Toledo Zoo & Aquarium
Annual Report

Making a Splash in 2015
2015 at a glance
Visitors: 1,332,423
Memberships: 68,613
Animals: 9,276
Species: 767

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From the Director

In 2015 the Toledo Zoo dove into the deep blue sea and made a big splash! 2015 was a record year for the Zoo and we couldn’t have done it without you!

The end of March saw the completion of two and a half years of renovation on our historic Aquarium. The entirely overhauled interior was unveiled to the public at the three-day grand re-opening, March 27-29 and caused serious waves that weekend and throughout the rest of the year. Opening weekend, alone more than 10,000 visitors braved the chilly temperatures to be the first to touch a ray, interact with a diver and experience over 3,000 sea creatures! In the next 9 months, over one million people discovered the world beneath the waves. In fact, on busy days, attendance numbers showed more than 1,800 people per hour were enjoying the new sea creatures! We not only thank you for your patience during the construction phases, but also for your patronage to enjoy the finished product!

The summer season brought another splash with the opening of the Aquarium Adventure Trail cool zone and playground. The new playground with cool zone is bigger than the Zoo’s previous children’s playground and has two sections, wet and dry. The area has six animal sculptures: two humpback whales, two brown pelicans, a patriot crab and a Galapagos tortoise shell. There are also 32 spray water features in the wet section that run on a 15-minute sequenced loop. In the dry section, there is a slide hill, talk tubes, tire swing, crawl tube (reminiscent of the previous playground’s kid favorite, beaver dam), hand-selected rocks for seating and the Zoo’s well-established oak trees providing welcome shade. This new addition has quickly become a family favorite!

On Monday, October 26, the Zoo set another record by welcoming the one millionth visitor through the gates for the year. This is the sixth time that the Zoo has reached a million visitors in a year in its recorded history. We attribute this year’s feat to a variety of factors, including the re-opening of our newly renovated Aquarium; the addition of the Aquarium Adventure Trail cool zone and playground; the births of Wakil, the orangutan, Ting, the white-cheeked gibbon and Mei Mei, the Francois’ langur; the arrival of red pandas; tremendous community support and partnerships; and a variety of exciting special events.

In the fall, Lucas County voters again showed their support of the Zoo by overwhelmingly approving a 10 year capital renewal levy. The levy supports the Zoo’s new 10 year masterplan which includes redeveloping the iconic tunnel entrance, re-establishing the Museum of Science and creating several state-of-the-art multi-species participatory exhibits for guests to experience animals in a completely new way. As you can see the Zoo is not resting on our laurels but always looking for new, innovative ways to bring our mission of caring for animals and conserving the natural world to life for our visitors.

The 30th anniversary season of Lights Before Christmas presented by KeyBank was also a record-setter. The season broke records for the highest number of total visitors in the three decade history of the display with over 230,000 guests and the single day attendance record with more than 19,500 visitors on Saturday, December 12. Lights was also recognized nationally as the iconic “Big Tree” was named one of the Top Five Most Beautiful Christmas Trees by Parade.com and with the help of our many Zoo supporters the entire display was voted one of the Best Zoo Lights displays in the nation by USA Today’s 10 Best contest.

Throughout the year, Toledo Zoo also continued its conservation efforts across the world and in the local region. Wild Toledo, the Zoo’s conservation organization earned the 2015 Public Agency Native Landscape Award from the Oak Openings Region Chapter of Wild Ones. The Zoo’s Wild Toledo employees released nearly 700 tagged monarch butterflies, are maintaining more than 25 acres of native prairies throughout the region, reared over 300 hellbender salamanders and released 28 into cleaned–up streams in southeastern Ohio. In addition to the local work, Zoo staff members also participated in conservation efforts across the globe, including bird re-locations in the Mariana Islands, snow leopard collaring in Kyrgyzstan, Tasmanian devil research in Tasmania, boa research in Cuba and Aruba and polar bear studies in Canada.

We are very grateful for everyone’s incredible support this past year, from our staff and volunteers to members, visitors, community partners and sponsors. We take pride in being a year-round, family-friendly destination. We are seeing people who first started bringing their children to the Zoo many years ago now enjoying it with their grandchildren and looking forward to their families continuing to enjoy it for many more years to come. That speaks volumes about the delight and excitement the Zoo brings to this community. The success of the Zoo is truly a triumph for the whole community as many of our visitors also patronize other local businesses and attractions during their visits to the area. We are proud to be a contributing member of this community and look forward to all that 2016 has in store!

Please keep reading to find out all the amazing things that happened at the Zoo this past year, including animal births, opening of new exhibits, educational programming and conservation efforts.

Thank you for diving in with us and making 2015 a year the Zoo will never forget!

Jeff Sailer, executive director and CEO
New Exhibits

Aquarium Renovation / Re-opening
2015 centered on the Aquarium re-opening. After two and a half years, the renovations were finally complete and the entirely overhauled exhibit re-opened to the public on March 27. The original Aquarium was constructed utilizing recycled local materials during the Great Depression as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) effort and opened in 1939. More than 75 years of bearing the immense weight of thousands of gallons of water and the corrosive effects of saltwater took quite a toll on the historic building, prompting the restoration plans. The new exhibits are not only larger and feature additional species but are also more interactive, including a moveable shark jaw, educational Ocean Lab, Touch Tank, dive talks and a simulated electric eel shock. The renovations also increased the water volume from 48,000 – 182,000 gallons and amount of public space by 74%. The Aquarium is now home to 271 species in 32 exhibits. All of this was accomplished while keeping the impressive vestige of history and modernizing the systems, exhibits and space within. During 2015, over one million visitors enjoyed discovering the deep blue. In fact, on busy days more than 1,800 visitors an hour were experiencing the world beneath the waves! Overall, the overhaul was a resounding success!

Aquarium Adventure Trail
On July 31, the Aquarium Adventure Trail playground and cool zone opened to the public. The new equipment was made possible through funding awarded by the State of Ohio’s capital budget and is the third and final piece of the Zoo’s Aquatic Complex. The new area has two sections, wet and dry and the design focused on interactive, unique island-themed play features. There are 32 spray water features in the wet section that run on a 15-minute sequenced loop. In the dry section, there is a slide hill, talk tubes, tire swing, crawl tube (reminiscent of the previous playground’s kid favorite, beaver dam) and hand-selected rocks for seating. The area also has six animal sculptures: two humpback whales, two brown pelicans, a patriot crab and a Galapagos tortoise shell. It is located between Penguin Beach and Primate Forest, near the Zoo’s Broadway entrance.
Pheasantry
This decagon-shaped exhibit, constructed with materials generously donated by Owens Corning, features more than 20 species of birds from all across the globe, including the Spectacled Owl, Himalayan Monal and Red-legged Seriema. Each individual exhibit has been designed and landscaped to be reminiscent of each species’ native habitat. This new area serves as an outdoor viewing for many exciting and beautiful birds. The Pheasantry is located near the historic carousel on the south side of the Zoo. Pardon the pun, but this exhibit has been an absolute hoot with our visitors!

Galapagos Garden
Emerson, the Zoo’s 100+ year old Galapagos tortoise got a new outdoor home, Galapagos Garden, in the early summer of 2015. With the enticement of a carrot and the aid of a custom-made dolly, Emerson was moved from his indoor winter home in the Conservatory down the formal garden path toward Gorilla Meadow to his new home. Visitors are now able to experience Emerson munch on the fresh grass of his new home and enjoy his own mud Jacuzzi and heated hut.

Red pandas
2015 was also the year that the red head’s returned to Toledo Zoo. In the late summer, the Zoo became home to three female red pandas, the first of their species to reside at the Zoo in more than 20 years. The three females, Willa, Maiya and Leela can be seen year-round in custom-created exhibits (indoor and outdoor) in Primate Forest. As the endangered species is native to the Himalayas, the red pandas are some of the Zoo’s most active colder weather animals and have quickly become a visitor favorite!

Tasmanian devils
In 2015 the Toledo Zoo began a partnership with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program in a multi-faceted re-introduction program to save the iconic species from Down Under. In recent years, Tasmanian devils have seen a rapid decline in wild populations due to Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). As part of this partnership, Toledo Zoo received three Tasmanian devils, one male (Nugget) and two females (Tatiana and Orchid) that now reside in a custom designed and air conditioned indoor exhibit in Tembo Trail. To help support research and conservation efforts in Tasmania, the Toledo Zoo added Tasmanian devils to the Zoo PAL program, Conservation Today fund and merchandise in the gift shops. The Zoo is also helping to support the in-country efforts by financing a researcher to assist with the care and monitoring of the wild devil population.
Vet Care

The Toledo Zoo’s Veterinary Department is committed to keeping our animals healthy through the use of state-of-the-art technology, top-notch nutrition, preventative medicine and experienced medical professionals. Dr. Ric Berlinski, veterinarian and director of animal health and nutrition, states “we strive to provide the highest quality veterinary care to all our animals, big or small.” The following medical highlights from 2015 illustrate his point.

While we may not always think about it, animals can have the same ailments, aches and pains as humans. Unfortunately, animals cannot simply tell their keepers or veterinary staff exactly where it hurts or what the problem is. Therefore, our keepers are trained to be attuned to every detail of the animals in their care. When Tilley, the female swamp monkey, showed signs of discomfort in her left arm, keepers quickly alerted the vet department. Tilley was examined and x-rays were taken that showed a fracture of the olecranon process of the elbow. The olecranon process is the bump on the outer part of the elbow that connects the ulna (outer bone of the forearm) with the humerus (or upper arm bone). Or more simply, as Dr. Berlinski says, the funny bone! Once the diagnosis was made, vet staff called upon a board certified veterinary orthopedic surgeon to perform the very delicate procedure. On the day of the surgery, Tilley was put under anesthesia, removed from her exhibit with the help of keepers and taken to the surgical suite of the veterinary hospital. There Tilley was put on a breathing tube and monitored carefully while additional x-rays were taken to see the exact fracture and fur was shaved from the incision site. While the two and a half hour surgery was considered quite delicate because of the amount of nerves and muscle attachments in the elbow joint, a bone fragment was successfully removed and Tilley suffered no permanent damage. Tilley was housed in a special area to keep her from climbing too much as her incision healed and she gained back use of the arm. During that time, the male swamp monkey kept her company in an adjoining area. As soon as the veterinary staff was confident in her usage of the arm, Tilley was back on exhibit with the male and is doing great!

Another interesting veterinary case from 2015 was when a cheetah needed a dentist. After the keepers reported concerns, x-rays were taken that showed a chipped canine tooth with the root exposed. Dr. Berlinski notes just like in humans, this is a very painful issue that requires a root canal. This time the vet staff consulted a board certified veterinary dentist. The cheetah was taken to the surgical suite of the vet hospital, sedated and the dentist performed a root canal. During the procedure, that took less than an hour, the dentist drilled out the root, filled in with a polymer, reshaped the end of the tooth and fitted it with a crown. Dr. Berlinski says the
cheetah was back on regular food and on exhibit the same day. “He never skipped a beat and now you can’t even tell there was a chip or anything.”

In addition to the cases handled this year, another highlight for the vet department was the addition of updated equipment. This year through the capital budget the veterinary department received state-of-the-art endoscopy and radiography units. The Storz tele-pak endoscopy is a portable, high definition unit with a 24-inch screen that provides doctors a non-surgical opportunity to examine digestive tracts. The radiography unit is wireless, digital, portable and produces a high definition x-ray image in less than one minute. Additionally, it allows vet staff to work from a laptop up to 40 feet away from the animal. As Dr. Berlinksni pointed out, the portability of the machines allows him and his staff much better access to animals. “We can now take the unit directly to the animal anywhere in the Zoo. This makes the exam much more efficient and reduces the stress and danger to the animal and caretakers.”

Animal Totals 2015
Species 767
Individual Animals- 9,276

In 2015, the Zoo’s Veterinary department coordinated and performed:

- 3000+ fecal tests
- 1400+ exams/procedures
- 600+ blood tests
- 380+ anesthesias
- 40+ biopsies
According to Beth Posta, curator of behavioral husbandry and research, the purpose of her department is to enhance animal welfare. Within that, the goals are to help animals express themselves by encouraging natural behaviors and to give the animals control of their own lives through choices of food, activities, social groups, etc. These goals are accomplished through a holistic approach to care that gives animals choices, the opportunity to thrive and on-going enrichment.

A common myth is that animal enrichment equals toys. While that may sometimes be the case, it is not always. According to Posta, animal enrichment is any modification to an animal’s environment to encourage natural behaviors, choices and enhance welfare. While it may include giving an animal items to play with, it is based on and meant to simulate what they would do in the wild, where habitats are sensory rich and complex. Our goal is to provide the animals in our care with a comparable experience in which they choose items and activities throughout their day that challenge them mentally and physically and help them thrive.

The idea of enrichment comes directly from the natural behaviors of the individual species of animals in the wild. Animal care staff spends lots of time researching and learning everything they can about an animal’s natural history. This is especially important with new-to-the-Zoo species. In 2015, the Zoo received 28 new animal species, all of which require enrichment from the very day of their arrival. For example, this past year lots of ideas were tossed around from the moment it was known that the Zoo would be adding red pandas and Tasmanian devils.

Before the three female red pandas arrived at the Zoo, animal care staff had already prepared a natural history of the species, including their native range, social structure, activity habits, diet and other important information. Once the animals arrived, behavior department staff and interns sat with keepers to observe the animals, learn about individual personalities and what the three females typically did in a day. The behaviors recorded helped initiate enrichment ideas to encourage activity and promote wellbeing. Enrichment for the red pandas focused on hunting, digging and climbing to utilize the pandas’ “thumbs” that aid in their mobility. To promote those behaviors, food was hidden in boxes or bags throughout the exhibit (including on various levels) allowing the pandas to hunt for it, choose their favorites and then dig in. Additionally, bamboo (a staple in their diet) was presented in various ways until their preference of longer stalks that were bent or hung high for them to pull down and eat was established. Additionally, as red pandas are cold weather animals, staff provide them with ice treats when the weather turns warmer and shade to keep them comfortable. Play opportunities are also important to young mammals, to encourage social and life skills while also serving as mental stimulation and a learning process. The pandas are provided with firehose balls, holy rollers and even pumpkins.

The addition of Tasmanian devils also proved to be a unique challenge for behavior staff. Posta remembered that staff came up with a “flood of ideas” but because of the devils’ extremely powerful jaws, safety issues were a big concern. For example, the average PVC feeder, a piece of PVC pipe with end caps and a hole drilled in the middle that is then stuffed with food and given to the animals to promote dexterity, food choices and foraging, was simply not thick enough to withstand the devils’ powerful teeth and jaws. It breaking into sharp shards was a safety concern for the endangered animal. Other options for the devils had to be found. Another interesting aspect of the devils is that they feed on animal carcasses. This is an important part of the daily life of a Tasmanian devil, so it is not only a necessary part of their daily routine, it also promotes mental and physical well-being for the creatures from Down Under.

Enrichment is not only species specific, but also specific to individual animals based on their personalities and preferences. For example, during 2015 the Zoo received three young cheetahs after two others were transferred to another facility on a breeding recommendation. As Posta tells, the new cheetahs, as one would expect with younger animals, are much more inquisitive, bold and playful than their predecessors. This change in dynamics forced
the behavior department to completely restructure and rebuild their cheetah enrichment plan. Animal care staff is promoting stalking, hunting and other life skills through cheetah pillows, which are feed bags filled with straw, paper shreds and herbs and spices to scent it. The cheetahs have the option to do what they want with the pillow but they will usually scent mark it with urine or by scratching. Posta also points out that the new cheetahs seem to enjoy cardboard boxes decorated to look like animals which they can stalk, knock down and tear into and anything that rolls, especially paper-mâché balls.

Animal care staff is constantly searching for new and novel, yet safe, enrichment ideas or ways to freshen frequent practices. As Posta points out: “We have to always remember that these are still wild animals and they are powerful and smart. Therefore, we always need to be on our toes and make sure we’re providing them with new and varied opportunities.”

In order to help our visitors better understand enrichment, we host several events throughout the year that allow guests to see the enrichment activities first-hand. On holidays such as Valentine’s Day, Easter and Halloween, animals all across the Zoo track down themed enrichment treats such as paper-mâché hearts, hard-boiled eggs and pumpkins hidden in their habitats to stimulate their senses and encourage natural behaviors. Some will make a meal and some will make a mess, but all of them will interact with their environments, engage in naturalistic behaviors and enhance their wellbeing.

On Saturday, September 26, 2015 the Zoo offered Enrichment Day so visitors could see these efforts in action, from animal feeds to enrichment demonstrations and up-close animal encounters. Some of the highlights were elephant bath time, hippo watermelon pool party, Baru our saltwater crocodile chowing down and a carcass feed for tigers. All across the Zoo, keepers shared enrichment demonstrations and information about the animals, from little parakeets to huge gorillas.
Mammals

2015 was a year of new for mammals: new species and new babies! Part of the Zoo’s mission is to inspire others to care about animals from across the globe. Introducing visitors to new species is a great way to continually expand that mission. This is why during 2015, the Zoo brought in several new species from around the world!

In early summer, every day became Hump Day at the Toledo Zoo, as two Bactrian camels, one male (Cash) and one female (June) went on exhibit in Tembo Trail. These are the first Bactrian camels to call the Zoo home since the 1940s. Bactrian camels (Camelus bactrianus) are herbivores that have two humps to store fat that can be converted to water or energy when food is scarce. These camels are native to the rocky deserts of central and east Asia. They have special adaptations to allow them to survive and thrive in brutal temperature extremes, including two rows of long eyelashes and bushy eyebrows to protect their eyes and the ability to close their nostrils to keep sand and snow out. In the cold weather, they grow a thick, heavy coat of fur for warmth and shed it in warmer temperatures. Bactrian camels are the only species of camels left in the wild. They are listed as endangered as surviving wild herds are believed to number less than 1,000 animals.

In August, the Zoo agreed to become home to two recently orphaned grizzly bears from Yellow Stone National Park. The two female grizzly twins, Cody and Montana, were in need of a home following the loss of their mother who was determined to be a danger to the public and euthanized by wildlife officials. Grizzly bears (Ursus arctos horribilis) are a North American sub-species of brown bears. Grizzlies were once widespread throughout western and plain states; however, their population decreased dramatically with the development of the west. Today, only 2,300 live in the four states of Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Washington. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service lists grizzly bears as threatened in the lower 48 states. The cubs were less than a year old, which wildlife officials stated was too young to survive in the wild without their mother. The cubs arrived at the Zoo in early September, went through quarantine and an acclimation period and are on exhibit in Tembo Trail.

The summer also brought the return of the red heads when three female red pandas went on exhibit in Primate Forest. This is the red panda’s first return to the Zoo since the early 90s. Red pandas (Ailurus fulgens) are cold weather animals from the mountains of Nepal, Myanmar and China. They are often recognized by their 12-20 inch long, bushy ringed tail that they can wrap around themselves like a blanket to keep warm. They grow to between 12 and 20 pounds with a 20-26 inch body. Contrary to popular belief, red pandas are not related to giant pandas, they are their own unique scientific family. Red pandas live in trees, even sleeping aloft and eat bamboo, fruit and roots. Interestingly, red pandas have an extended wrist bone that functions almost as a thumb. They are listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species due to deforestation, logging and agriculture. It is believed there are less than 10,000 red pandas surviving in the wild.

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Fall brought the debut of three Tasmanian devils, Nugget (male), Orchid and Tatiana (females) from Down Under. Tasmanian devils (*Sarcophilus harrissi*) are the largest living carnivorous marsupial and found in the wild only on the island of Tasmania. Their foreboding expression, black color and terrible scream helped earn the “devil” nickname. The acquisition of Tasmanian devils from the Monarto Zoo in Australia is part of the Zoo’s partnership with the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program. In recent years, Tasmanian devils have seen a rapid decline (up to 90% mortality) in wild populations due to Devil Facial Tumour Disease (DFTD). Toledo Zoo is directly supporting Save the Tasmanian Devil Program staff’s study and monitoring of the wild devil population. The program also includes creation of an insurance population and development of a vaccine for the disease. The devils arrived at the Zoo after an approximately 30 hour flight from Australia with stops in Los Angeles and Detroit. Their exhibit in Tembo Trail was designed to mimic Tasmania’s forest habitat where devils are commonly found.

Exposing visitors to new babies is another way the Zoo hopes to connect humans and animals. This year, the Zoo welcomed several new offspring.

On July 23, a male orangutan was born in the early evening to mother, Yaz and father, Boomer. Wakil (Wah-keel), whose name means “spokesman” in Indonesian was the result of a Species Survival Plan recommended breeding. Mother and baby were initially separated from the rest of the orangutan group to avoid distractions and promote bonding, however, as Wakil grew Boomer and half-sister, Kahli were introduced. Wakil’s growth and socialization continue to be a highlight for guests. Orangutans are from the Indonesian islands of Borneo and Sumatra. They are listed as critically endangered species due to deforestation from the palm oil industry. Wakil and his parents serve as ambassadors or spokesmen for their wild counterparts.

Just one day later, the primate area expanded with the birth of a female Francois’ langur. Mei Mei, whose name means “little sister” in Chinese, was born on July 24. She is the seventh offspring for parents, Ashes, 18 and Dong Poung, 19. As an adult, a Francois’ langur has a long, black, silky coat with a white band of cheek fur and a pointed crest of hair on top of its head. A typical Francois’ langur baby, however, is predominantly orange to blend in with foliage in the tree canopies of its native habitat in Vietnam, southeast China and central Laos. Fewer than 2,500 Francois’ langurs are estimated to survive in the wild, with hunting and habitat loss contributing to their status as an endangered species. Mei Mei and her family group are on exhibit in Primate Forest.
New Species

*Sarcophilus harrisii*: Tasmanian devil  
*Ursus arctos*: Brown bear  
*Ailurus fulgens*: Red panda

Births / Hatchings

*Trachypithecus francoisi francoisi*: Francois’ langur  
*Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus*: Bornean orangutan  
*Heterocephalus glaber*: Naked mole-rat  
*Cavia porcellus*: Guinea pig  
*Rousettus aegyptiacus*: Egyptian fruit bat  
*Suricata suricatta*: Slender-tailed meerkat  
*Ursus maritimus*: Polar bear

Species status

*Lemur catta*: Ring-tailed lemur E*  
*Hylobates leucogenys*: White-cheeked gibbon E*  
*Presbytis francoisi francoisi*: Francois’ langur E*  
*Gorilla gorilla gorilla*: Western lowland gorilla E*  
*Pongo pygmaeus*: Bornean orangutan E*  
*Lycaon pictus*: Hunting dog E  
*Ursus maritimus*: Polar bear T*  
*Melursus ursinus inornatus*: Sloth bear T*  
*Panthera leo krugeri*: African lion T*  
*Panthera tigris altaica*: Amur tiger E*  
*Panthera uncia*: Snow leopard E*  
*Acinonyx jubatus*: Cheetah T*  
*Loxodonta Africana*: African elephant T*  
*Hydrictis maculicollis*: Spotted-necked otter *  
*Ceratotherium simum*: Southern white rhinoceros E*  
*Hippopotamus amphibius*: Hippopotamus T*

E / T = listed as endangered (E) or threatened (T) by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)  
* = protected by the Convention on International Trade (CITES) in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

The end of the year brought a welcome holiday present—the birth of a polar bear cub on December 3. Staff chose to name the cub Hope after Point Hope, Alaska part of the known polar bear range and to represent optimism for the future of the endangered species. At birth, polar bear cubs are about 12 inches long, weigh only about one pound and are blind and toothless with short, soft fur. Polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) are listed on the IUCN Red List as a vulnerable species and as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act due to loss of Arctic sea ice from climate change. Mother and cub stayed secluded in the den until mid-March of 2016. After an acclimation period, Hope and Crystal went on exhibit in May of 2016.

The Zoo is thrilled to bring all of these animals and their stories to our visitors. It is our sincere hope that guests will be inspired to learn more about the species and their status in our interconnected ecosystem.
**Birds**

**New Species**

- **Cyrtonyx montezumae**: Montezuma’s Quail
- **Tragopan caboti**: Cabot’s Tragopan
- **Lophophorus impejanus**: Himalayan Impeyan Pheasant
- **Tragopan satyra Satyr Tragopan Gallus varius**: Green Junglefowl
- **Symaticus reevesii**: Reeve’s Pheasant
- **Argusianus argus**: Great Argus
- **Histrionicus histrionicus**: Harlequin Duck
- **Somateria spectabilis**: King Eider
- **Ajaia ajaia**: Roseate Spoonbill
- **Caloenas nicobarica**: Nicobar Pigeon
- **Rhamphococcyx curvirostris singularis**: Chestnut-breasted Malcoha
- **Bubo scandiacus**: Snowy Owl
- **Calypte anna**: Anna’s Hummingbird
- **Cynanthus latirostris**: Broad-billed Hummingbird
- **Dacelo n. novaeguineae**: Laughing Kookaburra
- **Aix galericulata**: Mandarin Duck
- **Aythya baeri**: Baer’s Pochard
- **Anas falcate**: Falcated Duck
- **Mergus cucullatus**: Hooded Merganser
- **Mergus albellus**: Smew
- **Spheniscus demersus**: Jackass Penguin
- **Ephippiorhynchus senegalensis**: Saddle-billed Stork
- **Geronticus eremita**: Waldrapp Ibis
- **Turnix nigricollis**: Madagascar Button Quail
- **Vanellus spinosus**: Spur-winged Lapwing
- **Clarinus pretiosus**: Blue Ground Pigeon
- **Otidiphaps nobilis nobilis**: Green-naped Pheasant Pigeon
- **Ptilinopus porphyria**: Temminck’s Fruit Dove
- **Ptilinopus roseicapilla**: Pink-crowned Fruit Dove
- **Psitteuteles goldei**: Goldie’s Lorikeet
- **Neophema bourkii**: Bourke’s Parrot
- **Melopsittacus**: Budgerigar
- **Cousa cristata cristata**: Crested Cousa
- **Coracias cyanogaster**: Blue-bellied Roller
- **Lybius dubius**: Bearded Barbet
- **Lamprocnemus montezumae**: Emerald Starling
- **Dinemellia dinemelli**: White-headed Buffalo Weaver
- **Euplectes orix**: Red Bishop
- **Stagonopleura guttata**: Diamond Firetail Finch
- **Aidemosyne modesta**: Plum-headed Finch
- **Poephila bichenovii**: Double-barred Finch
- **Poephila acuticauda**: Long-tailed Finch
- **Erythrura psittacea**: Red-throated Parrot Finch
- **Chloebia gouldiae**: Gouldian Finch
- **Tangara Mexicana**: Turquoise Tanager

**Species status**

- **Struthio camelus**: Ostrich *
- **Casuarius casuarius**: Southern Cassowary T
- **Apteryx mantelli**: North Island Kiwi E
- **Branta ruficollis**: Red-breasted Goose E *
- **Aythya baeri**: Baer’s Pochard E
- **Clangula hyemalis**: Long-tailed Duck T
- **Marmaronetta angustirostris**: Marbled Teal T
- **Melanitta fusca**: White-winged Scoter E
- **Mergus squamatus**: Chinese Merganser E
- **Spheniscus demersus**: Jackass Penguin E *
- **Geronticus eremita**: Waldrapp Ibis E *
- **Gyps coprotheres**: Cape Griffon Vulture T *
- **Trigononocephalus occipitalis**: White-headed Vulture T *
- **Rhynochetos jubatus**: Kagu E *
- **Balearica regulorum gibbericeps**: East African Grey-crowned Crane E *
- **Columba mayeri**: Mauritius Pink Pigeon E *
- **Goura Victoria**: Victoria Crown Pigeon T *
- **Lorius garrulous**: Chattering Lory T *
- **Lophura swinhoii**: Swinhoe’s Pheasant E *
- **Tragopan satyra**: Satyr Tragopan T
- **Tragopan caboti**: Cabot’s Tragopan E *
- **Argusianus argus**: Great Argus T
- **Polyplectron emphanum**: Palawan Peacock Pheasant E *
- **Aratinga guarouba**: Golden Conure E *
- **Bucerous leadbeateri**: Southern Ground Hornbill T Remove
- **Buceros rhinoceros**: Rhinoceros Hornbill T *
- **Buccos leadbeateri**: Southern Ground Hornbill T
- **Amazona leucocephala leucocephala**: Cuban Amazon Parrot E
- **Ptilinopus roseicapilla**: Pink-crowned Fruit Dove E
- **Cleptornis marchei**: Golden White-eye E
- **Zosterops conspicillatus saypani**: Saipan White-eye E
- **Leucopsar rothschildi**: Bali/Rothschild’s Mynah E *
- **Carduelis cucullata**: Red Siskin E *

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* = protected by the Convention on International Trade (CITES) in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Late summer saw the opening of a brand-new outdoor viewing exhibit for birds from all around the world. The Pheasantry is a decagon (10-sided) shaped building situated between the historic carousel and the Aquarium Adventure Trail. Despite the name, this isn’t just a Pheasantry, or home to pheasants. While there are several pheasants in the exhibit, there are also many other bird species from all across the globe. In fact, there are currently more than two dozen species in the exhibit. The decagon-shaped building was designed so each side/exhibit simulates the natural environment of the bird residing in it. The birds were all chosen because they are cold-hardy and can withstand northwest Ohio’s temperature changes. Some fan favorite birds quickly emerged, including the Red-legged Seriema especially when it’s sprawled out sun-bathing, the Kookaburra and it’s iconic “laugh” and the male Reeve’s pheasant because of his good looks, accessibility and because he follows guests back and forth across his exhibit.

2015 was a high-flying year for our bird department. It started off with the successful hatchings of four Saddle-billed Stork chicks during the month of January. These four chicks were the Zoo’s 14th successful hatchings of the species since 2000, when the Zoo became only the second in the world to rear this species. Although the birds weighed only about four ounces at birth and were less than two feet tall, as adults they will be five feet or taller! The chicks’ parents were not able to care for them safely, so bird keepers hand-reared the birds with the aid of a hand-crafted-in-house stork head puppet. This species’ distinguishing feature is the yellow saddle-shaped marking on their long red and black beaks. This species is managed by an AZA Species Survival Plan (SSP) and all 14 hatches have been recommended breedings.

The year ended with the births of two African Penguin chicks. The chicks hatched on November 24 and 27. A male chick, Tank, was born to parents, Freedom and P.J, while a female, Pippen, was born to Lucky and Toby. Both chicks were cared for by their parents in an off-exhibit area of Penguin Beach. While the chicks weren’t on public display because of the cold temperatures, many of their firsts were documented in a video series for visitors to enjoy. African penguins are native to the southern coast of Africa and are listed as an endangered species due to commercial fisheries and shifts in prey populations due to climate change. Both chicks were the results of Species Survival Plan (SSP) recommended breedings.

Overall, the bird department truly soared in 2015!
Reptiles

**New Species**

- *Chelonia mydas*: Green turtle*
- *Podocnemis expansa*: Arrau turtle*
- *Chelidophorus arubensis*: Aruba Island whiptail
- *Tribolonotus gracilis*: Crocodile skink
- *Trimeresurus trigonocephalus*: Sri Lanka green pitviper
* Managed by Aquarium Department.

**Births / Hatchings**

- *Terrapene*: Carolina Eastern box turtle
- *Ptychozoon kuhli*: Gliding gecko
- *Aspidoscelis uniparens*: Desert grassland whiptail

**Species status**

- *Emydoidea blandingii*: Blanding’s turtle E*
- *Clemmys guttata*: Spotted turtle E *
- *Terrapene carolina carolina*: Eastern box turtle T*
- *Geoemyda spengleri*: Black-breasted leaf turtle E*
- *Chelonoidis nigra*: Galapagos tortoise E*
- *Malacochersus tornieri*: African pancake tortoise T*
- *Manouria emys*: Asian brown tortoise E*
- *Chelodina mccordi*: McCord’s snake-necked turtle E*
- *Sphenodon punctatus*: Tuatara E*
- *Brachylophus fasciatus*: Fiji Island banded iguana E*
- *Phelsuma standing*: Standing’s day gecko T*
- *Uroplatus henkeli*: Henkel’s leaf-tailed T*
- *Acrantophis dumerili*: Dumeril’s ground boa*
- *Acrantophis madagascariensis*: Madagascar ground boa*
- *Sanzinia madagascariensis*: Madagascar tree boa *
- *Epicrates monensis granti*: Virgin Islands boa E*
- *Epicrates monensis monensis*: Mona Island boa E*
- *Epicrates subflavus*: Jamaican boa T*
- *Ophiophagus*: Hannah King cobra T*
- *Drymarchon corais couperi*: Eastern indigo snake T
- *Crotalus horridus horridus*: Timber rattlesnake SE
- *Crotalus unicolor*: Aruba Island rattlesnake E
- *Sistrurus catenatus*: Eastern massasauga SE
- *Zhaeroemia mangshanensis*: Chinese mountain pitviper E
- *Crocodylus cataphractus*: African slender-snouted crocodile E*
- *Crocodylus rhombifer*: Cuban crocodile E*
- *Crocodylus porosus*: Saltwater crocodile E*

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The no-pun-intended big news in the Reptile House for 2015 was the arrival of three baby Galapagos tortoises in March. A two-year-old tortoise and its one-year-old siblings arrived from the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas and are currently residing in the west wing of the Reptile House.

They are too young to determine their genders, however, they will be the foundation of the Toledo Zoo’s future breeding program. The oldest tortoise is about the size of a softball weighing 350 grams and its smaller siblings are about the size of soup cups weighing around 200 grams each. While they may be small now, measuring just a few inches long, in time they could surpass the size and weight of Emerson, the approximately 100-year-old Galapagos tortoise weighing about 400 pounds, who came to the Zoo last August. Galapagos tortoises can measure up to six feet long and weigh as much as 500 pounds, living for 150+ years.

The species is native to the Galapagos Islands, near Ecuador off the western coast of South America. While the species is thought to have numbered in the tens of thousands before pirates and whalers began hunting them, four of the Galapagos tortoise’s 14 subspecies are now extinct. The surviving species face competition for resources from non-native animals which humans introduced to the islands. Although few animals could kill a full-grown tortoise, many animals eat the tortoises’ eggs, which decimates reproduction rates. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) lists the species as vulnerable.
Amphibians

New Species
Anaxyrus fowleri: Fowler’s toad
Ceratophrys cranwelli Chacoan: Horned frog
Dyscophus guineti Sambava: Tomato frog

Births / Hatchings
Eurycea lucifuga: Cave salamander
Dendrobates tinctorius: Dyeing poison dart frog
Bolitoglossa conanti: Conant’s mushroom tongue salamander
Nectophrynoides asperginis: Kihansi spray toad
Agalychnis lemur: Lemur leaf frog
Bufo baxteri: Wyoming toad
Dendrobates auratus: Green-and-black poison dart frog

Species status
Bolitoglossa conanti: Conant’s mushroom tongue salamander E
Plethodon petraeus: Pigeon Mountain salamander T
Andrias japonicas: Japanese giant salamander E *
Cryptobranchus a. alleganiensis: Eastern hellbender SE*
Aneides aeneus: Green salamander SE
Eurycea lucifuga: Cave salamander SE
Neurergus kaiseri: Kaiser’s spotted newt E* 
Atelopus varius zeteki: Panamanian golden frog E*
Bufo baxteri: Wyoming toad E
Nectophrynoides asperginis: Kihansi spray toad E*
Peltophryne lemur: Puerto Rican crested toad E 
Phyllobates terribilis: Golden poison dart frog E*
Phyllobates vittatus: Golfodulcean poison dart frog E*
Hylomantis lemur: Lemur tree frog E 
Mantella aurantiaca: Golden mantella E *

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Wildlife Service or International Union for Conservation of Nature 
(IUCN)
SE / ST = listed as endangered (SE) by the state of Ohio 
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Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
Amphibians are amazing creatures to view and incredibly interesting to study but can be tricky to raise in a Zoo setting. That is especially true for the imperiled Kihansi spray toad. The Kihansi spray toad (KST) is a tiny, goldenrod colored amphibian that is native to the spray zone (where the falling water meets the rocks) of the waterfall in the Kihansi Gorge in Tanzania. With a complex past worthy of its own documentary, Kihansi spray toads went extinct in the wild between 2003 and 2004.

During the country’s efforts to develop in the 90s, hydroelectric options were deemed the best choice for generating electricity. The Kihansi River was chosen, along with several other locations, for the installation of a dam and hydroelectric facility. In 1999, the dam project started to divert water from the majestic falls in Kihansi, drastically reducing water flow. It was then found that the entire population of Kihansi spray toads, some 30,000, had congregated in the extremely small remaining spray zone.

At this point, conservationists from across the globe took notice and action. The Bronx Zoo took 500 wild toads as an assurance population. After initial breeding success, they asked other zoos, including Toledo, to take some of the many babies. Energized staff here at the Toledo Zoo developed successful husbandry or care techniques and the toads were once again reproducing in high numbers. At that point, several other zoos turned their struggling spray toad populations over to the Toledo Zoo. The entire assurance population was then retained between the Toledo Zoo and the Bronx Zoo. The Toledo Zoo is now recognized as one of the leaders in Kihansi spray toad conservation and captive breeding for release back into the Gorge. Currently, the Zoo has over 3,200 Kihansi spray toads thriving in two biosecure rooms of the Amazing Amphibians exhibit.

Curator of Herpetology, Andrew Odum says, breeding and rearing spray toads is a balancing act that requires strict biosecurity, extreme measures and dedicated staff. “The possibility of failure is very high but we’ve managed to pull it together. There have been many bumps along the way but this is a cool story on so many levels of humans doing the right thing for the people of Tanzania and conservation of the animal. We may have lost a pristine place to development, but we also gained something else… an improvement for all involved. There are lots of reasons to be optimistic about this amphibian re-introduction being successful. Animals continue to persist in the wild now. To reach the threshold where we can say the population is stable and self-sustaining, we will have to release at least 10,000 toads. We are well on our way having released 4-5,000 thus far. Our hope is to have five more years’ worth of animals to release before we can fully deem this a true success story.”
Fishes

New Species

Heterodoncus francisci: Horn shark
Chiloscyllium plagiosum: White spotted bamboo shark
Hemiscyllium ocellatum: Epaulette shark
Stegostoma fasciatum: Zebra shark
Atelomycterus marmoratus: Coral cat shark
Cephaloscyllium ventriosum: Swell shark
Mustelus californicus: Grey smooth-hound
Triakis semifasciata: Leopard shark
Carcharhinus melanopterus: Blacktip reef shark
Rhinobatos productus: Shovelnose guitarfish
Dasyatis americana: Southern red stingray
Urobatis jamaicensis: Yellow stingray
Myliobatis californica: Bat eagle ray
Naso unicornis: Bluespine unicorn tang
Amia calva: Bowfin
Cyprinus carpio: Carp
Najadidae sp.: Shiner
Catostomus sp.: Sucker
Ictalurus punctatus: Channel catfish
Esox masquinongy: Muskellunge
Synodus: Lizardfish
Haplochromis piceatus: Lake Victoria cichlid
Sphyrna tiburo: Bonnethead shark
Brachyistius frenatus: Kelp surfperch
Haplochromis piceatus: Lake Victoria cichlid
Neogobius melanostomus: Round goby
Pterapogon kauderni: Banggai cardinalfish
Hippocampus erectus: Northern seahorse

Births / Hatchings

Sphyrna tiburo: Bonnethead shark
Brachyistius frenatus: Kelp surfperch
Haplochromis piceatus: Lake Victoria cichlid
Neogobius melanostomus: Round goby
Pterapogon kauderni: Banggai cardinalfish
Hippocampus erectus: Northern seahorse

Species status

Stegostoma fasciatum: Zebra shark T
Scleropages formosus: Asian arowana E*
Cyprinus carpio: Carp T
Pterapogon kauderni Banggai: cardinalfish E
Haplochromis piceatus: Lake Victoria cichlid T
Cheilinus undulatus: Giant tuskfish E*

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The re-opening of the Aquarium was one of the biggest highlights of 2015. As we have said many times in the past year, the new Aquarium is home to over 3,000 creatures in more than 178,000 gallons of water. While everything is impressive about the new facility, sustainability is the name of the game. While sustainability, or utilizing collection methods that do not harm natural resources, is not a new concept, it is an incredibly important part of the Zoo’s mission of conserving the natural world. To help ensure that future generations are able to see many species of fish in the wild, the new Aquarium’s collection plan focused on finding the most sustainable source of fish being brought in for display. It also includes plans to breed many species in house to sustain our own populations and subsequently head-start populations for other facilities. During this first year of operation, the Aquarium staff raised over 250 animals of six species, not including more than 500 moon jellies.

One of our sustainably sourced shipments was of deep sea crabs from Japan. This was the third such shipment we have undertaken for the new Aquarium. Because it was a smaller shipment and things were not quite as rushed now that the new Aquarium was open, we wanted to document the process for our supporters – not because you will ever need to follow this process, but rather, to show what goes into a major international acquisition. The first step was to contact our supplier in Japan to see if they could acquire the specimens we were seeking. Once a tentative list was developed, it was sent to the Zoo’s registrar and director for approval. After that, the shipment was scheduled and an import broker was set up to handle the clearing of U.S. customs.

Once the shipment cleared inspections and arrived at the Toledo Zoo Aquarium, staff was brought in to assist with unpacking and acclimating the specimens. The boxes were moved to a central staging area and opened in dim light. The health of the animals in each box was assessed and an acclimation strategy was determined. Some crustaceans are shipped damp – so no acclimation is possible for them. These are given a quick rinse with chilled seawater and placed into the aquarium “head up” to purge any trapped air in their gill chambers. For other animals, water is gradually removed from the shipping bag and replaced with tank water – adjusting them for differences in temperature, pH and salinity. The giant spider crabs were shipped with their long legs trussed up with rubber bands, and, close inspection showed that the shipper had even placed bits of plastic tubing on their rostral horns to prevent them damaging the shipping bags. Opening one box showed an eerie green glow. Upon further inspection, the two bags inside containing deep water sea basses had small plastic...
glow rings attached to the top of the bag. We had not seen this technique before. Upon asking the shipper, they replied that although these fish are from deep water and accustomed to dim light, they tend to go into shock if light levels change suddenly. The glow rings actually acted as a “night light” for the fish when the shipping box was closed up and sent on its journey. As we have detailed, shipping and receiving animals is quite an involved and collaborative process happening behind-the-scenes here at your Zoo. The next time you visit the Aquarium, we hope you will give some thought as to what is required to bring the world beneath the waves into your view!

Another thought-provoking creature in the new world beneath the waves is Tink, our rescued green sea turtle. In June of 2013, Tink was found floating in the Indian River Lagoon in Florida and taken in for rehabilitation. Following the rescue, other injuries were found: an old injury that had healed but resulted in malformation of the carapace (shell) and limited mobility with the rear flippers that created buoyancy issues. While the cause of these injuries is uncertain, they were likely from by a boat strike. Turtles struck by boats are often left floating, unable to submerge possibly due to trapped air and damage to lungs, muscles and nerves. Weights have been attached to the rear of Tink’s shell to aid in diving and submerging. Due to these permanent injuries, Florida wildlife officials deemed Tink non-releasable and requiring human care to survive. Tink, whose sex is unknown because the turtle has not reached sexual maturity, weighs about 45 pounds and now resides in the Gulf of Mexico exhibit. Tink’s story is a wonderful conservation conversation starter with guests and one they have loved to share over and over!

Another step toward sustainability was the birth of six bonnethead shark babies in July of 2015. We did not have room to house the young sharks as they grew, so they were sent to the Georgia Aquarium, thus keeping that facility from having to extract any bonnethead sharks from the wild. In addition, the Toledo Zoo Aquarium is also propagating much of its own coral for use in house and to send to other facilities.

All of the renovations and sustainability practices were extremely well received by visitors in 2015 when over one million people experienced the wonders of the deep blue. On busy days, approximately 1,800 people per hour were appreciating the over 3,000 sea creatures on display! We’d say the new Aquarium made quite a splash!
Invertebrates

New Species
Chrysaora pacifica: Sea nettle
Aurelia aurita: Moon jellyfish
Capnella sp.: Tree coral
Montipora sp.: Coral
Porites cylindrica: Finger coral
Zoanthidus: Mat Anenomes
Margarites sp.: Olive margarite
Margarites pupillus: Puppet margarite
Tegula funebris: Black turban snail
Neritina sp.: Olive nerite
Capnella sp.: Middle-spined cerith
Symphyllia agaricia: Brain coral
Nassarius sp.: Sharp-knobbed mud snail
Melongena corona: Crown conch
Enterocotpus dofleini: Giant Pacific octopus
Protula bispinalis: Hard tube coco worm
Odontodactylus scyllarus: Peacock mantis shrimp
Bathynomus sp.: Giant deep-sea roach
Bathynomus giganteus: Giant deep-sea roach
Procambalus clarkia: Red swamp crayfish
Justitia longimanus: Long-armed spiny lobster
Panulirus argus: American spiny lobster
Parribacus sp.: Blue-spotted slipper lobster
Calcinus sp.: Left-handed hermit crab
Neopetrolisthes oshimai: Anemone porcelain crab
Paromola sp.: Crab
Macrocheira kaempferi: Giant Japanese spider crab
Macropodia sp.: Spider crab
Oregonia gracilis: Decorator crab
Patiria miniata: Bat sea star
Diadema sp.: Longspined sea urchin
Strongylocentrotus purpuratus: Purple sea urchin
Holothuria sp.: Burrowing sea cucumber
Centrodris sculpturatus: Sculptured scorpion
Diplocentrus sp.: Big Bend scorpion
Heterometrus spinifer: Malaysian black scorpion
Pandinus cavimanus: Red clawed emperor scorpion
Poecilotheria metallica: Gooty sapphire ornamental tarantula
Solifugae: Camel-spiders
Lethocerus americanus: Giant water bug
Laccophilus sp.: Fascinated diving beetle
Canthon sp.: Dung beetle
Cantho imitator: Dung beetle
Cantho indigaceus: Smooth green dung beetle
Dynastes hercules: Western Hercules beetle
Gymnetis flavomarginata: Harlequin scarab
Eleodes longicaudus: Pinnacate beetle
Actias luna: Luna moth
Scolopendra polymorpha: Sonoran centipede
Orthoporus ornatus: Sonoran Desert millipede

Births / Hatchings
Phyllium giganteum: Giant leaf insect
Acrophylla wuelfingi: Queensland titan walkingstick
Extatosoma tiaratum: Giant prickly stick insect
Deroplatys desiccata: Malaysian dead-leaf mantis
Heteropteryx dilatata: Giant thorny walkingstick

Invertebrates are creatures without backbones. The Zoo is home to many species of invertebrates, both terrestrial (land-dwelling) and aquatic (live in water).
One of the new Aquarium exhibits featuring aquatic invertebrates that has proven very popular with our visitors is a display of Pacific Sea Nettles (Chrysaora pacifica) in a special “infinite blue” aquarium that makes it seem like they are floating in the open ocean. This particular exhibit was made possible by the generous support of Zoo Board Past President and current member Mary Ellen Pisanelli and her daughters Eleni and Lia. Like our many visitors, Mary Ellen and her family were very impressed with the sea nettles’ graceful movements and color.

We acquired our tennis ball-sized sea nettles from two suppliers in Japan who collect them seasonally. They were shipped in water-filled plastic bags (just like fish) but instead of inflating the bags with oxygen, the water is simply charged with oxygen and then sealed off as any loose bubbles could damage the delicate creatures. This particular species was selected based on availability, moderate adult size (6’ diameter) and relative hardiness.

Our sea nettles are fed twice a day with enriched live baby brine shrimp and every other day they are fed diced mysid shrimp and chopped Aurelia sea jellies.

The main tank is 10’ long, 8’ tall and 20” wide and holds 1000 gallons of synthetic seawater. The public view the mesmerizing creatures through an acrylic viewing window that is 6’ 6” long by 4’ tall. The exhibit is lighted from top and back plus four dimmable side LED fixtures. The entire exhibit weighs about 10,000 pounds!

Desert Dung Beetles (Canthon imitator) are an example of an absolutely fascinating terrestrial invertebrate. These amazing creatures are on display in the Crawlspace and more information about them can fittingly be found in the restrooms of our Africa! exhibit. While these are a common species, their recycling role in our ecosystem is often overlooked.

There are 8,000 different species of dung beetles in the world and they are found in every type of habitat and on every continent, except Antarctica. These flying insects can be black, red or green and are between half an inch and two and a half inches long, depending on the species. Dung beetles are categorized into three groups depending on how they use the dung: rollers that form the dung into balls, tunnelers that burrow through the piles and dwellers that live within the dung piles. The beetles are strong fliers that can fly several miles in search of dung. They are also equipped with specialized antennae to detect the smell of dung from the air. Once a pile of dung is located, they feed on the undigested bits of food and juices from the dung. The young eat the solid dung, while the adults drink the liquids. These beetles are incredibly important for dispersing nutrients throughout the environment and recycling waste.

While these animals may not have a backbone, they certainly have interesting characteristics and roles in the ecosystem. Don’t miss them on your next Zoo visit!
Wild Toledo

In 2015, the Toledo Zoo had two main conservation goals: become more community-minded and focus on local conservation efforts. With that in mind, Wild Toledo, the local conservation branch of the Toledo Zoo, has worked very hard on their urban prairie initiative. The establishment of urban prairies, wildflowers, grasses and plants that were native to the area before European settlement, is helping to restore a balanced natural community and ecosystem services. This is accomplished by providing more acreage for absorption of rainwater, thus reducing the amount of pollution entering our waterways and increasing plant diversity and pollinator populations while decreasing labor costs and carbon dioxide emissions from mowing and maintenance equipment.

The prairies are created from a custom-made seed mixture of annuals and perennials that are designed to be more beautiful each successive year. Installations began in 2013 on mowed grass lots at the Toledo Zoo and Anthony Wayne Trail (AWT) median. Based on the success of these projects, prairie installations were expanded in 2014 to include a vacant lot owned by Toledo Public Schools, a mowed grass area owned by the Village of Ottawa Hills, the new Rudolph-Libbe solar array and two additional acres of AWT median. In 2015 three installations were added at Toledo area Head-start schools through a PNC Grow up Great grant. All management and evaluations of prairies are performed by Wild Toledo. Biologists with Wild Toledo also monitor vegetation, invertebrates, birds and mammals throughout the season in order to understand how urban prairies affect biodiversity and hone their restoration methodology.

Wild Toledo was awarded the 2015 Public Agency Native Landscape Award from the Oak Openings Region Chapter of Wild Ones for the installation and upkeep of native prairies on Toledo Zoo grounds. Wild Toledo was nominated by Wild Ones board member and education chair, Diane Deyonker. The nomination then went before a panel to select award winners based in part on the number of native plants being utilized, years of growth of the installation and the effective promotion of native plants and natural landscapes. Hal Mann, president of the Oak Openings Region Chapter said: "We are very happy with the work Wild Toledo and the Toledo Zoo have been doing with native plants and their promotion throughout the community. It really fits in so well with our mission of teaching about the benefits of natural landscapes."

Another of Wild Toledo's projects included Monarch butterfly conservation and education activities. The Zoo is helping to increase local habitat and educate the community about the plight of the monarch, as the population of the beautiful orange and black creature has dramatically decreased in the last 10 years. In addition to the education programming,
Wild Toledo also dramatically expanded their captive rearing program in 2015. More than 700 monarch butterflies were tagged and released for their yearly migration to over-wintering habitat in the mountains of Mexico in 2015. Interestingly, nine of the tagged monarchs were recovered, meaning at least that many made the over 2,200 mile trip from Ohio to the land south of the border.

Another locally-based conservation project is with hellbender salamanders, an amphibian species native to Ohio. In 2015, a modular building funded by the Ohio Division of Wildlife and Williams was renovated to rear and house more than 400 hellbenders to be released back into the wild and bolster wild populations. The Toledo Zoo is a member of the Ohio Hellbender Partnership and is the largest contributor of head-started hellbenders in the state.

In addition to these community efforts, Wild Toledo is busy on the Toledo Zoo property too. In 2015 they concluded on-grounds surveys of native amphibians, reptiles, small mammals and butterflies and the monitoring and managing of mesopredator populations. Mesopredators are medium-sized predators, such as raccoons, opossums and skunks whose populations often increase when their larger predators are eliminated. Wild Toledo staffers and the Zoo’s veterinary department worked together to monitor, track, vaccinate and sterilize the on-grounds mesopredators in an effort to protect our animal collection and prevent the transmission of pathogens.

Besides helping local salamanders, Wild Toledo is also: assisting local turtles through marking and monitoring turtles to determine population status and identify critical habitat at Oak Openings Preserve Metropark and Cedar Point Wildlife Refuge; conducting a mudpuppy distribution survey in Swan Creek and the Maumee River; learning more about local biodiversity through the use of trail cameras at many sites in Ohio and Michigan and bolstering the population of the endangered Mitchell’s Satyr Butterfly through captive breeding and rearing programs. Additionally, Wild Toledo staffers are also sharing their knowledge and passion by giving educational talks to local organizations, including garden clubs, TEDx Toledo and many others.

Wild Toledo conservation efforts are just that, helping to keep our community healthy, happy and wild!

Total External Funding Awarded to Wild Toledo/Conservation in 2015: $176,027.
Conservation

The Toledo Zoo conservation staff serves two main focuses: global conservation efforts and local initiatives. Peter Tolson, director of conservation and research, details the global efforts.

In 2015, the Zoo worked with conservation programs and research initiatives all across the globe, from across North America to the Caribbean and Kyrgyzstan to Tasmania. Dr. Tolson provided a brief overview of the projects conducted in 2015.

Aruba Island Rattlesnake Field Study: Beth Posta and R. Andrew Odum travelled to Aruba to initiate a behavioral study on the Aruba whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis* and to continue the rattlesnake condition indices study with the Arikok National Park.

Cayman Blue Iguana Reintroduction: Dr. Kim Rainwater travelled to Grand Cayman as part of a veterinary team to examine 77 blue iguanas, including pre-release examinations on 52 iguanas (2 year olds) and routine examinations on 24 captive adults and one free-roaming adult at Queen Elizabeth II Park.

Cuban Boa Reproduction Study: Peter Tolson made two trips to Cuba to continue studying the reproductive biology of this species, including reproductive interval, litter size, reproductive effort and thermoregulatory and mating behavior— including mate fidelity.

Great Lakes Piping Plover Conservation: Annaliese Miles worked with a team to rear eggs from abandoned nests of the endangered bird to be banded and eventually released back into their native habitat.

Mona Boa Conservation: As part of a four man team, Peter Tolson and Dr. Yousuf Jafarey hunted Mona Boas on Isla Mona at night with headlamps to assess population numbers on a three hectare research plot.

Wyoming Toad Species Survival Plan: The Wyoming Toad, *Anaxyrus (Bufo) baxteri*, is a federally endangered species brought back from extinction twice through the captive breeding and reintroduction efforts of the SSP and federal and state partners. Herpetology lead keeper Val Hornyak is the SSP Coordinator. It is the longest-running amphibian program and the first "extinct-in-the-wild" species to be restored to historic range through captive breeding.

Effects of Fire on Eastern Box Turtles - *Terrapene Carolina*: Eastern Box Turtles (EBT) are a species of special concern in Ohio. Since 2011, BGSU has partnered with the Toledo Zoo to conduct research on the spatial ecology of EBT with the goal of developing best management and conservation practices for this species.

Polar Bear Conservation support- in situ and ex situ applications: Polar Bears, *Ursus maritimus*, play an important role in educating the public about the challenge of dealing with climate change. Dr. Randi Meyerson’s work as the SSP coordinator in 2015 builds on the efforts of the past six years, which have included meetings about importations, input into the development of a polar bear oil spill response plan and relationship development with field scientists and the authorities at Canada.

Save the Tasmanian Devil Project: The project is a collaborative monitoring program that assesses the population status of the devil in the Tasmanian landscape and seeks to develop management practices to ensure devils maintain their ecological function in the long term. Dr. Randi Meyerson and videographer Alex Goetz traveled to Australia to meet with field researchers, participate in the annual population monitoring program and learn husbandry techniques for the devils that would be coming to the Toledo Zoo. Additionally, videos and photographs were taken for use at the Toledo Zoo as part of the Zoo’s Devil Ambassador Program. In 2015, the Zoo gave its first donation to the Save the Tasmanian Devil Project and also supports an adjunct researcher in Tasmania.
Reintroduction of the Kihansi Spray Toad: The Toledo Zoo continues its efforts with its partners in Tanzania and the Bronx Zoo to reintroduce the Kihansi spray toad (KST), *Nectophrynoides asperginis*, back into its native habitat in Tanzania. In 2015, the Toledo and Bronx Zoos returned 1,500 toads back to Tanzania, which were then transported to the Kihansi Gorge and released. To date the project has reintroduced a total of 5,432 KST with measurable success.

Snow Leopard Conservation Support- in situ and ex situ project: Dr. Ric Berlinski spent nearly a month camping above 8,000 feet in the Tien Shen Mountains of eastern Kyrgyzstan aiding the international conservation NGO Panthera in a study of the elusive snow leopard. A female snow leopard was trapped and fitted with a collar affixed to a global positioning system (GPS), which allows researchers to follow its movements for an extended period. This was a first for the country. The Zoo is also raising funds for Snow Leopard conservation here in Toledo by selling items purchased from The Snow Leopard Trust (produced from local communities in snow leopard habitat) in the North Star Gift Shop.

Rhinoceros Hornbill Nest Adoption- The Zoo financially supports the work of the Hornbill Research Foundation. The money donated makes it possible to subsidize local villagers to conserve the hornbill nest sites, fund studies of the biological and ecological aspects of hornbills, allows villagers to collect data on hornbills for research and monitor and secure long-term hornbill populations in the area.

Marianas Avifauna Conservation- The primary goal of 2014-15 trip was to translocate a seed population of the Tinian Monarch, endemic to Tinian, to the potential sanctuary island of Guguan.
Education

The Education Department at the Toledo Zoo plays a vital role in bringing our mission to life in the community. 2015 was a record year for the Education Department, helped in part by the streamlining of online registration for program offerings that made the programs more accessible and the process more user-friendly.

Summer Safari Camps educated a record 943 campers, more than 130 more campers than the 2014 season. New camp offerings and the recently renovated Aquarium proved to be popular selling points, with our highest attended camps being Splash Bash! and Junior Aquarist for older campers. Camps are truly a zoo-wide effort involving every single department. Children participate in hands-on husbandry with many of our keepers in Junior Zookeeper, engage in field conservation research with Wild Toledo biologists in Conservation Explorers and create animal enrichment items in a variety of our camps. Camps are one-of-a-kind experiences that the Zoo hopes to continue to grow in the 2016.

The Zoo Snooze program was another education program that saw significant growth in 2015, specifically with the newly renovated Aquarium offering. Snoozes give guests the unique opportunity to sleep next to the marvelous aquatic animals of the deep blue. Adult and child participants learn about marine and freshwater conservation while “immersed” in an amazing new experience in one of the Zoo’s most historic buildings. Hosting 10 child and nine adult overnight programs, 678 guests participated in the Aquarium snoozes in 2015.

Behind-the-Scenes Tours also set new attendance records with 1,220 guests getting an up close look at the Zoo’s animal care facilities, meeting with keepers and feeding or interacting with 12 different species of animals. With 45 weekly offerings, Behind-the-Scenes tours demonstrate the Zoo’s excellent animal care in nearly all areas. The program’s expansion can be attributed not just to new tours but also an extended tour season. Behind-the-Scenes tours are now offered year-round with a larger tour selection during the summer season. The Education Department is hopeful that the year-round tours will generate excitement for the 2016 season.

This was also the second year that Education provided activities every night of Lights Before Christmas. In the past, activities were available on select nights only. This increase helped to set record attendance during the 30th anniversary edition of the holiday light display.

The Zoo also received several grants to promote interactive educational opportunities at the Zoo. This year saw the creation of Play Naturally Toledo, a nature play club that is a combined effort of the Toledo Zoo, the Toledo Area Metro parks and the 577 foundation. A $10,000 grant awarded through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) and the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund allowed these organizations to come together and connect children with nature through play, exploration and fun. Another grant was through the National Science Foundation and Miami (of Ohio) University to install kiosks in Tembo Trail that track the movements and activities of Renee and Lucas, two of our African elephants. In total, three kiosks were installed where guests can input where
the elephants are, what they are doing and then create elephant conservation-focused emails and posters. All of the information collected was digitally sent to a server at Miami University and will be compiled with other participating zoos across the country to help better understand animal behaviors.

The Toledo Zoo's Education team also traveled to local schools, libraries and community festivals/parades to teach young people and families about the amazing natural world. The programs featured live, touchable animals, along with biological artifacts from the Zoo. Topics covered included native animals, animal coverings, zoo careers and animal adaptions.

For more information on the Zoo's education offerings, including camps, classes and school assembly programs, please visit toledozoo.org/education.

New Species

- Ceratophrys cranwelli: Chacoan horned frog
- Gopherus agassizii: Desert tortoise
- Uromastyx acanthinura: Dabb spiny-tailed lizard
- Anseranas semipalmata: Magpie Goose
- Aix galericulata: Mandarin Duck
- Bubo bubo: Eurasian Eagle Owl
- Strix varia: Barred Owl
- Podargus strigoides: Tawny frogmouth
- Gymnorhina tibicen: Black-backed Magpie**
- Choloepus didactylus: Linne's two-toed sloth
- Tamandua tetradactyla: Southern tamandua
- Marmota monax: Woodchuck
- Cuniculus paca: Lowland paca**
- Sus scrofa scrofa: domestic Pot-bellied pig
- Camelus bactrianus: domestic Bactrian camel
- Rangifer tarandus: domestic Domestic reindeer
- Bos grunniens grunniens: domestic Domestic yak

** Managed by Bird Department

Births / Hatchings

- Dendrobates tinctorius: Yellow-and-blue poison dart frog
- Aix galericulata: Mandarin Duck
- Tolypeutes matacus: Southern three-banded armadillo
- Cavia porcellus: Guinea pig
Events

The Aquarium renovation helped make 2015 an event-full year at the Toledo Zoo. The Zoo offers events for all seasons, all ages and even themed for holidays. Some events are included in the price of admission, while others have an additional fee. All are part of what makes the Toledo Zoo tops in the country!

The first event of 2015 was Spring Alive: Fairy Tales, Fables & Flowers. For the second year, this enchanted event was free with regular Zoo admission and was sponsored by Fifth Third Bank. For four days, Nairobi Pavilion and the Museum of Science’s Great Hall became storybook gardens with thousands of flowers bringing beloved childhood stories into bloom. Toledo-area landscape companies, garden centers, college groups and designers from as far away as New York City created the expansive themed floral displays that paid tribute to Robinson Crusoe, Gulliver’s Travels, The Little Mermaid, Fountain of Youth and more cherished family favorites. The event also included gardening demonstrations, kitchen gardening/cooking sessions, children’s story times and live harp performances. The adults even got into the fun with a themed wine tasting. This fun-filled festival offered a summery getaway during chilly winter days.

The family fun continued with the annual Teddy Bear Care Fair. Teddy bear check-ups are just the start of this day’s fun. Animal demonstrations, keeper talks and more made the day complete. Zoo staff was on grounds to talk about the first-rate care they provide the animals and answer visitor questions.

The end of March saw the 2 1/2 year Aquarium renovation come to a close and the new state-of-the-art exhibit open to the public. The successful Aquarium grand reopening included a ribbon cutting ceremony complete with aquatic animal decorations, a fish ribbon and giant shark scissors. The event was made even more successful through the participation of collaborating community organizations, such as Toledo School for the Arts, Toledo & Lucas County Public Libraries, Toledo Walleye, Ballet Theatre and Imagination Station. The 2015 grand opening weekend attendance exceeded the budgeted attendance by over 3,000, which was very successful considering the cold weekend weather.

Again the Zoo celebrated all things spring with Breakfast with the Bunny. The day started with early entry to the Zoo for a special children’s egg hunt on Zoo grounds, followed by family-friendly crafts and, of course, a photographed visit with the bunny. Participants then gathered at the Lodge for a chef-designed breakfast buffet. Additionally, Animal Egg Hunt was also held on Good Friday, so visitors could see the animals enjoy the treats left to them by the Easter Bunny.

To help our visitors with their spring cleaning and celebrate Earth Day, the Zoo hosted its annual Party for the Planet. The community was invited to bring their recyclable goods, even hard to recycle items like computers and small appliances, to the drop-off location in the Anthony Wayne Trail parking lot to help make the earth a little greener. This project was made possible through partnerships with Keep Toledo/Lucas
April ended with the 12th birthday party for Louie, the older of our two male African elephants.

We started off May with an ole! On Sunday, May 3, we celebrated Cinco de Mayo with a traditional Mexican fiesta that included live dance troupe performances, music, a piñata and themed crafts.

The summer brought our Watch it Grow garden tours into full bloom. The Watch it Grow garden tour series was an opportunity to stroll through the Toledo Zoo's beautiful gardens and see how they grow, bloom and change throughout the seasons. Zoo horticulturists highlighted different aspects of gardening each month, along with historical information about the Zoo's gardens and grounds. This year more than 200 people participated in the tours.

May continued the momentum of the Aquarium reopening with the Dive Into Summer Memorial Day weekend celebration. For this incredibly successful event, we partnered with other community organizations, including Toledo School for the Arts, Imagination Station and Toledo Walleye on mutually beneficial collaborations.
In June, we celebrated the 4th birthday of Lucas, our youngest African elephant with a pachyderm-sized party! In honor of our new Aquarium, World Oceans Day was also a big event, complete with various ocean conservation-themed activities and the opportunity for our partner Owens-Illinois to showcase their conservation efforts. This month, we also celebrated dads, both human and animal, during our Father’s Day Celebration and BBQ that featured free admission for dads and an optional catered lunch.

In July, the Zoo worked with the Ability Center to celebrate the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act, in an event featuring over 100 organizations showcasing the innumerable opportunities for those with disabilities.

August saw an entire day dedicated to the little creatures that creep, crawl, float and flutter during our Butterfly & Bug Fest. Children participated in buggy games, from harvesting and tasting honey to spider ball tournaments. The whole family enjoyed the Zoo’s Keeper Tales live animal show and story times.

Tuesdays in the summer/fall meant Senior Discovery Days sponsored by Health Care REIT / Welltower Inc. Our more experienced visitors received free admission and special themed events, from guided tours of Works Progress Administration (WPA)-era buildings to bingo and big band music. Tuesday, September 15 was a special Senior Safari day presented by The Toledo Zoo and the Area Office of Aging Northwestern Ohio that was all about seniors, including health screenings, exercise and safety tips along with zoo admission. Several activities during Senior Discovery Days garnered record attendance this year.

Sunday, September 13 was Grandparents’ Day and Day of Honor. To recognize the grandest of parents, the Toledo Zoo gave free admission to grandparents accompanied by at least one adorable grandchild. Day of Honor, supported by Marathon, is the Zoo’s way of showing appreciation to all those who keep us safe. All military personnel, police officers, firefighters and EMTs received free Zoo admission when they showed their badge or professional ID. But that was just the start – visitors could sign giant thank-you cards for their communities’ first responders, meet and greet local law enforcement officers and check out cool emergency vehicles too!

The falling of leaves and dropping of temperatures brought the 31st anniversary of Pumpkin Path, sponsored by Meijer®. This day featured trick-or-treat stations throughout the Zoo, plus ghoulish games and Halloween hijinks. Little Boo at the Zoo (“Little Boo”) is the pre-school pirates’ and princesses’ chance to delight without the fright! Toddlers and pre-school aged children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes, trick-or-treat throughout the Zoo and enjoy crafts, bounce house, puppet shows, strolling magic and games sized just for them. New this year, the Zoo participated in the Teal Pumpkin initiative, by providing non-candy alternatives at designated stations for children with severe allergies. Additional and incredibly popular activities, including appearances by the 501st Star Wars Garrison and popular princesses helped set all-time attendance records for the event.

The fall festivities concluded with Jumping Pumpkins, a visitor favorite event that attracts large crowds to see our animals chow down on the pumpkins leftover from our Halloween events.
2015 was the 30th anniversary of our “electrical spectacle” *Lights Before Christmas* (LBC) presented by KeyBank. On Friday, November 13, the holiday season started with the ceremonial lighting of the Zoo’s 85-foot Norway spruce tree draped in more than 35,000 energy-saving LED lights, which Travelocity has named one of the best trees in the U.S. Again this year, in addition to over a million lights and 200+ illuminated animal images, visitors could coast down the ever-popular outdoor ice slide that follows the natural slope of the Zoo’s historic Amphitheatre. New this year was the addition of Douglas, the talking tree that lead holiday sing-alongs in the Indoor Theatre and the Holiday Animal Experience that featured reindeer and camels. Additionally, there were local groups performing holiday carols throughout the Zoo and ice-carving demonstrations.

Festive Feast also returned for a third year during *Lights Before Christmas*. Visitors had the opportunity most Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of LBC to enjoy a holiday buffet served in the Zoo’s historic Lodge, which was lavishly transformed into a holiday chalet. Each Festive Feast also included crafts, an encounter with a Zoo animal, a photo with Santa and *Lights Before Christmas* admission. This year, a weekly adult’s night out was added to the rotation and proved to be a big success.

The year came to a close with *Noon Year’s Eve*, sponsored by Meijer. At the stroke of noon nearly 3,000 visitors braved the very chilly conditions to watch the ball rise, sing a chorus of “Auld Lang Syne” and toast the New Year with family-friendly, daytime fun!

Your Zoo thanks you for making this another great year full of fond memories, fun experiences and family time!

toledozoo.org/events
Causes / Fundraisers

The Toledo Zoo is considered a non-profit entity. Therefore, we have a series of fundraisers each year to help ensure the success of our mission. These events not only raise funds for our operating budget and animal care but also invite the community to enjoy the many different facets of the Zoo and become an integral part of our Zoo family.

2015 fundraising by the numbers:

Once upon a Vine sponsored by Fifth Third Private Bank:
$40,000 with 135 participants

Medical Mutual Dart Frog Dash:
$40,000 with 1,200 participants

PNC ZOOtoDO Presented by MassMutual Ohio:
$240,000 with 1,800 participants

RockNRoar presented by the Andersons:
$56,000 with 1,400 participants

Feast with the Beasts presented by PNC:
$61,000 with 140 participants

Night In The Museum sponsored by Fifth Third Bank:
$11,000 with 200 participants

Totals in 2015: $448,000 with 4,875 participants

Once Upon a Vine sponsored by Fifth Third Private Bank is a five course dinner and wine pairing that coincides with our Spring Alive activities. This event was a huge success selling out to the absolute maximum amount of people for the space in less than two weeks.

Medical Mutual Dart Frog Dash- 2015 was the 12th year of this 5K race/walk and family fun run. Even a sprinkling of rain could not keep the runners from enjoying the course that runs throughout the Zoo and surrounding neighborhoods!

Feast with the Beasts presented by PNC is a four course dinner and wine pairing created especially by our executive chef. This event is in its 12th year and has been growing in popularity each year. This year, guests experienced the newly renovated Aquarium and had a personal animal encounter with an African Penguin!

RockNRoar is the summer’s wildest dance party, presented by The Andersons. East River Drive and Electrik Circus provided live music, while a disk jockey from Sounds of Music kept people on their dancing feet on the Africa Overlook. This night of endless summer fun and tunes raised $56,000 to support the Zoo's mission of inspiring others to care for animals and conserve the natural world.
Night in the Museum sponsored by Fifth Third Bank is an exclusive after-hours event that takes guests on a tour through time at the Zoo, from the historical buildings and seemingly long forgotten artifacts to current exhibits and plans for the future. This year’s tours focused on the Conservatory and Greenhouse and included a *Lights Before Christmas* presented by KeyBank exhibit to highlight the 30th anniversary of the holiday tradition. To make the event even more thematically special, traditional Zoo food favorites got a gourmet twist! This event entertained 200 guests and raised $11,000.

**ZOOtoDO** - PNC ZOOtoDO, presented by MassMutual Northwest Ohio, is much more than one of the region’s premier social events. It’s a “party with a purpose,” with 100% of the net proceeds providing support for the continued development of the Zoo’s programs and exhibits. This year 1,800 guests celebrated the newly renovated Aquarium along with 52 restaurants and caterers. While this fundraiser is enjoyed by all of the 21 and over crowd, in recent years the population of young professionals and millennials at the event has increased dramatically, as seen at the new Club H20 where a DJ played dance music all night long. PNC ZOOtoDO helps ensure that children of all ages can enjoy one of the region’s historic treasures for generations to come.
Donors Capital

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The Toledo Zoo is dedicated to enriching the minds and lives of children throughout our region. Companies for Kids, our corporate membership program, helps extend Zoo visit opportunities to local organizations serving disadvantaged, developmentally disabled and/or at-risk youth.

Each year, the Companies for Kids program provides free Zoo tickets for over 4,000 local underserved youth. All that is asked in return is that the kids create –write or illustrate- thank you letters to their company sponsor.

If your school or non-profit organization serves developmentally disabled and/or at-risk youth in Ohio or Michigan, please visit toledozoo.org/companiesforkids for information on ticket opportunities.

Companies interested in becoming a Companies for Kids sponsor, please contact Nicole Overhulse at 419-385-5721 ext. 2069 or Nicole.overhulse@toledozoo.org

Thank you to all of our Companies for Kids sponsors for their continued support of our mission and local youth!

Sponsors
Thank you for bringing great ideas to life.

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Grants

Grants provide Toledo Zoo with the additional funding needed to develop or expand educational programming, support important conservation initiatives and enhance community outreach.

The Zoo gratefully acknowledges grants received in 2015 through the generosity of the following organizations and individuals.

**Conservation**

**United States Fish and Wildlife Service**  
To support Mitchell’s satyr butterfly captive rearing.

**The Nature Conservancy**  
To support Mitchell’s satyr captive rearing and release at TNC-Swamp, Angel, Indiana.

**The Nature Conservancy**  
Spatial ecology of spotted and Blanding’s turtles and evaluation of amphibian indices of biological integrity at selected locations.

**Ohio Division of Wildlife**  
Karner Blue Butterfly post-restoration habitat assessment.

**The Nature Conservancy**  
Monitoring amphibian populations on multiple Oak Openings Wet Prairie Restoration Sites and Evaluation of the Spotted turtle and Blanding’s turtle of the Oak Openings Wet Prairie.

**Education**

**Mrs. Dorothy MacKenzie Price Scholarship**

**Toledo Community Foundation**  
Wild Animals and Healthy Kids Program

**Association of Zoos and Aquariums/Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund**

**Play Naturally Toledo**

**Kohl’s Education Grant**  
General educational activities and related supplies.

**iEvolve** – National Science Foundation through Bowling Green State University  
To initiate a program to advance and incorporate inquiry and citizen science activities into traditional instructional pedagogies in elementary and middle school classrooms.

**iSaveSpecies** – National Science Foundation through Miami University (Ohio)  
The development and installation of kiosks on Tembo Trail that promote inquiry and citizen science activities related to the elephants and their exhibit.

**National Network for Ocean and Climate Change Interpretation**  
To establish a program to train teachers and informal educators techniques for promoting climate change literacy.
Volunteers

The Toledo Zoo relies on a dedicated corps of 750+ volunteers who give more than 68,000 hours to the Zoo each year. Volunteers fall into multiple categories: ZooEd, Exhibit Guides, Department Volunteers, Interns, Special Event Volunteers, Aquarium Divers, Development Committee Members and ZOOTeens. ZooEds are year round, adult volunteers that can be identified by their red polo shirts. They are considered our jack-of-all trades as they work on grounds to talk about exhibits and take live animals to meet visitors, but they also support our outreach programs by visiting area schools, nursing homes and hospitals and doing behind-the-scenes work. Exhibit Guides are also educationally focused volunteers. Distinguishable by their light blue polo shirts, these seasonal volunteers are trained to speak to visitors about specific areas and exhibits of the Zoo. Department volunteers assist staff in behind the scenes areas, including offices and our greenhouse. Interns provide support in a range of departments, as they gain valuable hands-on career experience. Special event volunteers help with fundraisers, concerts and other periodic needs throughout the year. Aquarium Divers participate in live feed dives in 90,000 gallon tank, The Reef, generously supported by Owens Illinois. They not only help maintain the fish and their habitat, but also interact with visitors and answer questions during their dive sessions. Development Committee members work throughout the year planning and implementing the events and activities that help generate revenue for the Zoo and support our organization. The final group is ZOOTeens. This is a volunteer corps of over 360 students aged 13-17 that wear bright yellow t-shirts to help them stand out and be approachable. This group works on and off grounds in support of our mission, all the while learning leadership, networking, time management and other life skills. Without all of our volunteers, the Zoo could not function. We applaud your efforts, appreciate your time and look forward to working with you in the future!

“Volunteers are a big part of the Toledo Zoo’s world-class status,” Bill Davis, manager of the Zoo’s volunteer programs, said. “2015 was a record-setting year at the Toledo Zoo, and it would not have been possible without the enthusiastic support of all of our volunteers. Day in and day out, our volunteers support the Zoo in so many ways, both at the Zoo and throughout the community.”

To learn more about the Zoo’s volunteer programs, visit toledozoo.org/volunteers.

Each year, the Zoo recognizes its top volunteers of the year in four categories: Departmental, Development, ZooEd and ZOOTeen. The 2015 recipients were:

**Department Volunteer of the Year**

Our Department Volunteer of the Year has accomplished a great deal, since beginning his volunteer journey in 2013. This year, he joined the dive program in our newly re-opened Aquarium, sharing his love of marine animals with our guests as he moves through our 90,000-gallon Pacific Reef Tank. However, his multiple dives are only the most visible aspect of his volunteer service. He also serves on the Diver Safety Board helping our Aquarium curator develop policies to make sure that our diving program is both safe and successful.

Aside from his efforts in the Aquarium, this volunteer also serves on the Zoo’s Editorial Board, expanding the Zoo’s reach through targeted publications as well as through alternative media outlets, such as interest-specific blogs. He also is expressing his passion for marine life through a mural program in downtown Toledo that will shine even more light on our Aquarium.

We are delighted to have such a hard-working individual, not only diving in the Aquarium but also committed to maintaining standards for the safety of his fellow divers. We are all grateful for his multi-faceted dedication and are pleased to recognize Ed Conn as our Volunteer of the Year.

**Development Volunteer of the Year**

Our Development Volunteer of the Year has been involved with the Zoo for over five years. She serves on the Zoo’s Development Committee as well as the ZooPAL subcommittee. Through these joint
roles, our Volunteer stays very busy, helping with all of the Zoo PAL, membership and fundraising projects that the Zoo has throughout the year.

However, her hands-on support for these activities is only the beginning of her efforts. She also offers ideas for event promotion and serves as an ambassador for the Zoo: discussing our programs, soliciting donations and participation and even engaging people during our recent levy campaign. Through her support the Zoo has been able to expand our ZooPAL revenue each of the last five years. Given her interests in connecting people to the animals they love, it should be no surprise that she has helped develop Zoo Donor Tours, helping donors learn more about the Zoo and increasing their enthusiasm for our mission. To top it all off, we also have used some of her photographs in various publications.

She has helped the Zoo in so many ways with her enthusiasm and passion and we cannot thank her enough for sharing her gifts with us. It is our pleasure to recognize our Volunteer of the Year, Nancy Nielsen.

**ZooEd:**
Our Zoo Ed Volunteer of the Year joined the ZooEd Program in 1991 and over the course of her long career has donated over 2,900 hours of service to the Toledo Zoo. She is a jack-of-all-trades and willing to step in anywhere. As a ZooEd, she has supported more than her share of programming, both in classrooms, as well as interacting with visitors on Zoo grounds.

However, her dedication extends far beyond the classroom. In January and February, when education programming slows down, she has answered the call to help the membership department. When we were in a crunch, she stepped in to help make seed sticks for Keet Retreat. She has covered early morning shifts for elephant watches; helped out with development fundraisers, including ZTD, RockNRoar and Party in the Parking Lot; and shuttled visiting professionals for conferences and meetings.

Perhaps this volunteer’s greatest strength is her warm and positive attitude. She is quite simply a genuinely nice person, generous to the core and kind to everyone. No matter what is going on in her life, she always brings her best to the Zoo. It is our pleasure to recognize our ZooEd Volunteer of the Year, Becky Johnson.

**ZOOTeen**
Our ZooTeen Volunteer of the Year joined the ZOOTeen Program in May of 2012, starting out quiet and shy. However, three years and 1,600 hours later, she has emerged as a genuine leader. Every week, she demonstrates flexibility by helping out with everything: on-grounds activities, including Nature’s Neighborhood and carts; outreach projects, such as Partners for Clean Streams and Bethany House; and background needs, like shredding paper for the primates and making seed sticks. She has served on our Interview Team and as a BIG, helps to interview and train new ZOOTeens. She also became a SNAP advocate, providing support as needed so her peers can enjoy all the opportunities offered through the ZOOTeen Program. Now, in 2015, at the ripe old age of 16, she serves as president of the ZOOTeen program. For all of her effort that is visible, she does so much that is not seen: shredding paper during a movie night because weather had impacted our schedule; staying up late during a work overnight to make seed sticks because we didn’t get a space until right before the exhibit opened; and shifting her schedule to provide support where it is needed most. She is a wonderful ambassador for her peers and we can all celebrate her dedication as we recognize this year’s Volunteer of the Year, Zion Kania.

**People**
- Full time employees peaked at 185
- Part time & seasonal employees peaked at 973
- 10-year anniversary in 2015: Nicole Overhulse, Dale ‘Harry’ Prentice
- 20-year anniversary in 2015: Staci Bekker, Alex DeBeukelaer, Brad Palicki, Rick Payeff
- 30-year anniversary in 2015: Deborah Noward
- 40-year anniversary in 2015: Robin Gould, Terri Heminger
Visitor Info

LBC Attendance- 223,806 (new record)
Beat prior record by 16,839

Adult Events
Wine Tastings- 615
Zoo Brew- 443
Live Nation Concert Series
Earth Wind & Fire- 3,319
Barenaked Ladies- 3,600
Hall & Oates- 4,363
Dancing With the Stars- 3,127
Harry Connick Jr.- 3,606
ZZ Top- 3,445
Total- 21,460

Music Under the Stars- 7,138
Blade Concert Series
Army Field Band- 660
Navy Concert was cancelled due to weather

Busiest Day- 19,617 (December 12)
18,601 of the total was for LBC attendance in the evening
Single busiest day in recorded Zoo history
Beat prior record by 1,375 visitors

Busiest Week- 62,081 (December 7-13)
Busiest Month- August with 200,552

36 weddings = 4,151 people
10 rehearsal dinners = 480 people
Financials

2015 Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Park Operations*</td>
<td>17,063,913</td>
<td>53.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas County Tax Levy</td>
<td>5,874,324</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memberships &amp; Development</td>
<td>5,938,056</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions, Education &amp; Special Events**</td>
<td>2,145,211</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous***</td>
<td>835,250</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>31,856,753</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Park operations include admissions, concessions, gifts, catering, parking and rides revenue

**Contributions, Education & Special Events include Zoo PAL, Companies for Kids, the Annual Fund, ZOOtoDO, Corporate Sponsorship, Educational Programs, Special Gifts and funds from the Zoo Foundation. Some of the funds included in this line are reported differently on our audited financial statements due to being either board-designated, temporarily restricted or permanently restricted receipts.

***Miscellaneous revenue includes investment income, grants and other revenues.

2015 Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount (USD)</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Animal Care, Education, Conservation, &amp; Facilities</td>
<td>13,795,165</td>
<td>49.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor Services &amp; Amenities</td>
<td>9,215,403</td>
<td>33.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration, Membership, Marketing &amp; Development</td>
<td>3,507,291</td>
<td>12.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilities, Insurance &amp; Taxes</td>
<td>1,264,841</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>27,782,699</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Net Excess (Deficit)**                        | 4,074,054    |

Note: Consistent with prior years, depreciation expense is not included in the above figures but capital expenses of $1,225,190 that were paid from operations are included.

Cost of goods sold is included in Visitor Services expenditures.

Since 1983, its first full year as a private nonprofit organization, the Zoo has reduced its reliance on public levy support by 40 percent.

The Toledo Zoo has earned the Better Business Bureau's highest rating for charitable accountability. This A+ rating reflects the Bureau's analysis of the Zoo's performance against 20 standards of charitable accountability in four categories: governance and oversight, measuring effectiveness, finances and fundraising/informational materials.