In spite of all the rain we had in March & April, there was plenty of evidence that spring was in the air. Not only were the flowers all in bloom - and Sacred Ibis babies being born, and baby peacocks running around, and many other baby chicks appearing - but also our monarch butterflies were in their glory inside their Butterfly House.

The monarch butterfly is a familiar visitor to our gardens. They arrived in the Hawaii islands around 1850, shortly after the introduction of their host plants, tropical milkweed and the crown flower. They are capable of flying thousands of miles, and are well known for their migration from the mainland US to Mexico during the fall. They have even been known to cross the Atlantic ocean. They live wherever they find their host plants and nectar plants, which attract and feed the adult butterflies. Predators of the adult monarch butterfly in Hawaii include the two bulbul bird species - the red-vented and the red-whiskered - and some wasps. Spiders and ants may attack the eggs.

Butterflies undergo complete metamorphosis, in which there are four distinct stages: egg, caterpillar (larvae), pupa (chrysalis) and butterfly (adult). The process from egg to butterfly is weather dependent and also depends on the regional climate. In Hawaii it can take about four weeks for the monarch to go through the stages from egg to adult.

Females lay their eggs on the underside of young milkweed leaves. The caterpillars consume the milkweed, which benefits their health.
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Butterflies are beneficial to the environment through the symbiotic relationship they maintain with the plants they visit and their preferences for organic, native habitats. Although the larval caterpillar will eat its host, a well established milkweed plant can handle the caterpillars’ eating frenzy.

Dolores Coulson, Editor
What’s new at the Zoo

Pam Mizuno

Summer is right around the corner! School will be out soon and there is so much new in the zoo to see!!

For the past three months, FOZ has been busy helping us with new animals, projects and exhibits. It is their help and yours that makes it possible to continually improve the zoo for all to enjoy.

We are all thrilled to receive a most generous donation of a female Capuchin that arrived on April 24th. Noreen Muscat and her son Joe Rossi were visiting the zoo from their home on Maui when they met and were entertained by our wonderful resident Capuchin Tomo. She charmed them with her sweet ways! So much so, that they wanted to help by providing her a friend and companion. Noreen contacted us with the offer to provide FOZ a donation to acquire a second Capuchin, which we were able to secure from Gurley Exotic Animals in Yuma, Tennessee. After a long flight from Memphis to Los Angeles to Honolulu and on to Hilo, Tomo’s new 3 year old friend Leia (named by her donors) arrived at our zoo. The girls were introduced to each other the next morning and have been good friends right from the start! Leia on left and Tomo on right

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Sid, our Two-toed Sloth has been taking some time out to get acquainted with his new companion Akala. Akala was born at Honolulu Zoo on July 17, 2016 and is the second of three female sloths born at Honolulu Zoo in the past 3 years. She and Sid will be out in the zoo on exhibit sometime soon. Thank you to Honolulu Zoo for allowing Akala to come join Sid here at our zoo!

Thursday, May 24th was an exciting day for all of us! After both her parents passed on, our Black and White Colobus, Spunky, thrived with some extra attention from FOZ enrichment volunteers and staff. We are so happy and excited for her to have a new young male companion that arrived from Wildlife World Zoo, Aquarium & Safari Park in Litchfield Park, Arizona. He is a very active 16 month old and it is fun to watch him “monkeying” around. Our yet unnamed boy is quickly adjusted to his new home and life with a Spunky Monkey!

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For those of you who have been following the progress of construction on the second Alligator exhibit, we are happy to announce that final preparations are now being made to move Stitch into her new home. Once the contractor completed work on the pond and exhibit, our talented Zookeeper Kyle, went to work on creating a masterpiece waterfall complete with landscaping. Kyle also set-up the pump and filtration system that will keep everything in working order. We should have the roof panels installed by the second week in June and have Stitch all moved in and ready for FOZ Tiger Fun Day on June 30th!!!

**Bling, Bling and more Bling!**
Our new Emu was aptly named Bling by her surrogate hatch parent. She loves to peck at anything shiny and do “zoomies” all around the yard! To continue the Emu saga from my last article.....When Edwina Emu laid some of those eggs last October through February, we left Edward sitting and incubating the last 5 eggs. Unfortunately, the weather was very wet and he wasn’t successful in having any of them hatch. What we didn’t tell him was that our avian veterinarian, Dr. Shannon Nakaya had taken 3 of the eggs, placed them in an incubator and diligently turned them every day while monitoring the moisture levels and daily weight of each egg. After almost 2 months, on March 22nd, one of the eggs started to rock, roll and peep! It took almost a full day before a cute, striped LARGE Emu chick broke its way through the thick shell and into the world! We are hoping to have Bling out on exhibit in the zoo very soon.
How FOZ Helps With Zoo Animal Acquisition

Pat Engelhard, President

With the recent addition of our new male Colobus Monkey, donated through Friends of the Zoo (FOZ) funding, our monkey population is returning to its former levels. This might be a good time to pause and recollect how FOZ has helped with animal acquisitions in the recent past.

Those long time Zoo-goers will remember that we had a lone male Colobus, Moe, for several years. Then we thought Moe might need some company, so FOZ purchased a female, Mindy. Moe and Mindy did what they were supposed to do and gave us a baby girl, Spunky, to the delight of many who watched her sitting on the highest perch with her mother. Since then, both Moe and Mindy have passed away, leaving Spunky alone, to sit on her high perch, looking down at her interested guests. So, FOZ thought she might need some company and we purchased a yet-to-be-named male Colobus for that purpose. Maybe we’ll be seeing a new baby after a respectable courtship between Spunky and her new beau?

Also helping to increase our recent monkey losses is our new Capuchin, Lea, donated through us by a very generous lady from Maui, who thought that Tomo, our aging female Capuchin, might need companionship, and arranged for the purchase of Lea with the help of Zoo Director, Pam Mizuno. The two Capuchins have hit it off well and keep each other company in the enclosure next to Spunky.

Everyone remembers Namaste, our beloved White Bengal Tiger, who passed away in January 2014. With the Help of Kokua A Ulu Foundation, FOZ was able to pay for the freight to bring Sriracha and Tzatziki, our now equally popular Orange and White Bengal Tigers to live in the Tiger habitat, for the enjoyment of everyone who visits your Zoo.

At about the same time, FOZ helped to pay the freight for two donated American alligators from Colorado. Those two females, Lilo and Stich, didn’t get along as well as our other Zoo inhabitants do, and they had to be separated. But a new enclosure, paid for by donations to FOZ, has been completed and is awaiting a pump to circulate the water in a new pond and enclosure left of their present habitat. Soon, all zoo goers will be able to easily see both alligators during their popular daily feedings, as well as the rest of the day.

These are some of the many ways that your donations to Friends of the Zoo helps the Panaewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens to flourish as an exciting and educational resource for Hawai’i Island and the world beyond us.

To donate see next page!
How to help the Zoo

There are several ways that you help enhance and create new habitat to make this a first class rainforest zoo. We already have a world class tiger exhibit, admired by many visitors and professional zoo staff alike. With the new alligator exhibit completed, we now have to think about the next exhibit that needs modernization.

**Donations:** There are several ways of donating monies to the zoo.

**Membership:** You can donate by becoming a FOZ member, $25/year. This includes the quarterly FOZ Newsletter and 10% discount on all items sold in the zoo gift shop. Click Here to become a member.

**Animal Adoption:** Adopt an animal. Below are 8 animals which are currently up for adoption.

Stop by the gift shop and pick up a $25/year package or email adoption@hilozoo.org for more information.

**General Donations:** Anytime is a good time to donate to the zoo. If you are at the zoo you can contribute as you leave by dropping a donation into the donation box, or go by the gift shop to drop off a donation. You can also mail a donation to;

*Friends of the Zoo, P.O. Box 738, Keaau, Hi., 96749.*

All donations as described above are tax deductible. *Friends of the Pana'ewa Zoo is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.*

**Animal Benches:** The purchaser is allowed to request wording in memory of a loved one or in commemoration of an event. FOZ will have a small plaque printed with limited wording in recognition of the person or event. If you would like to purchase a bench please email admin@hilozoo.org. Be sure to include your name and phone number.
May 6th - Great atmosphere, lots of wonderful plants, and no rain! People of all ages came to buy plants and talk to vendors. It was truly a great day to be out in the fresh air and sunshine. Old friends met up and new friends were made. Vendors sold plants to new and returning customers: Pacific Island Nursery was there with all their lovely Vireya plants. The flowers that make you smile.

Royal Palm Enterprises was also present with many different types of water plants. I remember one person walking by with his package of plants, saying, “I just can’t resist water plants!”

The plants brought in by the zoo staff were strong and healthy. There were palm trees, breadfruit and many, many more.
The Palm Society booth, with their displays of seeds and photos, delivered a wealth of information. They also gave a wonderful tour of the Palms at the zoo, which was a huge hit. Everyone’s Nursery and Tamala and Randy Nevins Nursery also participated with orchids, taro, podocarpus plants, moss rose and garden plants. Master Gardeners, Tropical Abundance and Kapoho Kai were also present with many great plants, including fruit trees, ferns, palm trees, coconut palms and many garden plants. Hawaiian Sandalwood Restoration sold seedlings, to those who wanted to try their hand at growing a forest type tree, as well as creams made from honeycomb.

Mahalo to organizer Barbara Thomason

Mark your 2019 calendars for the 20th Annual FOZ sponsored Plant Sale, usually scheduled a week before Mother’s Day. Don’t miss out on one of the best plant sales on the Big Island!
Calendar 2018

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

Tiger Day
Saturday, June 30th, 2018
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

FOZ Board Meeting
June 18, 2018

Hilo Donkey Dash
At the Pana’ewa Zoo
July 7, 2018
6am – 9am
Race starts at 7am

General Membership
August 18, 2018

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Please send feedback or comments regarding the newsletter to:
newsletter@hilozoo.org

Parking available at the Equestrian Center with Shuttle to the Zoo

Hilo Donkey Dash @ Pana’ewa Rainforest Zoo and Gardens. Sign up at http://www.hilodonkeydash.com