Rain, rain and more rain…we’re definitely a Rainforest Zoo with much more than our share of rain in the past few weeks! We’re all hoping for at least a few days of sunshine very soon!

On October 28, 2017, Edwina Emu laid her first egg of the season. She continued to lay an egg every 3 to 7 days ending on February 2, 2018. Edwina laid a total of 21 eggs with an average weight of 1.3 lbs. The heaviest egg was over 1.5 lbs.

At that point, Edward Emu (daddy) decided he was ready to do his part and has now been diligently sitting and incubating the last 5 eggs for the past four weeks. Yes, that’s right! Edwina lays the eggs and Edward must incubate them for 48 to 52 days!! The eggs are deep blue/green in color, but with all this rain poor Edward’s eggs are a muddy brownish blue/green. If you’re lucky enough to be at the Emu exhibit when Edward decides it’s time to change positions and roll the eggs, you can see his natural instinct in action. We aren’t even certain the eggs are fertile, but he is very conscientious and content in caring for them.

Anyone interested in owning an Emu egg? Emu eggs that have been blown out are on sale at the FOZ gift shop for $35.
One of our Nigerian Dwarf Goats Honey gave birth to triplets in the early morning on February 12, 2018. She is a first time mother and unfortunately one of the kids was still born.

She decided to only care for one of the two live kids and luckily Zoo Keepers Linda and Karrie volunteered to foster the second kid. At 2 ½ weeks, the kids are jumping, running and climbing everything in sight!

Construction for our FOZ funded new Alligator pond and exhibit is well underway and we’re hopeful to have Stitch’s new home ready for her in 6 to 8 weeks.

The new pond holds nearly 10,000 gallons of water and was constructed by Pineback Landscaping and Kai Pono Builders with gunite. It will even include a waterfall when completed. She will surely be a happy gator to have her own fancy pond!
Two benches, newly sculpted by local artist Charlene Lofgreen, arrived at the zoo in January. The Sloth bench is along the fence across from the Sloth exhibit and the Anteater Bench is located in the grassy lawn on the right as you walk down to the tunnel entrance of their exhibit. These beautiful new benches are available for sponsorship through FOZ!

These young ladies from Waiakea High School were some of the first to enjoy the benches while they were rediscovering the zoo.

Don’t forget to look up into the trees and palms as you walk about the zoo.

There are many hidden orchid treasures among those branches and trunks that you might be missing! Thanks to Eric Guttormsen and his dedicated volunteers from the Hilo Orchid Society, the zoo is blooming full of Dendrobiums at the moment. These colorful beauties help to brighten up the dreary wet days we experienced in February.

Come out and brave the wet weather so you can see all that’s new in the zoo!
Message from the President
Helping our Friends

Pat Engelhard

Again this year, FOZ Board members helped with the Pana`ewa Stampede ticket sales and gate collection efforts of the Hawaii Horse Owners Association when they held their annual rodeo on February 17th, 18th and 19th. It was not the wettest rodeo we’ve worked, but it ranked near the top. However, the cheerful folks at the gate made the time fast and fun and the frequent showers definitely kept the rodeo arena dust down! The Horse Owners Association would not have been able to put on this exceptional spectator event without the help of so many organizations like ours.

Similarly, FOZ is able to host our annual summer Tiger Fun Day because the Horse Owners Association offers their resources to provide shuttle vans from the parking area near the Equestrian Center to the zoo entrance. We always appreciate their help.

This relationship between FOZ and Hawaii Horse Owners Association is a great example of how groups such as ours can help each other. FOZ is grateful, for instance, to the following organizations who enhance and promote our wonderful Pana`ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens:

- Orchid Society [http://www.hiloorchidsociety.org/]
- Palm Society [http://www.hawaiislandpalmsociety.com/]
- Vireya Society [http://www.pacificislandnursery.com/page32.html]
- Bamboo Society [http://www.bamboo.org/ChapterPages/HawaiiChapterInfo.html]

Orchid enthusiasts meet most Mondays at the zoo and Vireya Society folks are frequently seen on site.

There are others who help tremendously with promoting and funding the Zoo by their monetary contributions to FOZ. One mainland couple has given Lifetime Memberships to their friends who live here, in the hope of fostering local interest in the zoo. Those who join FOZ or adopt animals that they enjoy watching at the zoo also help FOZ in enhancing the lives of our resident animals. Most FOZ Board members are on the Enrichment Team which not only works with the animals weekly, but helps with painting of structures in the zoo and other small but very important projects.

All these folks are helping us in support of functions and programs that benefit the public. You too can join these selfless individuals who improve our Zoo for others to enjoy.
Meet Some of the Zoo Birds

These are the Indian Ringneck Parakeets. Ringnecks occur in colors ranging from bright yellows, greens, and blues, to albinos. Like a few other bird species, they are known as dimorphic, meaning that a bird's sex can be determined by its colors and markings. The blue female and the yellow female pictured above exhibit their gorgeous pastel colors while the male on the far right shows it's traditional markings. Males sport deep red beaks, black facial markings, and three bands of color around their necks. Females, while still beautiful, lack the facial and collar bands, although some do display a slight darkening of color around their necks.

On the right, starting with the top left and moving clock-wise, we have:

• the famous Max, who can be seen and heard at the entrance to the zoo. He is a Catalina Macaw.
• Salsa, the yellow headed Amazon Parrot. When no one is looking he and Max talk to each other.
• Polly, our blue-and-yellow macaws. When you cross a blue-and-yellow macaw with a scarlet macaw you get the hybrid Catalina macaw, like Max.
• Romeo, the Moluccan Cockatoo. He is very talkative and can be heard well before you reach his cage.

Continued on Page 6
The hyacinth macaw is a parrot native to central and eastern South America. It is the longest of all the macaws, measuring up to 3.3 feet from head to the tip of their tail and can weight over 2 lbs.

The pair of hyacinth macaws to the left are known to frequent visitors to the zoo as Zoe and Rowdy. You can tell them apart because Zoe has a bracelet on her foot; after all she is a girl and wants to look her very best.

Barbara and Carol (below), come twice a week to work with all the birds. All the birds featured here are social creatures. These ladies are dedicated to ensuring that the birds get plenty of interaction and stay healthy. They spend several hours talking with them, playing games and just giving them some tender loving care.

On the right, Zoe and Rowdy look for their macadamia nut treats embedded in the matted roll. Below you see Barbara taking Zoe and Rowdy for a walk.

On the right you see Carol’s son who was helping out that day with the birds. Zoe loves the attention.

On the far right is Carol giving some TLC to Romeo, one of the newest members to the zoo. You can normally hear Romeo when approaching his cage; he loves to talk.
Birds of Prey with a Story

Flower is a pueo (Hawaiian Owl). The pueo is a bird of prey, native to Hawai’i and can be found across the Big Island, both in forest and grassland. They eat mainly small birds and insect. Flower came to the Pane‘ewa zoo in May 2006 to spend the rest of her life in a protected environment after her wing was broken. She doesn’t need to worry about finding her own food because the zoo keepers take good care of her and feed her every day. In the wild, she wouldn’t survive but at the zoo she has a safe home and many folks stop by to catch a glimpse of her. Children of all ages are always very excited when they get a chance to see a real owl. Pueo inhabit forests and grasslands throughout the islands of Hawai‘i. Pueo nest on the ground, which makes their eggs and young very vulnerable to predation. Their most common predator is the mongoose.

In Hawaiian culture the pueo is a kinolau (physical form) of an aumakua (deified ancestor) and is most commonly known as “The Protector”. Listen to the Pueo at www.soundshawaiian.com/mp3/Pueo.mp3

Kapono came to the Pana‘ewa Zoo in 2000. This little guy was hand raised and donated to the zoo as he couldn’t take care of himself in the wild. He has been living happily at the zoo ever since. He’s very alert and visitors are always in awe when they see him. Come and visit him, see if you can spot him in his jungle of trees. The ‘Io (the Hawaiian hawk), was a royal symbol in Hawaiian legends, and is sometimes called ‘iolani or exalted hawk, a name given to both Kamehameha IV and the Palace on O‘ahu. The ‘Io (the Hawaiian hawk), was a royal symbol in Hawaiian legends, and is sometimes called ‘iolani or exalted hawk, a name given to both Kamehameha IV and the Palace on O‘ahu.

Like the Hawaiian owl (the pueo) the ‘io is also a bird of prey and hunts small animals for food; birds, rats and bugs are among its delicacies. The ‘io is also the ‘alala (Hawaiian crow) worst enemy; unfortunately there are no Hawaiian crows in the wild today. Kapono helps the Keauhou Bird Conservation Center (KBCC) with aversion training and preparing their endangered ‘alala for release. Kapono is pretty famous among those at KBCC and the San Diego Zoo Global. ‘Io can easily be recognized by their bulky bodies relative to their overall length and wingspan.

The ‘io is the only hawk that is native to Hawai‘i, and today breeds only on the Big Island, in stands of native ‘ōhi’a trees. It is on the U.S. endangered species list, while the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) classifies the species as Near Threatened. Listen to the ‘io (‘eeeh-oh’) at www.soundshawaiian.com/mp3/hawaii-io-ad.mp3.
Friends of the Zoo Membership

Pana’ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens is a unique and beautiful place enjoyed by thousands of people every year. *Friends of the Pana’ewa Zoo* is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote the zoo and contribute to the well-being of the resident animals. All donations to FOZ are used to help the zoo. If you haven’t renewed yet, it’s not too late, stop by the gift shop or go to our website hilo.zoo.org to print a form.

If you enjoy the zoo and want to help make it better, please consider adopting an animal for a birthday present for someone special. Packages are available in the gift shop or send email to adoption@hilo.zoo.org

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**Newsletter Feedback**

We are encouraging feedback from you to help us improve the newsletter. If there are changes or special features you would like to see in the future, please send an email to newsletter@hilo.zoo.org.

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**Donations**

Please donate to *Friends of the Zoo*. The gifts are used for the animals, they provide treats and toys, veterinary services and medication, procure supplies, upgrade enclosures, funding for small exhibits and enrich the animals’ experience, just to mention a few of the things your donations are used for. You can mail your donations to:

**Friends of the Pana’ewa Zoo**  
P O Box 738,  
Keaau, Hawaii 96749

*Donations are tax deductible.*

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**Calendar**

**Plant Sale**  
Sunday, May 6th, 2018  
8:00 am – 2:00 pm

**Benefit Book Fair**  
Saturday, June 2nd, 2018  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

**Tiger Day**  
Saturday, June 30th, 2018

**FOZ Board Meeting**  
March 19, 2018  
April 16, 2018  
June 18, 2018

**General Membership**  
August 18, 2018

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**FOZ Board of Directors**

Pat Engelhard – *President*  
Betsy Del Sarto - *Vice President*  
Betsy Duerr - *Secretary*  
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Nina Bremer - *Publicity*  
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Pam Mizuno