Three jaguar cubs born at Zoo

on display 1pm - 4:30pm daily in the South American realm

Stripes, Patterns & Spots page 8

ZOO WEEKEND
April 5-6, 9am - 6pm

From the DD:
Zoo Weekend info
Animal Care
Jaguar cub birth
Docents of the year

EDUCATION

MONTGOMERY ZOO
MANN WILDLIFE LEARNING MUSEUM
www.montgomeryzoo.com
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Jungle Drums
A PUBLICATION FOR THE MONTGOMERY ZOO AND MANN MUSEUM MEMBERS
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Stripes, Patterns & Spots
As spring begins to bloom, I always begin to think of Zoo Weekend. Saturday and Sunday, April 5-6, the Montgomery Zoo will come alive with our annual Zoo Weekend. This is a fun-filled, family event, and it is one of the best ways to get to know the Montgomery Zoo.

Zoo Weekend is a festival for sure, featuring live entertainment; including Confederate Hipster, Matt York, Beyond the Clouds, DJ at Large, Britt Johnson and various musical groups. And, our good friend Ronald McDonald will perform both days for children of all ages, plus a variety of other interesting performances. The weekend will also feature a variety of games, inflatables, animal encounters and presentations, animal education and AWESOME FOOD!

Zoo Weekend is a major fundraising event for the Montgomery Zoo. It is a perfect time to join as a member; memberships will be discounted over the two-day event. And just think, if you and your family visit the Zoo just twice a year, your membership has already paid for itself. Fundraising is vital to the success and growth of the Montgomery Zoo. Just look at the new Zoolabi Skylift Ride, Parakeet Cove, Horse Trail rides and Petting Zoo, and you will see the on-going improvements to an already great Zoo. We also have a brand new Alligator Exhibit, Stingray Bay and a Butterfly House, all coming soon.

So, I hope you and your family will make plans to visit the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum during Zoo Weekend, April 5-6, 9am - 6pm daily. See you there!
On Tuesday, February 25, the Montgomery Area Zoological Society (MAZS), a support organization of the Montgomery Zoo, presented the Golden Egg Award to Ms. Betty Brislin, a longtime supporter, contributor and dedicated volunteer to the Montgomery Zoo. Ms. Brislin received the Golden Egg Award during a special tribute honoring and recognizing her for years of dedicated service. The presentation was held at the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum with special guests, friends, fellow Zoo volunteers, MAZS board members, Zoo senior staff and City of Montgomery officials; including Mayor Todd Strange in attendance.

Many of you may know “Miss Betty” due to her devoted service at the Zoo’s various special events; especially Zoo Weekend. Miss Betty is the driving force behind the Zoo’s annual bake sale. She coordinates with dozens of other Zoo friends baking and selling some of the finest baked goods. Over the years, Miss Betty and her baker buddies have raised tens of thousands of dollars for the Zoo and its many building projects. Ms. Brislin, a longtime supporter and contributor to the Montgomery Zoo, started serving in 1978 as a Docent in the Zoo’s Education Department volunteer program. She has also been an active and sitting member of the MAZS board for the past 25 years. She is a vital asset and greatly devoted member of the MAZS board and much beloved friend of the Montgomery Zoo.

Not only does Ms. Brislin volunteer at the Zoo, but she also spends volunteer time working with a group of dedicated seniors in the Montgomery Police Department VIPs program. She also participates and is highly involved in many programs at First United Methodist Church in Cloverdale; including missions, sewing committee and a reading program for school children.

Ms. Brislin attended Huntingdon College and currently serves on the Huntingdon College Alumni Board. She is also the recipient of the Huntingdon College Loyalty Award.

Past recipients include, but limited to Jack Galassini, Leon Hadley, Larry Stevens, Bob Robinson, Sr., Hobbs Foundation, Dottye Hannan, Rita Sabel, Mrs. Jean Weil, Mayor Emory Folmar and Mayor Bobby Bright.

Thank you Miss Betty. We look forward to many wonderful years filled with your delightful smile, wit, charm... and those tasty baked goods too.

Top: Betty Brislin sporting her very first Zoo docent uniform. Right: Mayor Todd Strange presenting Betty Brislin with the 2014 Golden Egg Award.

Zoo facebook page is moving!

You have liked us, shared pics, and even became our dear friends. It is with a regretful yet, excited heart, that the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum are proud to announce that we are moving our facebook page. That’s right, I said facebook page.

Our current facebook friend-based page has been maxed out at 5,000 friends for the past few years. To all our friends, thank you, but it time for us to move. By making the conversion to a fan-based facebook page, we will be able to better serve more guests and fans, while informing and entertaining a lot larger fan base.

So, be one of our newest fans at facebook.com/montgomeryzooandmannmuseum. Enjoy daily postings and event announcements about your favorite place in the world... the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum.
Mark your calendars! ZooWeekend April 5-6, 9am - 6pm daily

Zoo Weekend 2014 is scheduled for April 5 & 6 from 9am - 6pm daily. This popular two-day festival began in 1976 as a fundraiser to help support the 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 the zoo through monetary contributions so the zoo could build more animal exhibits. Throughout Zoo Weekend’s 38 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 fundraiser complete with entertainment, food, petting zoo, animal rides, Ronald McDonald, games, animal shows and much more. Zoo Weekend is sure to bring the kid out in everyone!

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 $12 per person, children ages 3 - 12 are $8 per person. A special discounted admission will be offered for the Mann Museum during Zoo Weekend only. Members of the Montgomery Zoo will be admitted FREE.

How do I purchase a ticket? Contact the zoo office by calling (334) 240-4900 to purchase advance tickets.

What’s the entertainment like? Confederate Hipster, Matt York, Beyond the Clouds, DJ at Large, Britt Johnson and various musical groups, Ronald McDonald, Montgomery Police K-9 dogs, Karate performances, dance performances and live animal presentation from the Zoo’s Education Department will be performing throughout the two-day event. Check out the Montgomery Zoo’s facebook page and web site at montgomeryzoo.com for a schedule of events.

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, turkey legs, cotton candy, barbeque, ice cream, refreshing beverages and many more food selections.

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

Can I bring my own food? Sure. There are picnicking areas throughout the zoo.
acknowledged the outstanding contributions of Montgomery Zoo volunteers by hosting a brunch, on Saturday, March 1, 2014. The Zoo recognizes these dedicated individuals who have made a lasting and deep impact on the Zoo and the River Region community. The combined volunteer hours for 2013 totaled over 45,000 hours.

The Zoo gave a special award this year “The Golden Plunger”. This award was given to Kim Sanders because she will plunge in and do any job that needs to be done. Kim volunteered over 1,500 hours in the year 2013. Kim volunteers in the office, at the special events, volunteer at the Giraffe Encounter Post and Parakeet Cove. The staff thanks Kim for the time and dedication she has given the Zoo.

The Zoo’s special events throughout the year take thousands of hours from 450 plus volunteers. We could not successfully organize and man these events without the help and support of our volunteers. Just to name the events that the volunteers help with are Zoo Weekend, Earth Day Safari, Mayfest, Military Day, Ballet & the Beasts, Zoo Boo and Christmas Lights Festival. We also have people that volunteer at the Giraffe Encounter Post, Parakeet Cove, Petting Zoo, Mann Museum, the office and our Maintenance Department every day or at least two or three time per week.

The volunteers are dedicated to the growth and expansion of the Zoo. The Zoo has several individual people that volunteer year after year, some have volunteered as many as 27 years. And the Zoo staff cannot forget all the organizations, schools, civic clubs and the military that support the special events throughout the year. The Montgomery Zoo would not be as beautiful and growing without our volunteer help.

Volunteering at the Zoo is a rewarding experience. It gives you a chance to have fun, spend time with family and make lifelong friends. If you are interested in volunteering for Zoo Weekend and other special events, please contact Sarah McKemey @ (334) 240-4930 or register online at montgomeryzoo.com or email smckemey@montgomeryal.gov.

Thank you for your support!
Please mail to: Sarah McKemey, Montgomery Zoo, 2301 Coliseum Parkway, Montgomery, AL 36110, [334] 240-4930

Volunteers Needed!

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 Sarah McKemey at [334] 240-4930, register online at montgomeryzoo.com, email smckemey@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 __________________________ Zip ____________
Phone __________________________
Email __________________________
Area(s) of interest __________________________

Special event __________________________
Best time(s) available __________________________

Thank you for your support!

Three jaguar cubs make their public debut on Friday, February 17 at the Montgomery Zoo, on display 1pm - 4:30pm daily at the Jaguar exhibit in the South American realm

On October 6, 2013, three female Jaguar cubs were born at the Montgomery Zoo. These cubs are the first litter born to Nakita a four year female spotted jaguar, and the father, Kai an eight year old black male jaguar. All three cubs are black like the 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 three 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 three jaguars cubs made their public debut on Friday, January 17, 2014 at 1pm with a crowd of onlookers, media and Zoo staff. The cubs and their mother will be on exhibit 1pm - 4:30pm daily pending weather conditions and animal husbandry needs.

Article pics and cover provided by Carolyn Wright Photography.
To humans, zebra stripes, jaguar spots or those unique giraffe patterns may stick out like a sore thumb or diva fashion statement, but in actuality these patterns act as nature’s most efficient form of camouflage guarding these animals from endangering predator attacks.

The zebra: Animal and patterns found in nature are much like those of a camouflage pattern that the military uses in its fatigue design. The wavy lines of a zebra blend in with the wavy lines of the tall grass around it. It doesn’t matter that the zebra’s stripes are black and white and the lines of the grass are yellow, brown or green, because the zebra’s main predator, the lion, is color blind. The pattern of the camouflage is much more important than its color, when hiding from these predators. If a zebra is standing still in matching surroundings, a lion may overlook it completely.

This benefit may help an individual zebra in some situations, but the more significant means of protection has to do with zebra herds. Zebras usually travel in large groups, in which they stay very close to one another. Even with their camouflage pattern, it’s highly unlikely a large gathering of zebras would be able to escape a lion’s notice, but their stripes help them use this large size to their advantage. When all the zebras keep together as a big group, the pattern of each zebra’s stripes blends in with the stripes of the zebras around it. This is confusing to the lion, who sees a large, moving, striped mass instead of many individual zebras. The lion has trouble picking out any one zebra, and so it doesn’t have a very good plan of attack. It’s hard for the lion to even recognize which way each zebra is moving: Imagine the difference in pursuing one animal and charging into an amorphous blob of animals moving every which way. The lion’s inability to distinguish zebras also makes it more difficult for it to target and track weaker zebras in the herd.

So do zebra stripes confuse zebras as much as they confuse lions? Oddly enough, while making zebras indistinguishable to other animals, zebra stripes actually help zebras recognize one another. Stripe patterns are like zebra fingerprints: Every zebra has a slightly different arrangement. Zoologists believe this is how zebras distinguish who’s who in a zebra herd. This certainly has significant benefits. A zebra mare and her foal can keep track of each other in the large herd, for example, and a zebra can very quickly distinguish its
own herd from another. This also helps human researchers, because it enables them to track particular zebras in the wild.

**Jaguars:** In most cases, a jaguar’s coat is golden-brown with clusters or groups of black spots that look like rosettes. The spot pattern is a small group of spots circled by a larger group of spots. It has single spots on its head, legs and tail. It has white fur on its undersides, on its chest and under its nose. Sometimes a jaguar is completely black; which is melanistic, meaning they have an unusually high amount of melanin, a black pigment found in animals or plants. Black jaguars still have spots; they are just very difficult to see. Being cats that spend most of their lives in the trees, the varied-sized rosette pattern acts a perfect disguise against the tree and sky pattern as potential prey may be looking upwards. The white underbelly also mixes nicely into the sky and sunlight making the jaguar one of the world’s perfect ambush hunters; attacking prey from up high as they wonder the jungle floor.

**Giraffe:** The coat of a giraffe has dark blotches or patches (which can be orange, chestnut, brown, or nearly black in color) separated by light hair (usually white or cream in color). Unlike humans, male giraffes hair color becomes darker as they age. The coat pattern serves as camouflage, allowing it to blend in the light and shade patterns of savanna woodlands. The skin underneath the dark areas may serve as windows for thermoregulation, being sites for complex blood vessel systems and large sweat glands. Each individual giraffe has a unique coat pattern. Mothers can actually recognize their offspring in a herd of giraffe by noticing the uniqueness of their offspring’s coat.

The skin of a giraffe is mostly gray. It is also thick and allows it to run through thorn bush without being punctured. The fur may serve as a chemical defense, as its parasite repellents give the animal a characteristic scent. At least 11 main aromatic chemicals are in the fur, although indole and 3-methylindole are responsible for most of the smell.

**Will the animals be on exhibit?** Yes, the animals will be on exhibit throughout the 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 rides, horse and pony rides, petting zoo 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 and the Toucan Exhibit, etc.

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

**When will Zoo Weekend take place?** Zoo Weekend take place on Saturday, April 5 and Sunday April 6, 2014 from 9am – 6pm daily. For more information go to montgomeryzoo.com.
Mann Wildlife Learning Museum | Alabama wood duck

The Alabama wood duck (*Aix sponsa*) is a small multicolored duck from 15 - 18 inches in length. It inhabits creeks, rivers, floodplains, lakes, swamps, and beaver ponds. Their crested heads, broad wings, and large rectangular tails create an appearance unlike any other duck. Although their flight is only moderately swift, their broader wings enable them to thread through tree branches fairly easily. The male wood duck is brightly colored in iridescent greens, purples, and blues featuring a distinctive white chin patch and a long, red bill. In flight, the white belly contrasts neatly with the dark breast and wing feathers. Females are a mottled brown color with a white eye patch. Wood ducks make a loud wooo-eek during flight or when under distress. During feeding and resting they make softer peet and cheep notes. On the water, wood ducks sit higher and are more buoyant than other ducks causing their tails to be more visible above the water.

The wood duck can be found throughout the North American East Coast, from Quebec to Florida. In the interior United States, the wood duck can be found from the Canadian border to south Texas and Mexico. The Pacific populations range from southern British Columbia to southern California. In Alabama, historical records indicate that the wood duck is found statewide.

Wood ducks are found small streams, rivers, creeks, lakes, swamps, beaver ponds, and even drainage ditches. Flooded hardwood timber and beaver ponds are prime wood duck habitat. The shallow waters usually contain large numbers of invertebrates and acorns, which are crucial to the wood ducks’ diet. Wood ducks are dabbling ducks that feed in shallow waters by dipping their heads under the water and tilting their backends up in the air. The young wood duck’s diet consists almost entirely of small invertebrates and other animal matter. As the ducklings mature, they change to mostly plant matter. Adult wood ducks feed almost entirely on plant matter.
Saturday, February 22 marked Winter Animal Enrichment Day at the Montgomery Zoo. The day began with the sloth bear quickly shredding a treat-filled, termite mound. This enrichment highlighted her long powerful claws and keen sense of smell. Soon followed a trip to monkey island. They were provided colorful, hung treat-filled boxes. The boxes were lined with various sized holes allowing them the opportunity to figure out which hole was large enough for the treat to exit. Then off to the Jaguar mother and her three cubs, where they were given fish and catnip-filled boxes. Mmmm... a big cat favorite too. Lions attacked a treat-filled faux zebra. Tigers were given boxes filled with bloody meat. All in all, 16 exhibits were featured in Enrichment Day. If you missed it, do not worry we will have another enrichment day, Saturday, July 19, 2014, 10am-2pm. Make plans to attend then, it will be a great time to be had by both animals and humans.

More info on Animal Enrichment. Enrichment is the practice of adding various stimuli to one’s environment. It can be as simple as adding food, treats, scents, toys, puzzles... just anything new to the animal’s environment. Here at the Zoo our goal is to provide enrichment that will stimulate behavior in captivity that is typical of the species in the wild. It is also our goal to provide enrichment resources to our animal collection that will result in increased physical and mental exercise.

In order to choose an item to be used for enrichment we keep a database of tried enrichment items with results on specific animals. We also consult national animal enrichment databases developed by government agencies and other zoos. When an item is evaluated for use as enrichment it must go through an approval process with certain requirements. First safety is our primary concern and the following conditions must be addressed before using any enrichment item.

> Can an animal be cut or otherwise injured by it?
> Can the enrichment fall on or injure an animal?
> Can the animal ingest the object or a piece of it?
> Is any part of it toxic, including paint or epoxy?
> Can it cause choking, asphyxiation or strangulation?
> Can it become lodged in the digestive tract?
> Has browse been determined to be non-toxic?
> Does the enrichment cause high stress levels?
> Can the animal get caught or become trapped by it?
> Can the enrichment item promote aggression or harmful competition?

And yes, it is safe to build or provide enrichments to your pets at home. Just keep in mind all these helpful hints when building or purchasing an enrichment item.

Everyday is enrichment day at the Montgomery Zoo. It is the Zoo’s practice to provide enrichment to our animals on a daily basis; providing physical and mental stimulation that promotes safe and normal behavior that would be found in the species in the wild.
Humans are fascinated by birds because they come in all shapes, sizes, and colors. Here at the Montgomery Zoo, we have around 60 different species, and these birds can be found in each of our five world realms. There are actually over 9,000 different species of birds, and these are found all over the world. Which many of them can be found right here at the Montgomery Zoo.

Birds tend to be broken down into five different categories: The largest of the categories is the songbirds which incorporates robins, wrens, and swallows. Another category of birds is the parrots which includes parakeets and cockatoos. Eagles, owls, and hawks fall into a category of birds called prey. These are hunting birds that capture their own food. You additionally have game birds which are turkeys, chickens, and quails. The last of the groups is the water fowl that comprise of geese, ducks, and swans. It makes it easy to identify birds by putting them into different classifications. The only problem is that this assortment does not include all birds. Some of the species left out are ostriches, penguins, cranes, kingfishers among many others. In reality there are over 50 different orders of birds.

The earliest known bird is the Archaeopteryx lithographica, which is said to have lived about 140 million years ago during the Jurassic period. We know about this bird from fossil records discovered in southern Germany. The fossil records give the impression that this bird was about the size of what we know today as a pigeon.

Having some knowledge about the different types of birds can greatly enhance bird watching. Bird watching is a hobby enjoyed by people all over the world. It can be done with the naked eye or with visual enhancement devices such as binoculars or telescopes. Many wild birds are detected more by sound than by sight, so it does involve an auditory component. Here at the zoo, our birds are easy to find and very enjoyable to watch. The zoo offers many shaded areas with benches, where you can sit for as long as you like to watch your favorite species. Furthermore, we offer a chance to get up close and personal... Story continued on page 15

Birds play a vital role in our planet’s ecosystem as well as at the Montgomery Zoo. From the vibrant coral feathers of the Andean flamingo in our South American realm to the iconic and fearless American Bald Eagle to our tiny colorful and energetic Parakeets located in Parakeet Cove. Humans have never-breaking kinship with birds.

In a joint project involving the Montgomery Zoo and Southern Food Services Management, for the past few weeks the Overlook Cafe has been going through a revitalization and makeover. This fresh and new look will not only be appealing to the eye, but will better and more efficiently help serve our guests.

Some of the new Overlook Cafe features and amenities include:

> Customer friendly service area that keeps visitors and guests flowing through the Café to the check-out
> Natural look with earth tones, reclaimed wood, corrugated metal and special lighting fixtures
> New self-serve drink area with same day discounts for refills
> The additional of two garage door panels for open-air dining on the Overlook Café veranda with spectacular views of the Zoo
> Also, the Train Depot kiosk has been renovated so it can offer another area for food selections including special slushies, ice cream and cool refreshments.

Renovation at the Overlook Cafe is underway and will be ready just in time for Zoo Weekend. Pics above display new flooring, natural, re-purposed woods and corrugated tin, industrial counter tops, new light fixtures and much more.

New look. Great food. A fresh and new Overlook Cafe!

Enjoy hot meals, fresh fare, sweet treats, cool refreshments and more at the new Overlook Cafe. From the classic hot dog and hamburger combos to fresh, light fare and cool refreshments, the new Overlook Cafe has the perfect zoo-time snack or meal for you and your school group.

The new Overlook Cafe menu includes such favorites as:

> Hamburgers
> Hot dogs
> Chicken nuggets
> Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches
> Assorted fresh wraps and salads
> Pudding and yogurt parfaits
> Popcorn and cotton candy
> Soda, juices, vitamin water and slushes
> Ice cream, fruit cups and cookies
> And so much more

Fresh, friendly and economical. Fresh, tasty and always served with a smile at the Overlook Cafe.

Tasty, economical combos available along souvenir bags and refillable cups.
**Kidzone!**

**Color me Jaguar in spring**

---

**Did you know?**

**The jaguar is (are)**
- largest cat in the Americas, an adult Jaguar weighs from 200 to 250 pounds
- a cat that loves to swim
- solitary animals who live and hunt alone
- their home range is for males 19 to 53 square miles, females range is 10 to 37 miles
- Aztec and Mayan civilizations used jaguar images to represent rulers or royalty and warriors
- Jaguars hunt mainly at night
- Name means “a beast that kills its prey with a single bound”
- Melanistic jaguar have been mistakenly called “black panthers.” Black panthers do not exist.

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**Color me Ocelot**

---

**Did you know?**

**The ocelot is (are)**
- found in Central/South America
- weigh 20 to 35 pounds.
- name came from the Mexican Aztec word tlalocelotl, which means field tiger
- give birth to 1 to 4 kittens every two years
- without teeth for chewing, ocelots tear their food to pieces and swallow it whole
On February 4th, the Annual Docent Appreciation Banquet was held in the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum banquet room honoring the dedicated service of the Zoo’s Docents and Zooteens. It was an exciting evening where all the education volunteers had a chance to come together for good food, friendship, service awards, and door prizes. This event, sponsored by the Montgomery Area Zoological Society (MAZS), is a chance for the Montgomery Zoo, Zoo Staff and MAZS Board members to show their appreciation to people who give their precious time to the Education Department.

The highlight of the event every year is the announcement of the “Docent of the Year.” This is a hard decision for the staff to make every year because all our volunteers give so much and are so valuable. This year our honored winners were Janie Jenkins and Adriana Bloodworth. They both have donated a lot of time to the Zoo, are always willing to help with programs and events, have knowledge of the animals in the Education Department, are always looking for ways to improve animal care, follow the guidelines and rules in the department, and most importantly, love what they are doing and always have a great attitude about the zoo and the department. Congratulations Janie and Adriana!

Congratulations Janie and Adriana. Above left pic (left to right), Janie Jenkins and Adriana Bloodworth. Above right pic (left to right), Adriana Bloodworth and Janie Jenkins with certificates, trophies and yummy ‘docent of the year’ cake.

Birds of the world

with some of our birds, the parakeets, at Parakeet Cove. At this exhibit, you can not only watch the beautiful birds, but you can also interact with them by feeding them. It’s an amazing opportunity. So, whether you are an experienced birder or a new comer just starting out, the Montgomery Zoo is magnificent place to go for bird watching.

Story continued from page 12

UPCOMING ZOO EVENTS

APRIL 5-6, 9am - 6pm daily, ZOO WEEKEND. 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.

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

MAY 11, MOTHER’S DAY, FREE ADMISSION FOR MOMS. Celebrate Mother’s Day at the Montgomery Zoo. All Moms receive FREE admission to the Montgomery Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Join us for Mother’s Day.

MAY 17, 10am - NOON, DINO DIG. Go on an archeological dig and discover bones from the past. Make new discoveries and new friends. Geared for kids 4-10 years old, advanced reservations required. Join us May 17.

MAY 26, MEMORIAL DAY. Yes, the Montgomery Zoo and Mann Wildlife Learning Museum will be open on Memorial Day, 9am - 5:30pm, last tickets sold and major animal exhibits begin closing at 4:30pm. So join us at the Zoo for Memorial Day.

JUNE 2 - JULY 25, ZOO SUMMER CAMP. Zoo Summer Camp is a fun-filled, educational wildlife experience. Geared for kids 5-12 years old, half-day and full-day camps available. Advanced reservations are required.

JUNE 15, FATHER’S DAY, FREE ADMISSION FOR DADS. Celebrate Father’s Day at the Montgomery Zoo. All Dads receive FREE admission to the Montgomery Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Join us for Father’s Day.

JUNE 19, MILITARY DAY, FREE ADMISSION MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FAMILIES. All military personnel and their families receive FREE admission to the Zoo and the Mann Wildlife Learning Museum. Food, drinks and refreshments are also provided. Thank you for proudly serving.

For more info on these events, please visit montgomeryzoo.com or call (334) 240-4900.
Jungle Drums

MONTGOMERY ZOO AND MANN MUSEUM

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, APRIL 5 - 6, 9am - 6pm

SEE ANIMALS from AROUND THE GLOBE, ENJOY GREAT FAMILY FUN TIME, SEE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT and ANIMAL PRESENTATIONS, DELIGHT in PLAYING GAMES and WINNING PRIZES, RELISH in the ARRAY of CONCESSIONS, SAVE on DISCOUNTED MEMBERSHIPS, HOP ABOARD OUR TRAIN, FLY HIGH on a SKY LIFT RIDE, ENJOY SOME PERSONAL TIME WITH THE ANIMALS AT PARAKEET COVE, GIRAFFE ENCOUNTER, PONY & HORSE RIDES, PETTING ZOO, AND CAMEL RIDES. FUN TIMES FOR ALL!