

ZOO & YOU



Fall 2022 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society





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

**Join ZooFriendZ Today!
ONLY \$42 MONTHLY!**

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

President & CEO
Nancy J. Kluge

Chief Development Officer
Gail Brown

Director of Marketing & Events
Deborah Carr

Director of Business Operations & CFO
Tong Cheng

Director of Human Resources
Helen Smart

Director of Zoo Operations
Sue Tygielski, PhD

2022/23 Board of Directors

Society Board

Chair
Catherine Hutchens

Vice Chair
Chad Driedger

Secretary
Kathy Alexander

Treasurer
Matt Bingham

Past Chair
Dr. Shane Burgess

Dr. George Ball
Mica Bane
Susan Beesemyer
Robert Charles
Nate Clark
Chad Driedger
Dallas Dukes
Neal Eckel
Michael Halle
Michael Hannley
Sheldon King
Steve Larsen
Jason Lazarow
Lisa Lavallo
Edmund Marquez

Patricia O'Callaghan
Lesah Sesma-Gay
Daniela Siqueiros
Richard White

Ex-Officio
Lara Hamwey
Tim Thomure

Emeritus Members
Denice Shepherd
Donna Warfield
Jim Zarling
Terri Zarling

Foundation Board

Chair
Mica Bane

Vice Chair
Steve Larsen

Secretary
Susan Beesemyer

Treasurer
Jason Lazarow

Past Chair
Nate Clark

Dr. George Ball
Robert Charles
Chad Driedger
Michael Halle
Michael Hannley
Sheldon King

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.



Swans Exploring a New Space

Reid Park Zoo is home to two black necked swans, Paddy and Delilah. For several years they have lived near the entrance to the South America loop, just beyond the Andean bear habitat. However, this feathered duo is exploring a new home at the Zoo!

The swans have moved into a multispecies habitat. They can now be seen sharing space with the capybaras and crested screamer a few paces further in the

South America loop.

They are interacting well with the capybaras and sometimes spend time with them in the pool (meanwhile the crested screamer keeps his feet dry and acts as the lifeguard)! We haven't caught that magical moment on camera yet but can't wait to do

so! This pool is deeper than the one in their previous habitat, which gives the swans a little more room to stretch their legs!



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!



Maggie Bell on Instagram



Raquel Ruffin Thompson on Instagram



Photo by Tammy Orr



Steven R. on Instagram

The Trick to Sustainable Treats

This Halloween season, protect wild animals and wild places by purchasing candy that is made with sustainable palm oil or no palm oil.

Palm oil is a vegetable oil found in many foods and household products (including shampoo and cleaning supplies). The oil is harvested from the fruit of the oil palm tree which is native to Africa. Large areas of animal habitat are being taken over for monoagriculture of oil palm in Africa, as well as Asia and South America where the tree also grows well.

Many animal species, including orangutans, tigers, tapirs, and gibbons are losing their habitat to unsustainable farming practices which entirely clear the land to grow oil palm.

When done sustainably, palm oil is our best option for an edible vegetable oil, requiring less land,

pesticides, and fertilizers than other oil alternatives.

By being an informed consumer, you can help push for more companies to choose to purchase their palm oil from farming operations following sustainable practices, for example, protecting native habitat from being turned into agricultural fields and providing a livable wage and safe working conditions for their employees.

Tips for Spotting Palm Oil Friendly Products

1. Look for the RSPO label
2. Use the PalmOil Scan app. If the ingredients list includes palm oil, this app will help you easily determine if the palm oil was grown in a sustainable way.



Here are some words to look for to see if palm oil is an ingredient in your candy — any word that has PALM in it (Ethyl Palmitate),



**One World
Take One Step
to Protect.**

**Use the PalmOil Scan app
when buying candy this year!**



**Or go to reidparkzoo.org/conservation/zoo-conservation/
and look under the "Supporting
Sustainable Palm Oil" heading.**

any variation of the words sodium lauryl sulfate, or stearic acid. If you see any of these ingredients, you can easily check if it was farmed in a sustainable way by scanning the barcode using the PalmOil Scan app. Note: not every type of candy is made with palm oil, so if a product does not have palm oil it will not be on the app.

While purchasing candy for the Zoo's Boo at the Zoo event, we use the PalmOil Scan app and the Halloween purchasing guide from Cheyenne Mountain Zoo too!





Lesser Known Animals at Reid Park Zoo

Reid Park Zoo is home to over 250 animals, from giant elephants to tiny poison dart frogs. In the Zoo's South America loop, however, you will find some animals you may not have seen or heard of before.

Tapirs look like they belong in a Star Wars film. Related to horses and rhinos, tapirs are known as the "gardeners of the rainforest." As herbivores, they eat a variety of plants



and those seeds are then spread throughout their habitat. Their long proboscis (nose) can be used to bring vegetation to their mouth or as a snorkel while under water. At 330-660 pounds, tapirs are able to move quickly through the rainforest and are excellent swimmers.

Habitat loss is a major threat to these endangered animals.

Reid Park Zoo participates in the Tapir Species

Survival Plan and has had several successful births. Adult tapirs live alone so tapirs born here have gone to homes at other zoos. You too can help tapirs by buying products made from sustainable palm oil. Download the PalmOil Scan app on your phone before your next trip to the store.

Capybaras are the world's largest rodents. With barrel-shaped bodies and square heads, they look like one hundred pound guinea pigs. Their ever-growing front teeth are used to eat grasses and aquatic plants. Capybaras are built for life in the water. They have



food from shallow water and ibises use their curved, pointed bills to poke into the mud and sand to find their prey.



One South American animal that you won't find in the South America loop at the Zoo is a **tamandua**. Tamanduas

are also called lesser anteaters because they

are smaller than giant anteaters. Tamanduas are semi-arboreal, meaning they spend a lot of time in the trees. They are excellent climbers with powerful front legs and a prehensile (grabbing) tail that can wrap around branches. Just like giant anteaters, tamanduas use their strong senses of smell and hearing to find bugs before digging them up from the ground or tree bark with their long, sharp claws. The tamanduas at the Zoo live behind-the-scenes but can sometimes be seen during public or private animal encounters.

Take a look at some of these less well-known animals on your next Zoo visit!



webbed feet for swimming and can hold their breath for up to five minutes. Nostrils, eyes, and ears are on top of their heads so they can be almost completely underwater and still notice any possible danger. They are most active during dawn and dusk. On your next zoo visit, look for the capybaras resting in the shade or submerged in their pool. Learn even more about the capybaras at the Zoo by booking a behind-the-scenes experience!

In the habitat between the tapirs and capybaras, you will find the Zoo's **rheas**. Rheas are in the ratite group, which also includes ostriches and emus. Like ostriches, rheas are flightless birds with long necks and long legs for running. Found in grasslands in southeastern South America, they will eat plants and small animals. Males create small depressions on the ground where several females will lay their eggs.



Unlike most birds, only the males

incubate the eggs and care for

the chicks. Reid Park Zoo is home to two female rheas, Flora and Fauna. Fauna is grayish-brown but Flora is leucistic. Being leucistic means that Flora has less melanin, or dark pigment, in her skin and feathers, making her appear white over most of her body.

You may have seen the Chilean flamingos at the Zoo but have you also noticed two types of flamingo look-alikes in the South American aviary? Just like flamingos, **roseate spoonbills** and **scarlet ibises** get their pinkish-red color from the food they eat. They both eat crustaceans, insects, and fish but they use the differently-shaped bills in different ways to catch their food. Spoonbills use their spoon-shaped bills to scoop

South America Scramble

Unscramble the names of the lesser known animals you see from South America!



1. ABAARPCY



2. PIART



3. LIOBNOSPL



4. ERAH



5. DANMAUTA



6. SIIB

FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

World of Play & Pathway to Asia Updates

Fall in Tucson is exhilarating, bringing drier days and changing autumn colors. Here at the Zoo, fall also brings some excitement as three projects in the planning stages are starting to get underway. While these new additions will add to the guest and educational experience at the Zoo, we know there will be some inconvenience as we go through the construction period. Thank you in advance for bearing with us through the dust!

Angel Charity for Children World of Play

In May Reid Park Zoo broke ground on the Angel Charity for Children World of Play, an adventure zone designed to bring an appreciation of biological diversity to the playground.

Children from the Tucson area joined representatives from Angel Charity for Children, other donors, representatives from the City of Tucson, members of the construction crew and architect team, and Reid Park Zoo employees and board members in taking the first dig for this construction project that will introduce children to animals and the continents through play.

"I was an educator for about two decades before I made the switch to work in

the Mayor's office, so this particular project is very special to me. It's so important that we have opportunities to engage, particularly with our youngest children" said Charlene Mendoza, Chief of Staff for Mayor Romero's Office. "One point that was particularly meaningful to me is its accessibility, which is desperately needed in Tucson, especially for our young children. Having an accessible play space, in such a stimulating environment is going to be a gamechanger for kids coming into the Zoo."

The Angel Charity for Children World of Play will feature opportunities for children to chill out in cool Antarctica, hear the rhythmic sounds of the South American rainforest, and appreciate the magnitude of the North American redwoods.

World of Play is part of Phase I of the Future of Your Zoo initiative passed by voters to bring improvements to Reid Park Zoo. It will be located within the Zoo at the site of the former flamingo habitat and adjacent to the Lee H. Brown Family Conservation



Learning Center. In addition to funds from the voter initiative, World of Play is made possible by a generous lead gift from Angel Charity for Children with additional support from an Anonymous Donor, the Cavender-Simpson Family, the Rotary Club of Tucson and other private donors.

"This is my neighborhood, I live across the street and this is such an important piece of it. So I really am grateful for everyone's engagement and to the Zoo for creating this incredible opportunity for play and learning, not only in the playground but in the whole entire Zoo. It really is critical for our community that we have resources like this," said Mendoza.

Construction has begun on World of Play, with a public opening expected in summer of 2023.

Pathway to Asia

This stunning home to the amazing animals of Asia is coming closer to fruition. Plans continue to progress, and we are currently reviewing the details as we move closer. There are many important specifics that while not terribly exciting, are crucial



to success. Details such as ideal lighting, heat and cooling for each species, location for electrical outlets, types of drains that work best, and where misters are needed for animal comfort are being carefully researched and coordinated.

Construction on the Zoo's new parking lot, which is necessary before starting construction of this new area of the Zoo, is expected to begin this winter, with construction of the exhibits to begin next summer. The anticipated opening will be in 2025.

New Sloth Habitat

Preparation of the sloth habitat is expected to start soon.

We look forward to our members having the first peek at this slow-moving, gentle animal next summer and to tell the story of this amazing species in our South America loop.

While we will have some short-term inconveniences with each of these construction projects, the end result will be transformative for the Zoo as well as our animal care and conservation programs. Keep watching for updates!



Nancy Kluge
Reid Park Zoo President & CEO



Rad Reptiles

If you've never had a chance to meet a reptile up close, you're missing out!

These incredible animals have a lot to teach people, and the Zoo's Animal Ambassador reptiles help the Education team do exactly that every day. Whether they're ready for their webcam close-up during a virtual program or eye-to-eye with an audience in person, these scaly friends always leave a lasting impression. For everyone who meets them — from preschool-aged children to senior citizens and everyone in between — our amazing Ambassadors help us all understand that we have more in common than we think, no matter how different we may seem.

As part of the upcoming Pathway to Asia expansion,



the Reptile House and Tropical Discovery Center will allow Zoo visitors to get to know even more reptiles, such as the world's largest lizard—the Komodo dragon. Every individual animal represents a species that plays an important role in its ecosystem and has a conservation story to tell, and we can't wait to share them with everyone.

We hope that the opportunity to experience the diverse world of reptiles helps inspire all who visit to help protect them and the places they call home.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday, October 7, 6-9 p.m.

Slow down and party with a purpose at the ZOOcson, Tucson's wildly elegant and all-inclusive fundraiser featuring sumptuous food samplings from local restaurants, live music, animal encounters and one-of-a-kind auctions. This year's theme centers on the adorably slow, Two-toed sloth, a new addition to the Zoo's South American loop! Join us for an evening under the stars to support the Zoo's animal care, education and conservation programs.

Tickets: \$125 Zoo Member; \$150 General Admission; \$250 Premium Experience

Presented by



Family Halloween & Fall Celebrations

SMASH BASH

Saturday, October 15, 9 a.m. - noon

Watch animals enjoy a festive fall enrichment treat – pumpkins. Some crushing, dunking, rolling and curious exploration are sure to be in order. A schedule will be posted on our website prior to the event.

Free with Zoo Admission



DAYTIME COSTUMES AND CRITTERS

Friday-Sunday, October 21 - 23

Saturday and Sunday, October 29-30

Kids, wear your costume to the Zoo. Visit the animals and watch them get some special treats and strike a pose at scenes around the Zoo, including the Pumpkin Patch. Send us a selfie to be entered into our virtual costume contest. Details coming soon to the Zoo website.

Free with Zoo Admission

BOO AT THE ZOO

**October 21-23, 29 and 30
5:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

Presented by Lloyd Construction

Timed Tickets Only: Tickets on sale in September

Wind your way through the Zoo as it transforms into five nights of delightful, not too frightful family fun in this Tucson Halloween tradition. Meet your favorite characters from superheroes to princesses to storybook favorites. Explore spooky scenes, games, the Rancho Sahuarita Fall Festival Zone and trick-or-treat throughout the Zoo. This year, we are instituting timed tickets to help manage the event flow, so get yours before they sell out.

\$11 Zoo Members, \$13 General Public



Ages 21 and over



SPIRITS AT THE ZOO: WICKED FUN FOR CONSERVATION

Friday, October 28, 6-9 p.m.

Join us for a spirited adult Halloween party and help scare up funds for conservation programs to save wild animals and wild places. Wear your best costume and join us for:

- Spooky cocktails
- Animal encounters
- Raffle and mystery bags
- Devilish DJ Dance Party with costume and dance contests
- Haunted Karaoke
- Portable planetarium, canvas painting, photo ops and more
- Food for sale from area food trucks and vendors

Prizes will be awarded for best animal costume, most creative costume and best couple's costume.

\$40 Zoo Members; \$45 General Public
(includes two drink tickets)

**\$30 Zoo Member Designated Driver:
\$35 General Public Designated Driver**
(includes unlimited soda, tea and water plus \$5 food voucher)

NEW THIS YEAR! PREMIUM EXPERIENCE

Includes early entry and additional drink ticket, plus keeper encounter and African wild dog feeding.

Watch the Zoo website for tickets and details.

\$70 Zoo members; \$75 General Public



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



BREWLIGHTS

Friday, December 2
6-9 p.m.

Sample craft beer from a variety of local and regional brewers under the glittering sights of ZooLights. Live music and festive activities round out this special night sure to get you in the holiday spirit. Each drinking ticket comes with eight tasting coupons and souvenir glass; designated driver tickets include stadium cup for non-alcoholic beverages and a \$5 food coupon towards food in the Café or at food carts.

\$35 Zoo Members; \$40 General Admission

\$20 Zoo Member Designated Driver; \$25 Designated Driver General Admission

Ages 21 and over only

ZOOLIGHTS

December 3, 5- 23, 6-9 p.m., Encore Nights December 26 - 30

Presented by Tucson Electric Power

Ready, Set, Glow! Enter a winter wonderland filled with thousands of twinkling lights and seasonal displays, plus visits with Santa, falling snow, holiday characters, live seasonal entertainment, and festive foods. It's a Tucson tradition! Check the website for more information coming soon.



\$12 Adults (ages 15 to 61); \$10 Seniors (ages 62+); \$8 Children (ages 2 to 14); free for children under 2

Zoo Member Mondays - Zoo Members receive half-price admission; Zoo Members get \$3 off admission Tuesdays - Sundays

Note: During evening events most animals will be sleeping and will not be visible to the public.

Education Programs

JUNIOR ZOO KEEPER

Oct 9, or Nov 19
9-11 a.m.

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

\$15 Zoo Members



DR ZOO

Sept 18, Oct 22, or Nov 25
9-11 a.m.

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

\$15 Zoo Members

FAMILY BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

November 26 or 27
10-11 a.m. or 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Ages 5 and up

Journey Behind the Scenes with your family over the Holidays! Find out what it takes to care for about 400 animals every day, why zoos are important, and learn what YOUR Zoo is doing to protect wild animals and wild places. This adventure includes visiting the Zoo's health center, kitchen and rhino behind the scenes areas.



\$18/Member Participant, \$23/General Admission

LITTLE CRITTERS

October 18, Nov 6, December 3 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Ages 2-5, one adult participant included in fee

These interactive programs encourage families to learn about the animal world together. Each program features a different animal theme and includes animal ambassador encounters, movement-based activities, and a simple craft. The activities are based on Arizona's Early Learning Standards to develop motor, social, and cognitive skills.



\$12 Members, \$20 General Public

WINTER CAMP: SAVE THE DATE

December 27-30

Our winter camps will provide exciting opportunities for your children to explore the Zoo and learn about our animals and the habitats that they live in. Through special behind-the-scenes experiences, crafts, games, and activities, your children will discover the wonders and mysteries of the natural world! Details will be online at a later date.



Advance registration is required for all education programs.

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

Elephant Herd:



Greene Enterprises Drywall
Greene Enterprises Material
Aviation Building & Supply

Lion's Pride:

Universal Avionics
Behavioral Awareness Center
Buddy Heilig & Sons Electric Inc.

Rhino's Crash:

723 Main LLC
Elder Health



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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tucson, Arizona
Permit No. 1257



BOO!
AT THE ZOO



October 21, 22, 23, 29, & 30
6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Member Entry at 5:30 p.m.

Timed tickets only! Details at ReidParkZoo.org

Presented by

