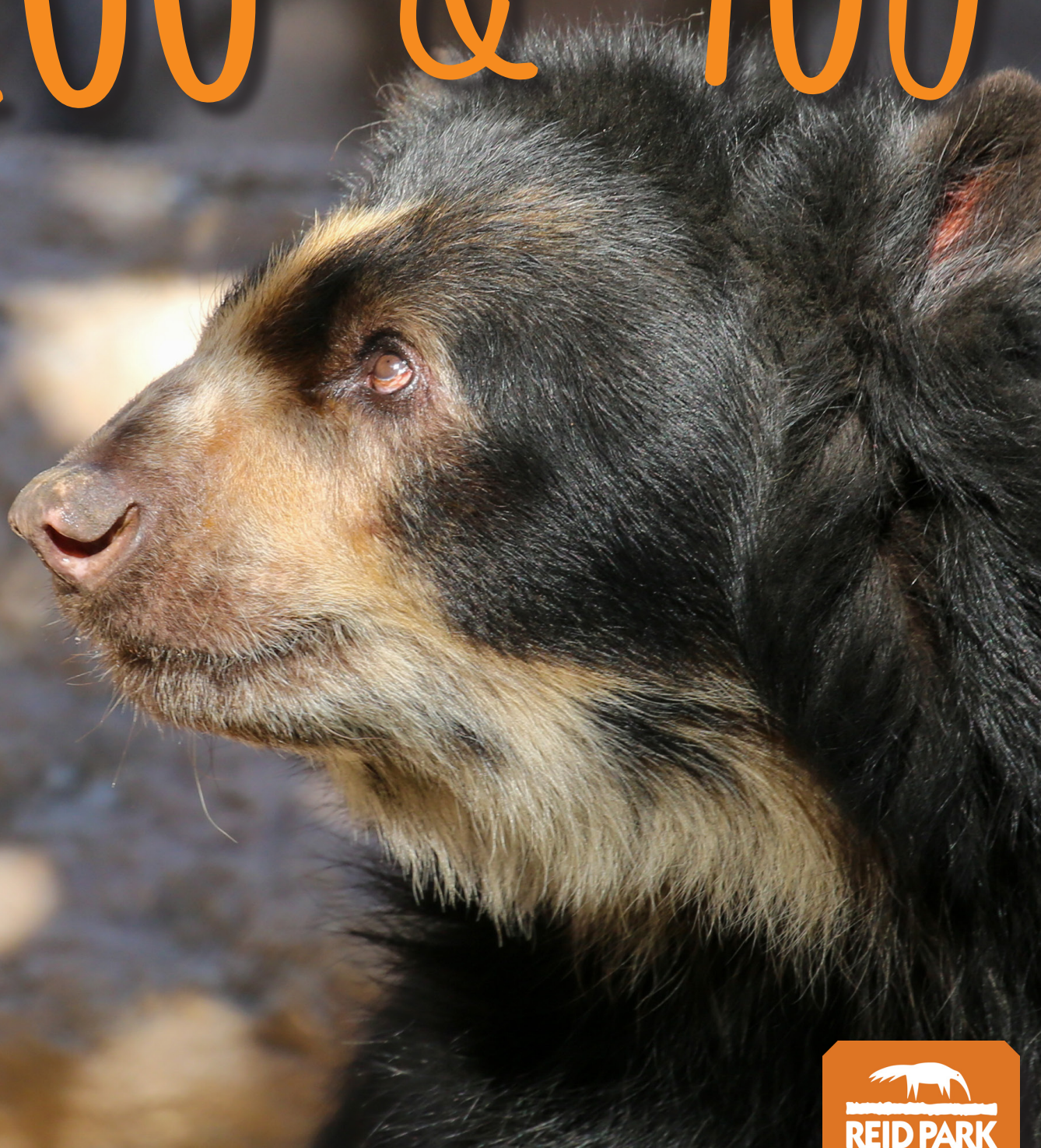


ZOO & YOU



Winter 2021 | 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

1030 South Randolph Way
Tucson, Arizona 85716
P: (520) 881-4753

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POWER BITE

My, what big teeth you have! Jaguars like Bella are apex predators with the strongest bite force of any big cat relative to their size. These strong jaws and sharp teeth help jaguars to capture large prey species like tapirs, caimans, capybara, deer, tortoises, and more. All cat species can also search for prey by opening their mouth. Cats and many other animals have a specialized organ in their mouth called a

vomeronasal, or Jacobson's, organ. By opening their mouth to allow air to touch this organ they can get a much stronger sense of smell to narrow in on nearby prey! See if you can observe Bella using her powerful mouth on your next visit to the Zoo.



1030 S Randolph Way
Tucson, AZ 85716

ZOO HOURS:

October-May 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June-September 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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!



Stephanie Harper



jbeirnedotcom on IG



Kelly Wallen



Charlene Harris



ANIMAL WELLNESS A TOP PRIORITY

Reid Park Zoo's veterinarian, like many other zoo veterinarians, is waiting to receive a shipment of COVID vaccines made for animals by Zoetis, a global animal health organization. "While animal care staff continue to follow stringent protective protocols with COVID-19 susceptible species and no animals at Reid Park Zoo has contracted the virus to date, administering the vaccine is a preventative measure. The move

comes after considerable consultation with other zoo veterinarians and veterinary epidemiologists around the country." Like humans, many of our animals will receive a two injection series of vaccines. Many animals at Reid Park Zoo receive other vaccinations regularly as part of their annual health exams.

Reid Park Zoo will be vaccinating many species against COVID-19, such

as the Zoo's large cats, anteaters, and primates. The most unusual to receive it will be our screaming hairy armadillo — and true to his name he might let out a little yelp when he receives his shot. But the protection it can provide is worth the short poke!

We hope to receive our vaccine shipment in the coming weeks and plan to give first shots shortly after receipt.



YOUR COFFEE BEANS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The holiday season is upon us. Whether you are celebrating with your friends and family in person or from a distance this year, you can also protect wildlife this holiday season.

As a supporter of wild animals and wild places, you already know that the choices you make have a big impact on the natural world. Make the choice to purchase wildlife friendly coffee for the coffee lovers on your list. Purchasing wildlife friendly coffee protects habitat for animals like Andean bears and native songbirds that spend winters in Central and South America.

Most coffee today is sun-grown in forested areas that have been clear-cut of trees, and includes the use of pesticides and fertilizers, which negatively affect the surrounding soil and water. Wildlife friendly coffee is shade-grown and pesticide free, and therefore protects the forested habitat these

animals rely on to find the resources they need to survive.

Join us in protecting Andean bears and native songbirds. Reid Park Zoo is a partner of both the Andean bear and the North American Songbird SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) programs. The Andean Bear SAFE project monitors Andean bears to learn how their populations change and which areas are in need of protection. As part of the North American Songbird SAFE program, your zoo has created a pollinator garden to provide important food and habitat for native songbirds and installed nest boxes for several native birds.

When searching for wildlife friendly coffee, look for the Bird Friendly seal from the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center. This seal means the coffee was grown under a canopy of native trees with considerations like tree height and biodiversity of



Shop Bird Friendly

Certified Bird Friendly coffee can be found in select stores and online at <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/bird-friendly-coffee>. This holiday season, help Reid Park Zoo keep homes for Andean bears and songbirds **SAFE!**

insects that indicate healthy habitat for birds and other wildlife. It is also 100% pure, meaning that all of the coffee in the bag meets the standards.



JOAQUIN IS BACK HOME

Life has changed over the decades and not all families stay in one home for their entire lives. But there are still some parents who raise their children and stay in the same home. Often kids go away for many, many years before they returning to visit their parents and their childhood home. Sometimes, they wind up moving back in again. Sometimes it is an old familiar feeling filled with memories of the past, but other times it can be different because those parents have changed or modified

the beloved childhood home.

We can only wonder what Joaquin, our male Andean bear, thought when he returned to Reid Park Zoo. Born here in 2002, he was an inquisitive and mischievous cub. He traveled to several other zoos following the recommendations of the Andean bear Species Survival Plan. Now, as part of the same program, he has returned home to a new female bear, Oja, and a remodeled home.

When Joaquin left Reid Park Zoo nearly two decades ago, the Andean bear habitat was smaller, and the behind-the-scenes habitat did not have as many rooms.

In his absence, Reid Park Zoo made additions to make the space larger and allow staff to provide a wider variety of activities for the

Joaquin Fun Facts



Birthday: November 27, 2002

Favorite treats: umbrella grass and papaya

Disposition: Mellow, gentle, and patient

Favorite place to sleep: hammock

bears. It is hard to say what he remembered from the past, but one thing was clear — he was very quickly comfortable in his old home! On the day of his move, Joaquin explored the habitat, but laid down on his back with all paws in the air when he needed to rest — sprawled out in the most comfortable position possible

Being introduced to Oja, the female bear, will be another big change for Joaquin. His first day in the new area, Joaquin smelled all of Oja's things. He inhaled scents from her hay bed, from her toys, from her sitting spots and he very methodically urinated or





marked on all of them, leaving his scent for her. Joaquin has seen Oja at a distance and he calls to her. He often rests by the door closest to where she is and trills — a call the males use to contact the females. We're not sure if it is love at first sight (or scent), but Joaquin is very interested in Oja.

Oja is less obsessed with her new mate. She investigates the areas he marks for her, but then she continues about her day. She plays with her puzzle feeders, climbs her trees, and looks for her care team. It is unclear if she is playing hard to get or just not sure about

this new bear. In wild habitats, Andean bears come together to breed but otherwise do not travel together. Oja may not be cycling at this time and therefore less intrigued in Joaquin. Over time, her interests may change.

In human care, Andean bears sometimes live together as a breeding pair. But it is more common that they are housed separately as they would be in the wild. Coming together as the female cycles for breeding season. Once the female's interest wears off, they are then separated. But each pair of bears is truly unique and they determine how to spend their

time. Over the coming months Oja will ultimately choose whether this is a pair for all seasons or just for a brief date. Either way, guests will enjoy seeing these arboreal bears interact with their habitat.

Reid Park Zoo is a proud supporter and partner of the Andean Bear SAFE (Saving Animals from Extinction) Program through the AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums). This program promotes saving habitat for bears in their native Columbia as well as educating people about the uniqueness of this species.

Oja, Joaquin's Future Companion



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Zoo memberships are a great gift. Some of you know that Tucson is my hometown and I grew up going to Reid Park Zoo. When I was a young parent, one of the best holiday gifts that I received every year from my own parents was a Zoo membership. We could come anytime, just walk in and when little ones needed to leave, we could easily come back another time. Those trips to the Zoo created lasting memories and experiences where I had just as much fun as the children, watching and learning new things about the animals and watching my children learn and appreciate nature and how important it is to protect our planet. During the upcoming season of giving coming up, I hope you will consider the gift of

membership.

Zoo members, you are in for a treat this coming year. I know many of you have met the returning member of our family, Joaquín the Andean bear. It is fun to see the contrast between this easygoing bear slowly exploring and the always active and climbing young Oja. Joaquín has such beautiful tan markings on his face and it's truly a joy to watch him.

Speaking of joy, opening up soon is my very favorite event, ZooLights: Holiday Magic. This evening event is a lovely, peaceful stroll around the Zoo for most of the month of December. The Zoo will magically become a winter wonderland with beautiful

lights, a falling 'snow' area, musical performances by various groups, visits with Santa and of course, hot cocoa. We hope you can join us.



This spring, we will welcome something BIG! Lifesize dinosaurs will be found throughout the Zoo. These animatronic behemoths from the past will be snorting and moving near the amazing animals of the present. Stay tuned for details!




See you at the Zoo,



Nancy

ZOO IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

REID PARK ZOO EXPANSION CONCEPT

-  ZOO EXPANSION - 4.14 ACRES (S. PARKING LOT: +0.61 AC)
-  NEW PARKING - 3.24 ACRES (3.09 AC EXIST.)
-  ASSURE ACCESS FOR MAINTENANCE

- ✓ Uses no open green space
- ✓ Reclaims parking lots for Zoo green space
- ✓ Addresses animal welfare
- ✓ Meets budget goal
- ✓ Minimizes impacts to Lakeshore Lane
- ✓ No impacts to Reid Park form and function
- ✓ Replaces parking within existing hardscape area
- ✓ Results in a compact, highly operable Zoo



The location of Pathway to Asia has been modified with the project now slated to be placed in the current Reid Park Zoo and Edith Ball Adaptive Center parking lots. A new parking lot for both the Zoo and the Adaptive Center will be constructed to the north of the Adaptive Center, occupying space in Tucson Parks and Recreation's current maintenance yard.

The new Pathway to Asia location fulfills community requests to leave Barnum Hill and surrounding ponds intact, while maximizing and repurposing hard space. It also meets the Zoo's needs for optimum animal welfare by placing sensitive animals in the expansion away from the noise of High Corbett Field for their health and safety and housing them closer to the Zoo's Health Center and Zoo veterinary team.



SHOP ON THE WILD SIDE

It's the most wonderful time of the year, and we know that holiday shopping is going to be top of mind for a lot of our Zoo members. Elsewhere in this magazine we've talked about how you can make sure the coffee beans you gift are bird friendly (Page 5) and the benefits your friends will receive if you get them a membership (Page 8) to the Zoo.

But wait, there's more! Reid Park Zoo has many options for your gift giving needs.

Adopt an Animal at the Zoo in someone's name!

These symbolic adoptions give the opportunity to learn a little bit more about favorite species at the Zoo.

From adorable adoption certificates to in-person experiences involving the animals, these packages make one-of-a-kind gifts.

Grab a custom African Wild Dog "Ben's Bell" that supports conservation programs while you can.

This adorable collector's bell is only available through Reid Park Zoo.

Wish your pack a happy holiday with beautiful Diana Madaras notecards with envelopes featuring our own African Wild Dog, Cricket!

These are great stocking stuffers. Handwritten thank you or personal notes are thoughtful and appreciated!

Make a donation in your loved one's name. We will send a holiday card letting them know of your heartfelt generosity.

Make a lasting impression with a donation of a remembrance brick at the Zoo's Front Entry Welcome Plaza.

Want to buy a special enrichment toy for one of our Zoo residents? Check out their holiday wishlist available on our website. Then visit the Zoo after the holidays to see the animals enjoy their presents.

For more information and to purchase, please visit our website at reidparkzoo.org

EDUCATION PROGRAMS



JUNIOR ZOO KEEPER

9 a.m.-11 a.m.
December 18
January 16
February 12

\$15

Through this interactive, hands-on program your child will experience a snapshot of a day in the life of a Zoo Keeper. Advance Registration Required.



DR ZOO

9-11 a.m.
December 5
January 2
March 27

\$15

Learn how Zoo vets use science and math to care for the animals at the Zoo through this hands-on interactive program.

CAREERS AT A ZOO

9 a.m. - Noon
December 19
February 25

Free

From animal and vet care to groundskeepers, guest services, and social media/marketing, there are many different jobs that work together as a team to help run the zoo. This interactive workshop will provide your child with an overview of these careers and what they'll need in order to prepare for a job at a zoo. This program is offered free of charge due to a generous donation from the Kasser Family.

Advance registration
is required for all
education programs.



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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GET READY FOR HOLIDAY MAGIC

ZOOLIGHTS HOLIDAY MAGIC

6-8 p.m. nightly December 3 – 23 & December 26-30

The holidays are here at Reid Park Zoo! ZooLights: Holiday Magic is back this December. Tickets are available online now!

When you're at ZooLights, be sure to keep your eyes peeled for the amazing giraffe and alligator sculptures pictured here. Ever year, ZooLights Title Sponsor Tucson Electric Power builds a beautiful sculpture just for the event. The giraffe is this year's incredible addition and we could not love it more.

ZooLights features glittering lights, festive displays, Santa, live entertainment, and holiday cheer all through the month of December. Check our website for details on special theme nights.

Presented by



Tucson Electric Power



BREWLIGHTS

6-8 p.m. December 3

Premium Ticket: \$35 Adult Premium Ticket (ages 21+ only)

\$32 for Zoo Member Premium Ticket (ages 21+ only)

Have a Hoppy Holiday! Join us on Friday, December 3 for the public opening of ZooLights and buy a Premium ticket to participate in BrewLights and enjoy a selection of craft beer as you enjoy the holiday festivities. Entertainment by the After 7 Band.

Please note that this is a family friendly event, and that those participating in the Premium Ticket event will need to be 21+ years of age and bring their photo ID.

Presented by



SOMETHING **HUGE** IS COMING TO REID PARK ZOO!

Dinosaurs!

February 18 – May 15, 2021

Members' First Look – February 17

Free with Zoo admission/Members' see them as many times as you like for free!

Special Friday Dino Nights – first Friday of the month March – May with Zoo extended hours

Get eye-to eye with ten larger than life roaring, moving, prehistoric giants set amid the Zoo's lush grounds. Prehistoric fun for everyone! Watch for details coming soon.



Reid Park Zoological Society
1030 South Randolph Way
Tucson, Arizona 85716

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ZOO LIGHTS

Holiday Magic



Presented by



6-8 p.m. nightly, December 3-23 and December 26-30

\$11 general admission, \$9 for seniors (ages 62+), \$7 children, children under 2 get in free

Members receive \$3 off admission

Glittering lights, festive displays, snow, entertainment, and holiday cheer!



Additional support provided by:



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Tickets and information at ReidParkZoo.org