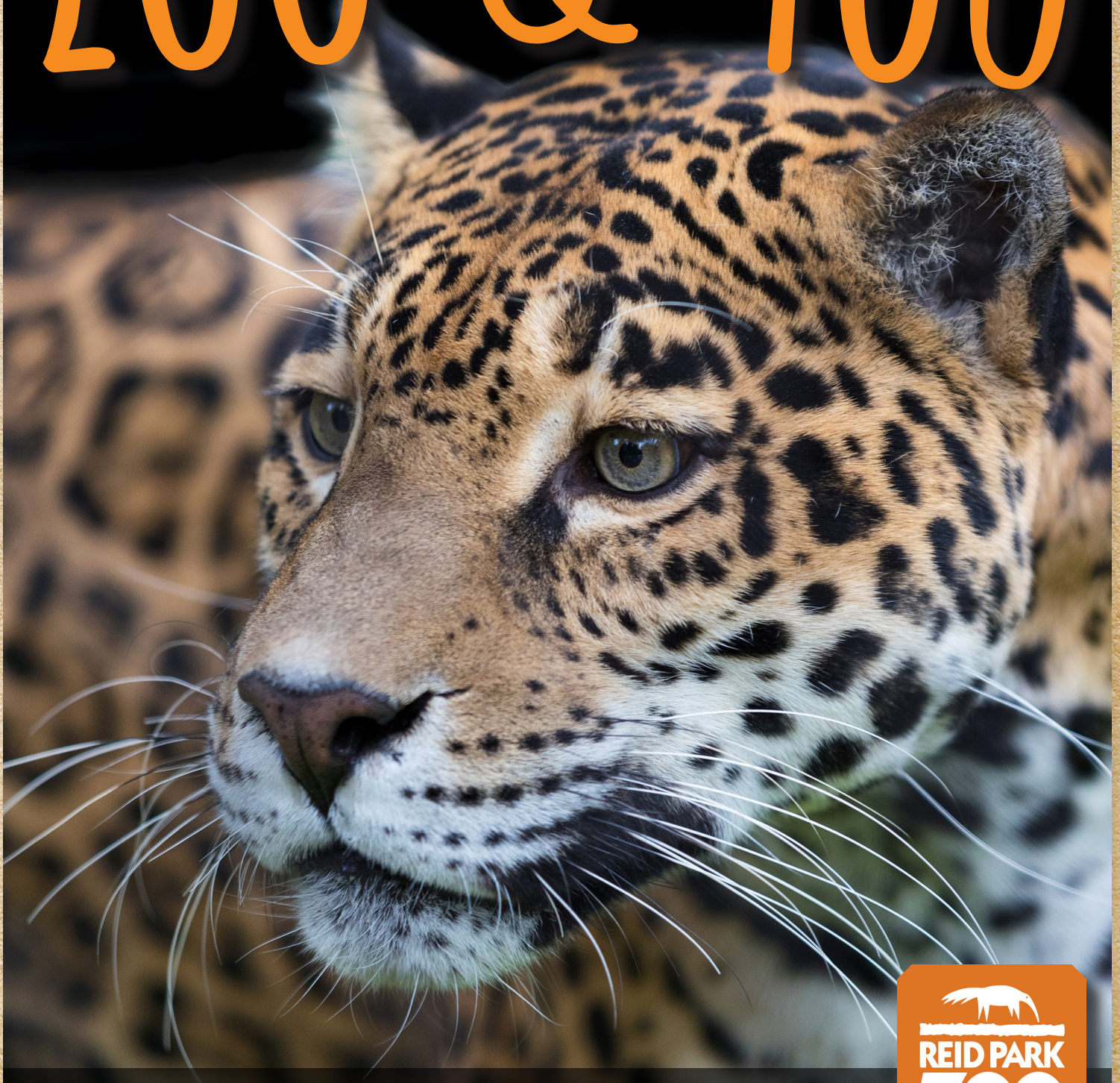


ZOO & YOU



Winter 2020 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society





ZooFriendZ is a **very special circle** of people who are invested in the future of Tucson's Reid Park Zoo by donating \$500 or more annually.

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For more information, contact Gail Brown at gail@reidparkzoo.org or (520) 881-4753.

Reid Park Zoological Society

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1030 S Randolph Way
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ZOO HOURS:

October-May 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June-September 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.



SEMBA PREGNANCY UPDATE: SNACKS, CALVES, AND WEIGH INS

Semba, the African elephant, is nearing the end of her pregnancy. At this point the calf is fully developed, but not tall enough to nurse. The last few months of the pregnancy are dedicated to growing bigger and getting ready to face the world!

Semba is assisting her unborn calf by eating well! She is weighed often and the diet offered to her is reviewed weekly at this point in her pregnancy. While the baby needs to continue growing, Semba should not gain too much weight or the delivery can be difficult — it is a delicate balance.

To that end, Nandi, Semba's 5-year-old calf is becoming a little more careful around food and her mom. In years past Nandi could grab luscious branches from Semba's mouth and

**Elephant
pregnancies last
22-24 months!**

eat them — that behavior is no longer tolerated. Nandi is learning to spend more time playing with the rest of the herd, which will be helpful when Semba has a new calf underfoot!



THE ZOO BY YOU

Here's a look at the Zoo through your eyes! Tag us on social media to enter your own photos for the next issue of Zoo & You!



VET CHECK



PAWSITIVE CHECK UP

Just like people, elderly animals experience arthritis. Sita, one of our 18 year-old Malayan tigers, has arthritis in her elbows. The vet team has given her steroid injections to help ease the aches and pains. The treatment has helped Sita gain a new pounce on life!

DID YOU KNOW?

Tigers, like all cats, have

30 teeth!



A LITTLE CHANGE GOES A LONG WAY!

Through the **Quarters for Conservation** kiosk, guests can join efforts to protect wild animals and wild places without leaving town. When you purchase a 25 cent token at the ticket window, you can use it to cast your vote for your favorite among three field conservation projects that Reid Park Zoo supports. These include assisting wild elephants in Africa, giant anteaters in Brazil or Baird's tapirs in South America. Funds collected through Quarters for Conservation are combined with other Zoo conservation initiatives to fund these and other field conservation programs. Stop by and cast your vote today.



CONSERVATION

IT IS EASY BEING GREEN

We can help protect the Andean highland flamingo species by doing our part to protect their unique habitat. The best way to protect flamingos is to only purchase new electronics when we really need to. While the batteries in our phones and other electronics can be recycled, not all of the battery's components, such as the lithium, are currently being recycled.

PROTECTING OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

Picture a desert in your mind. What did you see? Often, the word “desert” conjures images of vast stretches of sand dunes or towering cacti — not flamingos, which can be found in one of the driest places on Earth: The Atacama Desert. This arid region in South America is home to many high-altitude salt flats, including the Salar de Atacama in northern Chile, which sits at 7,000 feet above sea level and, at 1,200 square miles, is the 3rd largest salt flat in the world. This salt flat provides important feeding and nesting grounds for 3 species of flamingos, the Chilean, Andean, and James's flamingos. But small crustaceans — a favorite flamingo dish — are not the only resource found in the Salar de Atacama; it is also a major source of lithium, accounting for nearly 40% of lithium production worldwide. Batteries for smart phones, computers, and electric cars all contain lithium, but current mining practices for the metal threaten flamingo habitat.

Reid Park Zoo has partnered with the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group (ZCOG) to lead the **Andean Highland Flamingo SAFE program**. The SAFE

program (Saving Animals From Extinction) was established in 2015 by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) with the goal “to combine the power of zoo and aquarium visitors with the resources and collective expertise of AZA members and partners to save animals from extinction” (AZA SAFE 2018 annual report). AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums use SAFE programs to combine strategic conservation in the wild and public engagement to help save some of the world's most vulnerable species. Little is known about the ecology of the Andean highland flamingos, so the first step in protecting them is to learn more about their population health and migration patterns using solar GPS satellite transmitters. The information gathered from the flamingos fitted with the transmitters will be used to develop conservation and recovery plans for the three Andean highland flamingo species. We will then put the plans into action with the help of other conservation partners and zoos to maximize our conservation impact for these imperiled birds.

**The best
way to protect
flamingos is to
only purchase new
electronics when
we really
need to.**

By choosing to reduce the number of new gadgets we buy we can directly help these desert-dwelling flamingos. It is our responsibility to make sure we are using resources wisely to protect wild animals and wild places — and, in this case, this means reducing the amount of resources we use. Reducing resource use at Reid Park Zoo is important as a conservation organization so we have developed a Zoo Green Team comprised of staff members representing all Zoo departments. The Green Team evaluates resource use at the Zoo and implements ways for the Zoo to be less reliant on the Earth's resources. Stay tuned for updates from the Zoo's Green Team!



BELLA THE JAGUAR: POWERFUL AT THE TOP

It is easy to be captivated by the social animals at the Zoo. Guests readily relate to the playful antics of the squirrel monkeys and the endearing acts of the elephants. It is always fun to watch these animals interact and compare their dynamics to those of our own human families. But guests often have a greater challenge relating to solitary animals. With the exception of breeding and raising offspring, solitary animals are just that: alone. They are well adapted to thriving without relying on a family group.

Jaguars are an excellent example of a solitary species that can still engage and inspire Zoo guests. They are apex predators who reside at the top of their food chain with no natural predators above them. Jaguars hunt a wide variety of prey using a stalk-and-ambush approach, and they can hunt animals as large as deer and tapirs. Unlike other large cats that drag their prey into cover, jaguars have been recorded remaining in the open to eat. When doing this they perhaps rely on their role as an alpha predator in areas where they have little competition.

Bella, the Zoo's 10-year-old jaguar, has an amazing appearance with classic black rosettes on a light tawny coat. She struts across her habitat seemingly unbothered by activities around her. Bella greatly enjoys engaging with enrichment items and puzzles that her keepers prepare for her. To simulate behaviors like jumping, tackling, and

wrestling prey, the keepers use high anchor points in her habitat to secure bones and other treats that challenge her to jump and climb. When she engages with these items her behaviors mimic a wild hunt and keep her muscles in top shape.

The jaguar is a solitary animal, one that stalks and hunts alone successfully.

As guests watch Bella move through her habitat, her physical strength is immediately apparent. She has large muscles in her shoulders and jaws that are adapted to her predatory lifestyle. Bella also has excellent vision in both daylight and darkness. She follows the natural cycle of jaguar's crepuscular tendencies as a species that is most active at dawn and dusk. During these hours she has

already delighted many visitors with her gruff vocalizations, her leaps up onto her logs, and her dashes around her habitat.

Like many species at the Zoo, jaguars are threatened in the wild due to habitat loss and fragmentation. The primary conservation efforts for jaguars include connecting fragmented home ranges with safe corridors and preserving remaining habitat from destruction. Jaguars also face threats from conflicts with cattle ranchers, and efforts are being implemented to help ranchers develop techniques to deter jaguars from preying on cattle.

Whenever you are at the Zoo, make sure to visit Bella! She is an important ambassador for her species who helps guests to make a meaningful connection with jaguars. Bella's strength and charisma are sure to engage guests as much as any of the social species and serves to inspire conservation action on behalf of her wild counterparts.



BIGGER SPACES. SMILING FACES. UPDATE



Some of the work has been visible and some has been behind the scenes, but the team is hard at work! Recently we completed refreshing the jaguar habitat for new jaguar, Bella. We added new mesh, modified her pool, replaced windows, and added new rock-work with ledges for Bella to climb up on.

Also in South America you will see the beautiful black-necked swans in a new habitat. This move is not only great for them, but it also allows us to provide more space for our anteaters.

The big projects start in April. Shortly after the Asian Lantern Festival wraps up and the lanterns ship out, we will

begin giving the Zoo a new entrance with lots of shade, a southwestern feel, and "flamingos in our front yard!" The Zoo's Chilean flamingo flock will be getting about 50% more land and a night house, with a great view of these beautiful birds for guests as they enter.

Construction for this first major project should take about 6 months. We will work to minimize disruption for our visitors during construction and will have more food locations throughout the Zoo.

We're excited for these improvements and cannot wait for you to see them!

Sincerely,

Wanda J. Hugg



A Special Gift
FUR
Someone Special!

Adopting an Animal at Reid Park Zoo is the perfect unique gift for any occasion to show you love your special someone as well as a special animal.



ZOO CREW RECEIVES VOLUNTEER AWARD

On January 16, Reid Park Zoo's teen volunteer group, the Zoo Crew, was presented with the **Youth Volunteer Group of the Year Award** by the Southern Arizona Volunteer Management Association (SAVMA) at their second annual award ceremony. The award was presented for the Zoo Crew's outstanding achievements and work within the community.

Composed of teens that are at least 14 years old or just starting high school, the Crew educated more than 30,000 guests during the last year. They raised more than \$6,000

for conservation projects, including local rehabilitation center the Tucson Wildlife Center, which was chosen specifically by the teens. Teens participating in the Zoo Crew carry out a variety of duties, from educating guests through artifact or activity stations, to doing face painting, operating photo booths, or even handling the Zoo's animal ambassadors. Teens participating in the program learn valuable skills such as teamwork, public speaking, and leadership, as well as the value of giving back to the community.

**Have a teen that
is interested in
volunteering
at the Zoo?**



Zoo Crew applications are open now! To apply, have your teen visit the Reid Park Zoo website and click on "Volunteer" under our "Get Involved" tab and fill out the application. Not a teen but interested in volunteering? Docent applications are also being accepted now through March 31 for the Fall 2020 class.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Advance registration is required
for all education programs.

DR ZOO (AGES 8-12)

February 1, March 15, April 11
9-11 a.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non members

Does your child dream of becoming a Zoo veterinarian? Your child will travel behind-the-scenes to the Zoo's state of the art, NEW Animal Health Center for a day in the life of a Zoo Vet experience. Participants will utilize the Freeport-McMoRan Education Gallery to view the surgery, treatment and pharmacy rooms of the Animal Health Center. They'll experience first-hand the importance of math and science in diagnosing and treating animal ailments through hands-on activity stations that are based on real-life zoo scenarios. After they've finished helping all of their patients, they'll earn their Dr. Zoo certificate!



JUNIOR ZOO KEEPER (AGES 6-12)

February 15, March 22, April 18
9-11 a.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non members

Does your child want to be a Zoo Keeper? Through this interactive, hands-on program your child will experience a snapshot of a day in the life of a Zoo Keeper. Travel behind-the-scenes to the Zoo's kitchen to prepare a meal for one of the animals at the Zoo, watch a training demonstration with an animal ambassador, feed the giraffes, and even clean an animal night house. We will do and see it all, just like a Zoo Keeper! Have your child leave their best clothes at home and be prepared to get down and dirty on this behind the scenes adventure!



LITTLE CRITTERS: PATTERNS IN NATURE (AGES 3-5)

Sunday Feb 16
9-10 a.m.

CLC upstairs classroom

\$12 members, \$20 non members

Description: Whether it's swirls on a snail's shell, hexagons in a honeycomb, or stripes on a zebra's coat, patterns can be found everywhere in the natural world! Little critters will discover patterns in plant and animal communities through sensory exploration and animal encounters.

ZOO EXPLORERS SERIES - BIRDS (AGES 6-12)

February 22
9-11 a.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non members

Birds of a feather stick together. This program is all about our feathered friends! Throughout history, people have been mesmerized by the idea of flying like a bird, but did you know that not all birds can fly? We even have a few here at the zoo! In this program, we will tour the zoo learning about all types of birds, big and small, and even have special encounters with a few!



LITTLE CRITTERS - ANIMAL SUPERPOWERS (AGES 3-5)

March 14
9-10 a.m.

\$12 members, \$20 non members

Discover what makes animals SUPER in this Little Critters program! We'll explore some super special ways animals find food, escape predators and survive in the wild. See these unique adaptations through up-close encounters with the Zoo's animal ambassadors.

FAMILY BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR (AGES 5 & UP)

March 15, March 21 and March 22
12:30-1:30 p.m.

\$18/member participant, \$23/non member participant

Journey Behind the Scenes with your family over Spring Break! Find out what it takes to care for over 250 animals every day, why zoos are important, and learn what YOUR Zoo is doing to protect wild animals and wild places. The adventure begins in the giraffe barn, continues to the Zoo's kitchen, includes a behind the scenes visit with the rhino and ends at the giraffe encounter. After the tour, you and your family can choose to remain in the Zoo to explore for as long as you like. Please note this is a one-hour walking tour on dirt roads.

ZOO EXPLORERS SERIES - REPTILES/AMPHIBIANS (AGES 6-12)

March 28
9-11 a.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non members

What does a tiny dart frog and a five hundred-pound tortoise have in common? They are both 'cold-blooded'. We'll explore exactly what that means in this program focusing on reptiles and amphibians! We will get a chance to see why some reptiles are called 'living dinosaurs' while others are very sensitive to even the smallest changes in their habitats. Participants will also have a chance to meet native and exotic reptiles in a private encounter.

LITTLE CRITTERS - BACKYARD WILDLIFE (AGES 3-5)

Sunday April 5
9-10 a.m.

\$12 members, \$20 non members

You can make amazing connections with wildlife at the Zoo, but do you know what types of animals might be in your own backyard or neighborhood? In this Little Critters, we will explore animals close to home and how they compare to the Zoo's residents. Your little critter will leave eager to explore the natural world around them every day!



ZOO EXPLORERS SERIES - MAMMALS (AGES 6-12)

April 25
9-11 a.m.

\$15 members, \$20 non members

Some of the largest animals on the planet are mammals! Join us in the final program of the animal classification series to see some of them up close! As we explore the Zoo we'll see the largest land mammal, and study the features that make mammals so unique. We will also have special encounters with some of the Zoo's smaller ambassador mammals in our private Zoo classroom.



UPCOMING EVENTS

ASIAN LANTERN FESTIVAL

Thursdays through Sundays February 13-March 1. Every Night March 5-29.

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

\$16 Member Adult, \$14 Member Children. \$18 General Admission.

Reid Park Zoo is partnering with Tianyu Arts & Culture Inc., UA Global, and the Tucson Chinese Cultural Center to bring you another fabulous year of more than 400 colorful, interactive, customized lanterns. This event will transport you across the world with Asian-inspired entertainment, cuisine, and culture!

I LOVE ZOO

February 15

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Free with Zoo Admission

Throughout the day, the animals will receive special enrichment treats. Activities are free with Zoo admission.

SENIOR CELEBRATION

Wednesdays February 5, 12, 19, & 26

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Free with Zoo Admission

Seniors ages 62 and better can enjoy \$5 admission, lunch specials in the Zoofari Café and keeper presentations on special care the Zoo provides for its aging animals. Proof of age required.

WHY A WILL WORKSHOP

Tuesday, March 31

6-8 p.m. in the Zoofari Café

Reid Park Zoological Society will partner with Attorney Denice Shepherd to host a **FREE** workshop on the important of wills and planned giving in celebration of National Why a Will Month.

Call Gail Brown at **881-4753** or email gail@reidparkzoo.org to register

EARTH DAY, PARTY FOR THE PLANET

April 19

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Free with Zoo Admission

2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! Come celebrate at the Zoo where we'll have all kinds of fun celebrating our planet and the animals that call it home during keeper chats and animal presentations!

WINE GONE WILD

April 25

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

\$65 general admission/\$60 Zoo members/\$25 designated driver VIP package beginning at \$125

Pop on over to the Zoo to sample a variety of wine and spirits, plus enjoy tasty bites, live entertainment, wine glass painting, animal encounters and more in this festive fundraiser. Ticket includes a collectible souvenir glass.



For more information on these and other upcoming events and education programs, please visit our website at www.ReidParkZoo.org
Check back often to see what's new at your Zoo!

Interested in becoming a sponsor of Reid Park Zoo events?

Call 881-4753 or email gail@reidparkzoo.org

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Presented by Reid Park Zoo

**Dazzling, Larger-Than-Life Lanterns, Cultural
Performances and Cuisine in an
Immersive Experience**

Thursday - Sunday February 13 - March 1, 6 - 9 p.m.

Nightly March 5 - March 29, 6 - 9 p.m.

Tickets and Information at **ReidParkZoo.org**



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