Mission: Create connections that inspire an appreciation for and encourage actions to conserve the natural world.
Howl-ZOO-Ween is BACK! Join us on Thursday, October 14 from 5:30-7:30pm for Member Night- enjoy a night of fun reserved just for our members! Admission is $8/person for everyone 1 and over.

This year, enjoy a trick-or-treat trail around Africa!, scary area at Luthy Botanical Garden, bounce houses and more! New this year, you'll find a unique fall market full of local vendors in the lodge and village where you can purchase local goods, food and more. Hours are extended on Friday and Saturday until 8:30pm.

Advanced tickets go on sale in the Safari Gift Shop on September 14!

WIN YOUR OWN RESERVED PARKING SPACE

ANY DONATION OF $25 OR MORE TO THE PZS MISSION FUND THROUGH 12/31/21 QUALIFIES YOU TO BE ENTERED.

PEORIAZOO.ORG/DONATE
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Cover Photo: Jimmy, male beaded lizard
Pictured here: Nikita, female tiger

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I was recently able to give a Behind-the-Scenes tour to a family group that had patiently waited since 2019 for this experience. There were eight people and as with any group, there is a chance that one or more of the participants is less enthusiastic than the rest. Fortunately, everyone was super excited and the hardest part of the tour was getting everyone out of one area so we could proceed to the next.

While we were in the giraffe barn, one gentleman turned to me and said, “I hope you know how really cool your job is.” I do, but sometimes it is nice to be reminded when I start feeling overwhelmed by paperwork and e-mail. While others take a break going to the vending machine, I can go outside and see zebra, rhinoceros and giraffe. My version of Muzak is the roar of the lion living a few hundred feet from my office.

A couple days after this encounter, I visited the Racine Zoo where I had worked for about a dozen years. I went primarily to attend a Celebration of Life for a person who was a friend, colleague and mentor. He took over the role of veterinarian at the zoo shortly before I was promoted to curator. We both had a lot to learn in our new roles and I remember his incredible generosity of spirit, time and knowledge during our time working together.

The celebration actually took place at the zoo and sitting there brought back a rush of memories of all the people and animals that made those years so special. Afterwards, I visited the orangutans who were just 4 & 5 years old when I first met them. When we made eye contact, did they recognize me after 20 years? If not, I prefer to think it was because I was wearing a mask.
Something remarkable has happened this year! We have found while processing memberships, many of you are being very generous when you are renewing, and are donating to our Mission Fund. When this happens, Peoria Zoological Society is able to help with capital projects and ongoing improvements to Peoria Zoo. Also, when you make a donation of at least $25 to our Mission Fund, your name will be entered into a competition to win your own personal parking spot at Peoria Zoo. The more you donate, the more times your name will be entered! There is a donation area on your membership renewal form, which many of you have already discovered, or you can donate in one of these ways: online at peoriazoo.org/donate, at the Zoo’s Safari Gift Shop, or through our office by calling (309) 681-3500 or sending a check to 2320 N Prospect Rd, Peoria, IL 61603.

We are so excited to be able to host events again at the Zoo, and many great things are happening this fall. Last year, we held our first online auction, and it was a smashing success. This year, we are expanding this event, and adding both an adult evening at the Zoo and bringing back our iconic race, Zoo Run Run. UpROARious, a series of lively events to support YOUR Peoria Zoo will happen from Thursday, September 16 to Sunday, September 19. On Thursday, our online auction will kick off, so we hope you will sign up today to make sure you don’t miss out on some great finds, including our daily deals. Just for a sneak peak – we will be offering a limited number of memberships for $20 off! You can sign up for the auction by going to peoriazoo.org and clicking on the Events tab.

The other fun thing that is happening on Thursday, September 16 is our adult only evening, Sip & Savor Safari. During this event, guests experience all the exhibits at Peoria Zoo while enjoying cocktails, food, and entertainment. While traveling around the Zoo, sip on beer and wine from the Peoria Park District’s Parks on Tap van and cocktails from Johnny’s Italian Steakhouse, W.E. Sullivans, and Olympia. Food will be catered by Cracked Pepper, and entertainment will be provided by both Patrick n Swayze and Asbury Fox. Don’t miss out on this fun night, and buy your tickets before we are sold out!

Last, but not least, we are inviting everyone to participate in Zoo Run Run. This has been a staple event in the Peoria community for over forty years, but is a “fun run” with a twist for this year. The race will consist of a 1 mile or 5K, and can be done as a run, walk, or roll. The best thing is, the race can be completed on your own time, and can happen anywhere, as long as it is between September 18 and 25. You can join us on Saturday the 18 to pick up your race t-shirt and enjoy a visit to the Zoo while you are here. You can find more information, or sign up for the race by going to peoriazoo.org. Thank you for your support!
THE MEXICAN BEADED LIZARD

By Yvonne Strode, Director, Peoria Zoo

The Mexican Beaded Lizard belongs to the genus *Heloderma* which translates to “studded skin.” This species, along with the closely related Gila Monster, are the only two lizard species with bead-like scales. In contrast, beaded lizards are larger than gila monsters and have a duller coloration.

Both species produce venom that is delivered by chewing on their victim. There have been only 8 documented human bites in the last 100 years, and almost all resulted from prodding captive animals with a finger or bare foot. The venom has been found to contain enzymes that might be useful in the treatment of diabetes, Alzheimer’s disease and cancer in humans.

Beaded lizards are found primarily in Mexico and southern Guatemala inhabiting desert scrub and tropical thorn woodlands. Animals can spend as much as 98% of their lives underground. The diet consists of eggs, young birds, mammals and reptiles. The species is semi-arboreal and climbs trees in search of prey. Fat can be stored in the tail for times when food is hard to find.

Although the species is listed as Least Concern on IUCN’s Red Data List, it is designated as threatened by Mexican law. The decline in the wild population is primarily due to habitat loss from human development. Illegal collection for the pet trade is also a contributing factor.

Peoria Zoo houses a solitary female beaded lizard in the Tropics Building. Named before she started to lay eggs, “Jimmy” has been at the Zoo since 2000 and was hatched at the Staten Island Zoo seven months prior to her arrival.

Being a nocturnal animal, most Zoo visitor don’t see a lot of activity but staff are able to monitor her activity level by noting her position each morning and the marks made in the sand overnight. Enrichment items placed in her exhibit usually remain unexplored during the day. One recent exception was a lemon that received immediate attention as she repeatedly flicked out her tongue to “smell” and used her snout to move it around for several minutes.

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**— INTERESTING FACTS —**

- Paired salivary glands produce venom injected through a groove in the teeth that paralyzes prey.
- They must chew their victim in order to inject poison.
- The tail is used to store energy for times when food is scarce.
- They have long claws for digging.
Jimmy can commonly be found wedged between the rocks and the glass of her exhibit.

— SPECIES INFORMATION —

**HABITAT:**
Tropical, dry forests. Found in dry, open forest areas with abundant rocks and sparse vegetation. Burrows to avoid the mid-day heat.

**RANGE:**
Mexico and Guatemala

**ACTIVITY CYCLE:**
Nocturnal

**SOCIAL STRUCTURE:**
Solitary

**SIZE:**
Up to 13-18 inches in length and 5 to 6 pounds in weight

**FEATURES:**
The head is broad and slightly flattened, and is joined with a short neck and an elongated, cylindrical body, ending with a thick, rounded tail. The legs are short but powerful; each foot has five clawed toes. The back is covered with large, bony scales. The belly is in contrast, bears flat, regularly arranged scales.

**LIFE EXPECTANCY:**
30-50 years

**STATUS:**
Least concern according to the IUCN Red List and is listed on “Appendix II” of CITES. They are also part of an AZA Species Survival Plan.
Over the last year, there have been many changes to our programs and services. Our main form of communication during this time has been, and will continue to be, e-mail. If you haven't been getting our e-mails, please contact the membership office to make sure we have your correct e-mail address on file. We can also add multiple e-mail addresses per household!

Here are a few changes, or other things we want to note with our reciprocal list:

* We are happy that many of our fellow AZA facilities are reopening and offering reciprocal admission. We suggest that you call ahead to confirm they are accepting reciprocal admission and ask about planning your trip as some still require timed reservations, etc.

* John G. Shedd Aquarium has joined our reciprocal list allowing two half-priced tickets to any reciprocal member. You must purchase these tickets online with a special link. Feel free to reference your July e-mail newsletter for the link or e-mail the membership office.

Check-out Page 2 for information about Howl-Zoo-Ween Member Night!

MEMBER RESOURCES

What happens if you lose your card? How can I view the reciprocal list? Learn about this and more when you visit the member page of our website here: peoriazoo.org/member-resources/

E-MAIL ADDRESSES NEEDED

One of the main ways we communicate with our members is through e-mail! Make sure you have your e-mail address registered with your membership.

E-mail pzs@peorlaparks.org
LET’S TALK ABOUT TAKIN

By Melissa Moore, Curator of Animals, Peoria Zoo

Visitors to the Zoo often ask us how we care for the animals, especially the large or potentially dangerous ones. They want to know what we feed them, where they sleep at night, or how we give them medicine when they need it. Depending on which animal we are considering, the answers can vary greatly, but one thing is certain: our caretaking staff put a tremendous amount of research, thought, time, and effort into ensuring all of the animals have what they need to live their best lives possible in our care.

If you have walked the Asian Trail at the Zoo, you may be familiar with Meg, Tyra, and Bert, our Sichuan Takin. Takin are cold-adapted hoofstock from the Himalayan mountains with dense coats of hair and weigh 700-1,000 pounds. Despite their impressive appearance, Takin are very nimble-footed and have the ability to stand on their hind legs to reach leaves and other food items. Because of their size and unique adaptations, they require some special accommodations.

All three of our Takin love to soak in their pool during our warm Illinois summers. They also can often be seen rubbing up against the posts and rock work in their exhibit to scratch their own backs and to assist with shedding their heavy coats. To give them an opportunity to forage, keepers spread food items around their exhibit and have even installed a special feeder that holds branches with leaves high off the ground, enabling the Takin to employ their unusual upright stance to grab leaves to munch.

All of these things provide opportunities for our Takin to express natural behaviors, improving their welfare. We see the results of this in their physical health and an increase in healthy interactions with each other and with their caretakers. It makes us happy to see them happy!

The next time you visit Peoria Zoo, make sure you stop and see Bert, Meg, and Tyra along the Asian Trail!

1. Standing on their hind legs to reach leaves.
2. Reacting to a smell-based enrichment item in the exhibit.
3. Rubbing up against a barrel that has hidden food to forage.
Sip and Savor Safari
Thursday, September 16
Join us on Thursday, September 16 for a casual, adult-only evening at Peoria Zoo! Travel throughout the Zoo while enjoying stops along the way for cocktails made by local restaurants, delicious appetizers, entertainment by Patrick n Swayze and Asbury Fox, animal encounters and more!
Tickets: $85 or $75 if purchased by September 1st

Zoo Run Run
Saturday, September 18
A unique virtual 1 mile or 5K run/walk/roll! Race perks include a t-shirt and special morning at the Zoo on Saturday, September 18.
Member Race Fee: $25 for ages 18+ or $10 for 17 and under
Register by September 1st to be guaranteed a t-shirt.

Online Auction
Thursday, September 16 – Sunday, September 19
Check out our lively online auction with items of all interests and price points! Register today!
For centuries, exotic animals have been used as diplomatic gifts. Elephants, rhinoceros and giraffe were sent from one world leader to another to improve relationships. In more modern history, the giant panda has served in this role. Perhaps most notably, when a pair, Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing, arrived at Smithsonian’s National Zoo in 1972 after President Nixon’s visit to China.

In 1984, China changed its policy of gifting pandas to loaning them to other countries. A few U.S. zoos secured short-term loans but these were discontinued due to concern over the negative impacts that could occur to the wild population. Today, only 10-year loans are allowed and exacting standards of housing, care and welfare must be maintained.

Seven giant pandas are currently in the United States: Ya Ya & Le Le at the Memphis Zoo; Lun Lun & Yang Yang at Zoo Atlanta; and Mei Xiang, Tian Tian & Xiao Qi Ji at the National Zoo. Zoo Atlanta alone has raised over $10 million for panda conservation and all three institutions conduct research vital to ensuring the species survival in the wild. The loan program requires that any offspring produced be returned to China and to date approximately 14 cubs have been repatriated.

While the panda program still serves a diplomatic mission, it has evolved into a highly successful international conservation effort. In 1990, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Red Data List declared the giant panda an endangered species.

After a reevaluation in 2016, the species was upgraded to vulnerable but the Chinese government disagreed. In July of this year, China announced they no longer consider the giant panda an endangered species and updated their status to vulnerable.

By conserving giant pandas and their habitat in China, other threatened species are protected like the red panda, snow leopard and golden snub-nosed monkey. By bringing visitors to their zoos to see giant pandas, interest is raised for endangered species like the Bali Mynah at Memphis, African slender-snouted crocodile at Atlanta and black-footed ferret at National.
GO VISIT A PANDA TODAY!

Did you know that Peoria Zoo Members get free or discounted admission to over 150+ Zoos and Aquariums around the country?

Included in that is 50% off admission at Memphis Zoo and Zoo Atlanta. National Zoo is free, but reciprocal members do get 10% off in their gift shop so you can buy a cute panda plush!

CHECK OUT OUR ANIMAL ADOPTION LEVELS AT PEORIAZOO.ORG/ADOPT
HAPPY BIRTHDAY LIZZY!

By Regan Slonecker, Zoo Keeper, Peoria Zoo

Lizzy, our female lion, was born on October 23, 2006. At 15 years, Lizzy is considered an old lady but, you would never know it by watching her jump up the rocks in the yard, running around with Arthur, or playing with enrichment. (The median life expectancy for lions in human care is 16.9 years.)

In 2008, Lizzy came to the Peoria Zoo from the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo. She shares the lion habitat with Arthur, who is 16 years old. Lions are unique in the world of cats for two reasons: They live in groups called prides, and they are only cat species that males and females look different- males have manes and females do not. Most prides are made up of 1 or 2 adult males, a group of females, and their offspring. Arthur and Lizzy did have three daughters in December 2015. The girls have since moved to Audubon Zoo in New Orleans. They have started a pride of their own with a male there and have had their own cubs. So, Lizzy and Arthur are grandparents.

You will often find Lizzy on top of the big rock in the center of the lion habitat but Lizzy’s favorite thing to do is eat. She loves to chew on bones and we give them bones once week to help keep their teeth clean. She also enjoys cat naps in the sun, snowman, a good box (like all cats), and spending time grooming and playing with Arthur.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR CURIOUS CATS, REMARKABLE REPTILES AND ALL THAT CALL PEORIA ZOO HOME.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEPTEMBER 5</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER 12</th>
<th>OCTOBER 14</th>
<th>NOVEMBER 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Garfunkel, wallaby</td>
<td>Samson, muntjac</td>
<td>June, gazelle</td>
<td>Elvis, California kingsnake</td>
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<tr>
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<td>SEPTEMBER 19</td>
<td>OCTOBER 17</td>
<td>NOVEMBER 7</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Brody, mandrill</td>
<td>Relish, tree shrew</td>
<td>Fred, pancake tortoise</td>
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<td>SEPTEMBER 11</td>
<td>SEPTEMBER 23</td>
<td>OCTOBER 23</td>
<td>NOVEMBER 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris, rhinoceros</td>
<td>Darla, spider monkey</td>
<td>Lizzy, lion</td>
<td>Osmar, llama</td>
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</table>
YOU’LL HAVE A SLITHERING GOOD TIME ON THE NEXT TWO PAGES WITH OUR SNAKE THEMED ACTIVITIES!

BELOW, FIND THE SNAKE-RELATED WORDS IN THE WORD SEARCH! AFTER THAT, CAN YOU NAME THE SNAKES IN THE PICTURES TO THE RIGHT AND MATCH THEM TO THE SCRAMBLE ON THE NEXT PAGE?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPTILE</th>
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<th>CONSTRICCTOR</th>
<th>SCALES</th>
<th>COILED</th>
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<td>SERPENT</td>
<td>PREDATOR</td>
<td>ECTOTHERM</td>
<td>OVIVIPAROUS</td>
<td>OVIVIPAROUS</td>
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**Word Search**

S Q L K Z N V X B R M U O T K R O G Z T
I B K W D O V U E B Z L B C Y X I H K R
A S L R P P Y L V A H F K N Z S S Y L J
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W U E N X C O N S T R I C T O R B X Z M
H A R C U D N P Q D E I Q U J S M B K Q
CAN YOU UNSCRAMBLE THE SNAKE NAMES? CAN YOU MATCH THEM WITH THE PICTURE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE?

ABOTOCROCTRINS

Hint: These nocturnal snakes live in Central and South America. They can reach lengths of 13 feet but usually grow to an average of 6-9 feet.

NEREGETERNYPOTH

Hint: They spend most of their time in the trees of New Guinea, Australia and Indonesia. As hatchlings, they may look completely different than the adults with their red, yellow or blue colorations.

SNEWERTSHENOLOGKNESA

Hint: A snake that gets its name from the upturned scale on the end of its snout which it uses to dig through loose sand and soil. This snake is also known to fool predators by faking its own death, flipping on to its back and sticking out its tongue.

LUDERISMDUGNOROBA

Hint: A snake that lives on an island off the southeastern coast of Africa and prefers to drier habitats. The average length is 6 feet.

IFICNOARLAISKIGNKEN

Hint: This snake hunts and eats other snakes and can be found on the western coast of the United States.

EURBEMSHOPTYN

Hint: The largest snake at Peoria Zoo measuring over 16 feet and weighing 220 pounds!

GASMARCADARETAPO

Hint: Despite their name, this snake spends most of its time on the ground. They average 5 feet in length and use their pattern to camouflage.

ANSWERS: E. Burmese python, F. Madagascar tree boa
B. California kingsnake, C. Dumeril’s ground boa, D. Western hognose snake, A. Madagascar tree boa,
Peoria Zoological Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting and realizing the vision for the Peoria Zoo.

See page 10 for more information!