

# ZOO & YOU



Spring 2023 | Member Magazine  
Reid Park Zoological Society





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**Reid Park Zoological Society**

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

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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.



**Forever Fun. Forever Wild.**

Recently we had the children and grandchildren of some of our volunteers and staff come out to the Zoo as we develop our message for our new slogan Forever Fun. Forever Wild. We wanted to capture the fun side of a visit to the Zoo while we show the long-lasting effects your visit has on saving wild animals and wild places.

Here are a few pictures of kids doing what kids do best - having fun!



# 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!



All photos by Richard Gates



## University of Arizona Veterinary Students Studying Zoo Medicine

Reid Park Zoo has been up to something pretty exciting behind-the-scenes this academic year. In 2019, Reid Park Zoo was thrilled to partner with the University of Arizona's new College of Veterinary Medicine Oro Valley campus. It is one of only 33 veterinary schools in the U.S., and the first class of students will graduate this May.

During the final year of the program, students participate in a variety of rotations gaining experience in different settings — including at Reid Park Zoo!

A small number of students work at the Zoo for a few weeks at a time. They work closely with the Zoo's animal care team, studying everything from animal behavior to bloodwork results, and working directly with the animals in the Zoo's care.

This is the first class of students to enter their final year at the college, and the first year students have come to work at the Zoo as



a part of this program.

During their time at the Zoo, students learn about animal behavior and the training required to perform basic medical tasks on large and small animals.

## Little Animals with a Big, Big Impact

They wiggle, they skitter, and they flutter. Insects, and their close relatives, spiders and other arachnids, are the most numerous types of animals on Earth. Reid Park Zoo has recently become host to a swarm of larger-than-life insects and arachnids for our **Big, Big Bugs** event. When you visit the big bugs at the Zoo, see if you can spot the arachnid in the group. Here's a hint: insects have 6 legs and 3 body segments (head, thorax, and abdomen) while arachnids have 8 legs and 2 body segments (cephalothorax and abdomen).

Even though real-life insects and arachnids are much smaller, they play a HUGE role in keeping habitats healthy. Some pollinate flowers while others control pests and still others recycle nutrients in the soil.

Each of these services benefit humans, especially when it comes to our favorite food crops. Insects and arachnids are also very important food sources for other animals, making them a vital part of the food web.

One insect you will find at the Zoo, both in giant form and real-life is the monarch butterfly, which was recently listed as Endangered by the International Union on the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



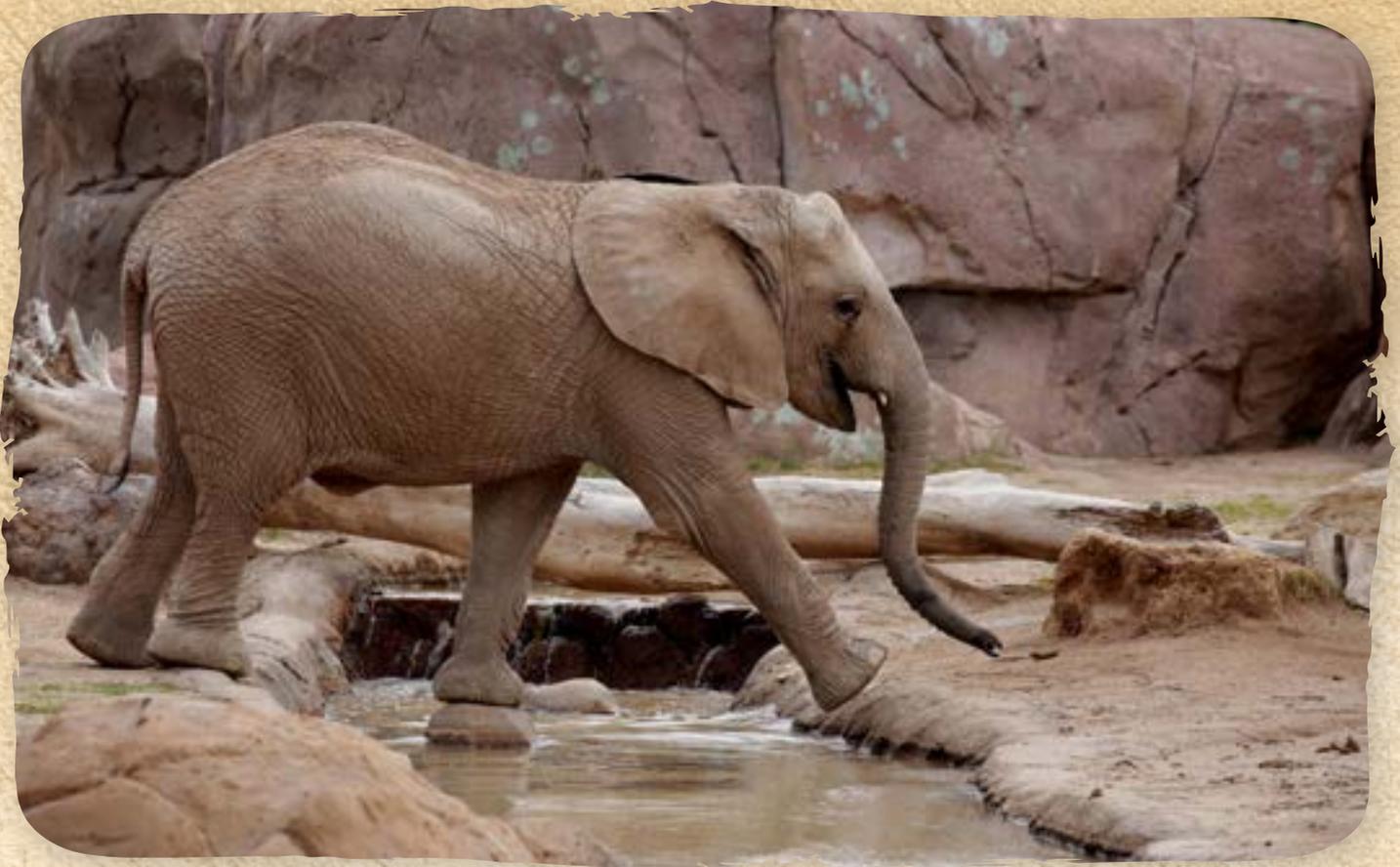
One reason for its listing is habitat loss. Monarchs migrate thousands of miles between their breeding grounds and overwintering grounds. They need flowering plants throughout their travel path so they can feed on the nectar during this long migration. They also require milkweed plants for their caterpillars, which eat nothing else.

Reid Park Zoo has partnered with Monarch SAFE (Saving Animals from Extinction) through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). Using Nature's Notebook by the U.S. National Phenology Network, we share our observations of the native milkweeds in our pollinator garden, as



well as the pollinators that use the garden. We have observed several monarchs and monarch caterpillars in the garden recently. You can help monarchs, too, by adding native milkweed and other native flowering plants to your outdoor space.

If you already have milkweed in your yard, download Nature's Notebook and record your observations to help scientists protect this important and iconic pollinator!



## Get to Know Elephants by their Ears!

**Who is that elephant?** People have unique physical traits. We look at eye color, facial shape, and height in people to quickly determine if we know someone or not. Elephants have distinct traits to help others tell them apart as well. Researchers identify elephants by looking at things like the number and size of tusks on an individual. Some elephants have injuries leaving them with one tusk, others may have two, and others may not have visible tusks at all. Another common trait is the condition of the ears, as some elephants have notches or holes in their ears. These ear shapes can act as identifiers for individual elephants.

Researchers in Tanzania, specifically the Tarangire National Park use these physical traits and photos of

the elephants to help them count numbers of elephants present over many years. In Tarangire these methods were successfully used over two decades and now a similar count of elephants is happening in the Serengeti National Park. Reid Park Zoo supports this research and has been lucky to have Dr. Charles Foley visit our herd in Tucson. He is lead scientist for the work in Tarangire National Park and collaborator for the Serengeti Elephant Project.

Dr. Foley commented on how our herd of elephants looks just



like a wild herd with one exception. He said our juvenile elephants, like the youngest calf Penzi and her older sister Nandi, are a bit larger than their wild cousins. Our elephants of course have a healthy supply of food each and every day as well as excellent preventative health care. If they are ill, they receive treatments quickly, and they never go a day on light food rations. So the girls have grown a little bigger a little faster.

But other than that size difference, our elephants behave like a wild herd. From playing in the mud to swimming in their pool, they practice social bonding and play daily.



While their size differences can clearly differentiate one member of the herd from another, you can also use the tricks of the researchers.

For example **Semba**, the matriarch and mother of the calves, has two medium sized tusks and one tiny hole on her right ear as well as a small notch midway up her ear. In addition to these easy markers, you might also notice her body shape – the shape of her belly and midsection looks a lot like Nandi's midsection.

This shape is more subtle than the ear notches of course, but you can practice and see that Lungile has a different belly shape. Nandi is genetically related to Semba and this shape is shared with mother and daughter.

The next largest elephant is **Lungile**, the allomother to the group. Lungile has barely

### **PENZI'S THIRD BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**Friday, April 7**

**9:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Help honor the Zoo's littlest elephant, Penzi, as she turns three years old. Celebrate all things pachyderm with themed activities, stay up to date on Penzi and the herd with keeper chats and join in singing "Happy Birthday." Enjoy a cookie (for the first 300 guests) while watching Penzi and her family receive special enrichment treats.

**Free with Zoo admission**

visible tusks. She uses them to chip bark off of logs and they tend to stay very short. Lungile also has a small hole in both lower ears.

**Nandi** is getting closer to the size of the adults but she has two shorter tusks than Semba. Nandi has a small oval-shaped hole in her left ear on the lower portion of her ear and a small notch too.



**Penzi** is noticeably a much smaller elephant than the rest of the group. She has small tusks growing. Her ears do not have any noticeable notches or holes in them. She is a pint size version of her older sister!

Come visit the herd at the Zoo or try sneaking a peek at them on our webcams. During the spring, rainy days though rare are great times to see the elephants in the pool. Can you tell which elephant is which on this page?



## Exciting Things Ahead for Reid Park Zoo

There are a number of exciting projects underway at the Zoo. Thank you for your support that makes these improvements possible.

### **SLOTH HABITAT**

A portion of the South America loop is closed during construction of this new habitat as we prepare a home for a Linne's two-toed sloth. Construction is currently underway with the initial underground and ground preparation in progress. This habitat will be completed by the



end of the summer when we welcome this new animal to the Zoo!

### **ANGEL CHARITY FOR CHILDREN WORLD OF PLAY**

World of Play construction continues with an opening planned for summer of 2023. Underground work is nearing complete and progress continues as we get ready for this exciting adventure zone!

The picture above is a great depiction of World of Play – where you can see the Antarctic ice cave, the South America treetop, and the Giant Sequoia tree.

One of the most important features of World of Play is accessibility – this play area creates space where a child in a wheelchair can take a ramp up to the highest areas, to the top of the slide where children with mobility aids normally can't go. Thanks to an innovative system of ramps, they will be able to come up to the eagle's nest and the treetops with everyone else! This is something we strive for at Reid Park Zoo, giving an experience that is accessible and equitable.

### **PATHWAY TO ASIA**

The new parking lot for the Zoo, Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center (ARC), and Reid Park, began construction in early March.

There will be an increase in parking available combined with about 100 trees that will be planted as a part of the project.

There will be changes to the parking for the Adaptive Recreation Center and along Lakeshore Lane during construction. Parks and Recreation, Reid Park Zoo, U of A Baseball, and the Adaptive Recreation Center representatives have been meeting as we ensure access is available to each facility throughout construction.

Once the parking lot is completed, ARC, Zoo, Hi Corbett, and Reid Park visitors will be able to park in the new lot. At that time, construction of Pathway to Asia will take place in the current ARC and Zoo lots.

We can't wait to share these latest additions with you!

We know that construction brings some inconvenience and every effort is being made to minimize disruptions. Thank you for your patience as we continue to work toward these new amenities at the Zoo and, as always, we appreciate your support of the Zoo and the animals.

Best regards,



Best regards,  
Nancy Kluge,  
President & CEO



## Upcoming Reptile Exhibits a Longtime Dream of Zoo Supporter Dr. Robert Hamilton

Dr. Robert Hamilton, affectionately known as Bob, began quietly making donations to Reid Park Zoo nearly 30 years ago.

Bob was a retired neurologist from the East coast who made Tucson his home alongside his wife Ellie. They supported many wonderful organizations in Tucson, and the Hamilton's support has helped build many assets in the Zoo, among them habitats in the Conservation Learning Center, to the Tanzania elephant habitat and American alligator habitat.



As Zoo staff got to know Bob better, one thing became clear: Bob's dream for Reid Park Zoo was to build a reptile center — one that would bring his favorite animal, a reticulated python, to the community and encourage a love of other reptiles.

Bob's dream will come true with Pathway to Asia's Robert Hamilton Tropical Discovery Center. Sadly, Bob passed away in 2019 and won't get to see this dream become a reality but we are honored to be a part of the legacy he has left.

### Joys of Bob's Life

- Retiring
- Juicy cheeseburgers
- Motorcycles
- Music from opera to '50s and '60s
- Reptiles, cats, and dogs
- Books and maps
- All things WWII
- Brewing eggnog and making bloody mary's for friends
- His wife, Ellie



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**Saturday, April 1**

**Premium Ticket: Entry 5:15pm**

**General Event Ticket: 6pm - 8:30 p.m.**

Sip, savor and swirl a variety of wines and spirits while raising your glass to support quality care and enrichment for the animals here at the Zoo and conservation programs around the world. Stroll the Zoo at sunset while enjoying samplings from the best regional wineries, distilleries and spirits partners, delicious food bites, up-close animal encounters, wine pull, live music and glass painting.

Souvenir tasting glass included.

Partners to date:

- Arizona Winery Tours
- Birds and Barrels Vineyards
- Desert Daquiris
- Lightning Ridge Cellars
- The Meading Room
- PRP Wine International
- Rancho Rossa Vineyards and Rescued Hearts Cellars
- Sonoita Vineyards
- Sonoran Wines
- Southern Glazers Wine and Spirits
- Strive Vineyards
- Twisted Union Wine Company
- Whiskey Del Bac
- POPPED: Artisan Popped

**Tickets:**

**General Event: \$60 Zoo Members; \$65 Public**

**Designated Driver: \$20 Zoo Members; \$55 General**

**Tickets and Information at ReidParkZoo.org Prices go up \$5 at the door.**



## EASTER EXTRAVAGANZOO

**Saturday and Sunday, April 8 and 9  
7:30 - 9:30 a.m.**

Spend Easter with your peeps at the Zoo and enjoy the wildest egg hunt in town. Meet the Easter bunny, enjoy breakfast, watch special animal encounters, plus see the egg-citing new Big, Big Bugs exhibit. Advance registration is required.

**Zoo Members: \$38 Adult; \$28 Child  
General: \$42 Adult; \$32 Child**

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, April 22  
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Spring into fun and discover ways to help preserve and protect wild animals and wild places in this earth we all call home. There will be themed stations around the Zoo, special activities and animal encounters in this day to celebrate and learn what you can do to help create a better world for all. **Bike to the Zoo and check in your bike to enjoy \$5 admission.**

## BREW AT THE ZOO

**Saturday, May 20  
6 to 9 p.m.**

We've got long necks - and longnecks! Taste a wide selection of excellent craft beer, hard ciders and spirits at Tucson's most unique beer festival with live music, pub-style food for sale, games and photo stops. With every ticket and beer you taste, you are giving back to wildlife. The money raised during the event will support care and enrichment programs for the Zoo's animals, as well as Zoo education and conservation programs. Tickets and details coming soon!



# THANK YOU TO OUR BUSINESS MEMBERS!

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### Lion's Pride:

Behavioral Awareness Center  
Universal Avionics

### Rhino's Crash:



# Education Programs

## SUMMER CAMP

June 5- Aug 4

Week-long camps for grades 1-5, 2 days camps for grades 6-8

\$285 per week for members, \$335 for nonmembers

Registration opens March 1 and is required

## LITTLE CRITTERS

April 18 9am-10am

May 12 9am-10am

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**

## ZOO-WIDE BIOBLITZ

April 30 10 a.m.-noon

A bioblitz is an event at which a group of volunteers get together to find and identify as many different native plants and animals as possible in a given area.

All ages and experience levels are welcome. Identification skills are not necessary.

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

April 22

Join us at our annual Party for the Planet for a morning of activities and presentations to celebrate Earth Day.

**Advance registration is required for all education programs.**

# Zoocademy Awards 2023

Award season is here and we have some extraordinary animals that deserve their moment in the spotlight! Join us in looking back through 2022 and celebrating some of the most impressive animals in the world.

## Sound/Original Song:

If you visit the Zoo early in the mornings you've probably heard Billy, the lar gibbon, giving a loud whooping sound that can be heard across the park!



## Makeup and Hairstyling:

While many animals at the Zoo have showstopping looks, the East African Crowned Cranes are this year's winner in Makeup and Hairstyling. With a crown that helps them blend in with grass and bright red accents, they're hard to beat!



## Supporting Role:

The Zoo wouldn't be what it is without our incredible Zoo staff. From the kitchen to our ticket booths to our offices, it takes the whole herd to care for every animal at the Zoo.



## Costume Design:

Zebras are well known for their extravagant stripes. In 2022 we got to watch a young Haroo grow into his and really find his sense of style!



## Best Picture:

Nothing is better than seeing you enjoy the Zoo! Thank you for being a part of Reid Park Zoo's success and we'll see you soon!





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1030 South Randolph Way  
Tucson, Arizona 85716

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# BIG, BIG BUGS!

Through April 30



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