

ZOO & YOU



Spring 2022 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society





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Reid Park Zoological Society

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MUD WALLOW

Looking for a rainy day activity? Try a mud party! Our elephant herd often enjoys wallowing during rare rains. Mud wallowing helps elephants regulate their body temperature and protects their skin from sun and insects — but it's also just fun! Elephants are highly intelligent and social animals that sometimes play together just for enjoyment. Sisters Penzi and Nandi and allomother Lungile have been enjoying the light rain this winter.



Thank you to elephant Keeper Shelby for capturing this cute wallow session!

P.S. — If you look closely at the photo above, you can see Penzi's tusks are just starting to show!



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!



Tammy Orr



@stephlowe777 on Instagram



Chris Carls



@ryoko123panda on Instagram



GIRAFFE HEALTH CARE FROM HEAD TO TOE!

The complete preventative health care program for our giraffe herd includes the basics like blood tests, parasite screening, looking at their eyes, ears, teeth and also careful examination of their feet. Being large mammals who stand for long periods throughout the day and some of the night, their feet get heavy use. If you have watched them, you know Jasiri, Sota and Penny can all kick, run and stretch using their strong feet.

Regular evaluation of their feet is critical to keep giraffes healthy and moving well. The animal care and vet teams work together to get a close-up look at the giraffe

feet including radiographs or X-rays. These images provide valuable information particularly across their lives. The primary way a giraffe can defend itself is to kick. Therefore the relationship and trust between the giraffe and the care team is crucial. The giraffes need to trust that the X-ray machine will not hurt or scare them.

The giraffe team are specialists in caring for hooves. The team works daily with the herd to help them become accustomed to placing their foot on a block, so it is elevated and can rest comfortably flat down or rolled under so staff can see the bottom of the foot. When

the foot is on the block, the vet team can take photos and X-rays, get a close-up look, and administer regular hoof trims — all as part of a good foot care regime.

"Pedal osteitis," or arthritis of the bones in the hoof, is not an uncommon problem encountered as giraffes age, and in severe cases can lead to bone fractures. Radiographs are a critical tool to help us diagnose and monitor the progression of this condition. Regular hoof trims are the best method of preventing this condition. Sota participated in his foot health check recently and enjoyed the food treats he was given while he patiently participated in his exam.

UPDATE FROM THE FIELD

This past October, with support from the SAFE: Andean Highland Flamingo Program, researchers braved the icy, salty waters within Los Flamencos National Reserve, located 15,000 feet above sea level in northern Chile. Their mission... to place solar-powered telemetry GPS transmitters on three species of flamingo: Andean, Puna (also known as James's), and Chilean to better understand the habitat needs of these birds. Throughout the week-long trip, the team placed transmitters on 4 birds, increasing the total number of birds that this 3-year project is tracking to 11 flamingos: 5 Andean and 6 James's. Each transmitter reports back the geographical position, altitude, and flight speed of each bird and documents

the course each has flown. One bird flew 85 miles over 4 hours, reaching 41 miles per hour at one point!

Studying the data from all the transmitters throughout this 3-year program will allow researchers to monitor the flight patterns and travel corridors these three species use to better identify their key breeding, nesting, feeding, and resting habitats. **This information is critical to learn what areas need to be a priority for protection.**

One way to protect these critical habitats is to reduce human disturbances. The Los Flamencos Nature Reserve is a popular destination for tourists. To promote the protection of this area, the SAFE: Andean Highland Flamingo Program supported

training workshops for tour operators and guides from this area in December. The workshops included information on the biology of the Andean Highland flamingos, information on how to watch them safely, and how to run an ecotourism business without disturbing or harming the flamingos. By completing these two major accomplishments this past year, the SAFE: Andean Highland Flamingo Program, led by the Reid Park Zoo and the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group, is on track to complete its program plan goals. **Your continued support of Reid Park Zoo has led to this program's success!**



The team at Los Flamencos National Reserve



checking the weight on a flamingo



A close-up of one of the transmitters



ONE OF THE CUTEST NOSES AT THE ZOO!

For such tiny antelope, Speke's gazelles have a lot of personality and more than a few cool adaptations and behaviors.

They are delicate, fast, agile and built for managing extremely hot weather — a perfect fit for Tucson! Our three gazelles arrived a few months ago from the midwest where they were part of a larger herd. Working with partner zoos allows us to all manage the appropriate number of animals at each facility for optimal wellness and breeding success.

These little guys made a long

journey to us and then enjoyed some unstructured days to allow them the opportunity to get comfortable with our staff and receive some health exams from the vet. From head to hoof, these little ones had lots of attention showered on them.

Speaking of their heads, they have one of the most interesting noses at the Zoo. Their noses are very broad and they can inflate to an enormous size when making an alarm call. The alarm call works great to communicate with herdmates. Living in a group provides extra eyes and ears to look out for danger, and then having a loud call can alert the

entire group quickly. Gazelles can also be seen exhibiting a “prong” behavior which is a running, springy jump in the air which can indicate general excitement — it can be from a threat or just exuberance about the moment.

Speke's gazelles typically live in one of two kinds of groups: a breeding group with a male and lots of females or in a group of non-breeding males. Our



three males form the Zoo's bachelor herd of gazelles. They spend a good amount of time sparring with one another to gauge each other's strength and moves. Their keeper refers to these sparring battles like fencing rather than actual fighting, they are just testing one another. There is no need to injure or hurt each other, but it's always helpful to know who is the top gazelle.

Their days at the Zoo rotate between grazing, resting and sparring. While they do not have predators at the Zoo, they keep a watchful eye on the male African crowned crane. The gazelles have even used the rhino as a block to hide from the crane, still wary about what the crane is up to.

If you visit often you may learn some distinguishing features of the gazelles. Their zookeepers tell them apart based on the slight differences in the black coloration on their noses. Each evening when they are called to their night quarters for a vegetable treat, the keepers can distinguish each gazelle. The gazelle's favorite treats are produce, but they also eat leaves or browse as

well as grass. In the wild, gazelles are competing with livestock for sometimes scarce resources. Drought and hunting are other threats to the species. While there are no formal protected areas specifically for gazelles, conservation efforts that balance livestock use and wildlife management protect this delicate species.



FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO: Updates on World of Play and Pathway to Asia

Greetings and Happy New Year from all of us at Reid Park Zoo.

In December, Reid Park Zoo began redesign of the Angel Charity for Children World of Play Adventure Zone and is ready to begin redesign of the long-awaited Pathway to Asia in the next few weeks. We also have some smaller projects that will be complete in the next year that we wanted to share with you.

Pathway to Asia

We began meeting in January to start the redesign of this expansion to Reid Park Zoo with input gathering for preliminary concepts.

As you may be aware, the location of Pathway to Asia has been modified with the project now located in the current Reid Park Zoo and Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center parking lots. A new parking lot for both the Zoo and the Adaptive Rec Center will be constructed to the north of the Adaptive Rec Center, which will occupy space in Tucson Parks and Recreation's current maintenance yard.

A diagram of the approximate placement is on Page 8. The new location for Pathway to Asia addresses community requests to leave Barnum Hill and the surrounding ponds in place, while maximizing and repurposing hard space. The new location ideally provides a continuous perimeter and houses the animals in Pathway to Asia closer to the Zoo's Health Center and Zoo veterinary team.

We believe this new location is a win-win for all parties, including the Zoo, and appreciate the extensive community conversation and input that has taken place regarding Pathway to Asia and Reid Park over the past year.

We look forward to introducing you to the amazing animals of Asia including red pandas, Komodo dragon, Malayan tigers, Asian small-clawed otters, an exotic bird feeding experience and more.



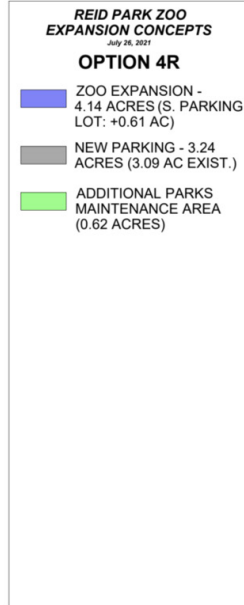
Angel Charity for Children World of Play

This exciting area will be located within the Zoo's existing footprint in the former flamingo habitat by the Lee H. Brown Conservation Learning Center.

This Adventure Zone combines learning and play as children are introduced to the ambassadors for three continents from around the world that highlight our planet's amazing diversity of habitats.

A replica of an emperor penguin will introduce you to Antarctica. You will learn about the animals who call the ice home as you enter the windy, frozen ice shelf and follow the march of the penguins as you travel through an ice tunnel, waddle like a penguin to your nest and see how you do at warming a penguin egg.

From Antarctica, you will warm up as you head to the rainforest of South America where a capuchin monkey replica will welcome you to an area of the world filled with a wide variety of homes for animals. You will learn who lives in the tree canopy and top leafy layers all the way down to the rainforest floor while engaging in play as you squawk like a macaw and chirp like a squirrel monkey. From there, you will



slide down to the redwood forest!

We are quickly finalizing the changes in design to this exciting adventure zone for children and expect to begin construction by this summer.

Other small projects underway!

We are in the design process for a new sloth habitat in South America. This project will be complete in 2022 for this tree-dweller known for its slow movements.

The Conservation Learning Center has had the fish tank converted into a small animal habitat that will provide a rotating space for some of the Zoo's

ambassador animals.

The birthday party area of the Zoo will be undergoing a facelift with landscaping, new tent and improved fencing.

The restrooms in the front of the Zoo will be undergoing a small remodel with new paint, new lights and fixtures, flooring and decorative features with a conservation theme on the stalls. We apologize for any inconvenience as we implement these updates at the front of the Zoo as they may cause closures of some of the restrooms from time to time. The other four restroom areas will remain open during this time.

We look forward to regularly sharing progress with you on these projects as they take shape.



NATE CLARK: Why Legacy Circle Important

Throughout our lives we create lasting memories with family and friends and learn how we are connected. If you are reading this, one of our shared connections is Reid Park Zoo.

Reid Park Zoo has impacted my life, my family's life and, most likely, your life as well. Personally, Reid Park Zoo has provided many inspiring and lasting memories, a deep understanding of the value of the Zoo to our community, and reinforces my belief in the importance of education to protect wild animals and wild places.

As I visit the Zoo, I see the excitement in the eyes of many children as they learn about wild animals that come from wild places. I ask myself, could this child's experience today be preparing them for a career as veterinarian or could it lead to their understanding of the importance of

protecting those animals and their native habitats? It is for those reasons, and many others, that I want to ensure the sustainability of Reid Park Zoo for many years to come and solidifies why I am a Legacy Circle member.

Members of the Reid Park Zoo Legacy Circle all share a common connection. We are ambassadors for the Zoo and collectively envision a bright future to benefit the next generation. Designating Reid Park Zoo as part of your estate plan is one of the ultimate lasting gifts and remembrances you can provide for Reid Park Zoo, our community, and future generations to come, all while protecting wild animals.



Join us for a "Why a Will" Workshop

Tuesday, March 22 at 5 p.m. Inside the Zoofari Café

Presenter: Attorney and Zoo Board Member Denice Shepherd

Learn the difference between wills and trusts, when probate is involved, what about dependents, and more.

RSVP to gail@reidparkzoo.org or (520) 881-4753.

You are paramount to the future of Reid Park Zoo!

I appreciate the opportunity to thank you for your commitment and dedication to the mission of Reid Park Zoo.

For more information, contact the Development Department at 520-881-4753 or gail@reidparkzoo.org

Nate Clark
Reid Park Zoo Development Chair

LEGACY GIFT SPOTLIGHT: Linda Hinds

Linda Hinds was part of the Zoo's family and considered Reid Park Zoo to be her family. She was involved in so many ways — she was a docent, a board member, an office volunteer, and was most known for taking care of our mascot, 'Leo the Lion' as she escorted the person wearing the outfit through the Zoo. Part of her legacy

was her gift through her will to Reid Park Zoo. Her gifts were used for projects we knew were important to Linda and are long lasting. She was so excited about the new elephant exhibit, so a significant portion of her gift helped to fund that exhibit and the 'kopje' rock formation that has all kinds of different brushes,

fans, heaters and other enrichment to make the elephants comfortable. She also loved helping in the office and making sure the administrative staff had what they needed to take care of the zoo behind the scenes. Her gift made it possible for Reid Park Zoological Society to expand its offices and the building was named in her honor.

EVENTS

Education Programs

SUMMER CAMP

Save the date: Weeklong camps for Grades 1-6 and 2-day camps for grades 7-8 will be available June-July. Registration information is available on the Zoo's website.

JUNIOR ZOO KEEPER

April 10, 9-11 a.m.

\$15 for Zoo Members

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

May 21, 9-11 a.m.

\$15 for Zoo Members

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

CAREERS AT A ZOO

April 3, 9 a.m. - Noon

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 required.

I LOVE ZOO

February 13, 9 a.m. to Noon

Free with Zoo admission

Watch zoo animals receive a little extra love with special enrichment treats and read some of their valentine messages to you. Enrichment schedule will be posted in the Entry Plaza.



SENIOR CELEBRATION

Friday, March 4, 9 a.m. to Noon

Free for Zoo members: \$5 admission all day for guests ages 62+

Seniors ages 62 and better can enjoy \$5 admission to the Zoo. They can also take part in special presentations in the aviaries and animal enrichment presentations to learn how the Zoo helps some of our senior animals stay happy and healthy. Proof of age required. Discount tickets must be purchased at the gate.



SPRING WALKABOUT EXTENDED ZOO HOURS

Zoo open until 6:30 p.m., March 10 - 20. Celebrate spring break with a relaxing trip to the Zoo. Hours will be extended until 6:30 p.m. March 10 - 20. Enjoy dinner or snack, visit with the animals and listen to animal presentations.

PENZI'S SECOND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, April 9, 9 - 11 a.m.

Free with Zoo admission

What do you get a 1,800 pound elephant for her birthday? Help observe beloved Penzi's third birthday with a pachyderm party celebrating her life and the lives of elephants everywhere. Join us for elephant-themed activities. Learn about Penzi's latest developments and about conservation programs to help protect elephants in the wild. Animal care staff will distribute some special enrichment gifts for Penzi and the herd, and we'll have free cupcakes for the first 300 people.



EASTER EXTRAVAGANZOO

April 16 and 17, 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

\$35 Adult Members; \$25 Child Members

Hop on over to the Zoo and enjoy the wildest egg hunt in town. Meet the Easter Bunny, enjoy a light breakfast, watch special animal encounters, plus, see the egg-citing new Dinosaur Discovery exhibit. Advance registration required.



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

THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

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Presents

DINOSAUR DISCOVERY

Free to Zoo members!

produced by
imagine
exhibitions

MEET THE ORIGINAL KING OF THE JUNGLE!

Bushes shake...strange sounds pierce the air. You stop in your tracks as you spy something HUGE you've never before seen at your Zoo.

Dinosaurs! BIG. Moving. Dinosaurs!

Starting February 12, ten roaring, swiveling, prehistoric giants thunder into Reid Park Zoo, taking you back in time to imagine the world when these amazing titans ruled.

Brought to life by amazing computer animatronics, each dinosaur blinks, bellows and crunches for the next best thing to being there 66 million years ago.

While journeying through the Zoo, you'll encounter a variety of dinosaurs that lived across Pangea, the supercontinent that existed before the continents as we know them were formed. Get eye to teeth with mighty T-rex. Stand your ground with a soaring Spinosaurus - largest of the carnivores - at a whopping 45-foot-long and

16 feet high. Learn fascinating facts about the dinosaurs and what paleontologists have uncovered from their fossils. Take part in fun photo opportunities, including a dino you can sit on, and see if you can spot relationships between these ancient giants and some modern animals.

The dinosaurs were created by Imagine Exhibitions in collaboration with renowned paleontologist Dr. Gregory Erickson, one of only 150 currently working dinosaur paleontologists.

"We are thrilled to welcome guests to Dinosaur Discovery, immersing them in the world of history's most impressive behemoths. As they enjoy visiting the dinos, we hope they will also be inspired to learn about current animals at the Zoo whose species are imperiled and ways to help change their future," says Zoo President and CEO Nancy Kluge.

DINOSAUR DISCOVERY

February 12- May 15

Special Zoo Member Preview at 8 a.m. on Saturday, February 12!

DINO NIGHT

March 4, 6-8:30 p.m.

How much do you know about dinosaurs? Are you ready to discover more? Come along on an epic journey but careful don't touch. Some of these guys may bite!



Zoo & You 11



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

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Wine Gone Wild



April 9, 6 to 8 p.m.

Sip, swirl and savor a variety of wines, spirits, and delectable bites while strolling around the Zoo. "Unwined" and join us for a wild happy hour along with live music.

Tickets starting at \$75

VIP tickets available
(includes behind-the-scenes experience)

Tickets and information coming soon at

ReidParkZoo.org

