

JOHN BALL
ZOO NEWS

SPRING 2018

Lookin' Out for Spring





JOHN BALL ZOO NEWS

Volume 35 Issue No. 1
March 2018

Mission Statement:

We inspire our community to be actively engaged in the conservation of wildlife and our natural environment.

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Design and layout by Susan Hinkle
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Photo by Kat Willie, JBZ



March 2018

DEAR FRIENDS,

Our Zoo Team just met to celebrate our 2017 successes. Every area of the Zoo had 90 seconds to show slides and share their accomplishments. It was great fun for all of us. Of course, the 90 second buzzer went off many times as the 18 areas of the Zoo celebrated. No one really cared when the team-member kept on talking.

The Zoo has grown so much that soon I don't think we'll have a spot big enough to seat them all. I've often thought of the Zoo as a small city. We have people who plow our roads and shovel our sidewalks. People who pay our bills and keep the books balanced. People who do our marketing and social media. People who take care of our animals. People who do scientific research. People who teach. People who write grants and funding requests. People who buy our gift inventory and manage the shop. People who create and manage events. People who give medical care to the animals. People who serve our guests at admissions and concessions. People who take care of our members. People who conduct field research. People who Save Animals From Extinction. Frankly the list is too long and I've left many jobs out in trying to name them all.

It's a complex operation. During the Celebration I think we all started to realize just how complex it is. We realized how much each department and each individual contributes to fulfilling our mission.

I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of this group's dedication and hard work. They are here because they believe in the mission. Ultimately everything they do starts with the desire to save wild animals and wild places no matter their job title.

They are amazing people who care. Despite any challenges, the animals and the guests come first. They want to be here. They are the energy that powers our success. It was wonderful to see the pride evident in them as they celebrated today. It only further fuels my pride in them.

Sincerely,

Peter

PETER D'ARIENZO

Chief Executive Officer



THANKS TO YOU

SHOVELS ARE IN THE GROUND

Congratulations and thank you for your help

Thank you so much for your support of the Zoo's campaign to raise funds for the Western Valley ADA Pathway. We're happy to report that this effort has been a tremendous success! Because of you, we were able to meet and even exceed the matching gift challenge so generously offered by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

With gifts like yours, the matching grant from MCACA, and funds raised at our Legends of the Zoo gala celebration in September, we have raised nearly \$300,000 for this project. That fully funds this crucial project and construction is underway.

Because of you, the Zoo can:

- Create a fully accessible pathway that complies with Americans with Disabilities Act standards. This means easier access whether you are in a wheelchair, pushing a stroller, or simply walking.
- Complete a key element in our goal to make the entire Zoo fully accessible. Now, only the entry pathway remains.
- Remove old, unusable animal habitats and make room for new animals.



DETOUR

Please bear with us as we put the finishing touches on this construction in March and April. During those months we'll ask you to use the Waterfall Trail or the Funicular to see the tigers. Everything including benches and landscaping should be completed early in May.





2018 | YEAR OF THE BIRD

"If you take care of the birds, you take care of most of the big environmental problems in the world."

Thomas E. Lovejoy, Tropical Conservation Biologist and National Geographic Fellow

One hundred years ago, in 1918, Congress enacted the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. It was written to end the devastating commercial trade in feathers for the fashion industry. The treaty, originally between the USA and Canada, now includes Japan, Mexico and Russia and protects 1,000 bird species. It is the most powerful and important bird protection law ever passed.

To celebrate the centennial, National Geographic is partnering with the National Audubon Society, Bird Life International, and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to declare 2018 the YEAR OF THE BIRD.

We encourage you to go to the National Geographic Magazine website and look up an article by Jonathan Franzen titled "Why Birds Matter and Are Worth Protecting".

nationalgeographic.com/magazine/2018/01/why-birds-matter/

The article, with stunning photos by Joel Sartore, gives you an entirely new respect for the birds that live all around us.



Photo by Chris Bede

FEED THE HUMMINGBIRDS

Early migrants can arrive as soon as mid-April if weather is mild. Get your feeders set up for these hungry travelers.

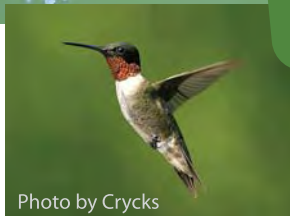


Photo by Crycks

And speaking of BIRDS...

**The REALM OF FLIGHT Bird Show
Returns Saturday, May 26**

All your favorite bird-celebrities like the majestic eagles, hawks and owls will be back to amaze and astonish you. Plus we'll introduce you to some new birds with personality plus!



John Ball Zoo has contributed to field conservation for 33 years through its Wildlife Conservation Fund. This program, supported through donations and animal sponsorships, has helped wildlife around the world and close to home.

This year the Fund is assisting with programs in India, Cameroon, Brazil, Paraguay, Pakistan, and Kenya.

These projects were selected from over 100 grant applications.



2018 CONSERVATION FUND AWARDS

The Felidae Conservation Fund

Tsavo Cheetah Project

A high speed railway completed in 2017 now runs between Nairobi and Mombasa. The tracks divide the Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks making wildlife movement between the protected areas difficult and dangerous. There are animal underpasses 230' wide in some spots along the elevated railway. However, there are long gaps without any safe access. Cheetahs, in particular, seem to be suffering. The project will monitor the gaps with camera traps. The data will assist recommendations to ensure safe and assessable connectivity for cheetahs and other species. Local Masai will watch the camera traps and already act as Cheetah Scouts.

The Cheetah Scouts have prevented the deaths of at least 26 cheetahs in the study area.



© shutterstock

Dharti Development Society

Gyps Vulture Restoration through Veterinary Doctors (DVM) Engagement

Gyps Vultures - and all species of vultures - are extremely valuable to our ecology. They are effective and efficient scavengers. Without them, carcasses and rotting trash could lead to disease risks for wildlife, livestock and humans. Three species of Gyps vultures have already suffered more than 97% decline. The main threat is a drug, Diclofenac, used by many veterinarians and livestock owners. Much like DDT in this country, which nearly wiped out bald eagles, this drug is killing vultures in all south Asia.

Our grant will help fund workshops for veterinarians and others to make them aware of the danger. It will also introduce them to alternative drugs and encourage legislation to ban the use of Diclofenac.



Photo by Bernard Dupont

Snow Leopard Conservation India Trust

Ladakh, India

This project focuses on teaching Buddhist monks and nuns about the importance and ecology of snow leopards.

At least 70% of the area is Buddhist, these leaders are essential in the effort to teach and promote conservation efforts to the local people.



The Chaco Center for Conservation and Research

Proyecto Tagua Program, Paraguay

Chacoan Peccaries are endangered due to hunting and the fragmentation of their habitat by large ranches. The Chaco Center for Conservation and Research is in Paraguay. It runs the only program for in-situ conservation management of Chacoan Peccaries. The program breeds, rears and releases captive bred peccaries. 400 acres of land are available to use as a release area and refuge. Our grant will help them prepare a release facility on that site.



Itabirito Zoo

Brazil

The Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Resources is responsible for legislation affecting all wild animals. They recently made it mandatory for zoos in Brazil to provide individual identification for zoo animals. Itabirito Zoo applied for help to complete the process of microchipping and banding their animals for proper identification. This is especially important for the breeding and tracking of rare and endangered species.



The Fund also gave two continuing support grants for 2019

One went to **Wing of Research in Local Development (WORLD)** to help prevent human - wildlife conflict in India. Another continuing support grant was given to **Limbe Wildlife Center** in Cameroon for the Green Community project providing alternate livelihoods for ex-poachers and their families.



Violet and new baby

Photo by JBZ Staff



Violet and AJ on the Wild Way Trail
summer of 2017

Photo by Kat Willie, JBZ

Baylee

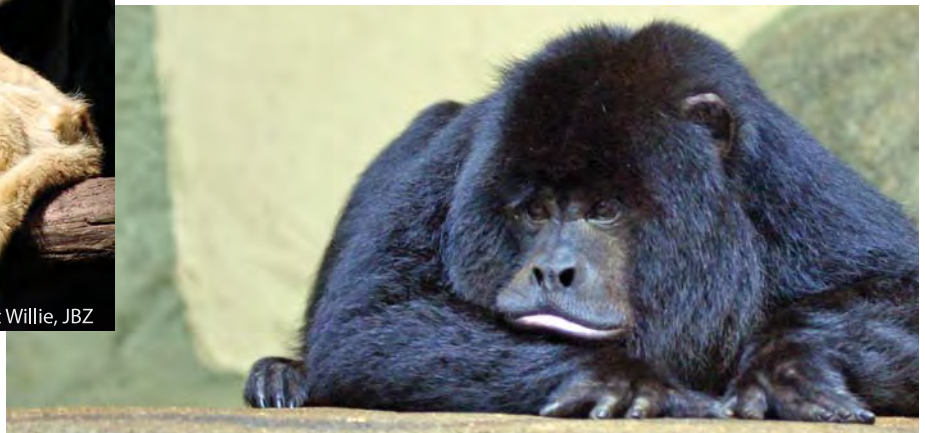
Howler Family of Four

If you enjoyed watching the antics of AJ, the young howler monkey born last spring... plan on doubling your pleasure this season.

Parents, Baylee and Violet, welcomed their second baby on November 25, 2017. This is the ninth howler monkey baby born here since 2004 - all fathered by Baylee. Baylee's genetics are well represented in the Black Howler Species Survival Plan so we no longer have a breeding recommendation for this pair. Although howler monkeys are listed as a species of 'Least Concern' by the IUCN, their numbers are declining in the wild due to habitat loss from agricultural development. In zoos, they are ambassadors for their species and tropical forest conservation.

We will have to wait a little longer to find out if the new baby is male or female. It's too soon to separate mom and baby even for a quick exam. Coat color is no help since all black howlers are born blonde and males change color as they mature. Last year's new arrival, AJ, is showing a lot of interest and interacting playfully with the baby. Watch for this family of four on the Wild Way Trail as soon as the weather warms up.

Black howler monkeys are one of the largest primates in the Americas. Their call is one of the loudest in the animal kingdom.



Animals!



Animals!

By sponsoring an animal through Animals! Animals!, you not only help in the care and feeding our animals at John Ball Zoo, but also support conservation programs near and far.

Visit jbzoo.org to learn more.

CELEBRATE AT THE ZOO with your SPONSORED ANIMAL on a special day in 2018!

Apr 25 - World Penguin Day

Jun 8 - World Ocean Day

Aug 10 - World Lion Day

Apr 27 - World Tapir Day

Jul 16 - World Snake Day

Aug 15 - Cotton Top Tamarin Day

May 23 - World Turtle Day

Jul 29 - World Tiger Day

Sep 8 - Monarch Day

May 30 - World Otter Day

Aug 4 - Owl Awareness Day

Sep 15 - International Red Panda Day

Good Bye, Mr. K

Remembering Dennis Kretschman by Brenda Stringer

Mr. K was a presence for all of us at the Zoo. If you saw any of the media when he passed away, you know how important he was to the children he taught for over 40 years. He shaped their view of the world, of nature, each other, and themselves. Every year he led a diverse group of children on a journey that brought them together and made them into a force for saving the world.

For me, he was Dennis. When I started at the Zoo, he was that guy in the classroom trailer in the parking lot. When we all moved in together in the renovated park pavilion in 1986, he became a daily presence in my life. I got to know him, watch him teach, and hear his music.

He seemed a quiet man, centered, calm...yet intense and passionate. He was surprisingly funny. He was kind. I don't think he was every truly comfortable indoors. He was far more at home taking his class into the woods, or teaching them to canoe on the pond, or observing animals in the Zoo. He so wanted them to be enveloped in nature. He was a challenging teacher with a huge heart.

On his last day, his last act before he became ill, was to take his students on a nature walk. Our friend left us far too soon. Still, he finished his walk as he had done all his life helping us realize the beauty, power, and importance of Nature and each other.



Pictured is the original Zoo School Crew, Mr. K is in the center as he was from the very beginning

We will miss him always and be so grateful to have known him.



Photo by Earl Stringer



Zoo School story circle



Photo courtesy of JBZ Zoo School

It's not too soon to think about RendeZoo 2018

by Chris VanBergen, 2018 RendeZoo Committee Chair

Even though it feels like the cold temperatures may never end, I'm already thinking ahead to warmer weather (aren't we all?) and looking forward to RendeZoo 2018, Welcome to the Jungle!

RendeZoo takes what is ordinarily seen as a "kids place" and turns it into a fun and vibrant party for adults. It's a great mix of people, food, drinks, and of course animals. And, there's the added benefit of knowing that while having fun, you're also supporting such a long-standing, community institution. That is why I jumped at the chance to get involved with RendeZoo three years ago, including serving as the RendeZoo Committee Chair this year.

Not only a volunteer, my family have been members at the Zoo for many years. Most people assume I have a Zoo membership because of my two young boys, who've grown up loving the Zoo. But those close to me know that Chase and Carter are just a cover for the membership I'd have anyway. Every year we take a ride on Milkbone the camel and attend Zoo Goes Boo. Zoo photos cover our fridge, and one thing remains the same—my smile is the biggest of all.

Chris and Eric at RendeZoo 2016



Chris getting acquainted with a boa constrictor

When I think about all the Zoo has to offer families and our community, including conservation education and efforts, opportunities for family gathering and celebration, and up close wildlife experiences, I am proud to have such an impactful cultural institution in this great city.

Whether you've been to the Zoo recently or it's been a few years, I encourage you to explore the Zoo in a new way. Take a behind-the-scenes tour, introduce the Zoo to a new friend, or volunteer for one of the many programs available. And, if you've never attended RendeZoo, I encourage you to join us on Friday, June 8. I hope to see you there!

Save the Date



For more information on RendeZoo please visit jbzoo.org/rendezoo or call Katie at 616-336-3309.



IT'S SPRING

and Time for Family Fun

For more information and registration go to:
jbzoo.org/kids and family

You don't have to wait for summer to enjoy the Zoo. Spring programs offer opportunities for kids to explore the Zoo in unique ways and twilight tours are nocturnal fun for the whole family.

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

for children in kindergarten through fifth grade

Zoo Detective

Monday & Tuesday, April 2 & 3

Use your detective skills to solve whose tracks, scat, fur, and feathers belong to the mystery animals. We'll discover what makes animals so unique and enjoy meeting some of them up-close.

Just Zoo It!

Wednesday & Thursday, April 4 & 5

We'll see where the keepers make the food, where the animals sleep at night, and we'll explore some of the Zoo's wild park places!

Full Day Camp - 9:00am to 4:00pm, 2 day session

\$100/Member \$105/Non-Member

SPRING BREAK OVERNIGHT 2018

for children in grades 3 through 8

Starlight Safari

Friday, April 6

Slumber near the chimpanzees on this great zoo adventure. Enjoy touring the zoo under the stars, animal encounters, breakfast while watching the animals, and deliver a special treat to some of the animals.

Overnights - 5:30pm to 9:30am the following day
\$50/Member \$55/Non-Member

**Summer Camp Registration opens
for Members on Monday, March 19.**

SPROUTS

for children 3 and 4 years old

Do you see what I see? March 8 & 9

What's that smell? March 15 & 16

Do you hear what I hear? March 22 & 23

Taste that texture! March 29 & 30

The youngest zoo enthusiasts explore the world of animals on a different themed adventure each week.

Thursdays & Fridays 9am to 11:30am

\$18/Member/Class \$20/Non-member/Class

KID'S NIGHT OUT

for children age 4 through 10 years

Penguin Pals Friday, March 16

Hide and Seek Friday, April 20

Frog Frenzy Friday, May 18

Parents enjoy an evening out while the kids are treated to a Zoo adventure! Skip the hassle of finding a sitter and send the kids to the Zoo for a fun filled evening. A pizza dinner is included.

5:30pm to 9:00pm

\$25/child, \$20 for each additional child living in the same household.

TWILIGHT SENSORY SAFARI

for families - children 5 years and older

Exploring the Night at John Ball Zoo

Fridays: March 16 & 30, April 6 & 20

Experience the zoo in a new 'light'. Bring your family, your flashlight and a sense of adventure. The program includes a guided tour, an animal encounter, and hands-on activities for children.

Evening start times vary by date

\$9/Member \$10/Non-member

Pre-registration and pre-payment required

JUMP

Going strong in its third decade!

In 1997, Ruth Jones, then a Zoo Society board member and principal of Henry Paideia Academy in the Grand Rapids public schools, imagined a program that would make the Zoo more accessible to every family, regardless of income. Children might come to the Zoo as part of a school field trip but Ruth wanted to make it possible for every household to experience the Zoo together, as a family.

Ruth's vision became a reality when the JUMP program was piloted later that year. For more than twenty years since, JUMP has continued to provide a free day at the Zoo for families whose school children qualify for federal free or partially free hot lunch program.

Beginning with the Grand Rapids Public School system, JUMP expanded to include the entire Kent Intermediate Schools system and then the Ottawa Area District Schools. In recent years John Ball Zoo has partnered with the Rapid to provide bus passes for Kent County JUMP recipients.

Last year alone, more than 40,000 JUMP passes to the Zoo were redeemed as part of this wonderful program.

JUMP is made possible by the generosity of donors to the Zoo. If you are interested in supporting JUMP please visit jbzoo.org/donate or contact Katie Kawall, Development Coordinator, at kkawall@jbzoo.org or 616-336-3309.



LEGACY GIVING SOCIETY

Have you included John Ball Zoo in your will or are you thinking about doing so?

If so, please let us know. New for 2018, we're starting a Legacy Giving Society to recognize these wonderful expressions of caring and support for our Zoo.

Please contact
Eric Constant at 616-336-3036
or econstant@jbzoo.org

Photo by Cameron Chamberlain



Placer mining using a water sluice during the California Gold Rush era

MINING for TREASURE at the ZOO THIS SUMMER

Prospectors in the American West and Alaska often set up placer mines. This ancient and simple method uses a water sluice or chute to separate gold and other valuable minerals from sand and gravel. The technology was very basic but the work was backbreaking.

Hundreds of thousands of people migrated to California after gold was discovered in 1848. Many of them came from places as far away as China and Australia.



Photo courtesy of FOTWNCNC

This summer kids (and grown-ups too) can take part in a hands-on activity just like panning for gold in the wild west! Buy a bag of mining “rough”. Pour the bag into a sluice tray and watch as the water rinses away sand and debris to reveal hidden treasures!

Every bag of “rough” holds fun discoveries which can be identified with the help of a treasure guide included in the kit.



ROCK • ROAR & POUR

Cold Beer - Live Music - Real Animals

What makes for a better trio than great rock and roll, animals and a cold drink? This year we have three dates for this casual and unusual happy hour at the Zoo. Rock, Roar & Pour offers a cash bar of craft beer and wines, a live band, animals and classic concession stand fare - with a gourmet twist.

What doesn't it have? Kids! So call the babysitter and enjoy a night out at the Zoo.

July 12 6:00 to 9:00pm featuring **Funkle Jesse**
 August 16 6:00 to 9:00pm with **Jesse Ray and the Carolina Catfish**
 September 13 5:30 to 8:30pm featuring **Great Scott**

Watch www.jbzoo.org for ticket sales.



Photo by JBZ Staff

PICNICS and PARTIES

Let us CATER a PICNIC for You

Planning a reunion, company picnic, family celebration or church outing at John Ball Zoo or Park this summer?

Let us prepare the food! We will cater for large or small groups. From boxed lunches to hot off the grill dogs and hamburgers, we will make it easy and delicious!

Call 616-336-4300 for more information.

RENT the WHOLE ZOO

After hours on summer evenings, rent the Zoo with all it's animals and facilities plus assistance from our experienced staff. It's a memorable occasion when you have the whole Zoo just for you and your guests.

Go to facilityrental@jbzoo.org for more information or call 616-336-4314.

Special Member Exclusives in April

GRAM

TAKE IN THE ARTS

John Ball Zoo members receive **free admission** to the Grand Rapids Art Museum in April.

Be sure to bring your Zoo membership card and ID for entry.

GRAND RAPIDS
Children's
MUSEUM

PLAY DATE

John Ball Zoo members receive **free weekday admission** to play at the Grand Rapids Children's Museum in April.

Please bring your Zoo membership card and ID for entry.

Mark Your **CALENDAR**

Please join us as we celebrate planet Earth, wildlife and great friends all season long

ZOOBILEE

Monday - April 2 to Friday, April 6 10am to 3pm daily

Take your Spring Break at the Zoo and get the kids outside again! This 5 day spring break includes special animal demonstrations, creative kids' activities and more. Every day is different - every day is outside.

WORLD PENGUIN DAY

Wednesday - April 25

Celebrate penguins! Special penguin demonstrations and zookeeper talks.

PARTY FOR THE PLANET

Saturday - May 5 10am to 3pm

Join us at the Zoo along with our many conservation minded, Earth friendly, recycling friends. Learn how we can help wildlife and wild places - all over the world - by doing small things at home and in our neighborhoods.

FIFTH THIRD RIVER BANK RUN

Saturday - May 12, 7 am to Noon

WEST FEST

Thursday - May 17 to Sunday - May 20 11am to 10pm

Sacred Heart brings you the carnival, beer/wine tent, and festival in John Ball Park.

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY

Friday - May 18 10am to 3pm

Zookeeper talks and animal demonstrations. Learn how you can help protect our endangered species.

SPRING MEMBERS NIGHT

Thursday - May 24 5 to 7:30pm

Enjoy keeper talks, extra discounts and see all that's new at the Zoo. Special dedication of the new Western Valley Pathway.

WORLD OCEANS DAY

Friday - June 8

Celebrate our blue planet's oceans and all the animals they support. Learn what we can all do to keep marine habitats clean and aquatic species safe.

RENDEZOO 2018

Friday - June 8 6 to 10:30pm

"Welcome to the Jungle"

Join us for the wildest party in town! RendeZoo is a fun summer night for adults, featuring live music by Brenna, entertainment, strolling supper and cash bar. The live and silent auction features some very unusual items and experiences. Find out more at jbzoo.org/rendezoo.



Photo by Kat Willie, JBZ

ROCK, ROAR & POUR

Thursdays - July 12, August 16, September 13

This casual (adults only) happy hour in the Zoo was so popular that we turned it into a summer series featuring a different band on each date. Animals, craft beer and wines plus a special gourmet concession menu.

Check our website for more details as dates get closer



JOHN BALL ZOO
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Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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Photo by Kat Willie, JBZ

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