer, John Mastin; Secretary, Scarlett Tuley; Immediate Past President, Janey Sabel; Exec. Board Member Emeritus, Joyce Hobbs


Ex-Officio: Scott Miller, Director of Leisure Services; Brantly W. Lyons, Council District 2 and Tracy Larkin, Council District 3

Zoo | Museum Senior Staff
Zoo Director, Marcia Woodard
Deputy Director, Ken Naugher
Program Services Manager, Steven C. Pierce
Animal Care Manager, Jason Bielen
Assist. Animal Care Manager, OPEN
Operations Manager, Jeremy Vinson
Admissions-Retail Manager, Susan Michener
Rides and Attractions Mgr, Nick Castanza
Zoo Vet, Dr. Hal Pate
Zoo Vet, Dr. Kanyon McLean
Marketing & PR Manager, Melaine Golson
Education Curator, OPEN

Zoo and Mann Museum Hours
The Montgomery Zoo and Mann Museum are open from 9am-4pm every day with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. The last admission ticket is sold at 4pm, animal exhibits begin closing at 4:30pm, and we ask everyone to exit the park at 5pm. Last Mann Museum entrance is at 4:30pm.

Admission Rates
-- Admission fee includes entry to both Zoo and Mann Museum
Adult (13yrs or older): $17
Child (3-12yrs of age): $13
Toddlers (2yrs or younger): FREE
Seniors (65yrs or older): $15
AAA & Military Adult: $16
AAA & Military Child: $12

Admission Rates
The next time you visit the Zoo, stroll around and take notice of all the signs and plaques honoring various donors through the years. The Montgomery Zoo is proud to have a longstanding history of community involvement and support.

From large corporations and independent business owners to longtime Zoo members, our friends in the military, regional school children and teachers, civic clubs, church groups, local high school and college sports teams, and social clubs, donations large and small are responsible for what now stands as the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum.

A legacy has been built here at the Montgomery Zoo greatly in part from generous donations from friends and members just like you. Either as a dedication, class project, memorial or as a holiday year-end gift, your gift is contributed to the Capital Projects Fund allowing the Montgomery Zoo to continue to expand, develop new exhibits and programs, introduce new rides and animal encounters while continuing to touch the regional and outlying communities. Your generous donations aid the Montgomery Zoo, but it also benefits and educates thousands of school children, families and guests per year.

Supporting the Montgomery Zoo can be done in the form of financial support, event sponsorship, donations, volunteerism and your patronage of the Zoo. Visit the Zoo on a regular basis either by becoming a member or by regular admission. Attend our many special events; like kid and family-friendly Zoo Weekend, ZooBoo, Christmas Lights Festival and others. Special events like these help support the Zoo and add to its yearly general operating budget. Another way to help support the Zoo is to volunteer. Your time is the most valuable and precious commodity you can contribute to the Zoo or any organization. And don’t forget to tell all your friends and family about your many wildlife adventures at the Zoo. It has been proven time and time again. The best advertising is word-of-mouth.

So get out there and spread the word about great times and wild adventures at the Montgomery Zoo. And feel free to post pictures and stories of your grand Zoo adventure with friends and family on our two facebook pages, Instagram, Pinterest, and Twitter.

Our goal is simple yet true. We want to create and maintain an environment that is safe and healthy for our guests and animals alike while creating a positive and learning experience for all. Won’t you join us at the Montgomery Zoo?

How to support the Zoo

Adopt an animal. Take an active role in improving the care and well-being of the residents of the Montgomery Zoo. All animals are available for adoption with packages ranging from $50 to $500 per year depending on the benefits you select.

Brick pavers and benches. Be on permanent display in our Brick Plaza or under your favorite shade tree. Great as a present, memorial or recognition program. Brick sizes and cost vary from $60 to $2500 per brick. Benches are $1500 per bench.

Upgrade your membership. Join the Chimpanzee, Zebra, Giraffe or Presidents Club. Enjoy the benefits awarded to our upper-level members. Packages vary in benefits, costs range from $250 to $1000. Or donate additional funds with your membership.

Cash and planned gifts. Outright cash gifts may be donated to the Capital Projects Fund, a specific exhibit or habitat, attraction, special project, realm or animal species. Gifts may be made in cash or with any major credit card; in person, mail in or online. All gifts are tax deductible to the full extent as the IRS allows.

Bequests. Name the Zoo and/or Museum as your beneficiary in your will. A bequest may be tailored to address individual needs and interests so that the donor gains a unique opportunity to provide for the Zoo and their loved ones.
Celebrate the coming of Spring at the 43rd 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 2019 is scheduled for March 9-10, 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 43 years of existence it still remains to be a major fundraiser for the zoo to further enhance the animals and their habitats.

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

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

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

How much does it cost? Tickets can be purchased at the gate the day of the event. Adults are $17 per person, children ages 3 - 12 year old are $13 per person, Montgomery Zoo members and toddlers 2 year old and younger will be admitted FREE.

How do I purchase a ticket? Contact the zoo office by calling (334) 625-4900 to purchase advance tickets or purchase tickets online at montgomeryzoo.com.

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

What type of food can be purchased? There will be many wonderful food choices including delicacies from 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.

What is new? Admission includes both the Zoo and Museum. Newly renovated Overlook Cafe with customer friendly, grab and go, fresh and smart foods, and old time favorites. Swing by Stingray Bay, it celebrates being open one year this Zoo Weekend.

Continued on page 5
Can I bring my own food? 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 strictly reserved for the patrons that purchase food directly from the Overlook Café.

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

Will the rides and attractions be operating? 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.

What sort of things have past Zoo Weekend funds helped? Monkey Island, African Elephant Habitat, the McMonty Express, the Spectacled Bear Exhibit, the North American River Otter Habitat, the Toucan Exhibit, American Alligator, and opened last year, the new Stingray Bay exhibit.

Who are the sponsors of the event? WCOV FOX 20, Cumulus Broadcasting Stations (Mix 103.3, Fox 95.1, WLWI 92.3 and Y-102), The City of Montgomery and the Montgomery Area Zoological Society.

When will Zoo Weekend take place? Zoo Weekend take place on Saturday, March 9 and Sunday March 10, 2019 from 9am – 6pm daily. For more info, give us a call at (334) 625-4900 or visit our web site at montgomeryzoo.com.

Event filled weekend: Camel and pony rides, games, animal encounters, live entertainment, great food and more.
A powerful, strange and exotic challenge is beginning at your Montgomery Zoo. We are accepting donations to build a generational interactive reptile facility. Are you ready to learn about exotic reptiles and their cultural significance? Not only will this facility house animals rare in zoos, it will offer close personal educational and interactive opportunities. In addition, this facility will serve a messenger; rallying people to build relationships with indigenous communities and the scientific community in an effort to foster more productive interactions with wildlife. The facility will have four initial ambassadors for this message. The Komodo dragon, Galapagos tortoise, king cobra and gharial. We hope to exhibit each of these species in the new reptile facility; however, each will require a commitment to conservation from both the zoo and the community. We need your monetary donations as well as your personal involvement. No amount is too small. We can only succeed with community support. As a starting point the Montgomery Zoo has declared 2019 “The Year of the Gharial”. “The Year of The Gharial” will be the rallying call for this campaign and the gharial will be the personality and symbol. The goals of this campaign are to:

-- Bring gharial to the Montgomery Zoo as an educational exhibit
-- Generate funding opportunities for a new facility
-- Educate the community on the plans for a new reptile facility and the animals to be housed within
-- Generate long-term funding for the Gharial Ecology Project on the Chambal River in India
-- Establish a cooperative conservation relationship with Madras Crocodile Bank, Chennai, India

Please consider supporting us in this exciting adventure. Send donations to The Montgomery Zoo, Year of the Gharial, P.O. Box 3313, Montgomery, Alabama, 36109. If you would like to be involved or for more info, please contact Ken Naugher, Zoo Deputy Director, at yearofthegharial@gmail.com

Let’s learn a little about these Indian species of crocodile

Gharial (Gavialis gangeticus) are fascinating animals, they are among the largest crocodilians. However, adults are exclusively fish eaters and are not considered dangerous to humans. They are only exhibited in seven zoos in the entire Western hemisphere. Males may reach 21 feet in length, females about 15 feet. Typically, individuals weigh between 350 and 400 pounds; however, large males may reach as much as 1500 pounds. A 2018 report estimates that only 650 to 700 mature animals exist. The International Union for Conservation of Nature classifies the species as critically endangered.

The name gharial originates from the Hindi word “ghara” meaning “clay pot”. This refers to the large growth on the snout of mature males. Males use their gharas to vocalize and blow bubbles during mating displays.

Gharials prefer living in fast moving rivers. They are only found in India, along the Chambal, Girwa, and Son Rivers; and in Nepal, along the Narayani River. The rivers in which they are found are sources of legend, frequently mentioned in ancient scriptures. The Chambal is one of India’s most pristine rivers. However, the gharial population has declined by as much as 98% since the mid-1900s due to drastic man-made changes to these rivers. Hydroelectric dams have been built which have manipulated the flow of water, causing certain areas to dry out and other areas to flood, making it more difficult for the water-reliant gharials to survive. Gharials typically only leave the water to bask and nest on sandbanks. Gharials have weak leg muscles and are poorly equipped for locomotion on land. Most of their movement takes place in the water. When they do move on land, adults are unable to lift their belly up and have to drag themselves over the ground, belly-sliding. This makes it very difficult for gharials to move over land in order to explore new habitat.
Quick Gharial Facts

> Gharials do not stalk and lunge at prey like other crocodilians, their snouts contain sensory cells that can detect vibrations in the water. They whip their heads from side to side, grabbing fish with their sharp teeth.
> Gharial have more than a hundred extremely pointed teeth.
> Females dig a nest in the sand during the dry season, between March and April, and deposit an average of 40 eggs, which hatch from 60 to 80 days later. When the eggs are ready to hatch, the youngsters call, their mother then digs the nest open so that the youngsters can escape.
> The gender of the offspring is controlled by temperature during incubation. Lower incubation temperatures cause the production of females and higher ones cause the production of males.
> Researchers from the Gharial Ecology Project have discovered unique behavior through radio-tracking studies along the Chambal River.
> A single male is sometimes seen surrounded by numerous youngsters even when no danger is apparent. The degree of parental care in the species has surprised researchers.
> Young gharials feed on invertebrates and frogs instead of fish. Their snout becomes proportionally longer as they grow and mature.
> Gharials have a structure at the back of the eye, behind the retina, called the tapetum lucidum, which enhances their night vision. This mirror-like structure reflects light back into the eye a second time to help produce a brighter image. The tapetum lucidum causes their eyes to glow at night, when a light is shined at them.

Gharials lay 20-95 eggs per season with an incubation of 71-93 days. Gharial eggs are the largest of all crocodilians weighing an average of 5.6oz. After birth, researchers indicate 92.3% of the hatchings will NOT survive the first year.
Herpetology is the study of the 15,700 species of reptiles and amphibians. Reptiles and amphibians are ectothermic. They are “cold blooded” and must rely on environmental heat sources. Some herps live where the temperature is consistent, where others find heat and bask each day. Reptiles have scales and use lungs to breathe air. They reproduce by internal fertilization. Snakes, turtles, lizards, and crocodiles are examples of reptiles. Frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts are amphibians. They have skin and breathe through gills until they undergo metamorphosis and develop lungs. Amphibians reproduce by external fertilization.

The Montgomery Zoo is home to some very unique herps. The axolotl is a critically endangered salamander from Mexico. They are unusual in that they become adults without undergoing metamorphosis and stay aquatic keeping their gills. Poison dart frogs are from Central and South America. They are small, brightly-colored, and not poisonous in captivity. Their toxin intake is controlled by their diet. Pancake tortoises are herbivores with flat, flexible shells. They live in the semi-desert kopjes (rocky outcrops) of East Africa. A close relative of the pancake tortoise is the bizarre mata mata turtle. They can be found in stagnant pools and swamps of South America. They are carnivores that are camouflaged to resemble fallen leaves and rotten wood. You can find the largest skink species and the smallest caiman species in our Reptile House. The Solomon Islands skink has a prehensile tail and lives in family groups called a circulus. The South American dwarf caiman only averages about four feet in length.

The Montgomery Zoo is also home to several Alabama reptiles with very special adaptations. The box turtle has a domed shell with a hinge so it can hide from predators. The alligator snapping turtle uses the vermiform appendage on its tongue to lure in prey. The speckled king snake is immune to venomous snakes and pound for pound has the strongest constriction strength allowing it to eat other snakes. The bright green colors of the rough green snake and the dull brown colors of the plain bitted water snake are perfect camouflage for both their environments.

Herps are extraordinary and vital to a well-balanced ecosystem. One of their biggest contributions is natural, chemical free pest control. They devour rodents, insects, and other nuisance animals that can carry diseases and parasites. Researchers are currently using snake venom to treat brain injuries, strokes, Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, blood and pain disorders, and fight cancer. Reptiles and amphibians serve a grand purpose and play a vital role in our planet’s ecosystem.

Herp Enrichment
Herps require and appreciate enrichment just like primates, big cats, hoofstock, and other animals at the Zoo. New climbing structures, hiding boxes, and puzzle feeders are just a few of their favorite stimuli. Keeper Rachel providing one of our snakes with colorful tubing to explore, hide, and climb (right).
Herpetology is the study of amphibians, part of zoology.

Reptiles are my passion

There are over 15,700 different species of reptiles and amphibians in the world. The Montgomery Zoo’s is home to some very unique herps; including species native to Alabama. From the bright and colorful to those that are perfectly camouflaged to the forest floor, each of the world’s herps serve a grand purpose and play a vital role in our planet’s ecosystem.

Here at the Montgomery Zoo, we have two albino reticulated pythons (Python reticulatus), one male (yellow) and one female (white). In the wild, they are found in South and Southeast Asia. They can grow to lengths between 5 - 23 feet long and weigh as much as 165lbs. They are the world’s longest snakes and longest reptiles, and among the three heaviest snakes.

Reticulated pythons mostly eat mammals, small birds, and on occasion rats and various rodents. As with all pythons, they are primarily ambush hunters, usually waiting until prey wanders within strike range before seizing it in their coils and killing by constriction. Pythons are nonvenomous constrictors, so they kill their prey by squeezing them until it suffocates.

How does reticulate play into their name? Reticulate refers to the snake’s coloring and net or mesh-like pattern of their skin.

You can visit our pair reticulated pythons at the Reptile House located in the South American realm of the Zoo. Since pythons are cold-blooded, they are typically found coiled up next to each other helping keep each other as warm as possible.
**Lucy the Llama**

The llama (Lama glama) is thought to have originated in North America 40 million years ago, and then migrated to South America and Asia around 3 million years ago. Today, the llama is most commonly found in the Andes mountain region of South America where the llama was kept as a pack animal by the ancient Inca people. The llama is an herbivore growing 6 feet tall and up to 450 pounds eating leaves and grasses. They are a mammal typically giving birth to one baby (known as crias) who usually is standing and attempting to walk within an hour. Llamas are intelligent and sociable animals living to 15-20 years old.

Lucy the llama is a 10 year-old female who lives in the petting zoo. She has a specialized llama food that she enjoys along with hay, leaves, and grasses. Lucy enjoys a nice walk through the Zoo showing off her beautiful coat. Everyone I see come to the petting zoo wants to touch the llama. Lucy on the other hand prefers to be looked at instead of touched, unless you have some food for her that is. She doesn’t like most men and will tolerate most women. Kids on the other hand can pet her while she lays in the sun, but when she gets tired of it, she will get up and head to the safeness of the barn. Some people may not know that llamas spit, but don’t worry, Lucy only spits at the goats and the sheep when fighting over food. Lucy is the most well-mannered llama I have ever met. So come visit the petting zoo by the playground and see if you are one of the lucky people who get to touch Lucy the llama’s soft fur.

**Canadian Lynx Kittens**

Late 2018, the Zoo welcomed four new arrivals in our North American realm. While it can be difficult to breed Canadian Lynx in captivity, Fred and Wilma (dad and mom) hit it off right away. Sticking with the Flintstones theme, we named the cuties Barney, Betty, Pebbles, and BamBam. That’s right, we have two girls and two boys. With them no longer in need of their mom, they are enjoying destroying their home by chewing on bushes and challenging each other to climbing contests. Whether they’re playing on the slide or just chilling, these lynx kittens are always entertaining. They are located in the North American realm direct beside the cougar display.

**Brown Pelicans**

Voodoo and Cocoa are rescues from the 2008 Gulf of Mexico BP oil spill. Both are wild is not an option. We are proud to have them as beautiful additions to our North American hoofstock exhibit. In the wild, these two would scoop up small schools of fish near the water’s surface. Here at the Zoo, they are accustomed to catching their breakfast and are quite talented at doing so.

**Rock Iguana**

El Guapo is located by the Mann Museum near Stingray Bay.
**Voodoo & Cocoa**

by Shelli Dean, Zookeeper II

Our Canadian lynx kittens, Voodoo and Cocoa, are rescues from the 2008 Gulf of Mexico BP oil spill. Both have permanent wing injuries, so returning to the wild is not an option. We are proud to have them as beautiful additions to our North American hoofstock exhibit. In the wild, these two would scoop up small schools of fish near the water’s surface. Here at the Zoo, they are quite talented at doing so.

**Capybara**

by Neal Sandy, Zookeeper I

Capybara are the largest rodent species in the world, found in woodland areas of South America. They are an agile species capable of reaching speeds similar to a horse and are excellent swimmers. Capybara are very social animals and have been seen in herds of up to 100 individuals. Gusgus seems to enjoy snacking on sweet potato and bamboo and exploring new scents. Logs are sometimes given for the capybara to chew to wear down their constantly growing teeth.

**The Cuban Rock Iguana**

by Michelle Johnson, Zookeeper II

*Cyclura nubila* is one of the largest lizards in the Caribbean reaching five feet in length. This species is listed as Vulnerable and can be found along the rocky coastlines of mainland Cuba and its surrounding islets. They mature between two-three years of age and their lifespan is upwards of 60 years. The majority of their diet is plant based items like leaves, flowers, and fruits, but they will occasionally eat animal matter.

**Kori bustards**

by Iris and Isaac, Kori bustards came to us from the Birmingham Zoo. Kori bustards are the world’s heaviest flying bird. Males can reach up to 40lbs and females are typically around 15lbs. Their name BUSTARD means birds that walk. They are ground dwellers and although they can fly, they are reluctant to do so unless in serious danger.

Kori bustards live in the open grasslands and lightly wooded savannas of Eastern and Southern Africa. Kori bustards are omnivores and enjoy eating plant-like berries, small animals, and insects. Kori bustards drink using a sucking motion unlike other birds that scoop water with their bills.

Healthy Kori bustards can live up to 30 years old. Our two Kori bustards are located in our South American realm across from the jaguars.

**Kookaburra**

by Steven C. Pierce, Program Services Manager

Kook, our Blue Winged Kookaburra, are found in the tropical and subtropical woodlands of Australia and New Guinea. Blue Winged Kookaburras are a large kingfisher bird, with a long narrow beak, short neck, and males will have pretty blue tail feathers to attract the females. They mostly eat bugs, small rodents, fish, small snakes and sometimes spiders. Their life span in the wild is between 10 and 15 years, and up to 20 years in captivity. Kook came to us from the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, and now is part of our Education Department.

**Babydoll sheep**

by Brooke Morgan, Zookeeper I

Babydoll Southdown sheep are the diminutive version of an ancient breed of sheep which originated in the South “Downs” of Sussex County, England. Historically they are known to be an important British sheep breed valued for fleece, meat and bred improvement. Babydolls can live up to 16 years. Fully grown they stand 18 to 24 inches tall. Most often their wool is white but can also vary from black to brown. They have large, wide heads and are polled-born without horns. Babydolls are non aggressive and known for their kind, docile nature. Visit them in the Petting Zoo.
Anala is an Australian Dingo, and she is part of our Zoo’s Education Department and also a Zoo Ambassador. She came to the Zoo by way of the Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Kansas. She just recently celebrated her first birthday, so she still has a lot of puppy in her. If you have visited the Zoo recently, you may have noticed her on a walkabout around the Zoo. She loves visiting with the other Zoo residents and our guests.

Dingoes are Australia’s wild dog. They arrived in Australia about 5,000 years ago, brought to Australian shores by Indonesian Seafarers. Dingoes do not bark, but howl like wolves. They are a medium sized canine weighing 30-50lbs, with males usually heavier than the females. They are found through the alpine, woodland, grassland, desert, and tropical regions of Australia.

Dingoes are mainly nocturnal animals primarily active and hunting at dusk and dawn. They tend to only to be active an hour or so at a time taking multiple naps mostly during day and a few at night. In the wild, you may see them alone, but typically they live in small packs.

As the sign above says, I am Anala. I am an Australian Dingo. I love walking. Walking and exploring are definitely my favorite things to do, but then again, I love to jump and climb too. I do this jump and twist thing, man it is out of this world. You should really see it.

But I do believe at times, it does frustrate my human friends walking me. As you can tell from the pics above, I love visiting all my zoo friends. I don’t know if they know what I am, and why I get to walkabout the Zoo, but I am a Zoo Ambassador. Yep, I am a pretty big deal. I get to visit with zoo guests, go to functions with important people, hangout with school children, and explain to them how important the work we do at the Zoo is. Not only are we affecting the animals here, but our efforts are shaping the world.

If you would like to see Anala or any of the other Zoo Education animals up close and personal, let the Montgomery Zoo come to you for your next birthday party, family reunion, club meeting, civic function, or corporate gathering. It is fun, educational, and your party will be the talk of town. For more info, check out montgomeryzoo.com or call (334) 625-4900.
Whenever I am in public and people learn that I work at the zoo, I am often asked “what’s new at the zoo”. I usually reply with details about the latest exhibit we have opened. Usually the follow up response is “yes I have seen that exhibit and it is great, but what’s next”. I usually interpret this to mean that people are really excited about the zoo, but they always want something new. However, it recently occurred to me that the actual reason people ask “what’s new at the zoo” is not because they are bored after they have seen the latest exhibit, but because they crave involvement and engagement with the community.

The zoo is representative of the River Region Community and this is a great thing. So our mission at the zoo is to build relationships and foster engagement with our visitors. It is no longer enough just to keep animals at the zoo for viewing, there needs to be educational value and a personal interaction conveyed to our visitors. This idea began with the construction of the Mann Museum. We went to a new level with Stingray Bay. At this exhibit visitors can personally touch and feed stingrays as well as visit with a zookeeper daily.

For 2019 and beyond we not only are going to an even higher level we are going global. So the Montgomery Zoo declares 2019 THE YEAR OF THE GHARIAL. This year and beyond we will commit not only to raising funds for a next generation interactive reptile facility, but also commit to rallying people to build relationships with indigenous communities and the scientific community in an effort to foster more productive interactions with wildlife. “The Year of The Gharial” will be the rallying call for this campaign and the gharial will be the personality and symbol. Please read more about this campaign and gharials in the feature article on page 6 of this issue of Jungle Drums. We need your monetary donations as well as personal involvement. No amount is too small. Please send monetary donations to: The Montgomery Zoo, Year of the Gharial, P.O. Box 3313, Montgomery, AL 36109. To get involved contact me at yearofthegharial@gmail.com.

This Indian species of crocodile is critically endangered with only 600 mature adults thought to be living in the wild and only seven US zoos have them as part of their reptile collection. It is our goal to provide research dollars to help those in the wild while bringing gharials to our Zoo.
Color Me
Gharial
Let’s take a look at the facts:
- Gharials do not stalk and lunge at prey like other crocodilians, their snouts contain sensory cells that can detect vibrations in the water. They whip their heads from side to side, grabbing fish with their sharp teeth.
- Gharial have more than a hundred extremely pointed teeth.
- Females dig a nest in the sand during the dry season, between March and April, and deposit an average of 40 eggs, which hatch from 60 to 80 days later. When the eggs are ready to hatch, the youngsters call, their mother then digs the nest open so that the youngsters can escape.
- The gender of the offspring is controlled by temperature during incubation. Lower incubation temperatures cause the production of females and higher ones cause the production of males.
#Gharial2019
**Serve Day Volunteers | We LOVE you!**

Thank you to all the volunteers that participated in Serve Day at the Zoo on Saturday, January 5. We hosted over 30 volunteers that aided in raking the many leaves that have fallen during the past few rain storms. At the end of the day, we bagged over 250 bags of leaves and removed countless limbs. GREAT JOB to everyone that participated!

If you like working outside and making new friends, our next Zoo Serve Day will be Saturday, March 2. If you are interested in joining the fun, check out SERVE DAY at montgomeryzoo.com or give us a call at (334) 625-4930.

Serve Day is a fun and entertaining opportunity for student, civic, or company groups looking to volunteer together. It is a great opportunity to earn service hours and support the community while having fun and building relationships as a team. Opportunities are available to volunteer on Serve Day for a morning shift (9am - 12pm), afternoon shift (1pm - 4pm), or all day.

Those interested in volunteering at Serve Day or any other Zoo event are encouraged to contact Melanie Golson at (334) 625-4930 or contact via email at mgolson@montgomeryal.gov.

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**Events at the Zoo**

**Animal Enrichment Day. Feb 16, 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 the wild. It is a lot of trial and error, but it is always fun.

**Zoo Volunteer Serve Day. March 2, 9am - 4pm.**
We are picking a single day to gather volunteer groups to accomplish several tasks in preparing the Montgomery Zoo for the upcoming fall school group season. We are asking volunteers to help with landscaping, trimming bushes, planting flowers, raking leaves, painting, and overall prepping the Zoo for the Fall season. It will be a great opportunity for those people that volunteer their time and energy to give back to the City of Montgomery Zoo and the River Region community. Volunteers can be adults, teens, civic groups, school groups, church groups, businesses, military squadrons, and families.

**Zoo Weekend. March 9-10, 9am – 6pm daily**
Annual Spring fundraiser, festive environment with live entertainment, games, rides, concessions and animals from around the world. Enjoy the many activities, fantastic food and have fun together at an affordable price. It is also an excellent opportunity to take advantage of discounted memberships.

**Earth Day Safari. April 22-23, 9am – 2pm daily**
Designed with school groups in mind, the Zoo’s Earth Day Safari is a fun and educational field trip for students. You can participate in an Endangered Species Scavenger Hunt. Play Earth Day Trivia Game. See Live Animal Presentations. Advanced reservations required, school group discounts available

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**Need More Information?**
For more info on these events and others, please visit montgomeryzoo.com or call (334) 625-4900.
Jungle Drums

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ZOO WEEKEND MARCH 9-10
EARTH DAY SAFARI APRIL 22-23