ON THE COVER
African Lion

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THIS ISSUE

2
SOCIETY’S MESSAGES

3
ADMINISTRATORS MESSAGE

4
A CAREER IN REVIEW

5-6
ANIMAL UPDATES

7-8
DONOR THANK YOU

9-10
CALENDAR OF EVENTS
In this issue of Zoo & You, we say goodbye to Susan Basford, Reid Park Zoo Administrator. She will retire this April.

The Zoo thrived under Susan’s 20+ years of leadership, resulting in dramatic improvements to habitats, education mission, and animal welfare. We also honor her for her role in helping to build Reid Park Zoological Society into the strong supporting organization it is today. It’s hard to imagine the Zoo without Susan, and we wish her the best of luck with her next adventure.

In this issue of Zoo and You we are celebrating the contributions that Zoo Administrator Susan Basford has made to Reid Park Zoo in her 22 years of service. One of those accomplishments is her role in helping the Zoological Society to grow and become an instrumental way for the community to support Reid Park Zoo.

Susan Basford recognized that in order for Reid Park Zoo to be able to be its best, the Zoo needed additional support – financial, volunteer and advocacy – from the community and she called on the society to help.

When Susan started as Education Curator in 1991, the Zoological Society had just hired its first Executive Director. In 1998 the Society sponsored the first zoo keeper apprentice and in 1999 supported a part time Education Specialist.

Since that time the Society has expanded, funding four full time education positions, three apprentice positions and a portion of the veterinary services. With Susan’s support, the Zoological Society has also raised over 7 million dollars for the Capital Campaign for Expedition Tanzania and the Conservation Learning Center, expanded the rental business for weddings and corporate events, and has begun managing the cashier services for the front gate. The Zoological Society now contributes over $600,000 annually in general support for the Zoo in addition to funding major capital projects.

Thank you, Susan, for the contributions you made to Reid Park Zoo and Reid Park Zoological Society. Tucson has a valuable treasure thanks to your leadership.
This “Message” is a hard one for me to write – my last before retiring. When I arrived for work the first day in 1991, I would never have imagined that I would still be here 22 years later. The time has gone by quickly, and I’m finding it hard to believe it is time to move on to new adventures.

The Zoo is a different place than it was in 1991 – so many good things have happened…and some bad as well. We are bigger, and more importantly, better, than we were. South America, Zoo entry, gift shop and restaurant improvements, Kenya Get Wet, the Giraffe Encounter, the Brown Family Conservation Learning Center, and most recently – Expedition Tanzania – all improvements over the past several years. Much of the staff has changed as well – several different City retirement incentives have enticed away long-time staff members, all of whom made remarkable contributions to the betterment of the Zoo. Wonderful new staff members have come on board and are making impacts of their own as we continue to move forward.

This year we broke an attendance record with over 600,000 guests visiting. In 1991, we had 400,500 – and that was a record-breaking year for us. Attendance is based on so many things…weather being the most unpredictable, but new exhibits, animals, staff/animal demonstrations and education programs all contribute to a great year. We love having repeat visitors who notice even the smallest changes, and we love first-time guests who are just being introduced to the Reid Park Zoo.

As I consider my next steps, I have so many people to thank, so many who have made working here interesting and fun – our fabulous staff here at the Zoo - the curators and supervisors, the keepers and groundkeepers who labor in all kinds of weather to keep the animals and grounds in tip-top shape, the educators who provide such incredible programs for our guests, and the volunteers and docents who contribute so much time and effort. The City of Tucson, Parks and Recreation Director, and Deputy Director have been amazingly supportive of the Zoo…no matter who was filling those roles! The Reid Park Zoological Society has grown and improved just as the Zoo has – an outstanding staff and a remarkable group of people have rotated on and off the Board of Directors during the past 22 years, each offering something special to help strengthen the Zoo. I wish I could thank everyone by name, but it would take page after page of text…as I would have to include all of you… the members who visit often, support the Zoo, and care so much about the animals and the staff.

The City of Tucson has begun the search for a new Zoo Administrator. As we look nationwide for a replacement who has significant leadership skills and expertise in animal management, Zoo administrative staff is ready and able to keep the Zoo moving forward and will continue to provide world-class animal care and guest experiences. A new Zoo Administrator means the beginning of a new era at your Zoo, and we can’t wait to see what new ideas and exciting changes are on the horizon.

It’s definitely an exciting time to be a part of Reid Park Zoo!
Susie Badford, Zoo Administrator

Inspecting Expedition Tanzania

Jane Goodall visits Reid Park Zoo

Working with Jack Hanna to promote conservation and the educational importance of zoos

Taking the stage with Janet Napolitano to open our LEED Platinum Conservation Learning Center

Rebecca was in Susan’s first Teen Volunteer training class when Susan started as the Zoo’s Education Coordinator. Now, Rebecca is a full time Zoo Keeper.

Special events, like Howl-o-ween, to have fun with the community
NEW ATTENDANCE RECORD!
The lions are roaring and the elephants are trumpeting; Reid Park Zoo saw more than 600,000 visitors in 2012! We’re very excited for what 2013 has in store and hope you’ll visit us soon to make this year even bigger!

A giraffe’s neck is long enough to reach a high treetop, yet it is too short to reach the ground so giraffes like Jasiri have to make adjustments to reach the water to get a drink in this pool. The Zoo staff also provide drinking stations for the giraffes that do not require stooping.

Reid Park Zoo’s male elephant Mabu must be a sports fan! Our resident pachyderm made his Super Bowl predictions and chose the Baltimore Ravens to win over the San Francisco 49ers. And guess what – the Ravens won! Maybe we should start looking to him for other psychic jobs like lottery number picks and palm reading...

The next time you’re in the South American aviary, look UP! If you look closely, you can see not one but TWO new Boat-billed Heron chicks! This bird species, native from Mexico to Brazil, is expected to lose more than 18% of its natural habitat in the next twenty years.

ANIMAL UPDATES
With the New Year comes New Year Resolutions and you aren’t the only one planning to make sure you’re as healthy as can be. Many of the Zoo’s animal residents got visits from the doctor recently and all passed with a clean bill of health. Even “Herbie,” the Zoo’s male Aldabra tortoise, got a look-over by Dr. James Jarchow DVM.

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Zoo staff made sure the animals knew how much they were loved this Valentine’s Day at the annual I Love Zoo event. Many animals, including the otters, jaguars, and bears, received special love-themed enrichment items on this day. You can see our Valentine’s Day “gifts” were very well received: here Punga doesn’t want to share his special treats with his younger brother. Sounds like many siblings we know...

Despite weighing in at almost 50lbs, Zola the baby giant anteater can still be seen riding mom’s back in their South American exhibit. Anteaters ride piggy-back until up they are up to half of mom’s weight and at the rate Zola’s going, that might not be much longer!

No one really thinks of “snow” when they think of the desert, but Tucson residents got a surprise winter snowstorm in February. While the community was scraping ice off cars and hoping pipes wouldn’t freeze, Reid Park Zoo animals seemed to have a blast playing in the icy white flakes, however quickly they melted.
A big thanks to the following contributors who made gifts from September 2012 - January 2013.

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Please visit us online at www.tucsonzoo.org for more information or to register for these programs. If you do not have internet access, please call the Education Department at 837-8200. All programs require advance registration unless otherwise noted.

**PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS**

**I DO AT THE ZOO WEDDING FAIR**  
**SUN, APR. 7, 2013**  
**4:30 PM - 7:00 PM**  
**FREE!**  
The Reid Park Zoological Society invites you to the 2013 I Do at the Zoo wedding fair. Visit with some of Tucson’s premier wedding professionals in one of the most lush and unique settings in Tucson. Guests will have the chance to sample cuisine from Taste of the Wild Catering, experience up close animal encounters, and have the opportunity to win fabulous door prizes.

**PHOTO SAFARI**  
**SAT, APR 13, 2013**  
**8:30 AM - 10:30 AM**  
**$30/member**  
**$35/non-member**  
Do you love photography and wildlife? Join photographer Fred Hood at Reid Park Zoo for close encounters of the animal kind! Zoo staff will make special arrangements for unique photo opportunities. Please bring your own digital camera for this program and we’ll provide the rest. accompanied by a registered adult. This program will fill fast, so register now at www.tucsonzoo.org.

**CONSERVATION LECTURE SERIES**  
**Wildlife SOS India**  
**SUN, MAY 5, 2013**  
**3:30 PM - 5:00 PM**  
**$3/member**  
**$10/non-member**  
Learn how conservation group Wildlife SOS actively works toward protecting Indian wildlife, conserving habitat, studying biodiversity, conducting research and creating alternative and sustainable livelihoods for poacher communities as well as reducing our carbon footprint.

**MEMBER MEETING**  
**WED, MAY 29, 2013**  
**5:30 PM**  
Free (Members Only)  
Make the most of your membership and attend Reid Park Zoological Society’s Annual Member Meeting, featuring year-in-review, information on upcoming events, and discussions with key Zoo and Society staff.

**PROGRAMS FOR KIDS**

**LITTLE CRITTERS PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOLERS**  
**S10/member child**  
**S16/non-member child**  
**S8/additional child**  
Bring your little one for an adventure to remember! Each one-hour session has a different theme and includes a walk through the Zoo, story, craft or other activity, and a live animal encounter. At least one adult chaperone is required for this program, but adults do not need to register as participants.

- **Crazy Cats**  
  **WED, APR. 3, 2013**  
  **9 AM - 10 AM**  
  **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

- **Feathers & Fur**  
  **SAT, APR. 20, 2013**  
  **9 AM - 10 AM**  
  **10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

**ZOO CAPER SUMMER CAMPS**  
**$190/member**  
**$210/non-member**  
Zoo Caper camp for Young Explorers is back and better than ever for 2013! Get set for 5 days of fun in the Zoo! We’ll play games, make art projects, cool off in the pool, and venture behind the scenes; all while learning about how the Zoo takes care of its animal residents and helps animals in the wild. All camps run Monday through Friday from 9AM to 4PM. Price is per camp session. Optional extended care is available for an additional cost. Details and overflow dates, if available, will be listed online.

Registration for camp is now available at www.tucsonzoo.org. These camps will fill quickly!

- **For kids entering grades 1 & 2**  
  **JUNE 3-7, 17-21, 24-28 / / JULY 8-12, 15-19, 22-26**

- **For kids entering grades 3 & 4**  
  **JUNE 3-7, 10-14, 17-21, 24-28 / / JULY 8-12**

- **For kids entering grades 5 & 6**  
  **JUNE 10-14 / / JULY 5-19, 22-26**
BIKE TO THE ZOO AND EARTH DAY
SUN, APR. 21, 2013 / 9:00AM - 4:00PM
Free Zoo admission to cyclists who show their helmets at the gate
Pedal your way to the Zoo today and show your bicycle helmet at the front gate for one free admission. Zoo staff and volunteers will be on hand with a variety of crafts, activities, and games in the morning to help celebrate fun ways to help protect our environment.

FAMILY OVERNIGHT SAFARI
SAT, MAY 11 – SUN, MAY 12, 2013
6:00 PM - 8:00 AM
$50/person ages 4+
(this event is not recommended for children under 4)
$10 discount/person named on a current membership
Pack up a tent, some sleeping bags, and some toothbrushes and bring your family to the Zoo for a night they’ll never forget! Starting at 6:00pm, families can set up camp and picnic as the sun sets. After dark we’ll embark on adventures that include a flashlight tour, scavenger hunt, and live animal encounter.

MOTHER’S DAY BRUNCH
SUN, MAY 13, 2013
Make your Mom feel like a “Queen” at this year’s Mother’s Day festivities. Enjoy activities with your children, watch our animal moms get special treats and join us for a Taste of the Wild brunch on our deck overlooking the Zoo. Activities are free with admission (Moms free with paid child’s admission); brunch is an additional fee and reservations are required due to limited seating.

EASTER EGG HUNTS
$5/member adults
$7/non-member adults
$8/children under 12
Bring the whole family to the Zoo for an Easter Egg Hunt on one of three days this year! Live animal encounters, crafts and even a visit from the Easter Bunny are included in this program. All children between 2-14 must register for this program, and must be accompanied by a registered adult. Children under 2 (and not hunting for Easter eggs) may attend at no charge. This program will fill fast, so register now at www.tucsonzoo.org.

BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR
SAT, APR 6, 2013
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM
$10/member
$15/non-member
Behind-the-scenes peeks await you at the Zoo—bring the family (ages 5 and up, please!) to learn more about what we’re doing for animals at the Zoo and in the wild, too!

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For more information, call 520.881.4753 or visit www.TucsonZoo.org
For vendor information, call Karen at 520.235.1687