

# Summer 2009 iNDepth

A Deeper Look into the Newport Aquarium



## Passholders Only

### Join us for Another Passholder Exclusive: Bagels with a Biologist

Don't let your brain stay on vacation all summer long. Enjoy this Passholder exclusive and learn from one of the best "schools" in town. Bagels with a Biologist is an educational series that features Aquarium staff imparting their wisdom on a variety of subjects. Make plans now for the following topics:

- **June 10 - Jellyfish**
- **July 15 - "Sunshine," the Baby Shark Ray**
- **Aug. 12 - Chinstrap Penguins**  
(the new additions to the Kroger Kingdom of Penguins Exhibit)

Space is limited, so please call now to reserve your place in our school!

Cost for Annual Passholders:

- \$3 for children (2-12 years old)
- \$5 for adults (13 and older)

Reservations can be made in person at our Information Desk in the Newport Aquarium lobby or by phone by calling (859)261-7444 and asking for "Passholder Bagels with a Biologist Reservations" before June 5, 2009. Your non-refundable payment is due when you make your reservation.

Newport Aquarium reserves the right to cancel this event. Every effort will be made to contact guests with reservations in the event of a cancellation.

See more Passholder information on Page 3.

## New Jellyfish Gallery Offers More to See and Do

To some, they're squiggly, jiggly, wiggly fun. To others, they are the most serene, graceful and mesmerizing animals on the planet. They are jellyfish and they are featured in the new, just re-opened Jellyfish Gallery.

Eight tanks containing hundreds of these amazing creatures, as well as new, fun interactive elements and state-of-the-art displays, await guests. It all adds up to the largest, coolest jellyfish exhibit in the Midwest.

The original jellyfish gallery had been open since the Aquarium's inception in 1999. Renovating the gallery allowed the Aquarium to utilize the latest technologies to improve upon one of the most beloved exhibit areas in the building. It's the perfect combination of the best features of the previous exhibit (like the iconic chandelier and art gallery motif) with exciting, new elements (like the already popular "Jelly Wall" game).

The 2,000-square foot Jellyfish Gallery features Colored jellies, Spotted jellies, West coast sea nettle, Moon jellies, Upside down jellies and Egg yolk jellies. The total water volume for the exhibit is about 3,000 gallons.

The newly renovated Jellyfish Gallery joins the Frog Bog and Shark Central as the newest exhibits at Newport Aquarium.



## Summer Family Hours: Kids Get in Free!

This summer, now through Sept. 7, families can get a great deal by visiting in the afternoons. From Sunday through Friday, 4:30 to 7 p.m., up to two kids (12 and under) get in FREE with each adult paying full price. And strollers are welcome during these times. Plus, every child will receive a coupon for a free Kids' Meal from Bob Evans. Note: Offer not valid with any coupons or other discounts. Tickets must be purchased at Aquarium ticket windows.



Extended Summer Hours  
Now through Sept. 5:  
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Special Thanks to our  
Kingdom of Penguins  
Exhibit Sponsor



## Biologist Profile

### Crystal Phillips

Since Nov. 1998 - some six months before the Aquarium opened to the public - Crystal has played



an important role here. Whether penguins, otters or any of the animals that she's worked with, she has dedicated herself to creating amazing experiences for Aquarium guests.

Originally from Southern California, Crystal grew up in Northern Indiana. She received her Bachelor's degree in Ecology and Population Biology from Purdue University, and worked at the Indianapolis Zoo before coming to Newport to help launch the Aquarium.

"I think it is really cool to watch people connect with the animals, especially when it comes to realizing we have such an incredible amount of diversity right here in our own back yard," she said.

Crystal also helped to bring the popular Frog Bog exhibit to life. Her efforts in thematically creating the exhibit tanks for the various frogs that are displayed in the Frog Bog exhibit are part of the reason the exhibit has been such a hit with kids and adults alike.



### New and Improved Penguin Parade

The Aquarium just launched its new and improved Penguin Parade. The wildly popular event that signifies the opening of the Aquarium each day was recently upgraded in honor of the Aquarium's tenth birthday (celebrated earlier this month). There's new music and a bigger, better Penguin Mobile, but the same lovable African penguins that families have come to know. Guests are encouraged to arrive early for the chance to be randomly selected as the Penguin Parade Grand Marshall every day. The festivities take place on the plaza in front of the Aquarium entrance, unless weather conditions force them inside. Check it out daily at 9:15 am. throughout the summer.



### Christmas in July at Johnny's Otterville

From July 20-26, Newport Aquarium Passholders can show their Passholder ID and receive the following:

- One free Kid's admission to Otterville
- One free Kid's meal (one per child)

Plus, on Saturday, July 25, the Newport Aquarium's Shark Squad and the Shark Cart (providing shark petting) will be on site from noon to 3 p.m.



### Host Your Next Event at the Aquarium

Currents Ballroom has been thrilling event and meeting planners since it opened. You'll enjoy a spectacular view of the Cincinnati skyline and Ohio River. And the best part is, you don't have to worry about a thing. Our event specialists can take care of all the details to ensure your event goes smoothly - from the perfect hors d'oeuvre to special treats like adorable penguins your guests can pet. It all adds up to a unique, fun, fascinating and entertaining venue where your guests will walk away feeling special. Call (859) 815-1427 or visit [newportaquarium.com](http://newportaquarium.com) today for more information on the most spectacular venue in the region.



### Stroller Policy

Just a reminder that due to increased attendance during the summer season (now through Labor Day Weekend), strollers are welcome daily after 4:30 p.m. Child carrier backpacks are available free of charge. The backpack carriers can hold up to 35 lbs. and also have a small pouch to carry accessories or the contents of your diaper bag. These carriers have padded shoulder straps and a waist belt that helps distribute the weight.

Thank you for understanding and helping us create an experience that is world-class for all of our guests. For the complete Stroller Policy, please [click here](#) to visit the Guest Info page on our website.

**Special Thanks to our  
World Rivers  
Exhibit Sponsor**



## Passholders Only<sup>cont...</sup>

### Here's a Home Run for Passholders!

**Monday, July 27 at 7:10 p.m.**

We're always searching for ways to bring you additional benefits for being



Passholders. Now, the Cincinnati Reds have pitched in to help us show our appreciation for all of your support and set aside a special day to honor Passholders.

You can get 50 percent off Reds tickets on Newport Aquarium Passholder Day, watching the Reds throw the San Diego Padres to the sharks on Monday, July 27. Ticket prices start as low as \$7 each!

The game starts at 7:10 p.m. but the fun begins at 6 when the Shark Squad hits the stadium with games and prizes for kids. They'll even bring the Shark Cart so you can pet sharks until 8.

Newport Aquarium Passholders should look for a special e-mail arriving soon that will have a link and password to purchase their 50 percent off tickets.

Then follow the easy instructions to purchase your tickets and join the Cincinnati Reds and Newport Aquarium for a shark-filled day of great baseball!

\* Some restrictions and additional order fees may apply.

### Radio Disney Returns

Make plans now to attend three more great Radio Disney events at the Aquarium. The always-entertaining Radio Disney Road Crew will lead the games and sign guests up for great prizes. So mark your calendar for:



#### May 30: Princess Protection Program Party

The new Disney TV movie follows the adventures of a tomboy (Selena Gomez), whose life is turned upside down when her dad brings Princess Rosalinda (Demi Lovato) home to live with them. The first 100 kids at the Aquarium event will receive a free PPP mini-poster! Plus, register to win the national grand prize: a trip for four to the red carpet premiere in Toronto on June 18.

#### June 27: It's a Beach Party

Come dressed in your favorite Hawaiian Shirts and enjoy games, music and prizes as we celebrate the start of summer. Register for your chance to win Disney summer-time insulated picnic baskets, and the first 50 kids through the door will get a "Beach Kids Photo Magnet Craft Kit" to take home.

#### July 11: J.O.N.A.S. Party

Be there to register to win two tickets to the Jonas Brothers World Tour, coming to Rupp Arena (Lexington) on August 23. The first 50 kids through the door will receive a mini poster from "J.O.N.A.S.," the Jonas Brothers' new Disney Channel series.

**All Radio Disney events last from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Aquarium's Theater and are FREE with Aquarium admission.**

### Animal Care Update

*Note: This is the first column in a series from Dr. Peter Hill, Aquarium veterinarian, and Jolene Hanna, Aquarium animal health specialist.*

The Aquarium added nearly 30 new cockatiels into its avian collection, which will make their debut in the Rain Forest aviary during the month of June. The birds undergo a rigorous, 45-day quarantine at our offsite facility and are tested for viral and bacterial pathogens before they are cleared to enter the main Aquarium collection. All the birds passed with "flying" colors and will make their grand entrance shortly.



The male shark ray Scooter also provided the Veterinary Department with a bit of added work when he exhibited a hazy left eye earlier this month. To get a proper assessment of the eye, we donned scuba gear and dove the shark tank with Dive Safety Officer Ed Evans for further observation. Scooter was later moved to a portable exam pool and the problem was assessed: a minor corneal ulcer in the advanced stages of healing. Since there were no additional complications to worry about, Scooter was placed back into the main shark tank for display.

Special Thanks to  
our Sponsor

*Scuba Unlimited*

## Did you know...?

### Jellies

Marvel at these amazing creatures in the new Jellyfish Gallery, now open.



- There are about 2,000 different species of Jellyfish
- These animals aren't fish and aren't even made of jelly
- The body of the animal is approximately 90 percent water
- Jellyfish use the oceans' currents or their own pulsating motion as a way to move
- Different species have different lengths of tentacles that are covered with stinging cells, called nematocysts
- Nematocysts can be very harmful to humans but are used to capture prey such as plankton or small fish
- Jellyfish have several life stages including one that has the animal stuck to the bottom of the sea unable to move but using its tentacles to capture food and grow, similar to an anemone
- The life stage that you can see them at the aquarium, which they swim, is known as the medusa stage
- Jellies don't have brains, hearts or bones but still manage to glide through the ocean
- One unique species of jelly has been reported to live as long as 30 years

### Aquarium Adds Sunshine

Newport Aquarium - already the site of historic firsts in the study of rare and beautiful Shark Rays - earlier this spring introduced the first Shark Ray pup ever on display. Sunshine, as she has been affectionately named, is less than a year old, weighs about 25 pounds and comes from Penghu Island, off the coast of Taiwan. It's believed to be the same place from where Sweet Pea, the Aquarium's female Shark Ray and the first to be displayed in this hemisphere, came. Newport Aquarium continues to lead the scientific community in the study of Shark Rays. The Aquarium also initiated the first-ever Shark Ray breeding program in the world. By closely monitoring the growth of Sunshine, Newport Aquarium biologists believe they will be better prepared for any future Shark Ray pups that might be born at the aquarium. Sunshine will be on display in the 60-thousand gallon Coral Reef tank.



### Employee Honored

Jenny Greber, Volunteer Services Manager, was selected as the recipient of the 2008 Kentucky Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service in the Volunteer Director category. The Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service (KCCVS) coordinates the annual awards program. Her award was presented at the Governor's Mansion on May 8. The Aquarium is proud to have fine employees like Jenny who make the Aquarium a great place to work or visit. Congratulations to Jenny.



### Easy Being Green

*Note: This is the first column in a series from Aquarium Husbandry Director Chris Pierson about tips that every family can use to be more eco-friendly.*

These days, everyone seems to insist that you make "green" choices. These choices can be expensive, confusing and ultimately overwhelming. There seems to be no limit to what I have done and am doing "wrong," I don't even know where to start!

To begin with, don't blame yourself. We all have made the wrong choices, including those folks who speak out the most to defend the environment. My philosophy is to make small differences that each of us can easily do.

One of the easiest and broadest categories is energy conservation. Taking small steps here can make a huge difference. According to a recently published internet report, if all of the 10 million households in the U.S. replaced just one regular 60 watt bulb with a new energy saver compact fluorescent bulb (CFL), the U.S. would save enough energy to power the states of Rhode Island and Delaware.



You will save money in your utility bills as well. These bulbs may cost more than the old ones you are probably using now but they use 75 to 80 percent less electric than the old ones. That means on average these more expensive bulbs will pay for themselves in about 5 months of use and are likely to last at least 5 years.