



JOHN BALL ZOO

ZOO NEWS

SPRING 2022

Mylo the Snow Leopard

NEW ARRIVAL

Koalas are here
for the summer

ZOO CAMP

Summer camp
schedule

Our Mission.

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

Our Vision.

We envision a future of being a world-class zoo, a premier educational facility, a renowned conservation center, and a wildly successful national visitor attraction.

Our Values.

- Conservation
- Education
- Community
- Celebrate
- Compassion

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Peter D'Arienzo, CEO

Wasabi the Red Panda



Dear Friends,

Spring is just around the corner, and John Ball Zoo is busy preparing to welcome our community back to a Zoo for all! Improvements continued through the winter at the Zoo, and our team is ready to share what's new with you on opening day, March 25th.

John Ball Zoo has again earned accreditation through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Fewer than 10% of the animal exhibitors licensed through the USDA receive this, and JBZ has had continuous accreditation since 1983. AZA accreditation means John Ball Zoo meets the highest standards of safety and animal welfare as we work to save animals from extinction in the Great Lakes region and around the world.

Last year, our goal of achieving SITES Gold Certification for sustainable design was also accomplished. As the only SITES Gold awarded in Michigan, and the only Zoo in the world to achieve this, our focus on sustainability is a model for other organizations around the globe. Find out more about this honor as you read on.

This season, we'll also welcome new animal visitors – take a look in this issue to find out more about this exciting temporary exhibit!

Other news you will find in this edition includes the Washed Ashore exhibit, a look at Mylo, the snow leopard, the kick-off of our capital campaign, an introduction to our butterfly conservation, and – a favorite – Summer Zoo Camps! With many entertaining and educational events planned, we look forward to you joining us to explore the Zoo this season.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of John Ball Zoo, and we are committed to making sure you and your family can enjoy the Zoo today, tomorrow, and in the future.

We'll see you at the Zoo in 2022!



Sincerely

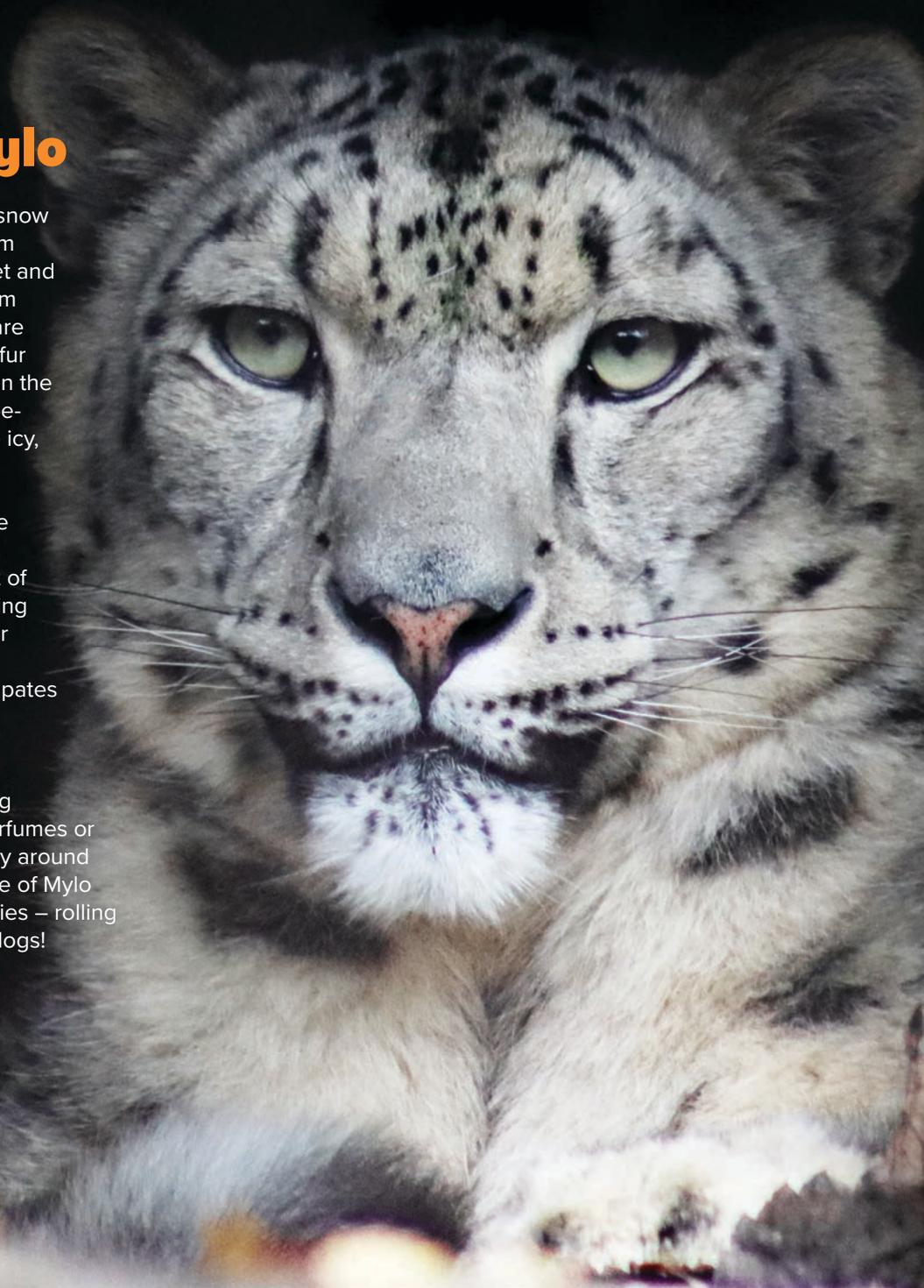
Peter D'Arienzo
Chief Executive Officer

Say Hello to Mylo

Mylo, a goofy and playful 5-year-old snow leopard, joined the John Ball Zoo from Toronto in June of 2021 and his sweet and calm personality quickly endeared him to our Zoo Keepers. Snow leopards are native to Central Asia and their thick fur keeps them warm and camouflaged in the landscape while their large, snowshoe-like feet help them travel through the icy, rocky terrain.

Snow leopards are the smallest of the big cat species and are the only big cats that can't roar! Mylo and the rest of his species are at high risk of becoming extinct in the wild, with possibly fewer than 4,000 remaining in the wild! To support animals like Mylo, JBZ participates in conservation through the Species Survival Plan Program.

Mylo enjoys many types of stimulating enrichment, especially scents like perfumes or herbs as well as any item he can carry around outside. Guests might catch a glimpse of Mylo engaging in one of his favorite activities – rolling around on his back and playing with logs!



New for 2022 – KOALAS!

As we approach opening day, many of you are probably wondering what may be new this year. We won't make you sit on the edge of your seats any longer! John Ball Zoo is thrilled to announce its support of the San Diego Zoo Global Education and Conservation Project (SDZG).

What does this mean for visitors? It means that **two male koalas will arrive in May, and stay with us through the summer.** True to our mission, John Ball Zoo wants people to learn about the impact koalas have on habitats both near and far. Having these two ambassadors will let guests learn about koalas up close!

JBZ staff will work closely with San Diego Zoo to train on their daily care before the koalas arrive, and a San Diego zoo keeper will travel to Grand Rapids with the animals. Once here, John Ball Zoo and San Diego Zoo staff will work together to ensure the animals are thriving in their habitat.

Check out these new additions for 2022 at John Ball Zoo!



Jaime Racalla
Area 1 Supervisor
in Animal Care

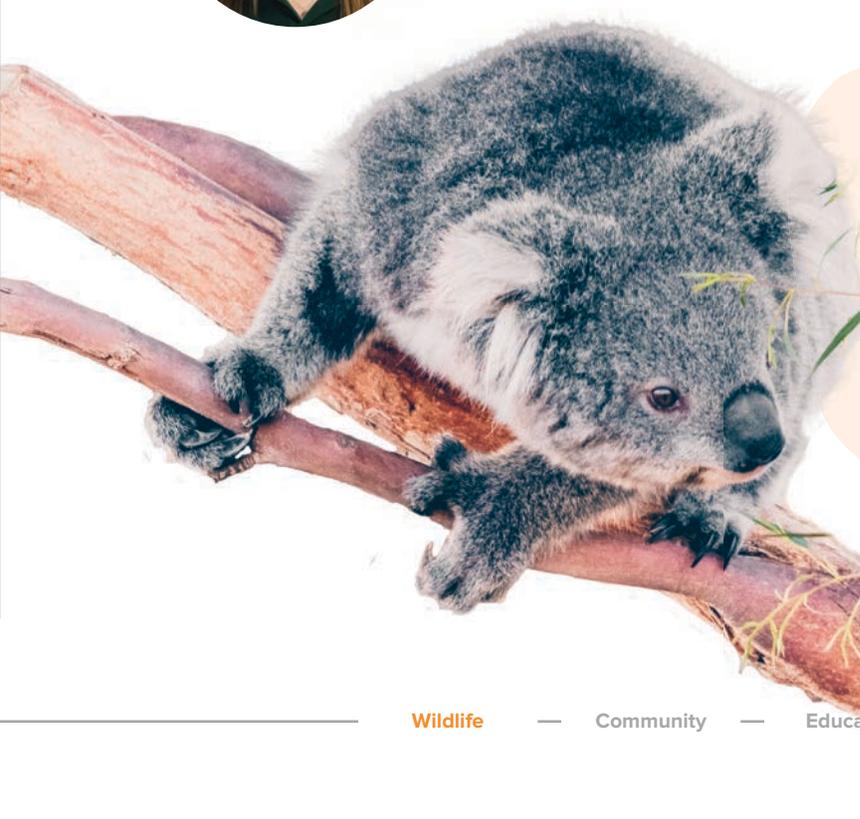
Where in the Zoo will you find the koalas?

During their stay, the koalas will enjoy a new habitat built specifically for their needs, across the pathway from Frogs and Friends.



What does the SDZG Koala Education and Conservation project do?

- Provides direct financial contributions, including from JBZ, to “integrated, realistic conservation action for the koala and other species inhabiting the same ecosystem in Australia.”
- Develops and maintains a self-sustaining population of koalas outside of Australia.
- Collects behavioral and biological data that will contribute to the well-being of koalas and other marsupials both in zoos as well as to those in their natural habitat.



Did you know

- Koalas only eat Eucalyptus leaves, rarely drink water, and sleep up to 20 hours a day.
- Keepers weigh fecal pellets daily to catch subtle health changes.

TIME TO **SOAR** CAMPAIGN

The Meerkat Habitat is one of the **first** in the world to receive a **SITES Gold Certification** under the Sustainable SITES Initiative rating system. See page 16 to learn more.

Improvements Fly Across the Zoo as Our Capital Campaign Takes Flight

When you visited John Ball Zoo last season, you may have noticed some big changes in the Zoo. **Our Time to Soar Campaign is helping fortify and modernize our aging foundation to sustain future growth, improving guest amenities, habitats, and accessibility to provide a welcoming visit for all.** The Campaign began its silent phase in 2017, and its impact is now flying across the Zoo! We invite you to join us as we kick off our public phase and soar into the future at John Ball Zoo.

With funds pledged from early donors, we are truly transforming John Ball Zoo into a zoo for all. We are excited to share that **all pathways throughout the Zoo are now ADA compliant.** In addition, we have completed universally-designed family restrooms, a respite location featuring one of only two adult changing tables in the city, and a universally-designed playground opened to the community in the fall of 2019.

Through the support of early donors to the Time to Soar Campaign, we built a joint Meerkat Habitat and Hornbill Aviary. Last summer, guests enjoyed watching the animals from accessible viewing windows and in the observation bubble inside the habitat – it's an immersive experience!

The final and most complex parts of the Time to Soar Campaign are the clean water project and the pygmy hippo habitat.

In a city with a major river feeding into Lake Michigan, water quality is a vital conservation theme at John Ball Zoo. **The clean water project will reinvigorate the park pond, capture and recycle stormwater in habitats and restrooms, and reduce the impact on the local watershed.** In addition, the Time to Soar Campaign allows us to modernize the stormwater system and recycle over 85% of the water used within the Zoo, helping us do our part for the environment.





White stork



Sitatunga



Australian black swan



The centerpiece of our Entry Valley, currently under construction, is the pygmy hippo habitat. One of the most exotic and endangered animals in the Zoo’s expansion plans, these “small” 300-600 pound hippos make a big impression! With less than 3,000 of these animals left in the wild, John Ball Zoo will be **part of a group of zoos cooperating in a species survival breeding plan to preserve them.**

As we anticipate welcoming **pygmy hippos, sitatungas, white storks, and Australian black swans for the 2023 season**, visitors can view the state-of-the-art habitat going up before their eyes. The habitat will include an expansive outdoor area with a large pool, a mud wallow, and an underwater viewing area. It will also have an indoor viewing area with a pool, allowing guests to enjoy the hippos year-round.

Here is where you fit in – great communities build great zoos! As we prepare for the public phase launch of Time to Soar on **April 14, we invite you to join us in investing in your community and helping us finish the campaign.**

The time is now. Together, it’s Time to Soar!

Visit JBZoo.org/donate and choose Time to Soar on the designation dropdown menu.

There are less than **3,000** pygmy hippos left in the wild, and JBZ will be **part of a group of zoos cooperating in a species survival breeding plan to preserve them.**



Brenda Stringer
Campaign Director



Kelli Smith
Chief Development and Engagement Officer

Spring Youth and Family Programs

Twilight Tours

Families, experience the Zoo in a new 'light.' Bring your flashlight and a sense of adventure for this guided tour of the Zoo as the sun goes down. Learn how to use your senses at night and how animals are adapted to life in the dark. Program includes animal encounters and hands-on activities for ages 5 years and up. Pre-registration is required. Spring registration begins February 1.

\$10/Member, \$15/Non-member

Friday, April 1 7:30pm – 9:00pm
 Saturday, April 9 7:30pm – 9:00pm
 Saturday, April 23 7:30pm – 9:00pm
 Saturday, May 7 7:30pm – 9:00pm



For full class descriptions and registration information, please visit jbzoo.org/kidsandfamily

Kids' Night Out

Parents enjoy a kid-free evening, and kids enjoy a Zoo adventure! Pizza dinner is included. Participants must be 4 – 10 years of age. Pre-registration is required. Spring registration begins February 1.

\$30/child, \$25 for each additional child living in the same household.

Fridays, 5:30pm – 9:00pm
 April 15 – Noses Know
 May 6 – Fantastic Frogs
 May 20 – Animal Architects
 June 3 – Tall Tails

Stroller Safaris

Put on your walking shoes and head to the Zoo with your little WILD one for our newest adventure! Enjoy early access to the Zoo along with a guided tour complete with story time. Each week will feature a different story and area of the Zoo. Class is strictly limited to participants ages 3 and under with their parent/caregiver. Limited to the first 10 families to register.

One adult/child pair per class:
\$15/Member, \$25/Non-member
 (includes zoo admission)

Additional Attendee (either adult or child 0-3 yrs old):
\$5/Member, \$10/Non-member

Tuesdays, 9:15am – 10:00am
 April 12, 19, 26
 May 3



Summer Zoo Camp

What is Zoo Camp?

A unique, fun, learning experience for children ages 3 to those entering 9th grade!

- Classes may include hands-on animal demonstrations, behind the scenes tours, keeper talks, games, stories, songs, education crafts, and role-playing.
- All classes spend time in both the Zoo and park.
- Class sizes are limited to provide a high-quality experience. Student to teacher ratios are 5:1 (age 3), 7:1 (age 4), and 8:1 (age 5 and older).
- Expect your child to have a safe and fun learning experience!



Registration Information



**Scan here
to register**

or go to jbzoo.org

Member

Early Registration – early registration begins March 16

Cost – 4 Day (AM/PM) \$95, 2 Day (9am-4pm) \$115

Non-Member

Registration – registration begins March 28

Cost – 4 Day (AM/PM) \$105, 2 Day (9am-4pm) \$125

Zoo Membership Benefits

As a current Zoo Member, enjoy discounted rates and early registration for Summer Camp for those children covered at the membership level (not those listed as “Plus” level guests).

For membership, call (616) 336-4312 or visit jbzoo.org.

Important Things to Note

- We cannot accommodate phone registrations.
- Refunds (less a \$20 processing fee) for changes or cancellations are ONLY granted if written notification is received 2 weeks prior to the start of class.
- Please register your child for no more than 3 day camp classes.
- Reasonable accommodations will be made for students with special learning, medical, or dietary needs if we are notified in advance.
- Students must be self-sufficient in the bathroom; diapers and pull-ups are NOT permitted.

John Ball Zoo Summer Camps

June 13-16		June 20 & 21	June 22 & 23	June 27-30		July 6 & 7	July 11-14		July 18 & 19
9am-11:30am	1pm-3:30pm	9am-4pm	9am-4pm	9am-11:30am	1pm-3:30pm	9am-4pm	9am-11:30am	1pm-3:30pm	9am-11:30am
Critter Tales 3 yr. olds	On the Move 4 yr. olds	Home Sweet Home 5-K	Zoo Menu 5-K	Critter Tales 3 yr. olds	Critter Coverings 4 yr. olds	Fantastic Felines Grades 1-2	Sensory Zoo 3 yr. olds	Fancy Feet 4 yr. olds	Now You See Me... 5-K
Critter Coverings 4 yr. olds	Unhuggables 5-K	Animology Grades 1-2	Outback Odyssey Grades 1-2	Sensory Zoo 3 yr. olds	Now You See Me... 5-K	Master Tracker Grades 1-2	On the Move 4 yr. olds	Zoo Menu 5-K	Animology Grades 1-2
Home Sweet Home 5-K	Fantastic Felines Grades 1-2	Aquatic Adventures Grades 3-4	Nature's Got Talent Grades 1-2	Fancy Feet 4 yr. olds	Animology Grades 1-2	Walk on the Wild Side Grades 3-4	Home Sweet Home 5-K	Master Tracker Grades 1-2	Master Tracker Grades 1-2
Outback Odyssey Grades 1-2	Animal Survivor Grades 1-2	Grossology Grades 5-6	Wildlife Explorer Grades 5-6	Unhuggables 5-K	Outback Odyssey Grades 1-2	Operation Zoo Grades 5-6	Animal Survivor Grades 1-2	Outback Odyssey Grades 1-2	Nature's Got Talent Grades 1-2
Walk on the Wild Side Grades 3-4	Animals in Action Grades 3-4	Zoo Vet Grades 7-9	Junior Keeper Grades 7-9	Fantastic Felines Grades 1-2	Around the World Grades 3-4	Zoo Careers Grades 7-9	Animals in Action Grades 3-4	Aquatic Adventures Grades 3-4	Open Zoo Grades 3-4

3 Year Old

For children 3 years* of age by the first day of class.

Sensory Zoo

Have a sense-sational time at the Zoo as we explore the Zoo using our senses. We'll smell, see, hear, and touch our way through the Zoo, discovering lots of different animals along the way. Games, songs, up-close animal encounters, and more await!

Critter Tales

Come discover the animals in the Zoo that have helped inspire some of our favorite stories! Each day will introduce a new story and a Zoo adventure to meet the real critter from our animal tale. Up-close animal encounters, games, and crafts await your little critter in this class!

Questions?

Call (616) 336-4302 or visit us at jbzoo.org.

4 Year Old

For children 4 years* of age by the first day of class.

Fancy Feet

Webbed, padded, feet with claws, sticky toes, two feet, four feet, and many feet...feet are neat! Why do different animals have different feet and move in different ways? You'll be head over heels about this class!

Critter Coverings

Fuzzy fur, fluffy feathers, sturdy scales, or slippery slime...which would you choose? Animals are protected by their unique body coverings. This is a hands-on approach to learning about our favorite animal groups: fish, amphibians, birds, reptiles, and mammals!

On the Move

Can you swing like a monkey? Hop like a wallaby? Slither like a snake? Animals can get around, and you will too as we jump into this fun-filled and moving exploration of locomotion.

5 Year Old – Kindergarten

For children 5 years of age by the first day of class or those entering Kindergarten this fall.

Now You See Me, Now You Don't

Animals play the ultimate game of hide and seek, and so will we! Explore the different ways animals hide. Discover who's using camouflage, mimicry, and warning colors to survive.

Unhuggables

They might be prickly, stinky, slimy, or have a face only a mother could love. Change that "eww!" to a "wow!" as we find out why these animals deserve our respect and admiration... even if from a distance.

Zoo Menu

What does a lion eat? What will a monkey munch? We'll learn how animals are adapted to getting and eating specific foods, and see special foods Zoo animals eat to stay healthy.

Home Sweet Home

Do barn owls really live in barns? Do tree frogs like trees? Animals can live in some unusual places. Discover what makes a good home for wildlife in nature, and in your backyard.

Grades 1-2

For students entering 2nd grade this fall.

Animology

Animals abound as birds, reptiles, fish, and more makes each of them in the animal kingdom...classification!

Outback Odyssey

The animals found in all kinds of unique and a variety of animals as up with budgies, and

Fantastic Felines

Join us as we jump felines. Are all cats house cats meow? got the purrrfect class!

Animal Survivor

Camouflage, defense nature is challenging thrilling game of car skills to the test, and animal survivor!

Master Tracker

Have you ever walked tried to find an owl to read the tracks and behind as we follow learn what they eat

*Proof of age is required with registration

Member registration begins March 16

Non-member registration begins March 28

July 18 & 19	July 20 & 21	July 25-28		August 1 & 2	August 3 & 4	August 8 & 9	August 10 & 11	August 15 & 16	August 17 & 18
9am-11:30am	1pm-3:30pm	9am-11:30am	1pm-3:30pm	9am-4pm	9am-4pm	9am-4pm	9am-4pm	9am-4pm	9am-4pm
Now You See Me...	Unhuggables	Critter Tales	On the Move	Unhuggables	Now You See Me...	Zoo Menu	Home Sweet Home	Animal Survivor	Master Tracker
5-K	5-K	3 yr. olds	4 yr. olds	5-K	5-K	5-K	5-K	Grades 1-2	Grades 1-2
Animology	Animal Survivor	Sensory Zoo	Home Sweet Home	Fantastic Felines	Animology	Master Tracker	Animology	Around the World	Animals in Action
Grades 1-2	Grades 1-2	3 yr. olds	5-K	Grades 1-2	Grades 1-2	Grades 1-2	Grades 1-2	Grades 3-4	Grades 3-4
Master Tracker	Fantastic Felines	Fancy Feet	Animal Survivor	Animals in Action	Aquatic Adventures	Walk on the Wild Side	Nature's Got Talent		
Grades 1-2	Grades 1-2	4 yr. olds	Grades 1-2	Grades 3-4	Grades 3-4	Grades 3-4	Grades 3-4		
Nature's Got Talent	Around the World	Zoo Menu	Outback Odyssey	Wildlife Explorer	Operation Zoo	Grossology	Wildlife Explorer		
Grades 3-4	Grades 3-4	5-K	Grades 1-2	Grades 5-6	Grades 5-6	Grades 5-6	Grades 5-6		
Operation Zoo	Grossology	Master Tracker	Walk on the Wild Side	Junior Keeper	Zoo Vet	Zoo Careers	Junior Keeper		
Grades 5-6	Grades 5-6	Grades 1-2	Grades 3-4	Grades 7-9	Grades 7-9	Grades 7-9	Grades 7-9		

Grades 1-2

For students entering 1st or 2nd grade this fall.

Animology
We discover mammals, birds, and amphibians. What makes them unique? How do they fit into their environment? This is the class with the answers!

Grades 3-4

Outback Odyssey
Down under in Australia have unique adaptations. We'll learn about animals we marvel at marsupials, buddy kangaroos, and lizards.

Grades 5-6

Operation Zoo
Dive into the amazing world of animals. Why do lions roar and how do they communicate? Are all spots the same? We've got the answers for you!

Grades 7-9

Junior Keeper
Jobs, food, shelter...living in the wild. Even for animals. Play a role in camouflage, put your opossum to work, and learn what it takes to be an animal!

Grades 1-2

Master Tracker
Track a lion's footsteps or a cheetah in the treetops? We'll learn about animal signs that animals leave behind and how they use the globe to find food and where they live.

Grades 3-4

For students entering 3rd or 4th grade this fall.

Aquatic Adventures

Dive deep into Earth's aquatic habitats. We'll explore everything from shallow marshlands to the depths of the ocean. Join us for a fascinating exploration of watery worlds.

Walk on the Wild Side

Embark on a journey through the wilds of JBZ. Explore the park as we track turtles, find frogs, and inspect insects. Head into the Zoo to ogle at otters, spy on snakes, and track tigers. This class is sure to be a wild time!

Around the World

We're going global! It's nonstop fun as we explore the wilds, animals, and cultures of the world while learning how the Zoo reaches out to help wildlife. No passport required!

Nature's Got Talent

From the runway to extreme makeover: home edition, animals have got all the talent! Discover who has the most amazing voice or great dance moves as we experience the best reality shows of all...wild animals!

Animals in Action

Help keep the animals at the top of their game. Discover how zookeepers use enrichment to keep animals thinking and moving. We'll design our own tools as well as create new ones for the animals. This class will keep everyone's mind moving!

Grades 5-6

For students entering 5th or 6th grade this fall.

Operation Zoo

So you want to run a Zoo? Take the role of Zoo Director as you pick a species, create a plan, and design a new habitat! We'll investigate different animal diets, size, habitats, social groups, and physical features to understand what it takes to create the best new home for your animal.

Grossology

Prepare to be grossed out as we explore the gross and disgusting science of the animal world! Why do some animals shoot out their guts, eat their poop, or have slime on their bodies? This class is oozing with interaction.

Wildlife Explorer

Come explore the world of wildlife biologists in a hands-on class discovering how biologists catch, tag, and follow animals in the wild. We will get the chance to use our new skills and some telemetry equipment as we track animals in the park.

Grades 7-9

For students entering 7th, 8th, or 9th grade this fall.

Junior Keeper

Find out just what it takes to be a keeper. You'll get a chance to try your hand at training, explore how keepers use enrichment to engage the animals, and test your knowledge on animal diets.

Zoo Vet

It's time for a check-up and you get to be the vet! Using the tools of the trade, learn what our veterinary staff does to keep the animals healthy. *Due to the safety of the animals and students, direct contact will be restricted to ambassador animals only.

Zoo Careers

It takes more than just animal staff to keep the Zoo running smoothly. This class will highlight popular jobs like zookeepers and vet staff while also introducing some of the lesser known options found at the Zoo. From keeping track of animal records to creating a fun social media post with marketing, this camp will be a fun exploration for a variety of careers.

2022 Calendar of Events

Washed Ashore

April 1 - October 16

Over 15 larger than life sculptures that are made entirely of plastic debris collected from beaches, Washed Ashore sculptures unmask the impact of plastic pollution on oceans, waterways, and wildlife.

Superhero Day

Thursday, April 7

Learn all about the amazing superpowers of the animal kingdom as you interact with some of your favorite masked heroes! Don't forget to bring your own cape!

Party for the Planet & Westside Community Cleanup

Saturday, April 23

Join us and our local conservation-centered partners to learn more about how we can improve our planet, wildlife, and wild places all across the globe by starting small and bettering our own community.

Star Wars Day

Saturday, May 7

Enjoy specialty galactic-themed food and activities as you meet some of your favorite cosmic characters! See if you can find some Zoo animal counterparts reminiscent of Star Wars' most iconic creatures.

World Ocean Day

Wednesday, June 8

Discover how our everyday actions impact the health of the ocean. Visit the Zoo to see how reducing your plastic use can protect a penguin, or how otterly easy it is to join a river clean up and keep the waterways healthy for aquatic animals.

Princess Days

**Tuesday, June 14
& Wednesday, July 20**

Calling all princesses, princes, and knights! Meet some of your favorite fairytale characters as you visit our real life animal sidekicks. Costumes are encouraged and additional activities are included with normal Zoo admission.

Roaring Nights

**Thursdays, June 9, June 30,
July 28 & August 25**

Spend your summer nights strolling the grounds with animal activities, music, craft beer and wines, and a specialty food and beverage menu. This 21 and up only event is a unique way to experience the Zoo after hours. Members get 10% off the ticket price.

Opening Day

Friday, March 25, 10am-4pm

The 2022 season begins! Animals and staff are excited to see you and share what's new!

SAFE Day

Thursday, July 14

Help us Save Animals From Extinction (SAFE) by visiting the Zoo and learning all about the wonderful programs John Ball Zoo participates in and supports to protect wildlife. You can become an active participant by protecting turtles, saving songbirds, and even become a citizen scientist by studying chimpanzees.

Kids Day

Thursday, August 4

Brought to you by WGUV Public Media – there will be games, giveaways, booths, and more! With reduced admission, come enjoy the Zoo and meet characters from your favorite PBS kids shows.

Wizards Weekends

**Saturday & Sunday,
September 10-11 & 17-18**

For two enchanting weekends, visit the Zoo to see it magically transform into a wonderful wizarding world. Put on your robe, grab your wand, and explore the realms that are home to John Ball Zoo's fantastical beasts!

Monarch Day

Saturday, September 24

Learn about the amazing 2,500 mile journey of the Monarchs as we celebrate their fall migration south to Mexico for the winter. Help us with a public release of tagged butterflies so we can track them to their warmer destination. Explore their importance as pollinators, and see how easy it is to start your own pollinator garden.

Zoo Goes Boo

**Friday-Sunday,
October 21-23 & 28-30**

Celebrate the season by trick-or-treating at the Zoo! Be sure to wear your costume as you wander around the Zoo decorated with kooky, not spooky, decorations!

Look for more exciting events throughout the year! And, as a reminder, all members get 20% off food & beverage.



Art to Save the Sea

Washed Ashore Comes to JBZ



300 MILES
of beaches
cleaned



14,000+
volunteer
hours



95%
debris used in
construction



60,000 lbs
of plastic
processed

In 2022 we are adding 16 new aquatic animals to the Zoo – but they won't require any water! These larger-than-life animal sculptures bring with them a strong message about plastic ocean pollution while astonishing viewers with the transformation of beach trash into beautiful works of art.

Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea, based out of Bandon, Oregon, builds and exhibits these powerful art pieces to educate a global audience about plastic pollution in the ocean. Over 60,000 pounds of debris was collected, washed, and reimagined into colorful pieces of art. Greta, the 12-foot long great white shark, Brody, the 11-foot tall Adélie penguin, and a 9-foot tall sea star, all created from plastic pieces found on the beach after Fourth of July celebrations, are just a few of the amazing animals scattered throughout the Zoo this season.

The sculptures are not just fun to look at, but are educational as well. Join in on a scavenger hunt to find recognizable marine debris items on each sculpture – for example, water bottles, bottle caps, flip flops, beach toys, sunglasses, and even tires! You will also learn easy steps to help our local environment and to help reduce the amount of plastic you use.

Come visit Washed Ashore at John Ball Zoo this summer!



Melinda Robinett
Education Supervisor

John Ball Zoo staff and volunteers joined efforts with other Washed Ashore volunteers across the United States and assembled feathers for the 17-foot wingspan of Rosa, the bald eagle.

Morgan Stanley

The Laug Group at Morgan Stanley Is Proud to Support John Ball Zoo

5122 Cascade Road SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
616-771-6021
lauggroup@morganstanley.com

In Tribute – Three Magnificent Philanthropists

In the past few months, the Community and the Zoo have lost three individuals who did so much to improve the quality of life for all of us in West Michigan – Bea Idema, Lena Meijer, and Dick Morrison.

Philanthropy is about joy, the pure joy one experiences when they offer their support to a cause or organization they believe in. Their gifts create ripples of joy throughout the organization and strengthen its continuing mission. Their gifts also create joy for those who experience the results of their philanthropy, whether that’s a lovely garden, an inspiring artwork, a wonderful library, a nature trail, an education program, or a beautiful endangered animal.



Bea Idema

Bea Idema was a joyous woman who brought a sense of fun and laughter wherever she went. Together with her husband, Bill, Bea quietly helped build our community. After making an annual gift to the Zoo for many years, Bea and the Bill and Bea Idema Foundation gave the Zoo its largest gift ever. Bea understood the Zoo needed to grow, and wanted to help us expand into the hilltop. Her gift provided for not only the funicular, but the needed infrastructure and work required to expand the Forest Realm. Recently, Bea and the Foundation donated many of the nature play elements for the Universal Playground in the park, delighting children of all ages.

Bea would always take your arm as you walked alongside her, sliding her hand around your elbow as you walked and talked. I always felt it was yet another way she had of encouraging you to keep going, to keep walking forward, and to remember your passion for the mission.



Lena Meijer

Lena Meijer was a great lady of philanthropy, and she and Fred served their community with great joy. At the Zoo, they gifted us the bald eagle exhibit, helped us renovate the grizzly bear habitat, and provided us the initial gift that kicked off the Time to Soar Capital Campaign.

One happy memory of Lena was an afternoon spent at the aquarium. Lena loved penguins, and that afternoon she had a surprise opportunity to feed ours. Carefully the zoo keepers helped both Lena and Fred out onto the penguin deck, sat them comfortably on the rocks, and gave them a bucket of fish. Lena and Fred burst into laughter and began tossing fish as the penguins quickly waddled over. Aquarium guests soon recognized that this boisterous couple inside the exhibit was Fred and Lena Meijer. Cameras flashed as the visitors joined in the laughter, creating a spontaneous moment of joy for everyone.



Brenda Stringer
Campaign Director



Dick Morrison

Dick Morrison wanted beauty in the world. His love for plants and making the world more beautiful was how he became a friend of the Zoo. He never hesitated to offer his opinions, especially about plants, and he often pointed out areas in need of improvement and then offered to help. Dick also invited other donors to join him in bringing the red pandas to Grand Rapids, a favorite at the Zoo. His last gift created the interactive play elements for the Meerkat Habitat which has already thrilled thousands of children.

We will miss them and we will continue to honor them. Love and joy are two of the most important gifts anyone can give, and Bea, Dick, and Lena all gave those gifts freely. They believed in this community, they gave to this community out of love, and they shared their joy with all of us.



Meerkat and African Cape Porcupine Habitat

JBZ First Zoo in World to Receive SITES Gold Certification

John Ball Zoo is proud to have been awarded SITES Gold Certification under the Sustainable SITES Initiative (SITES) rating system for our Meerkat Habitat, making us the first zoo in the world to receive this recognition!

SITES is the most comprehensive program recognizing sustainable landscapes for their exceptional planning, design, construction, and maintenance. The Sustainable SITES Initiative is a comprehensive rating system for developing sustainable landscapes, similar to LEED. SITES projects use fewer resources by using materials with recycled content, durable and reclaimed materials, and the use of regionally sourced supplies and materials.

Being the first zoo in the world to receive SITES Gold Certification speaks to John Ball Zoo's strong dedication to conservation. This sustainable design helps JBZ reduce water demand, filter and reuse stormwater, provide a wildlife habitat, reduce energy consumption, improve air quality, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities.

While the habitat creates an amazing view of meerkats and their exhibit partner, the African Cape porcupine, the many features guests do not see make the exhibit unique. One is the



Gardens and basins collect rainwater for irrigation



100% native plants reduce water demands



Living roof improves air quality with zero CO2 emissions

on-demand manual irrigation system that uses 100% native plantings. The space uses rain gardens and leaching basins for stormwater, and has a living green roof and solar panels on the exhibit canopy to offset energy use. Recycled materials were used whenever possible, and CO₂ emissions were eliminated through the use of an Energy Recovery Ventilation unit. This innovative exhibit also integrates play for children to mimic meerkat behavior, along with accessible pathways.

Sustainable landscapes appreciate in value over time. The John Ball Zoo's SITES Gold Certified Meerkat Habitat allows native plants to grow, soils to improve, habitats to develop, in turn nurturing our guests. The benefits we receive from healthy ecosystems are essential to the health and well-being of all life on this planet.

Thanks to the hard work, planning, and problem-solving of our Director of Facilities, Allmon Forrester, our staff, and our partners which made this build possible. Conservation and sustainability are the heart of JBZ, and we strive to continue prioritizing our animals and the natural environment we all depend on in our shared community.

Saving the Poweshiek Skipperling

John Ball Zoo is an important link to the survival of a tiny endangered butterfly. The population of the Poweshiek Skipperling has declined dramatically in last 20 years due to a 95% reduction of habitat and pesticide use. Now only found in one site in Manitoba and a few prairies in Michigan, there may be only a few hundred left in the whole world!

The good news is that John Ball Zoo has partnered with Dave Pavlik from Michigan State University's Haddad Butterfly Lab to save this species. JBZ has joined conservation biologists from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Assiniboine Park, and Minnesota Zoos to bolster the number of wild Poweshiek Skipperlings by head starting wild collected eggs and captive propagation.

Since the butterfly spends most of its life as a caterpillar, the two weeks after it emerges are critical. This is when it finds a mate, breeds, lays eggs, and passes away. We received 32 pupa from the Minnesota Zoo and our team managed to coax 8 pairs of Poweshiek Skipperling adults to breed and lay eggs within those crucial two weeks.

2021 appears to have been a game changing year in the fight to save the Poweshiek Skipperling. All three zoos had success and there may actually be more caterpillars in the breeding program than in the wild! 269 caterpillars hatched and were transferred to potted native grasses and covered with fine mesh screens so they could safely munch away on blades of grass and grow. This increases the number available to release in the wild and breed in captivity.

The 94 caterpillars now at John Ball Zoo are inactive in their environmental chamber until warmer weather comes in April, and then will return to the hoop house for another couple of months of eating and growing.

For John Ball Zoo, that means we need a bigger butterfly facility already! Work began this winter on expanding the facility to triple our capacity. We are proud of our work with the Poweshiek Skipperling, and thank you – our members – for supporting this important conservation effort!



Bill Flanagan
Conservation Manager



Thank you for helping animals like Sanga thrive!

Thank you to our donors, members, and community for answering the call when we needed you. For our year-end campaign, you've **raised over \$210,000 thus far to bring endoscopy equipment to John Ball Zoo!**

Providing high-quality health care to our over 2,000 animal patients is challenging. They each have specific needs and ailments that continue to change every day. Endoscopy equipment will be life-changing for so many of the wildlife that call John Ball Zoo home. It will help JBZ veterinarian, Dr. Ryan Colburn, and his team perform minimally invasive exams or procedures, limiting the need for large surgical incisions, reducing complication rates, and often producing better outcomes.

This is crucial for so many of our animal patients, but especially for Sanga and Kiambi – two of our female chimpanzees. Sanga, the 37-year-old matriarch in our chimpanzee troop, has ulcerative colitis (UC) which places her at an increased risk of colon cancer if not properly managed and tracked. However, due to Sanga's size, strength, and the potential danger to our staff and off-site partners, it's too dangerous to move Sanga to another facility that has the capabilities to perform an endoscopy.

By acquiring our own endoscopy equipment, our veterinary team will be able to perform the necessary tests during Sanga's routine physical held on-site at John Ball Zoo. The endoscope could perform critical colonoscopies – allowing for accurate monitoring and management of Sanga's condition and overall wellness.

Like mother, like daughter, Sanga's offspring, Kiambi, is at risk of developing UC. With the proper equipment, we could ensure this mother-daughter duo are intently cared for many years to come.

In our passion for protecting and conserving wildlife and wild places, caring for animals to ensure they don't just survive, but thrive, is critical. **Thank you for making a difference at your community's Zoo!**

If you'd like to support this critical project, please visit jbzoo.org/donate.

Sanga, 37-year-old matriarch of the chimpanzee troop



Maggie Smitt
Annual Giving and
Stewardship Manager

Become a Zoo Member!

Members not only receive **free admission** to John Ball Zoo for 365 days from date of purchase, but they can also **attend over 150 additional zoos** and aquariums throughout the United States for **free or at a reduced rate**.

Memberships start at just \$50. Check out our website for a full list of membership levels and benefits: jbzoo.org/membership or call (616) 336-4312.

During our 2022 season, our members enjoy many perks at JBZ, including this and much more!



20% discount on Food and Beverage purchases



20% discount on Birthday Party base package



Early access & discounts on Education programs



20% discount on Gift Shop purchases



20% discount on Experiences (zip line, rope course, camel rides & more)



Member only hour on special event days (Princess Day, Zoo Goes Boo & others)

Partnership with Purpose

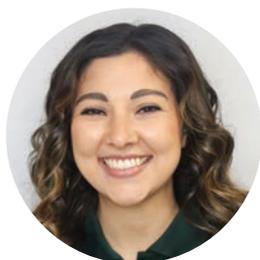
Welcome back! The past two years have been challenging for everyone. However, one positive takeaway from the experience is the importance of coming together as a community. Although we are still navigating some uncertainty, supporting one another as a community is what makes a difference.

Corporate sponsorship has been key to our mission of saving wildlife and wild places. Local and regional corporate partners play a vital role in supporting our daily operations, including supporting animal care, construction of new habitats, conservation and educational programs, and sustaining the Zoo's future goals. Our community partners have come through for us in many ways!

As one of the ten oldest zoos in the nation, JBZ has a long tradition of connecting the community in meaningful ways. Plans are well underway for an amazing 2022 season with new additions and activities for our guests. **This year, we hope to partner with more companies** to actively engage our community in exceptional educational programming and local and global conservation efforts – which reach millions annually!

If you're interested in learning more about corporate sponsorships, advertising, or promotional opportunities, I would love to talk to you!

Please contact me at mscogg@jbzoo.org or (616) 336-4301 ext. 3040.



Maggie Scogg
Events and Corporate Sponsorship Manager





JOHN BALL ZOO
 1300 W Fulton St.
 Grand Rapids, MI 49504

ACCREDITED BY THE
**ASSOCIATION
 OF ZOOS &
 AQUARIUMS**

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Grand Rapids, MI
 Permit No. 457

opening day

Friday, March 25, 10am - 4pm



2022 Membership Exchange

Each year we partner with local cultural institutions for reciprocity. These partnerships change year to year, and are communicated in Zoo News magazine, member emails, and on Facebook. We recommend calling ahead to our partners prior to your visit with any questions.

Be sure to bring your Zoo membership card and personal photo ID when you visit our partners!

April



May



June



July



August



September

