



ZOO & YOU

Fall 2024 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society





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Reid Park Zoological Society

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1030 S Randolph Way
Tucson, AZ 85716

ZOO HOURS:

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



Big and Small, Come See Them All!

Something new is coming to Reid Park Zoo! You might have noticed a stunning new handcrafted tree has taken root in the Zoo's Conservation Learning Center. Soon the habitats to its left will be filled with some incredible new species.

The habitats will feature: Axolotl, Giant Cave Roach, Rainbow Boa, Curly Haired Tarantula, Henkel's Leaf-tailed Gecko, White's Tree Frog, Crested Gecko, and the Amazon Milk Frog!

It is almost time for these fascinating amphibians, invertebrates and reptiles to move into their new home. Stop by on your next visit and peek in to see who has arrived!

Crested Gecko

White's Tree Frog



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!



Photo by @phaceless1



Photo by @phaceless1



Photo by Debb Hart Oebker



Photo courtesy of Debb Hart Oebker, 1997

SEND US YOUR ZOO MEMORIES

Reid Park Zoo is preparing to celebrate its 60th anniversary! Help us reminisce on the last six decades by sending in your family's earliest Reid Park Zoo photos and memories to marketing@reidparkzoo.org or Reid Park Zoo, 1030 South Randolph Way, Tucson, AZ, 85716. You may be featured in photo displays or future editions of Zoo & You. Please provide your name, address and phone number for any hard copies. Thank you for being part of our Zoo community!



Photo by André Bittar

Supporting Award-Winning Conservation

Reid Park Zoo has been a proud supporter of the Anteaters and Highways Project in Brazil since it began in 2017.

Realizing that anteaters were one of the top animals that were victims of wildlife-vehicle collisions, biologist Dr. Arnaud Desbiez and

his team developed an action plan that combines research and education to help protect anteaters when they need to cross roads that intersect their natural habitat.

As a result of their research to better understand anteater behavior and their

advocacy for safer road designs, the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso do Sul adopted a mitigation plan for all new road construction and repair to protect anteaters and other wildlife from vehicle collisions.

Reid Park Zoo also supported Dr. Desbiez in his work with the Giant Armadillo Conservation Program from 2014 to 2020 before shifting to focus its support for the Anteaters and Highways Project.

Currently, the Zoo's support of the Anteaters and Highways Project helps fund education programs for both giant anteaters and giant armadillos. These programs work to involve local communities in the conservation of these species.



Dr. Desbiez's dedication to the preservation of anteaters and giant armadillos has earned him several prestigious conservation awards. In 2015, he was recognized with the Whitley Award through the Whitley Fund for Nature, an award that was presented to Dr. Desbiez by world-renowned biologist Sir David Attenborough. On September 26, 2024, Dr. Desbiez received the Wolfgang Kiessling International Prize for Species Conservation.

In a video message to Zoo staff, Dr. Desbiez said, "I am very grateful to the Reid Park Zoo for all the support you have given us that has enabled us to enact our vision for species conservation which is being recognized today, I hope you feel that you are also being recognized today."

From all of us at the Zoo and from our conservation partners in Brazil, we, thank you! As a Zoo member, your support makes it possible for the Zoo to continue supporting important conservation programs!



Bring on the Holiday Magic!

'Tis the season of giving, and Reid Park Zoo is here to help. You can make the holidays a little extra *wild* this year when you celebrate with Reid Park Zoo!

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Give the gift of adventure, learning and fun. Right now, you can purchase a Zoo membership for a person you love for as little as just \$30! Memberships include unlimited free daytime admission to the Zoo year-round, discounted admission to more than 150 other zoos and aquariums around the country, discounts on Zoo events, and so much more!

ADOPT AN ANIMAL

Symbolically adopt one of the incredible animals at the Zoo. Adopt an Animal packages make a great gift, and include a certificate of adoption, information about your animal, and recognition on our website. Some adoption packages include other perks, such as plush animals, Zoo Memberships, and even an animal chat at the animal habitat of your choice.

BRICK RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Make your mark on the Zoo when you sponsor a brick paver in Reid Park Zoo's new Welcome Plaza. Bricks can be personalized as a tribute or a memorial. If you purchase a brick as a gift, your recipient will receive a certificate detailing the donation you made in their honor.

STOP BY THE ENRICHMENT TREE

Want to include something for your favorite Zoo animal in your gift giving this year? Stop by the Conservation Learning Center on your next visit to the Zoo and grab an ornament from the Enrichment Tree! Your ornament will come with a link to a wishlist filled with fun items sure to enrich the lives of the animals at the Zoo from Boomer Balls to puzzle feeders.

No matter how you celebrate, we hope your holiday season is full of joy and celebration with your loved ones. We're so thankful to have you in our community.



Introducing Tsavo

Next time you visit Reid Park Zoo, head to the elephant habitat — there’s a new elephant for you to spot!

Tsavo is a 16-year-old male elephant known for his bold personality. He joins Reid Park Zoo’s herd of five female elephants on a recommendation from the AZA African Elephant Species Survival Plan® (SSP). The SSP works cooperatively with other zoos to maximize the health, well-being, and genetic diversity of the species.

Moves such as this closely mimic the natural behavior of wild elephants where male



Tsavo

elephants commonly move between herds while female elephants raise their calves in family groups.

Tsavo is doing well. He is settling into his new habitat, while getting to know his new care team and herd members.

There are five other elephants in the Reid Park Zoo herd: Semba, mother to Nandi, Penzi and Meru, and Lungile, who acts as an allomother (non-biological caregiver) to the younger calves.

Elephant introductions happen slowly, and the pace is determined by the elephants. First, the female members of the herd were able to see Tsavo at a distance. The next step was for Tsavo to “howdy” with the female elephants — where he has the chance



Meru

to meet the rest of the herd by approaching the dividing fence. He can do it in his own time with plenty of space to step away when he wishes.

Introductions have been going well. Tsavo and Lungile have been fully introduced and are spending lots of time

together in the easternmost portion of the elephant habitat.

Every guest who visits the Zoo contributes to the protection of elephants in the wild. For more than 15 years, Reid Park Zoo has supported the Tarangire Conservation Research Program. This program has

conserved over three million acres of elephant habitat in Africa and has led anti-poaching efforts. The Zoo also contributes to global research on elephant care, as well as the study and mitigation of the often fatal elephant virus known as EEHV.



Thank you to our Business Members!

Elephant Herd:
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Lion’s Pride:
Encanto Pet Clinic
Greene Enterprises Material Handling, Inc.
Universal Avionics

Rhino’s Crash:
Aviation Building & Supply
Tucson Thrives - CEP

Interested in a corporate membership?
Visit reidparkzoo.org/membership/levels-benefits/ for details!

Creating the Future of Your Zoo

This is an exciting time at your Reid Park Zoo! As we end 2024 and prepare to mark our 60th anniversary in 2025, we are grateful for our generous Tucson community whose support has helped the Zoo grow as a leader in wildlife conservation, while remaining an educational and recreational treasure for all.

PATHWAY TO ASIA

With just a glimpse into the Pathway to Asia construction site, you can see a world of progress taking shape. Underground utility lines have been located and upgraded. Walls for exhibits and buildings in the new space are growing taller by the day.

This transformative addition is made possible through the Tucson voter-approved Zoo Improvement Fund and sales tax initiative in 2017, leveraged with funds from generous donors. When completed in 2026, Pathway to Asia will introduce guests to endangered species of the world's largest continent—from red pandas and Komodo dragons to tigers and gibbons—with unique viewing perspectives and interactive features to tell their important stories.



REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Around the Zoo, our maintenance team has been busy making infrastructure repairs to increase comfort and well-being of the animals and our guests. Improving water systems has been a big focus. Outdated piping and filtration equipment has been replaced at the elephant habitat, the brown bear habitat, and in the South American aviary. As a result, the animals are enjoying more refreshing pools and water sources. The viewing glass at the lion habitat has also been replaced.

As part of the Zoo's commitment to sustainability in our operations, aging toilets and fixtures around the Zoo and in the Zoo offices have been replaced with new, updated low-flow

equipment to preserve water while providing more conveniences for guests. This new update is expected to help the Zoo save more than 600,000 gallons of water each year!

These improvements are fundamental to continue providing the highest level of care and enriching habitats for the animals who reside at the Zoo.



COMING IN 2025

Work on Phase 2 of the Zoo's master plan will re-envision the center of the Zoo, enlarging several habitats, such as lion and giraffe, and bringing a new species, hippos. Watch for more information in the new year.

Thank you, Zoo members, for your continued support. Each membership helps your Reid Park Zoo continue to provide world-class animal care.



Save On Taxes and Help the Zoo

Looking to make a difference for Reid Park Zoo and the animals, and save on your taxes at the same time? Consider a gift from your IRA.

If you are age 70.5 or older, you may be able to lower income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals.

Benefits of an IRA Charitable Rollover or Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD):

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$105,000 from your IRA to our organization
- May satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts

Here's how it works:

Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to Reid Park Zoological Society.

Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to our organization to help continue our important work.

Please note that since IRA rollover gifts don't count as income, they do not qualify for a charitable deduction.

Please contact us if you wish for your gift to be used for a specific purpose.

For more information or to make a charitable gift, contact Nancy Kluge, President and CEO or Gail Brown, Chief Development Officer at 520-881-4753 or email development@reidparkzoo.org. Thank you for your support!

Please note this is a time

sensitive transaction.

If the IRA charitable rollover is intended to satisfy your required minimum distribution for the current year, verify with your custodian that this transaction will be completed prior to December 31.

This article is informational and educational in nature. It is not offering professional tax, legal, or accounting advice. For specific advice about the effect of any planning concept on your tax or financial situation or with your estate, please consult a qualified professional advisor.



Upcoming Events



ZOOLIGHTS HOLIDAY MAGIC

December 5-23, 6 - 8 p.m.

Encore Nights: December 26-30 & January 2-5, 6 - 8 p.m.

ZooLights: Holiday Magic, presented by **Tucson Electric Power**, is glowing brighter than ever with thousands of enchanting lights, mesmerizing light shows, and plenty of holly jolly fun for all ages. Stop in for a photo opp and a visit with St. Nick, who will be hearing wishes each evening through December 23. Experience falling snow in the Arctic Zone, listen to festive music, or savor a hot cup of cocoa from the Flamingo Grill or carts as you travel through a colorful wild wonderland in this Tucson holiday tradition. New this year is an 18-foot Gingerbread House and a 35-foot decorated tree, perfect for your holiday photos. Check the Zoo's website to see the entertainment schedule and get tickets!

Tickets

\$14 Adults (ages 15-61)

\$12 Seniors (ages 62+)

\$9 Children (ages 2-14)

Free for children under 2

Zoo Members receive \$2 off admission Tuesdays - Sundays

Visit our website to see further Member Discounts on Member Mondays!

60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DAY

March 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Reid Park Zoo is celebrating 60 years of conservation and connection and we're thanking our wonderful Tucson community with an elephant-sized party! Join us for a day of special activities, including cake, tours, entertainment, keeper presentations, guest talks, photo opportunities, arts and crafts, games, enrichment making, and more. You can also take part in creating a giant mural. Celebrate the past, follow the Zoo's remarkable journey to the present, and see what's ahead for the future. Tucson residents will receive \$6 off admission for the day. Watch for details.

Help us celebrate by sending your throwback photos to marketing@ReidParkZoo.org



Photo courtesy of Debb Hart Oebker, 1973

I LOVE ZOO

February 14 and 15, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Love is in the air at Reid Park Zoo! Stroll through the Zoo as the animals receive extra care with special enrichment treats and some Valentine messages. You can also drop off your own valentine to the animals. An enrichment schedule will be posted in the Welcome Plaza.

SPRING BREAK EXTENDED HOURS

March 8 - 16, 9 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

To accommodate busy family schedules during spring break, the Zoo will remain open an extra two hours. Enjoy the World of Play and grab dinner or a snack.

SENIOR CELEBRATION

March 21, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

The Zoo will offer \$5 admission for guests ages 62 and older. Learn about the Zoo's whole life care during keeper chats, engage in special activities, meet ambassador animals, and enjoy a concert from Arizona Opera.

SAVE THE DATE! WILD WONDERS: THE BEAUTY OF ART, CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

March 29 - April 30

Special Evening Opening Event: 6 - 8 p.m.

March 29

View this special exhibit of towering, intricately beaded huichol animal sculptures by famed Mexico artist Rey Menchaca and Menchaca Studios. These beautiful sculptures have been shown in major cities around the world and now are making their Tucson debut.

During the March 29 opening preview event - celebrate our community's vibrant Hispanic culture with music and dance performances, interactive artists presentations and activities, a mercado and more.



Education Programs

Advance registration required

Please check reidparkzoo.org/events to view the full list of education programs

DR ZOO

Ages 8-12

Learn how Zoo vets use science and math to care for the animals at the Zoo.

\$20 Members, \$25 General Public

Saturday, December 21, 9-11 a.m.

Saturday, January 18, 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, February 9, 9-11 a.m.

Saturday, March 1, 9-11 a.m.

JR ZOO

Ages 6-12

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

\$20 Members, \$25 General Public

Sunday, December 8, 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, January 26, 9-11 a.m.

Saturday, February 8, 9-11 a.m.

Sunday, March 23, 9-11 a.m.

LITTLE CRITTERS

Ages 3-5

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.

Cost: \$20 members, \$28 non members

One adult participant included in fee

Thursday, December 12, 9-10 a.m.

Thursday, January 16, 9-10 a.m.

Thursday, February 13, 9-10 a.m.

WINTER CAMP

Week long camp during winter break. **\$295 members, \$355 nonmembers**

December 30-January 3, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily

FAMILY BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

Ages 5 and up

Journey behind the scenes with your family over the holidays! This adventure includes visiting the Zoo's health center, kitchen and rhino behind-the-scenes areas.

\$25/member participant, \$30/non member participant

November 29, 10-11 a.m. and 1-2 p.m.

December 27, 10-11 a.m.

December 28, 10-11 a.m.

Tributes

List of tributes received April 1- June 30, 2024

In Honor of Brittany Caldwell

Robin Cook

In Honor of Linda Maholland

Frances Ahlich

In Honor of the 30th ZOOcson Committee Members!

Nate Clark

- Chair of ZOOcson Committee

In Honor of Cassandra Dodds

Cecilia Singer & Family

In Honor of David Andrews

Sara & Paul Russell

In Honor of Gail Brown

Kimmey Conklin

In Honor of Shelley Pozez & Doug Vaughan

R. Casey Barcelo

In Honor of Stephanie & Sedona Hilkemeyer

Susan & Stan Hilkemeyer

In Memory of Scott Laib

Jamila Baugher

In Memory of Barbara Deyo

Scott & Alicia

Hagerman

Anne & Bert Williams

In Memory of Brad Rogerson

Ruth Reiter

In Memory of Carol D. Clark

Nate Clark & Daniel

Buford

In Memory of Irvin "Ozzie" Levick

Lainie Levick

In Memory of Dr. Jonathan B. Pasternack

Lois Pasternack

In Memory of Sean Michael Fuhrman

Marilyn Fuhrman

In Memory of Ann Dery

Frank & Beth Guldseth

In Memory of Ann Forsberg-Doyle

Linda & Ned Forsberg

In Memory of Henry and Elizabeth Krzysik

The Krzysik Family

In Memory of "Minnie"

Gail Brown





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

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ZOO LIGHTS

Holiday Magic

Lights! Snow! Festive Fun!

**Select Dates December
and January**

Tickets at ReidParkZoo.org

Presented by

