

ESSEX COUNTY
TURTLE BACK



Zoological Society
of New Jersey, Inc.
AT ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

Turtle TALK

Fall 2022

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Photo of the Season!
Zoo Guest, Jerry S.

To be considered for Visitor Photo of the Season, please send photos to info@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org

UPCOMING EVENTS



Early childhood

Select Sundays and Mondays

Discover our popular Hatchlings (12-24 months w/ caregiver), Tots (2-3 years w/ caregiver) and Explorers (4-5 years w/out caregiver) programs at Turtle Back Zoo! Introduce your young learners to the natural world through gently structured play, art, stories, animal visits, and more. Tickets sell fast, learn more: <http://bit.ly/2NLJW5J>.

FNC: Family Nature Club

Select Sundays @9AM-11AM, 10AM-12PM, 1PM-3PM)

Fresh air, beautiful trees, and the great outdoors! Join us for themed nature hikes as we explore everything from turtles to bugs and beyond in the South Mountain Reservation. Recommended for ages 6+, all minors must be with an adult, learn more: <https://bit.ly/3zcGTtc>.

Night Moves

Saturday, September 10 @Multiple Times

Night Moves is our docent-led zoo tours...at night! Come see our animals in a new light (flashlight, that is) as you explore Turtle Back Zoo after-hours. Search "Night Moves" to register: <https://bit.ly/3JMgmaf>.

Mini-camp

September 26, October 5, November 10 & 11 @9AM-4PM

With the end of summer comes mini-camps! Join us for these 1-2 day sessions to discover and explore the unique plants and animals in our wild world. Camp includes animal presentations, zoo tours, age-appropriate crafts, scientific lessons, and more! Stay tuned for our themes: <http://bit.ly/2GvNm70>.

Adult Camp

Tentatively September 24 @9AM-2PM

Ever miss those summer camp days? Well get ready, because Turtle Back Zoo is hosting a one day adult camp! More details to come, but get ready for a wild time! Keep your eyes peeled on our social media for more information.

BARKtoberfest

Saturday, October 15 @11AM-3PM

We will be hosting our 6th Annual BARKtoberfest: Pet Adoption Event & Marketspace! Come meet adoptable dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens while supporting local animal shelters and rescue groups. This year's event will feature a Pet Costume Contest, vendor booths, food trucks and more! This event is free and open to the public. Visit www.zoologicalsocietyofnj.org/events/bark22 for more information!



BARKtoberfest

Pet Adoption Event & Marketspace

Berson Education Center
Saturday, October 15, 2022
11AM - 3PM



Spooky Storytime

Saturday & Sunday, October 22, 23, 29, & 30

OoOoOo is that a ghost? No, that's Spooky Storytime! Join us for a not-so-scary time filled with Halloween stories, animal presentations, and sweet treats and snacks! Bring your Halloween costume, learn more: <https://bit.ly/3TA6ZzL>.

Sophisticated Science

Select Saturdays @1PM-3PM

Take a deep dive into scientific topics, from zoo careers to animal anatomy and beyond! Includes a powerpoint presentation, zoo tour, animal presentation, and more! Recommended for ages 13 - 103, Fall registration is open, learn more: <https://bit.ly/3yl9Ukw>.

Wonders of the Wild

Select Saturdays @1PM-3PM

Wonders of the Wild offers students an opportunity to participate in supplementary science and nature-themed programs and projects that facilitate scientific literacy and life-long environmental stewardship. Recommended for ages 6-12, stay tuned for Fall schedule on August 20th. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3G1Unuq>.

ZOO NEWS



Bird Flu Update

We love our birds, so safety comes first! After a resurgence of the highly pathogenic (lethal) bird flu, which led to the death of over 100 vultures in Sussex County NJ, TBZ's veterinarian Dr. Kailey made the decision to move birds like our flamingos to their inside holdings. More birds may be moving in as we monitor the progressing situation, stay tuned on our social media for updates. We can help by supporting wildlife rehabilitators who are at the frontlines of wild bird care. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/3PPu2o3>.



The banner features a red and orange color scheme with a decorative border. On the left is a circular logo of a red panda's face. To the right, the text reads: "AMAZING ASIA CELEBRATION" in large, bold, orange letters. Below this, it says "Essex County Turtle Back Zoo Saturday, September 17, 2022 (Rain Date: Sunday, September 18, 2022) 6PM - 9PM". At the bottom, the website "www.zoologicalsocietyofnj.org/events/aac" is listed.

Amazing Asia Nearing Completion

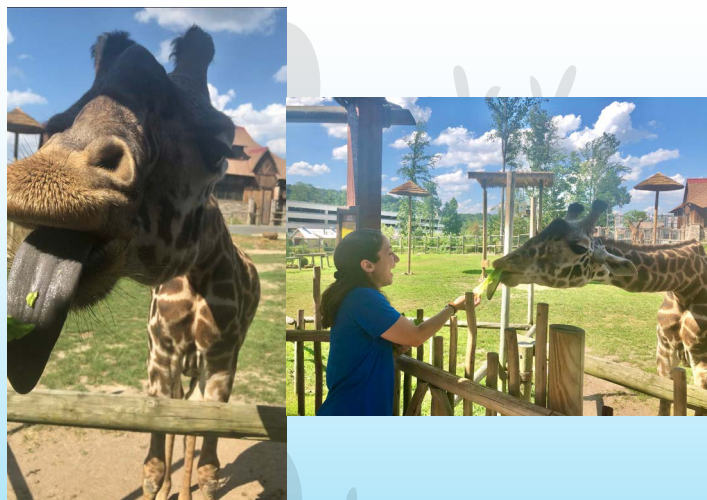
Who's been following the Amazing Asia habitat? We're nearing completion and are, if all construction meets and matches our veterinary expectations, will be moving our residents into their new homes! For the first time in over a year, we will have Clouded leopards viewable at our zoo! This is very exciting news for the future of this species and enhancing the goals of the AZA Clouded leopard species survival program, of which TBZ Director Jilian Fazio leads. This initiative aims to enhance our understanding of wildlife both within zoos and in the wild through research into behavior, dietary needs, and more. Join us at our Amazing Asia Celebration on Saturday, September 17 @6PM-9PM! Tickets available on www.zoologicalsocietyofnj.org/events/aac!

Meet our new Spotted Hyena, Kijani!

Eventually, he will join our two female spotted hyenas as recommended by the Species Survival Plan (SSP). Right now he is acclimating pretty well to his new exhibit and being out for our guests to enjoy so be sure to stop by and see him.



photo by Africa keepers Kate and Erica



From registrar Alyssa:

I had a blast getting out of my office for National Zookeeper Week! Our keepers offered opportunities to meet animals in sections we normally don't work. I chose to feed the giraffes, including Milo, and train with Porter, our 800lb California Sea Lion! It was a lot of fun getting to celebrate the amazing work our keepers do everyday!

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

by Educator Katie Fenyar



Saving the Endangered Monarch Butterfly

A message from our horticulture team, who leads TBZ's Monarch SAFE project: "Our Horticulture team started preparing for their Monarch S.A.F.E conservation program back in February by growing over 500 Common Milkweed plants for adult butterflies to lay eggs on during the summer, and caterpillars to eat before turning into butterflies!

Monarchs have recently been placed on the Endangered Species list, so our conservation efforts are more important than ever. You can help this initiative by planting milkweed and other native plants in your yard and staying tuned for more upcoming TBZ projects to support local wildlife. Learn more: <https://bit.ly/36PnWCQ>.



Milkweed - Earlier this season, we planted native plants, including milkweed, at our reservoir to promote wildlife conservation. Milkweed is the only host plant for Monarchs: it's the only thing that their caterpillars can eat so their future is tied together.

Baby photos! When these caterpillars hatched from their eggs, they were 3 mm long - or about the thickness of a penny. Each time they molt, they grow - sometimes almost doubling in size as they eat!



"Save the endangered Monarchs!" TBZ summer campers Liza, Sharadha, Eva, Jade, and Nicole created trash collected from our reservoir to create this beautiful Monarch to raise

awareness for their plight. "We chose this butterfly because they are on the endangered species list and we don't want this species to go extinct. We made it out of cardboard, paint, sticks, and tape. We all worked on it together."



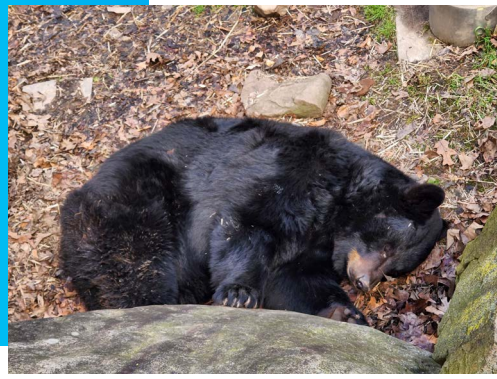
The future... Last week, our zoo campers released a young male Monarch we raised, affectionately named Richard. Good luck Richard!

Raising Monarchs? Join in on our tagging research project! Learn more and sign up here: <https://forms.gle/gbVXgEzY76cbfXi8>.



EDUCATION CORNER

WITH KATIE



We asked our social media followers for questions they would like to know about the animals or anything Zoo related! Here are some of the responses:

Did the tortoise at the reptile house lay eggs yet? We saw them mate a few weeks ago and it was a great experience for both me and my son. Also there is one small stingray that keeps trying to jump out of the water and I've been wondering why?

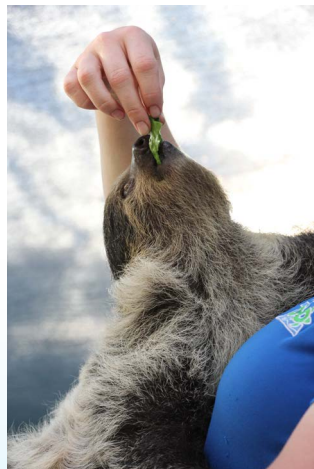
Our Red footed tortoises aren't a recommended breeding pair from their SSP (species survival program), so our reptile keepers aren't currently incubating any eggs they lay. However we don't discourage them: mating is an important part of their natural behavior! Species survival programs, which strive to maintain a genetically diverse population of various species across over 200 zoos and aquariums, are focused on research, education, and conservation. By keeping a backup population of Red footed tortoises, scientists can make fascinating discoveries about wildlife, some of which may help their wild counterparts for generations to come! The more we understand a species, the better we can protect them in the face of climate change, habitat loss, and the many threats that wildlife face.

When are sloths coming back out?

We're currently hoping to have the sloths out once our Red pandas move into their newly renovated habitat, currently being built in our Amazing Asia exhibit! Keep an eye out for them to the left of our Northern White-cheeked gibbons while the weather is nice and warm.

What are sloth's names?

Juneberry, Tayberry, Dewberry, and Boysenberry!

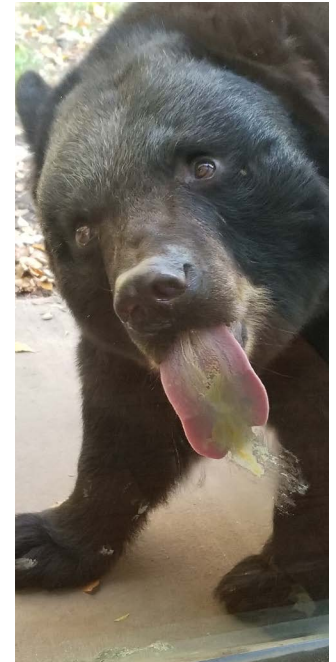


No questions. Just want to let you know I love visiting your zoo!

Thank you for loving the zoo and our animals like we do!

We asked our Black bears' zookeepers... how are Jam and Jelly doing?

Jelly and Jam are doing very well! Our bears, also known as our girlie girls to their keepers, celebrated their 17th birthday early this year. Jelly and Jam are sisters and are a one of a kind pair; their favorite things to do are taking a nap and digging new holes throughout their exhibit to take naps in. This can sometimes make it difficult to see them, but if you look hard you will find them. Their favorite foods are fruits, fish, peanut butter, and honey.

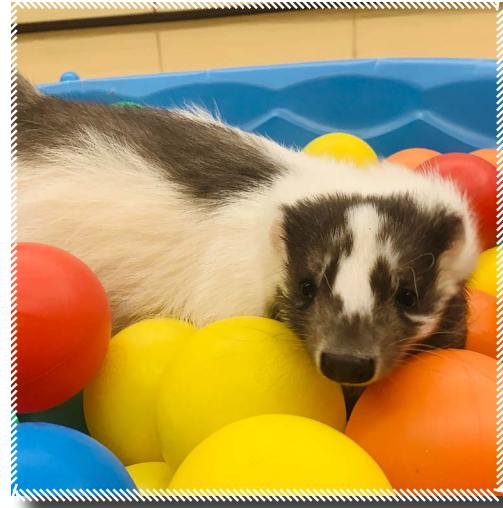


Do sloths like to snuggle? What is your favorite food? What countries are sloths found? How long is a female pregnant for?

Sloths don't snuggle with people, but as babies they are born in the tree canopy, often many feet off the ground! After a 5-6-month gestation period, one sloth baby (usually) is born: having to hold onto (or snuggle) Mom's chest as she climbs across the trees, only coming down once a week to go to the bathroom. Our sloths are Linne's two-toed sloths, who are found in forest habitats in Peru, Colombia, Venezuela, and other neighboring countries in South America. Other two and three-toed sloth species can be found throughout Central and South America. Sloths are primarily herbivores: mostly eating berries, leaves, fruit, twigs, and other vegetation, but they may eat some insects from time to time.

SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE WILD ANIMALS AT ESSEX COUNTY TURTLE BACK ZOO

We appreciate your generosity in strengthening Essex County Turtle Back Zoo's commitment to conservation, education, & inspiration. All donations to the Zoological Society of New Jersey support the Zoo by providing necessary funds for new habitat design & construction, general zoo improvements, operating support, and conservation programming. There are many ways to donate: Adopt an Animal, Donor Wall, Living and Memorial Tributes, Corporate Matching, Amazon Wish List, Monetary Donation, or Becoming a Member of the Zoological Society of New Jersey and Essex County Turtle Back Zoo.



Visit www.zoologicalsocietyofnj.org/support to get started!

Zoological Society of NJ Board of Directors

The Zoological Society of New Jersey, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) corporation, organized under the laws of the State of New Jersey. Its purpose is to promote the general welfare of Essex County Turtle Back Zoo, a facility of the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs; to stimulate the public's interest in the growth, improvement, and development of Essex County Turtle Back Zoo through education and research with an emphasis on natural conservation of all species of animals; to support and sponsor fund-raising events to help in the financing of new facilities, purchase of equipment, and acquisition of animals; to encourage membership in the Society by persons interested in the promotion of the physical and aesthetic qualities of Essex County Turtle Back Zoo; and to stimulate the public interest in the development and enjoyment of Essex County Turtle Back Zoo and of animals everywhere.

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Questions or comments about this publication or the information contained within it may be directed to:

560 Northfield Ave, West Orange, NJ 07052

PH: 973-731-5800

info@zoologicalsocietyofnj.org

To see other Zoo Communications, please visit <https://bit.ly/2SDw0OR>