



# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2013

## WHAT'S **NEW** AT OCEANS OF FUN?

### What happens during the winter months?

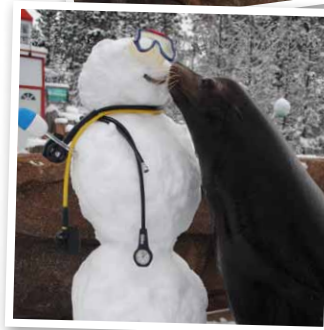
One of the most commonly asked questions we receive is, "What do you do with the animals during the winter months?" To the surprise of many, we all stay here! Our pools are heated to roughly 45°F not for the animals' sake but to keep our water pipes from freezing. Seals and sea lions are very well adapted to the cold temperatures. Our flippers friends have a thick layer of fat called blubber that lies beneath the skin and provides insulation for the animals. Although they are well adapted for the Wisconsin winter, our animals are spoiled with a heated pool and heat lamps in their holding areas where they are often found cuddling up at night.



Along with those chilly temperatures, winter also brings with it SNOW! The fluffy white snowflakes provide exciting enrichment for our animals, which can include snowmen and snow balls.

These cold temperatures may not bother the animals; however, for the trainers it is a whole other story. Yet these winter months provide a time for the trainers to accomplish many tasks that the hectic

summer schedule doesn't always allow for. This is the time that the trainers are able to focus on training new husbandry behaviors that allow us to better care for each animal, as well as train new behaviors that can be used in performances and interactive programs. We are also able to reevaluate our show scripts and designs in order to make them as educational as possible while providing our visitors with a unique opportunity to see the amazing abilities of these special animals. The winter season is spent creating, revising and aligning educational programming to meet Wisconsin state standards. In addition to our traditional education programs, we also focus on expanding our website to incorporate new educational material that is accessible with a click of a mouse. Without a doubt, winter is a wonderful time of year for both the animals and trainers!



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[www.oceansoffun.org](http://www.oceansoffun.org)



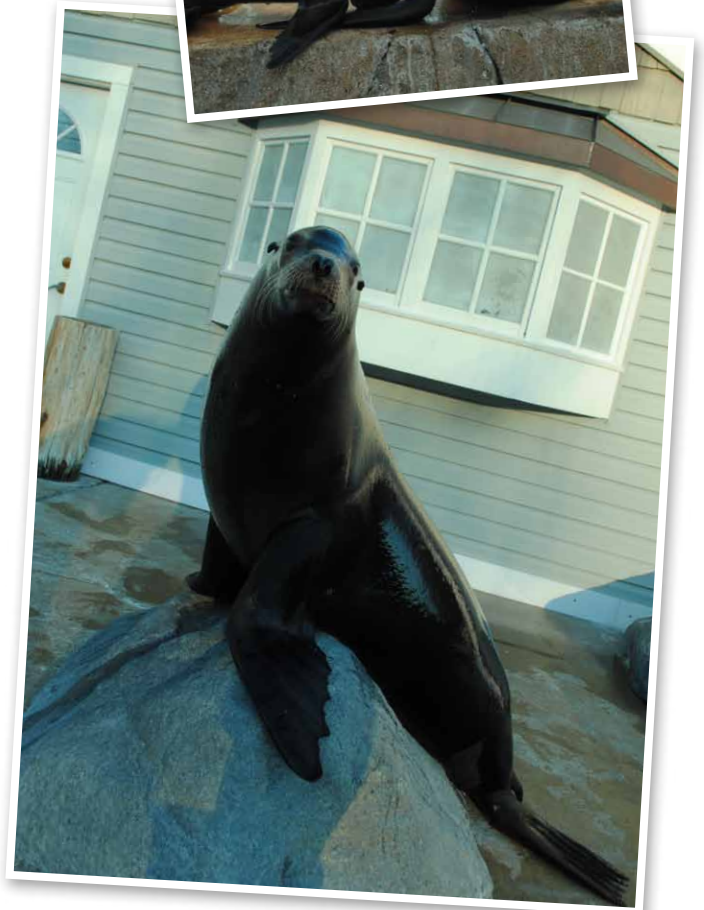
## FEATURE ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

### Diego

Diego is our 7 year old male California sea lion who was born on April 11, 2004 to his parents Makaia and Slick. Diego has been an integral part of our Oceans of Fun family ever since. For the past 3 years Diego has traveled to Hersheypark during the summer season. He has truly blossomed as a star while capturing the hearts of all who meet him!

Diego is definitely coming into his own and maturing quickly. In the wild, sea lions live on average 10 to 15 years old. In zoos and aquariums; however, the lives of these animals can be extend to their late 20s and even their early 30s because of the great medical care they receive, they have all the fish they can eat, and they don't have to worry about predators. So although Diego is 7 years old, he is still quite young. He has been slow to grow, though his trainers were very excited to see him bulk up to 315 pounds this last month! As Diego is rapidly maturing, his is ready to make the leap from juvenile to sub-dominant male. With his new title come new responsibilities such as defending territory and searching for a girlfriend this spring, which is just in time for breeding season!

Since returning to Milwaukee in October, Diego has become a constant companion and a much needed playmate for our youngest sea lion Colby. These two can be seen romping and splashing through the pools for hours on end. Even though Diego is much larger than Colby, Diego is extremely gentle with our young pup, tolerating and accepting all of Colby's play bites without a fuss. Diego is truly a big kid at heart. It is clear that Diego takes after his father's docile temperament and is learning to be a wonderful dominant male following Slick's example. He is loved by all of his trainers and we are thrilled to have him back in Wisconsin during these winter months!





# NEWSLETTER

February 2013

## FEATURE PROGRAM: Interactive Learning

Oceans of Fun was the first marine mammal facility in the United States to offer interactive programs with seals and sea lions. Since 1997 we have been connecting guests with the amazing world of marine mammals and conservation through our hands-on, interactive programs. Programs are offered year round and provide the opportunity to get up close and personal with our seals and sea lions.

Need some cute and cuddly added to your day? Like us on Facebook and be the first to hear about our most recent program specials and deals, receive regular updates and photos on the animals and keep up with the happenings at Oceans of Fun!

## PROGRAM SPECIALS:



*There is a rumor floating through the waves that there will be a Valentine's Day special for Aquatic Adventure! This program is the first of it's kind and a perfect gift to give your special someone so show how much you care! You will make their dreams of getting up close and personal with a very special marine mammal come true! Be sure to like us on Facebook so you are one of the first to hear about this unique opportunity!*



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK



[www.facebook.com/pages/OCEANS-OF-FUN/106815583641](http://www.facebook.com/pages/OCEANS-OF-FUN/106815583641)



## Aquatic Adventure

This unique 90-minute program for anyone 6 years and older allows you to get to know our family up close and personal. Go behind the scenes at our facility and learn about marine mammals, training techniques and environmental conservation. Then enter the water at our waist-deep dock where one of our animals will be able to greet you in a controlled and comfortable setting.

To receive more information on our programs or to make a reservation, please visit us at [www.oceansoffun.org](http://www.oceansoffun.org) or call 414-453-5527 ext. 1.

# AQUATIC ADVENTURE



GET  
**CLOSER**  
THAN EVER



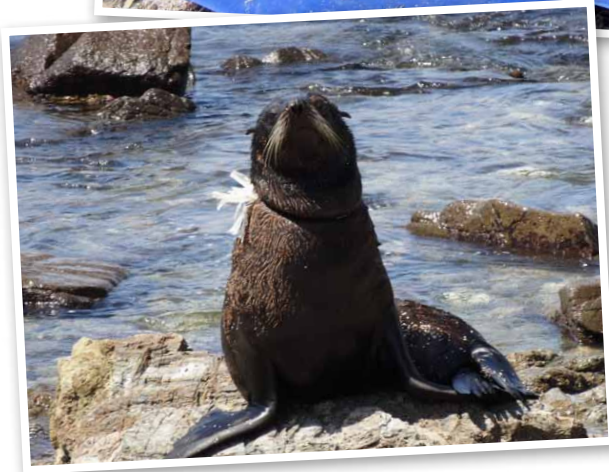
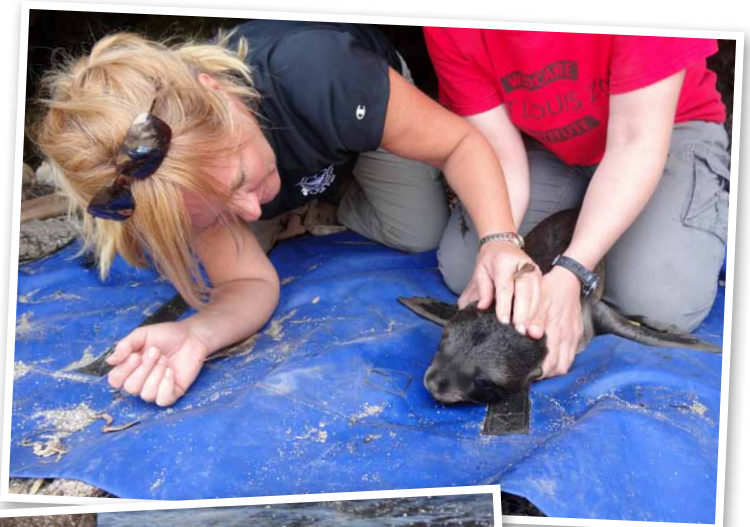
## CONSERVATION CORNER

# Update on Punta San Juan Pinniped Research Project

Oceans of Fun president, Shelley Ballmann, returned safely from a research trip down to Punta San Juan in November. Oceans of Fun has partnered with the Chicago Zoological Society to support a research project focused on conducting field health assessments of several different animal species including South American sea lions, fur seals, and penguins whose populations have seen severe declines. By carrying out these health assessments the team of veterinarians and biologists were able to gather samples that will provide vital insight into the populations' health in hopes of ensuring survivability. During the 12 day trip, over 100 animal health assessments were successfully collected for analysis.

It was disappointing to see animals suffering from pollution, toxins and entanglement in an area as remote as this secluded beach in Peru. Our world's natural resources are limited and need to be appreciated and protected.

Through our involvement in this important research program, we hope not to just walk in for a week to assist these animals, but to make a difference through teaching others about the struggles these animals face, the health of our world and inspire changes in human behavior that will truly make a difference in saving our oceans. Oceans of Fun has committed to this project for the next 3-5 years and we hope that all of you will do your part as well! To gain more in depth information about the trip and our partnership in this project, check out President Shelley Ballmann's journals about her trip! [www.oceansoffun.org/index.php/conservation\\_journal](http://www.oceansoffun.org/index.php/conservation_journal)



**PROYECTO  
PUNTA SAN JUAN**

Protegiendo el ecosistema marino de la Corriente de Humboldt



## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Climate Change

2012 marked the largest summer ice losses in the Arctic since 2007. The amount of sea ice covering the Arctic Ocean in 2007 was 29%; this year the amount of sea ice decreased to 24%. Last November had the fifth highest global temperatures on record. What is causing these recording breaking events? The simple answer is climate change.

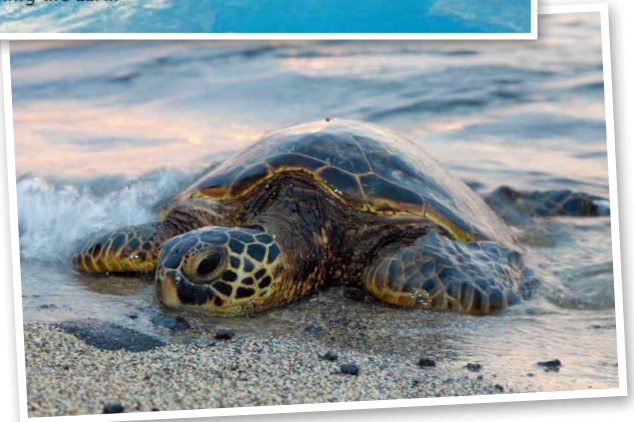
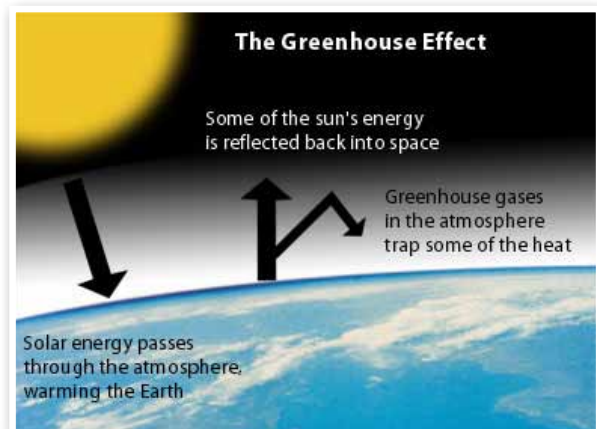
There are many factors that influence climate change. A leading contributor is the greenhouse effect. It is important to understand that the greenhouse effect is an integral part to maintaining life on Earth. The greenhouse effect refers to infra-red light from the sun that enters the Earth's atmosphere and helps to regulate temperatures. The current problem is that humans are adding large amounts of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other gases into the atmosphere by doing things such as burning fossil fuels. The increase in gases prevents a lot of heat from escaping, thus increasing the overall global temperature.

Many animals are affected by the events caused by climate change. Increased temperatures cause sea ice to melt at rapid rates, which impacts polar bears who rely on ice in order to capture their prey, to rest, and for breeding. With less and less ice, polar bears are finding it harder to survive. Rising sea levels threaten the beaches where endangered species of sea turtles, such as loggerheads and green turtles, go to lay their eggs. The endangered right whale is losing a key food source, a tiny crustacean, due



to increased ocean temperatures. This lack of food makes it very difficult for females to carry a calf full term. Due to habitat destruction, decreased food supplies and changing weather patterns, many species of plants and animals are struggling to survive.

But amidst this harsh reality, zoos and aquariums play a crucial role in educating the public about climate change and simple steps you can take in your own homes to help protect our planet and the beautiful animals that share our world. Zoos and aquariums provide a place for you to go and form a connection with exotic animals that you may otherwise never see in person. Take the opportunity to visit a polar bear and many other animals at your local zoo or aquarium and learn what you can do to help these animals in the wild!





## CONSERVATION CORNER

### Green Ideas

*What does going “green” mean?*

*Going “green” is simply making eco-friendly choices in the products we purchase and the food we consume for a healthier lifestyle.*

*Climate change is largely caused by human actions. Here are a few “green” ideas you can implement to help combat climate change.*

- *Fix the faucet: That kitchen sink that has been dripping the past few months that you have been meaning to fix, now is the time! You can save nearly 3,000 gallons of water in a year just by fixing a leaky faucet.*
- *Don't sit idle: When your car sits idle, you are burning fuels which release more CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere. When possible turn your car off!*
- *Be energy efficient: Purchase light bulbs and appliances that are energy efficient. Remember to turn lights off whenever possible and unplug appliances you aren't using.*



*Reduce your carbon footprint by taking these simple steps today! To learn more visit our Carbon Footprint page! - [www.oceansoffun.org/index.php/136](http://www.oceansoffun.org/index.php/136)*



## INTERNS/VOLUNTEERS

Have you always loved marine mammals and are interested in the field of animal training? Are you passionate about education and want to assist with our mission for conservation? Do you love the earth and want to help make a difference? Then our volunteer and internship programs are a great fit for you!

Oceans of Fun is actively interviewing Summer 2013 intern and volunteer positions at our Milwaukee, WI location. Our programs teach individuals how to be an animal care and environmental specialist. Learn about animal diets, facility care, animal training, medical programs, and assist our staff in educating the public and our Milwaukee county zoo guests on how to care for the environment.

## Summer Education Internships Available!

To help promote our mission to educate the public about marine mammals, the environment and conservation, Oceans of Fun has designed an internship for individuals interested in exploring the field of informal education. Learn how to communicate valuable messages to audiences utilizing some of the most engaging teaching tools you have ever experienced, the seals and sea lions at Oceans of Fun! Applications for the 2013 Summer Education Internship will be accepted through March 15, 2013.

We are actively looking for individuals that are 18 years of age or older and that are highly motivated for all positions. If you are interested in applying, please apply online at [www.oceansoffun.org](http://www.oceansoffun.org) or contact our Intern & Volunteer Coordinator, Kelly Kamrath at [kelly@oceansoffun.org](mailto:kelly@oceansoffun.org) for more details.



**GET YOUR FEET WET**



**Gift  
Certificates**



## **GIVE THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME!**

Purchase a gift certificate for an Oceans of Fun interactive program! These unique, up-close and personal experiences with our seals and sea lions will create lasting memories in the lives of your family and friends.

Gift certificates are available for a variety of experiences including day camps, junior training programs, in-water adventures and job shadow opportunities. Whether you are 5 or 100, there is a program for everyone!

For more information on our programs or to make a reservation please visit us at [www.oceansoffun.org](http://www.oceansoffun.org) or call 414-453-5527 ext. 1



# SPONSOR A SEAL OR SEA LION

Oceans of Fun is a privately owned Wisconsin corporation, located inside the Milwaukee County Zoo. It is our goal to provide the best possible environment, training, husbandry, and care for our marine animals with the focus of educating the public about marine life, environmental preservation, and conservation. You can help care for our animals by donating items from our wish list and by sponsoring one of our beautiful animals!

## BECOME A SEAL AND SEA LION SPONSOR!

By sponsoring one of our seals and sea lions, you will be contributing directly to the animal's care. Sponsorship is a great way to get involved and can also be a wonderful gift for that special occasion or holiday! When you sponsor an animal we will send you a special gift of appreciation for your donation. Choose any one of our amazing animals at Oceans of Fun to sponsor and see the chart below for special gifts. To sponsor an animal, contact us at 414-453-5527 ext. 1.

### Sponsorship Gifts of Appreciation

Oceans of Fun Sponsorship Levels	Annual Donation	E-Newsletter & Updates	Personalized Adoption Certificate	5 x 7 Photo Of Your Animal	Official Oceans Of Fun T-Shirt	10% Discount At the Sea Lion Shoppe	Sea Lion Show Tickets	Painting Session for One With an Animal	Original Seal or Sea Lion Canvas Painting	Private Behind The Scenes Tour	Private Animal Training Demo 15 min
Copper Sponsor	\$50	X	X	X							
Bronze Sponsor	\$75	X	X	X	X						
Silver Sponsor	\$125	X	X	X	X	X	4 Tickets				
Gold Sponsor	\$250	X	X	X	X	X	10 Tickets	X	X		
Platinum Sponsor	\$500	X	X	X	X	X	15 Tickets	X	X	15 Guests	15 Guests

### Which Animal Should I Sponsor?

Choose any one of our animals to sponsor! To view information about each of our animals, visit us at [www.oceansoffun.org](http://www.oceansoffun.org) and select our animal page for biographies on each of our slippery stars. Then, once you decide which animal you would like to sponsor, contact us to sign up for a one year sponsorship!

### Learn More About the Oceans of Fun Animals!

#### Meet Slick...

Slick is our Dominant Male California Sea Lion. He weighs in at over 700 lbs!



#### Meet Satara...

Satara is our 16 year old female Atlantic Harbor seal. She weighs 120 pounds and has a fun, spunky attitude!





## SPONSORSHIP REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

### Sponsorship Gifts of Appreciation

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Copper Sponsor	\$50	X	X	X							
Bronze Sponsor	\$75	X	X	X	X						
Silver Sponsor	\$125	X	X	X	X	X	4 Tickets				
Gold Sponsor	\$250	X	X	X	X	X	10 Tickets	X	X		
Platinum Sponsor	\$500	X	X	X	X	X	15 Tickets	X	X	15 Guests	15 Guests

**SPONSORSHIP LEVEL:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DONATION AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DESIRED ANIMAL'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**BUYER'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **\*CHECK NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

(MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: OCEANS OF FUN)

**BILLING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

(LEAVE BLANK IF INFORMATION IS THE SAME AS ABOVE)

**SPONSOR'S NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**MAILING ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS AVAILABLE BY PHONE: 414-453-5527 ext. 1.*

*\*CASH PAYMENTS AVAILABLE AT OUR SEA LION SHOPPE AT THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO.*

**IF INTERESTED, PLEASE FORWARD YOUR DONATION ALONG WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM TO:**

**OCEANS OF FUN**  
**10001 W. BLUEMOUND ROAD MILWAUKEE, WI 53226**  
**414-453-5527 ext. 1 www.oceansoffun.org**

*\*Once your payment is received, all animal sponsorships and donations will be processed and gifts of appreciation will arrive to your mailing address in 7 – 10 business days. Thank you!*