MEET FINSBAY!
The Louisville Zoo's Newest Gray Seal

NOW HAPPENING...

party for the planet

Powered by the LG&E & KU Foundation
We take our work home with us. PriceWeber is delighted to be part of the Louisville Zoo family.
GREETINGS

HELLO!
I’M JOHN WALCZAK, DIRECTOR AT YOUR LOUISVILLE ZOO.

This Trunkline issue, we are going fully digital! That means that you get all your favorite content, but with easy access to links, discounts and more. This issue will be one of our most environmentally friendly yet. This is fitting as we celebrate April’s Party for the Planet powered by LG&E and KU Foundation! This year at the Louisville Zoo is already shaping up to bring lots of excitement. We welcomed 2021 with the birth of Finsbay, our newest gray seal, but we have even more to share. Learn about fun events like Wild Lights sponsored by T-Mobile, plus Summer Camp at the Zoo is back with limited spaces available. Read below to learn about these exciting updates and more:

SEAL OF APPROVAL
Finsbay and his mother Rona have been bonding behind the scenes, but that doesn’t mean you need to be out of the loop on what is going on with this precious pinniped.

A WELL-EARNED RETIREMENT
After 36 remarkable years, Louisville Zoo Director John Walczak has announced his retirement. Learn about John’s incredible career with the Zoo and what is next.

WILD LIGHTS
Wild Lights sponsored by T-Mobile has just begun and tickets are sure to sell out, don’t miss your chance to see the Zoo illuminated by over 50,000 LED bulbs. Plus, enjoy festive drinks, food!

Zoo Address
1100 Trevilian Way
Louisville, KY 40213

Telephone
Administrative Offices: (502) 459-2181
FAX: (502) 459-2196
Education: (502) 238-5358
Membership Office: (502) 459-2287

Zoo Hours — Open Daily
Now – Sept. 19, 2021
10 a.m. – 5 p.m. (stay until 6 p.m.)
Sept. 19 2021 – Mid-March 2022
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. (stay until 5 p.m.)
The Louisville Zoo is closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s Day.

Admission
All guests must purchase tickets in advance online. Members must reserve free tickets online. Check our website for updates to policy.
Children 2 and under receive free regular admission and do not require a ticket reservation.
Visit Us Online at LouisvilleZoo.org

Editorial: Heather Dishon, Robert Kemnitz, Rebecca Sizemor
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Trunkline is published four times a year by the Louisville Zoological Garden, John T. Walczak, Director. The Louisville Zoo, a nonprofit organization and the state zoo of Kentucky, is dedicated to bettering the bond between people and our planet by providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for visitors and leadership in scientific research and conservation education. The Zoo, an agency of Louisville Metro Government, is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA).
There’s a new pinniped in Glacier Run and it’s got our seal of approval! On December 28, 2020, the Zoo welcomed a healthy pup to gray seal mom Rona and father Boone. This was Rona’s first pup, and she did an amazing job caring for her new little one.

Seal pups weigh approximately 30 – 35 lbs. at birth and are born with a soft white coat called lanugo which they shed after a few weeks. The gray seal nursing period is the shortest among land-breeding phocids: only 16 to 21 days!

After about a month of bonding with mom, our pup was weaned and had already gained the smooth coat and coloration of an adult gray seal. Finally, we were able to perform a first physical exam. We discovered our pup was a male and he weighed a whopping 146 lbs.!

Rona’s pup had gained around 100 lbs. during his nursing period. You may think that’s a lot – but it’s actually normal for gray seals. Once they are weaned, the pups use these fat stores to support them while they learn to eat fish.

Once his sex had been determined, our pup needed a name. We asked Louisville Zoo fans to vote for their favorite of three names put forth by Zoo keepers at Glacier Run – Finsbay, Oban and NOAA. The winning name was presented by Tracy Unger, who has been a Zoo keeper at the Louisville Zoo for ten years. The name Finsbay comes from a town with the same name located in a group of islands off the western coast of Scotland. This area is part of the natural habitat for gray seals. Finsbay is known for its large and diverse fish populations, which makes it a logical stopping point for harbor and gray seals. Finsbay is also located south of the island of Rona, which is the origin of our seal Rona’s name. “It made sense to choose something meaningful to the species and this town is known for harbor and gray seals,” said Unger. “I am so excited that it won! Thank you for your votes. Now, we can call him by his name as we begin his training.” The voting raised over $4,000 for the care of Finsbay, Rona and the Zoo’s other animal ambassadors.

Now that Finsbay has his name, the keepers at Glacier Run are working hard on getting him used to hearing it. They continue to build a strong relationship with the little pup, teaching him to recognize his training cues and also how to navigate Glacier Run.

Finsbay will be off-exhibit until he is acclimated to the exhibit space and the other pinnipeds. Everything is subject to Finsbay’s needs and pace. As with any animal, the Zoo staff will observe the pup’s behaviors closely to determine when he is ready for each new step. Until then, we will keep you in the loop about when Finsbay will be on exhibit and more updates on his development at LouisvilleZoo.org/sealpup.
One day isn’t enough to celebrate the wonder of our planet and promote the need to protect it — so the Louisville Zoo is hosting a month-long party! This year marks the Zoo’s 31st year of celebrating the Earth since our first celebration in 1990. This April, enjoy weekend activities by our eco-partners to learn how you can do your part to help our planet. Plus, there will be ZooPoopyDoo compost, tree giveaways, fun contests and more.

**Celebrate-the-Earth Saturdays**
**Saturday, April 17, 24**
Join us for virtual fun on social media! Every week we’ll be sharing fun videos from our eco-partners: WestRock Recycling, Eco-Cell and more to help you get excited about ways you can help protect our planet!

**ZooPoopyDoo Compost Sale**
**Saturday, April 17 and May 1, 15; 7:30-11:30 a.m.**
Get your garden ready for spring with our unique, high-quality ZooPoopyDoo compost. Compost: $40 per scoop
[Click here](#) to see details and options.

**Fun Day Mondays**
**Monday, April 19, 26 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**
Enjoy $5.25 Zoo admission, courtesy of our friends at the LG&E and KU Foundation. [Please note that tickets must be purchased in advance online](#). Capacities are limited to safeguard the health of staff, animals and guests during COVID-19.

**TreesLouisville Tree Giveaway**
**Saturday, April 17; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**
The Zoo is hosting a tree giveaway with TreesLouisville! The tree giveaway will take place in the Zoo’s bus parking lot. Jefferson County residents can receive up to 2 trees per vehicle. Varieties include sugar maple, redbud, American beech, tulip poplar & a hybrid white/bur oak.

**Conservation and Conversations**
**Wednesday April 21; 5:30-6:30 p.m.**
Join us for a virtual book club discussion on Greta Thunberg’s book “No One is too Small to Make a Difference” and David Attenborough’s “A Life on Our Planet” about the global experience of climate change and what we can do to mitigate humans’ adverse impact on the planet. [Click here](#) to learn more, $10 per device.

**Virtual Trashformation Contest Award Ceremony**
**Thursday, April 22**
Join us as we announce the winners of this year’s Trashformation Art Contest. Local celebrities, including Louisville Orchestra Music Director Teddy Abrams, will present the winners. [Click here](#) for more information on Trashformation.

**Earth Day at the Zoo**
**Sunday, April 25**
Enjoy $8.25 Zoo admission PLUS free parking courtesy of our friends at the LG&E and KU Foundation. [Please note that tickets must be purchased in advance online](#). Capacities are limited to safeguard the health of staff, animals and guests during COVID-19.

More info at [LouisvilleZoo.org/Earth](#)
Reducing, Reusing, Creating Art!
Tune in April 22 to congratulate our winning Trashformation artists!

Paying it Forward

The Zoo is committed to being a leader in species conservation while also serving as a place of learning, enjoyment and respite for the community — as it has for over 50 years. We ask that you pause to recall what the Zoo has meant to you and your family and to “pay those memories forward” for future generations. Philanthropic gifts round out our annual financial needs and provide for the daily needs of the animals as well as new, innovative exhibits and programs for the community. Every gift, regardless of size, can truly make a difference. There are several ways you can support your Zoo, which include:

- Joining the Louisville Zoo Sustainer Society
- Setting up a recurring gift to the Louisville Zoo Fund
- Adding $5, $10, $25 or more to your upcoming membership renewal in support of the Louisville Zoo Fund
- Purchasing a brick or bench to be placed on Zoo grounds
- Purchasing an item for the animals from the Zoo’s Wish List
- Upgrading to a Zoo license plate next time you renew car tags
- Contributing appreciated stock (security account #78973274, DTC #0547)
- Directing your 401K or IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) to the Zoo

To make a gift, visit LouisvilleZoo.org/Give. If you have questions or would like to discuss how you wish to support your Zoo, please contact Director of Development Kelly Grether at 502-238-5615 or Kelly.grether@louisvilleky.gov.
On February 24, 2021, the Louisville Zoo announced that its beloved Director, John Walczak, plans to retire this summer.

“It isn’t easy to step away, but I am confident this is the best time to do so. We have a strong leadership team with a dedicated and passionate staff that will help the next leader continue advancing the success and mission of this community treasure,” said John. A national search will be conducted for his replacement.

John has been with the Zoo since 1985 and was named Director in 2004. During that time, the Zoo has added the award-winning Islands, Gorilla Forest, and Glacier Run exhibits, each recognized by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for excellence and innovation. Also under John’s leadership, the Zoo celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019, as well as the AZA’s “Significant Achievement Education Award” for its School at the Zoo program, and “Top Honors” in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums’ 2017 International Conservation Award for gorilla conservation.

As Zoo Director, John has been responsible for shaping the Zoo’s vision these past 17 years. Walczak’s leadership on the Glacier Run Capital Campaign funded exhibit openings from 2006 to 2013, growing the Zoo’s business through a recession, with more than 940,000 guests in 2012. He most recently oversaw the completion of the Capital Campaign, which included the expansion and renovation of the elephant exhibit, the creation of the Little Penguin Conservation Center, as well as the addition of Snow Leopard Pass and Colobus Crossing, which opened in 2019. Snow Leopard Pass also introduced the Zoo’s first dedicated early-learning play space for young children called The Cub House. The campaign also funded renovations to our lemur exhibit, which reopened this spring.

He says his nearly four decades at the Louisville Zoo “have been a labor of love.”

The announcement was met with many bittersweet congratulations from Louisville Zoo staff and our community.

“It’s impossible to overstate John’s influence and commitment to making our Zoo one of the best in the nation, and his success can be seen in the smiles of every single person who visits,” Mayor Greg Fischer said about the announcement.

“The Zoo we all know and appreciate ranks today among the best accredited zoos in the nation because John has worked tirelessly with so many friends, donors, staff and volunteers with a laser focus on success and growth,” said Councilman Pat Mulvihill, an ex-officio board member whose district includes the Zoo. “John has been a positive force in our community, igniting people’s passion for animals and working to advance species conservation and education. He helped bring us all nose-to-nose and hand-to-paw with animals, new exhibits, and presentations to strengthen our connection with wildlife and enhance our empathy for animals and nature. It has been an honor...
to work alongside John, along with our community, and I wish him all the best in retirement.”

John shared his thanks for all the well wishes on social media. “It has been an honor to lead this wonderful organization these last seventeen years. I look forward to watching and supporting the growth of our Zoo into the future.

Thank you to all who have sent well wishes and congratulations on my upcoming retirement later this summer. Your support has meant much to me. It has been my honor to stand alongside you and help further the Zoo’s mission to ‘better the bond between people and our planet.’”

In the upcoming summer issue of Trunkline, we will share a final letter from John as he further approaches his retirement.

“It has been my honor to stand alongside you and help further the Zoo’s mission to ‘better the bond between people and our planet.’

- Director John Walczak

Empowering renewables in Kentucky.

Customers interested in supporting solar energy now have more options than ever. LG&E and KU’s Solar Share program allows you to avoid the upfront costs and long-term maintenance required with a private system. Visit lge-ku.com/solar-share to learn more.
Thank You!
As we move into the spring season, we wanted to say thank you for being a supporter of the Louisville Zoo and sticking with us during the challenges of the past year. Your investment as a Zoo member cannot be understated. There has never been a more important time for the Zoo’s mission to “better the bond between people and our planet” — and you make that possible! We appreciate each one of you, love being a part of your family’s adventures and hope we are part of your treasured memories for generations to come.

Reservations Required
Your Zoo is excited to continue providing you and your family a place to unplug and spend some time relaxing in a safe, fun, outdoor environment. We are committed to the health and safety of our guests, staff and animal ambassadors. We continue to follow the guidelines of local and state health officials to safely operate as much of your Zoo as possible. Under these guidelines and with the health and safety of everyone in mind, you will continue to see some changes to our operations including limited capacities and required online reservations for all guests, including members, until further notice.

Walking Club
Norton Healthcare Prevention & Wellness, in partnership with the Louisville Zoo has resumed our Walking Club every morning between 8 and 9:15 a.m. Walking Club members as well as Zoo members may enter the Zoo and walk the route until 9:30 a.m. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Walking Club admission is operating under a limited capacity and is on a first-come, first-served basis until further notice. Walking Club is not accepting new memberships at this time.

Membership Community Reminder
Please remember when reserving tickets online to reserve from the member ticket reservation section only. Once you enter your membership ID number at checkout, this will bring the cost of your member ticket reservation to zero. Tickets purchased under the general admission section of the website are not able to be discounted or refunded, regardless of the status of your membership. We thank you for your continued understanding during this global pandemic and look forward to all members attending without a reservation soon.

Your membership is now more valuable than ever as we have moved to dynamic ticketing for our general admission guests. This new dynamic ticketing system will allow us to better anticipate and manage non-member crowd sizes and general admission ticket prices will increase based on demand. These price increases have also been aligned with our membership pricing structure. We will be making some changes to our membership packages to reflect the new pricing and value.

Changes to Our Program
On March 22, 2021, the price for our Family Membership changed to $139 and our Family Experience Membership changed to $279. We will also be retiring our Family Plus level. The new pricing and levels will allow for more member clarity regarding those covered and benefits offered. We will continue to honor all currently active members within this level and encourage our Family Plus members nearing their renewal to consider our Family Experience option, which includes much of the same offerings plus many additional park experiences and an exclusive evening event with keeper talks, themed entertainment and so much more.

If you have any questions, please email us at ZooMembership@LouisvilleKY.Gov
It’s a ZOO out there…

Stay hydrated with Louisville Water Company.

Bring your reusable bottle, fill up and enjoy!

#FillDrinkRepeat | #DrinkLocal

Louisville Water
LouisvilleWater.com

WE ARE ZOO-PER EXCITED!

T-MOBILE IS A PROUD SPONSOR OF THE LOUISVILLE ZOO

ZOO BUCKS

The Louisville Zoo is pleased to offer members coupons with various Zoo offerings like guest admission and activities. We hope you enjoy the following limited-time promotional offers.

Please check the expiration dates and restrictions on the coupons.

ADMISSION

BUY ONE CAROUSEL RIDE, GET ONE FREE

One time use.
Valid Louisville Zoo Membership and photo ID required.

Discount cannot be used with any other offers or discounts.

One time use per membership.

Expires 6/30/2021

ADMISSION

BUY ONE ADULT ADMISSION, GET ONE FREE

One time use.
Valid Louisville Zoo Membership and photo ID required.

Discount cannot be used with any other offers or discounts.

One time use per membership.

Purchase ONE ticket in advance online and scan coupon on entry for another ticket.

Expires 6/30/2021

FOOD

BUY ONE SMALL ICEE GET ONE FREE!

Valid at icee locations throughout the Zoo.

One time use.
Valid Louisville Zoo Membership and photo ID required.

Discount cannot be used with any other offers or discounts.

Expires 6/30/2021

FOOD

FREE SOUVENIR FOUNTAIN DRINK REFILL

Guests must provide their own souvenir cup to refill.

One time use per membership.
Valid Louisville Zoo Membership and photo ID required.

Discount cannot be used with any other offers or discounts.

Expires 6/30/2021

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Louisville Water
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Guests must provide their own souvenir cup to refill.

One time use per membership.
Valid Louisville Zoo Membership and photo ID required.

Discount cannot be used with any other offers or discounts.

Expires 6/30/2021
Here we GLOW again! Wild Lights sponsored by T-Mobile has returned for a second year with more than 70 all new dazzling lantern displays. Join us for an evening stroll through your Zoo illuminated by thousands of handcrafted pieces. Join us for a night sure to create glowing smiles and bright memories for guests of all ages!

Purchase tickets at LouisvilleZoo.org/wildlights
THINGS TO TRY AT WILD LIGHTS

Check out the Zoo’s fun light-up masks and other Zoo and lantern festival swag on our [webstore](#). Don’t forget to stop by our Main Plaza Gift Shop for even more glow swag when you visit!

Every night during Wild Lights (weather permitting) Kaman's Art Shoppe's skilled artisans are ready to turn your trip into one to remember!

Go for a spin (or two) while riding your favorite animal on our decorated Conservation Carousel.

Enjoy special culinary delights and enjoy refreshing cocktails inspired by Asian flavors while you bask in the light of the lanterns.
Win EGGciting prizes like a SLOTH EXPERIENCE while supporting your Zoo.

EGGsplore your Zoo in a new way. Search for hidden Zoo-themed eggs, answer trivia questions, find hidden objects and compete in fun challenges to earn points. Scan the QR code to register as you enter the Zoo on your next visit, then download the free GooseChase app on your smart device to join in the fun.

Prizes:

- Grand Prize: SLOTH EXPERIENCE FOR 4
- 2nd Place: ZOO FAMILY MEMBERSHIP
- 3rd Place: WILD LIGHTS PRIZE PACK
- 4th Place: ZOO PRIZE PACK

This EGGcellent EGGventure runs now through April 30.
SAFARI DAY CAMPS 2021

We've rolled back the group sizes and ramped up the fun for summer 2021! With smaller class sizes, enhanced Zoo experiences, and safety measures our new, in-person camp programs are the perfect choice for families who want to give their child a fun, safe camp experience this summer.

NEW for 2021: All camps include an adventure backpack with everything your camper needs to have a fun-filled week including: print materials, science tools, PPE, supplies, camp shirts and a workbook to use throughout the week. The backpack will include ways to bring the Zoo into your home, with activity suggestions and craft instructions that will continue the experience.

All camp groups will have the opportunity to experience the Zoo's attractions, including the carousel, traveling exhibitions, exclusive experiences and enjoy up-close encounters with our small animal ambassadors! Plus, this year we've extended our services to include curbside pick up as well as curbside drop off for all families. Aftercare is provided during drop off and pick up at no additional fee.

Want even more? Try one of our new premium camps to get a private one-of-a-kind animal encounter with our Linnaeus's two-toed sloths or make your debut with our partners at Stage One Family Theater in a performance on our Zoo stage!

Learn more at Louisvillezoo.org/camps.

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Join Friends of the Louisville Zoo for Sip n' Stroll on April 20! View Wild Lights, sponsored by T-Mobile, while enjoying your favorite adult beverage (non-alcoholic options also available).

Take advantage of this special chance to experience the largest lantern display in the region with thousands of handcrafted silk-covered lanterns aglow with more than 50,000 LED light bulbs. Each ticket includes a complimentary signature cocktail when you enter and a passport to redeem four (4) additional drinks (signature cocktail, beer, wine) along your journey through the Zoo. Snack options will also be available for purchase.

Tickets include a commemorative glass celebrating Friends' first Sip n' Stroll event at the Louisville Zoo and a VIP swag bag.

Click here to learn more or click here to purchase tickets.

This a 21+ event and will follow Metro Health Department COVID-19 protocols, including wearing a mask when not actively eating or drinking.
Every day, the Louisville Zoo welcomes visitors, supports conservation projects, creates once-in-a-lifetime memories and cares for endangered wildlife. Just like our animals, corporate partnerships with the Zoo come in many shapes and sizes. Your business or organization can partner with the Zoo through many different opportunities including event or program sponsorships, group events and more! With attendance of over 759,000 this past year, your brand has the potential to reach a significant number of families in the region.

For info on how you can become a Zoo corporate sponsor, contact ZooSponsorship@LouisvilleKy.gov.

Special thanks to our generous sponsors for these winter and spring programs:
Your Funds Go Far

Our members are our most important and valued asset. Your contributions allow us to maintain our facilities and welcome thousands of families to experience the natural beauty and precious wildlife of our magnificent planet, inspiring compassion for the natural world. You did not just buy a membership; you invested in your Zoo and wildlife conservation around the world.

Your investment in the Louisville Zoo is not just impactful to you and your family but to our entire community and animals around the globe. Thank you, to all our members, for allowing us to continue our mission to "better the bond between people and our planet."

COMING SOON:
GET READY FOR AN EVENT 65 MILLION YEARS IN THE MAKING...