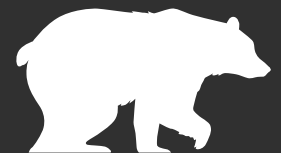




# BEAR TAG

AZA MID-YEAR  
Oklahoma City, 2023



## Officers

Chair: Travis Vineyard [2023], Cleveland Metroparks Zoo, [tgvc@cleavelandmetroparks.com](mailto:tgvc@cleavelandmetroparks.com)

Vice Chair: Gary Lunsford [2023], Milwaukee Zoo, [gary.lunsford@newbedford-ma.gov](mailto:gary.lunsford@newbedford-ma.gov)

Immediate Past Chair: Rebecca Snyder, Ph.D., Oklahoma City Zoo, [rsnyder@okczoo.org](mailto:rsnyder@okczoo.org)

Secretary: VACANT

Treasurer: Liz Larsen, Utah's Hogle Zoo, [llarsen@hoglezoo.org](mailto:llarsen@hoglezoo.org)

## Steering Committee

Angela Gibson [2024], Oakland Zoo, [agibson@oaklandzoo.org](mailto:agibson@oaklandzoo.org)

Rachel Sides [2024], Oklahoma City Zoo, [rsides@okczoo.org](mailto:rsides@okczoo.org)

John Ward [2024], Fort Worth Zoo, [jward@fortworthzoo.org](mailto:jward@fortworthzoo.org)

Betsie Meister [2024], Detroit Zoological Society, [emeister@dzs.org](mailto:emeister@dzs.org)

Amanda Makkay [2025], Zoo Miami, [amanda.makkay@miamidade.gov](mailto:amanda.makkay@miamidade.gov)

Joel Locke [2025], Great Plains Zoo and Delbridge Museum of Natural History, [jlocke@gpzoo.org](mailto:jlocke@gpzoo.org)

Eric Albers [2025], Akron Zoo, [eralbers@akronzoo.org](mailto:eralbers@akronzoo.org)

Heather Baker Roberts [2025], Zoo Atlanta, [hroberts@zooatlanta.org](mailto:hroberts@zooatlanta.org)

Anne Nichols [2023 - nv], Brookfield Zoo, [Anne.Nichols@CZS.org](mailto:Anne.Nichols@CZS.org)

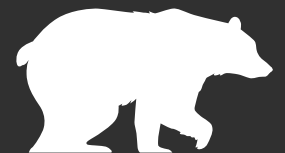
Erin Curry [2023 - nv], Cincinnati Zoo, [erin.curry@cincinnati-zoo.org](mailto:erin.curry@cincinnati-zoo.org)

Christine Anne [2023 - nv], Woodland Park Zoo, [christine.anne@zoo.org](mailto:christine.anne@zoo.org)



# NEW Species Designations

Species	PREVIOUS SSP Designation	Genetics	Demography	Space & Interest	Husbandry	NEW Designation
Sloth Bear	Red	+	-	+	Neutral	Provisional
Andean Bear	Red	+	-	+	Neutral	Provisional
Polar Bear	Yellow	+	-	Neutral	-	Studbook
Giant Panda	Green	Externally Managed	Externally Managed	Externally Managed	Externally Managed	TAG Monitored





# Brown Bear

65.62  
in  
43 Institutions

Gail Karr  
[gkarr@memphis  
zoo.org](mailto:gkarr@memphiszoo.org)

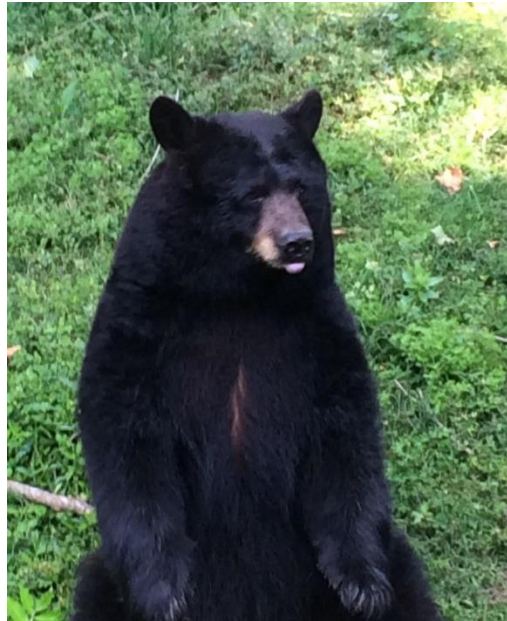
American black bear  
*Ursus americanus*



# Current Holdings

AZA 45.57 in 47 institutions

United States, non-AZA 44.49 in 33 institutions



## 2022 Changes

- 0.3.0 placed
- 1.0.0 death
- Currently 3 institutions looking to add/replace
- 1 institution original Black bear habitat design changed to Andean bear

# Thank you

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**For placement wants, needs or  
changes in existing holding  
please contact:**

**Ann Meyer**

**[ameyer@auduboninstitute.org](mailto:ameyer@auduboninstitute.org)**

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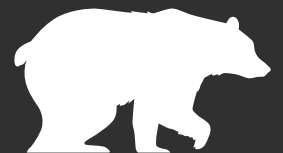
# Zoo Park Partnerships

Julie Anton Randall

[jantonrandall@wildlifeandparks.org](mailto:jantonrandall@wildlifeandparks.org)

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

"I Am Bear Safe" Project





# Polar Bear

23.26  
in  
19 Institutions

Allison Jungheim  
[allison.jungheim@  
ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:allison.jungheim@ci.stpaul.mn.us)



# Sloth Bear

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15.17  
in  
14 Institutions

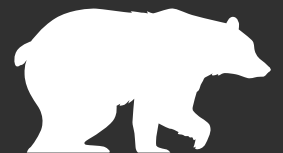
---

Debbie Thompson  
[dthompson@littlerock.  
gov](mailto:dthompson@littlerock.gov)

# Sloth Bear SAFE

Wednesday  
9:30 – 11:30

Jared Bixby  
[bixby@cityofmhk.com](mailto:bixby@cityofmhk.com)



# Andean Bear

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16.11.2  
in  
16 Institutions

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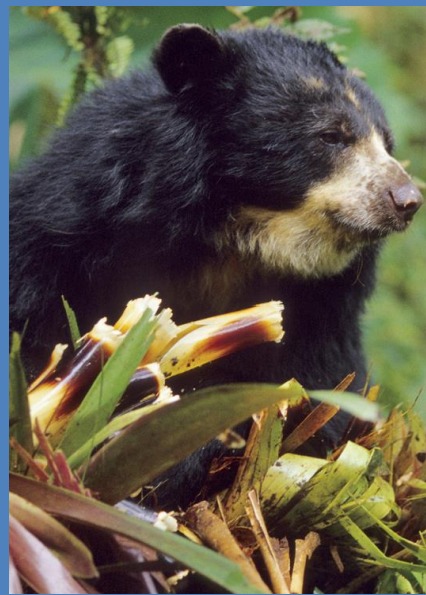
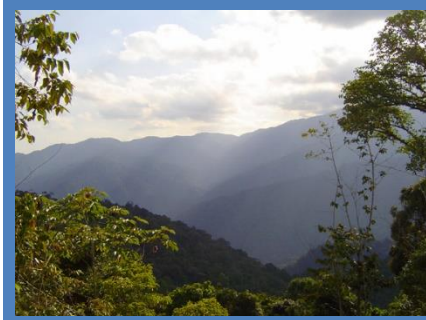
Sara Colandrea  
colandreas@si.edu



# Andean Bear SAFE

## CURRENT ZOO PARTNERS

- Queens Zoo/WCS
- Saint Louis Zoo
- Nashville Zoo
- Smithsonian National Zoo
- Salisbury Zoo
- San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Greensboro Science Center
- Cali Zoo
- Reid Park Zoo



**Andean Bear SAFE**  
2023-2025  
Program Plan



For more information about  
becoming an Andean Bear SAFE  
Program Partner please contact:

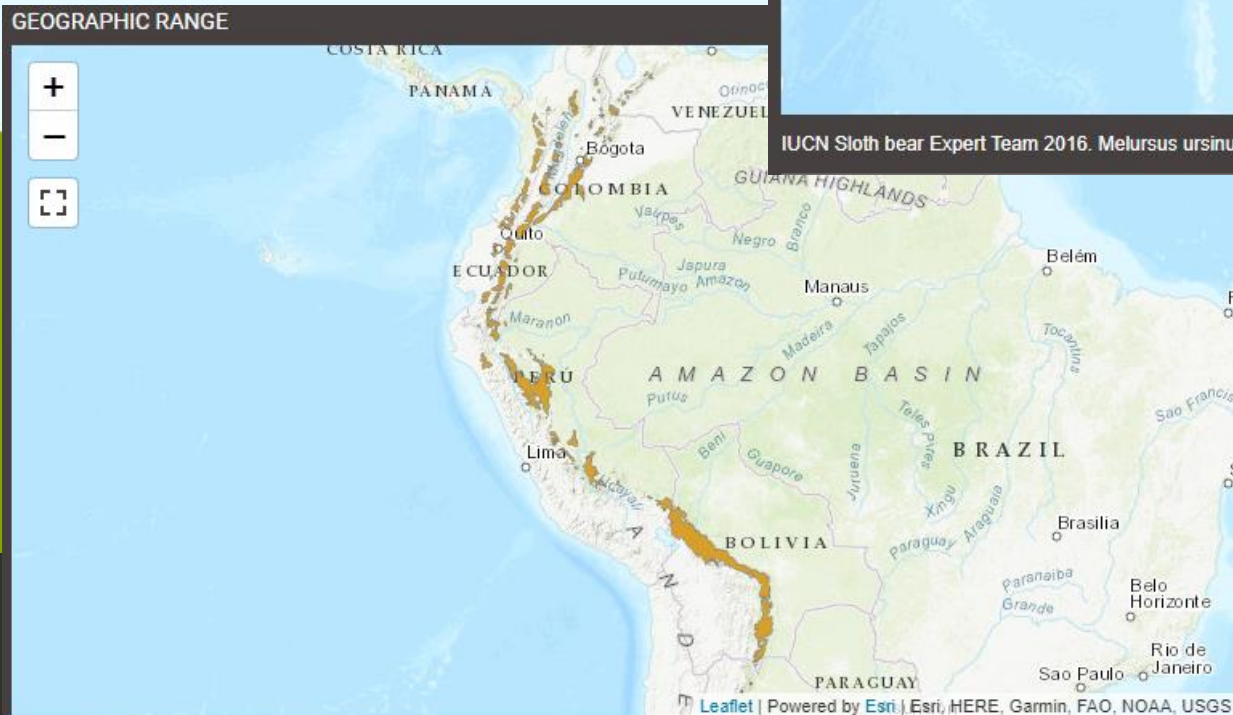
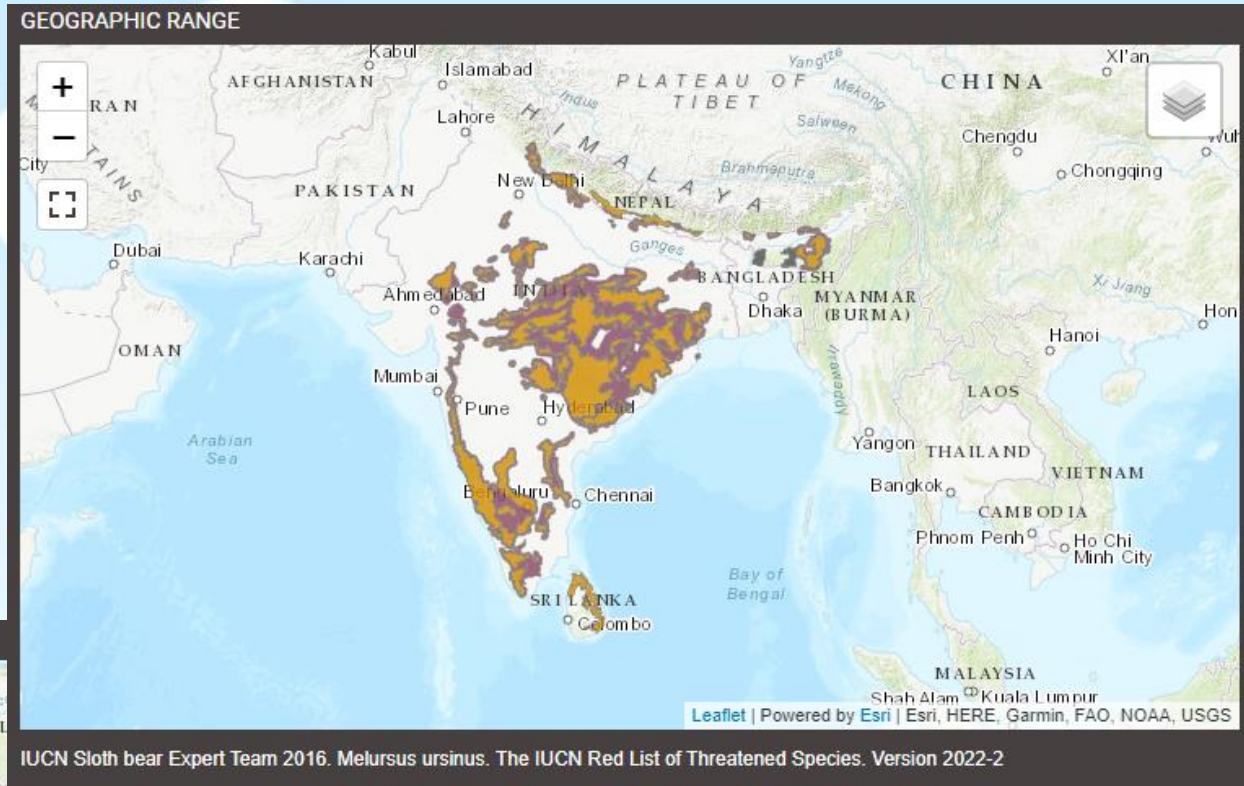
Kym Gopp  
[kag@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:kag@clevelandmetroparks.com)



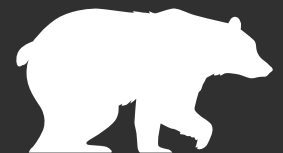
SAFE Program Plan submitted to AZA  
Planning for virtual meeting in May



# SAFE Programming – IUCN Links



IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) 2017. *Tremarctos ornatus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2022-2



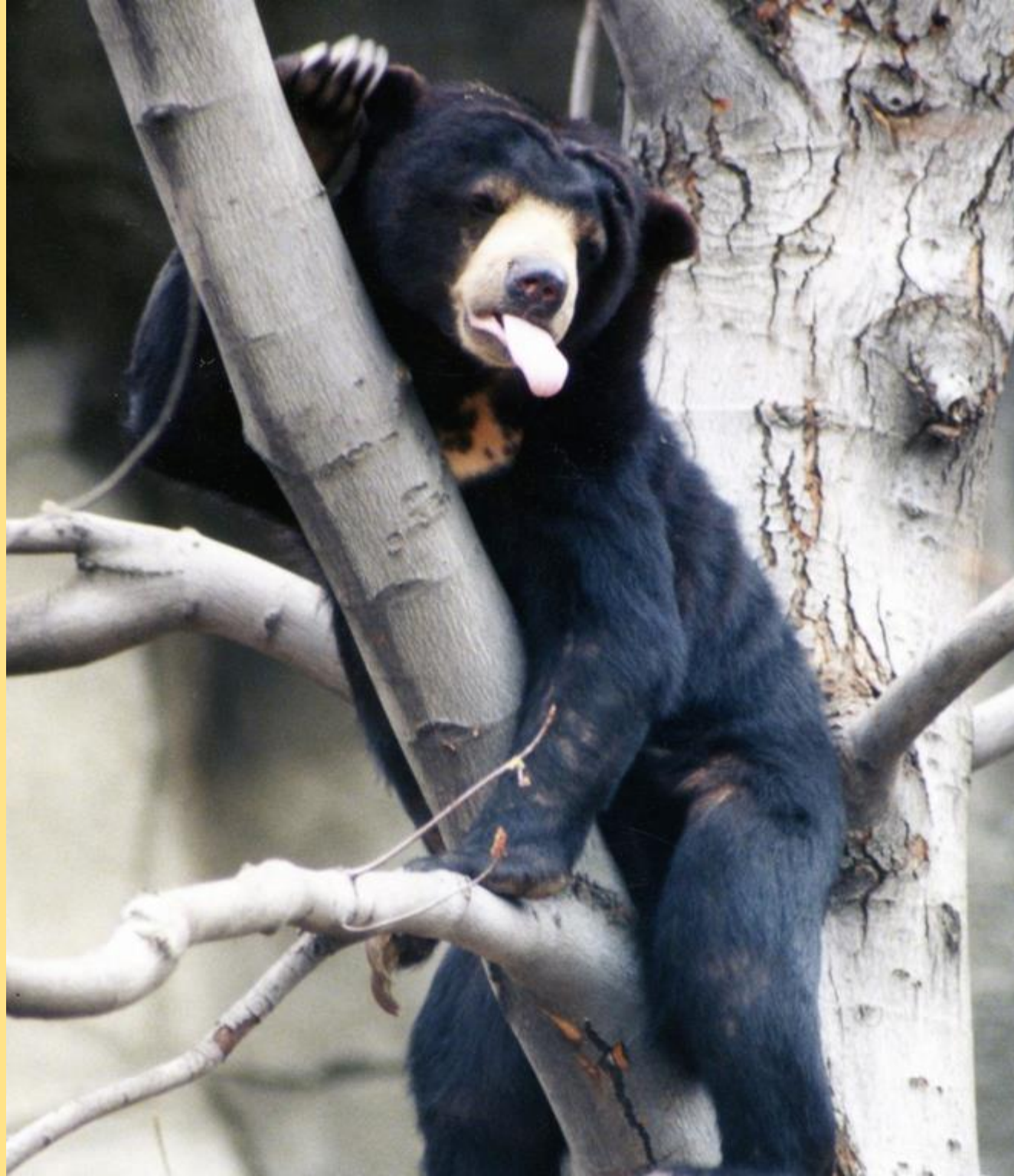
# Sun Bear

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7.7  
in  
11 Institutions

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Mindy Babitz  
[babitzm@si.edu](mailto:babitzm@si.edu)





## Research Prospectus:

Priority topics for *ex situ*  
sun bear conservation research

*Edition: May 2020*

- Call for zoos to get involved in ex-situ sun bear research
- Contact Mindy Babitz [babitzm@si.edu](mailto:babitzm@si.edu) for more info!

[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0015/8135/0959/files/Ex Situ Sun Bear Conservation Research Prospectus May2020.pdf?v=1590975412](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0015/8135/0959/files/Ex_Situ_Sun_Bear_Conservation_Research_Prospectus_May2020.pdf?v=1590975412)





# Asiatic Black Bear

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5.4  
in  
5 Institutions

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Travis Vineyard  
[tgv@clevelandmetroparks.com](mailto:tgv@clevelandmetroparks.com)



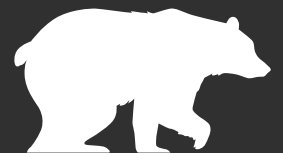
# Giant Panda

3.5  
in  
3 Institutions

Ronald Swaisgood  
[rsweisgood@sandiegozoo.org](mailto:rsweisgood@sandiegozoo.org)



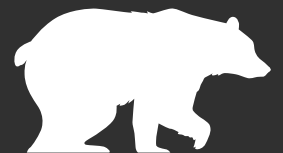
**Treasurer's Report**





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**BEAR**  
TAXON ADVISORY GROUP





First campaign raised \$428.00!

<https://www.bonfire.com/bear-taxon-advisory-group/>





# BEARID PROJECT

## Images & Information from Bears Under Human Care Supporting Conservation of Wild Bears

### Objectives -

- Automated identification of individual bears; for as many bear species as possible
- Automated discrimination of Male vs Female
- Discrimination of different age classes
- Quantitative & objective estimation of bear size, mass, & body condition

### Next steps –

Contact us or share our contact information: [info@bearid.org](mailto:info@bearid.org)

Follow us: <https://bearresearch.org> and Twitter @bearid\_project

Ethical oversight (SDZWA IACUC): approval by ~15 May 2023

Recruitment of ex situ contributors and collaborators: May - Dec 2023

Recruitment of in situ researchers: May - Dec 2023

Collection of images for individual ID, differentiation of M vs F, and  
age estimation: May - Dec 2023

Collection of images for estimation of body size, mass, and body condition: May 2023–Dec 2024



# Bear TAG Education Team!

Lisa Lidgus  
Bear TAG Education Advisor  
Saint Louis Zoo  
[lidgus@stlzoo.org](mailto:lidgus@stlzoo.org)

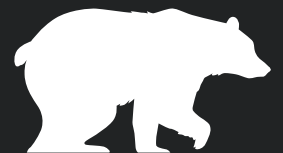


Emily Bisordi  
Bear TAG Education Specialist  
Capron Park Zoo  
[emilyabisordi@gmail.com](mailto:emilyabisordi@gmail.com)



# Website Update

- The website up and running!
- Again, HUGE thanks to Angela and Christine for their hard work.
- Thanks as well to everyone who provided photos!
- It has been a journey so I really appreciate everyone's patience and support!



# www.beartag.org



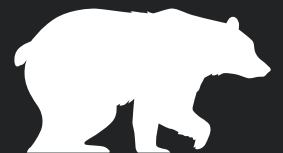
## BEAR TAXON ADVISORY GROUP (TAG)

Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA)

[Who We Are](#)[Conservation](#)[Resources](#)[Events](#)[Contact Us](#)

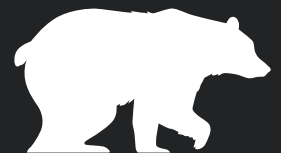
## 2023 Goals

- Messaging – Lisa will be reaching out to “SSP” Coordinators in the next few months to co-develop priority messaging for each species that can be used as a resource for Education and Exhibits Departments.
- Toolkits – Second half of 2023 will be developing toolkits for Bear Awareness Week (to be available for BAW 2024).



## 2023 Goals

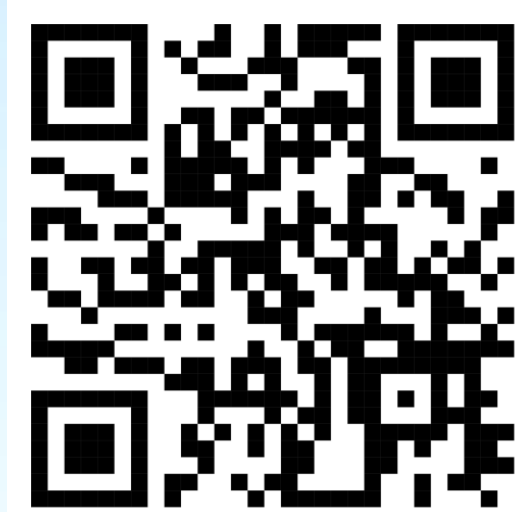
- **Podcast** – The education team is looking to produce a Bear TAG podcast that would be shared on Spotify/Apple Podcasts
  - First season would consist of 6 episodes looking into what the TAG is, why it's important, and the TAG's efforts in animal welfare, conservation, and education
- **Social Media** – We're looking to start Facebook and Instagram accounts for the TAG to use as a tool to share educate about the TAG's work and form more personal connections with the public
  - If you or your team have any Bear pictures, please send them to Emily with the bear's name, facility information, and photo credit



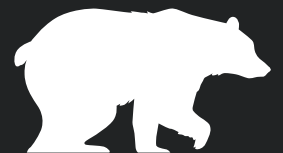
## QR Codes



Scan this to read  
more about the  
podcast proposal!



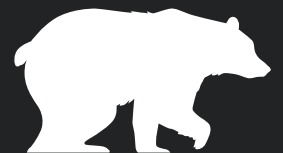
Scan this to fill out  
an interest form  
about the podcast!



Thank You!

Please don't hesitate to reach out!

**[lidgus@stlzoo.org](mailto:lidgus@stlzoo.org)**  
**[emilyabisordi@gmail.com](mailto:emilyabisordi@gmail.com)**



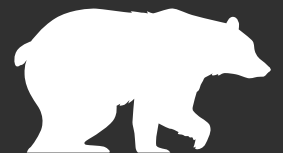
# 2023 Bear TAG Husbandry Course

Hosted By: Detroit Zoological Gardens

October 9-13, 2023

Link for applications for the course will be provided starting at **12pm EST on May 15<sup>th</sup>** and will be open for 24hrs.

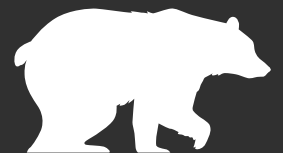
30 Students



**2023 Projects**  
**Regional Collection Plan**

**North American Black Bear and  
Brown Bear ACM**

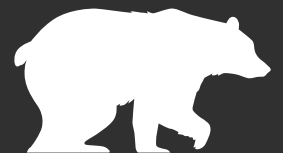
**Engagement with Education Strategic Plan**



# Trivia

For how many bear species does the scientific name mean the same as the common name; and name it / them?

Dave Garshelis -  
dgarshelis.bsg@gmail.com



# Business Meeting

## Fundraising

Treasury; scholarships to workshop, support travel  
with demonstrated need, Donations to SAFE programs  
(\$2000 each)

Ed Advisor Strategic Plan; Social Media upstart  
+ Podcast; email use

RCP / space survey

Sloth Bear Vice Chair

Tropical Bear Veterinary Advisor

Secretary

