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### Instructor Bios



**Diana Barber** is Assistant Professor of Biology at West Liberty University, where she teaches Zoo Mammalogy, Zoo Science, Zoo Animal Behavior, Zoo Education, and Field Biology. She earned her B.A. in Psychology at Dartmouth College and her Ph.D in Biology at

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

**Jill Sampson** is curator of Pittsburgh Zoo's International Conservation Center in Somerset, PA, where she oversees the animal programs, which include managing a breeding herd of African elephants. With over 30 years in the zoo field, Jill has worked with a variety of animal species and has extensive experience caring for elephants. She has participated in research projects studying elephants in human care as well as field research with wild elephants in Africa and Asia.



**Mary Beth Sills** is a Volunteer and Community Outreach Coordinator at The Wilds. A graduate of Bowling Green State University, she has over 20 years of education experience — 5 at The Wilds. She oversees all outreach programming including school trips, tabling events, festivals, etc., and

also manages adult and youth volunteer programs. Mary Beth serves on the Content Committee and mental health resource team, as well as on the culture committee team. Spanning over 10,000 acres in southeast Ohio, The Wilds is one of the largest conservation centers in the world. Threatened and endangered species roam open pastures with endless vistas and provide an ideal setting to study ecological recovery and restoration.

For more info about the People's Univ. *Large Mammals* please email the library at [lunchwithbooks@yahoo.com](mailto:lunchwithbooks@yahoo.com), or call us at 304-232-0244.

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## Zoology - Summer 2025



## Ohio County Public Library

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# The People's University

## ZOOLOGY

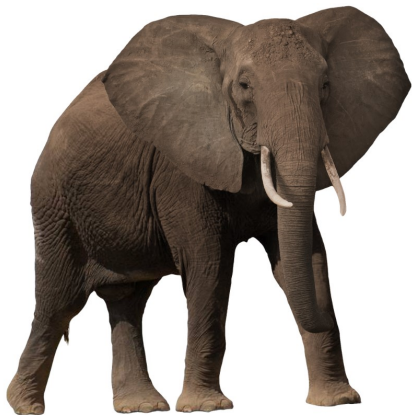
### LARGE MAMMALS

They are among the largest animals on planet Earth. Some stand eighteen feet tall! Others have horns up to 5 feet in length! Some weigh more than a car and others can run as fast as one! These are the big mammals, and with the guidance of experts from the Pittsburgh Zoo and local colleges, you can take a deep dive into their incredible lives: from how they evolved, to their biology, behavior, ecology, and intelligence. And then you may join us for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes excursion to the Pittsburgh Zoo!

Thursdays at 7 PM in the Harold E. Vitalie Auditorium ~ Full Schedule:

#### July 31, 2025: Herbivores Part 1 -

##### Elephants



An overview of the largest land mammal on the planet, the African Elephant, including their evolution, biology, intelligence and behavioral psychology, plus ecosystem and status of endangerment in the wild.

**Instructor:** Jill Sampson, Curator, Pittsburgh Zoo's International Conservation Center

#### Aug. 7, 2025: Herbivores Part 2: Giraffes, Hippos, and Rhinos

The big plant eating land mammals are among the most diverse and unusual creatures on the planet: from the giraffe that can reach heights of 18 feet, hippos that can weigh as much as an auto-



mobile, and rhinos with horns up to 5 feet in length.

**Instructor:** Mary Beth Sills, Community Outreach Coordinator, The Wilds



**Aug. 14, 2025: Carnivores - Bears, Wolves, and Big Cats** Lions, Tigers, & Bears, Oh My! Everybody knows these iconic charismatic predators. Or do they? Learn the truth behind the legends. Understand the threats they face and how you can help protect them for future generations.

**Instructor:** Diana Barber, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Zoo Science, West Lib. Univ.

#### Aug. 21, 2025: Primates - The Great Apes

These Apes Are Great! They kind of look like us, sometimes they even act like us. But they are definitely not humans. Explore the connections and differences between humans and our closest relatives.



**Instructor:** Diana Barber



#### Aug. 28, 2025 Pittsburgh ZOO Field Trip!

Join us at the Pittsburgh Zoo to experience "Animal Encounters," including a meeting with a primate keeper and special feedings. Go behind the scenes

and learn about the personalities that make these animals unique, see how they live, and how zoo staff cares for them.

**Note:** There is no admission charge, but you must **RSVP** for this activity (only 20 can go), and you must provide your own transportation to and from the Zoo. Call 304-232-0244 or send an email to [lunchwithbooks@yahoo.com](mailto:lunchwithbooks@yahoo.com) to register. To be fair, only those who attend all 4 of our regular classes will be eligible for this capstone event.