

ZOO & YOU



Spring 2021 | Member Magazine
Reid Park Zoological Society





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For more information, contact Gail Brown at gail@reidparkzoo.org or (520) 881-4753.

Reid Park Zoological Society

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TUCSON'S BIGGEST BABY

Elephant calf Penzi is nearly 1 year old – and we're not exaggerating when we say she is one big baby!



Penzi recently passed the 1,000-pound mark. When Nandi was a calf, she reached 1,000 pounds about a month after her first birthday, so Penzi is outpacing her older sister by about two months for this milestone.

Penzi is very food-focused right now, and is often seen trying to stuff more food in her mouth than she can chew! She is learning about elephant manners and seeking out her own food instead of taking from the items her mother and sister collect for themselves. Her favorite snack right now is cucumber slices!

Right now, Penzi is still a little hesitant to get in the herd's

98,000-gallon pool, but her team has smaller pools and mud wallows that she can explore.

Another important growth moment that happened recently for Penzi is the development of her tusks!

Penzi's care team recently felt tiny tusks developing in Penzi's mouth. While it will be quite a while before the tusks are visible from afar, this important milestone reminds us of Penzi's role as an ambassador for her species!

Our community loves Penzi, and we hope that love inspires conservation action to protect elephants globally.

Standing up to poaching and refusing to take part in the ivory trade is an important part of helping Penzi's wild counterparts thrive.

See Page 11 for details on Penzi's 1st birthday bash!

1030 S Randolph Way
Tucson, AZ 85716

ZOO HOURS:

October-May 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
June-September 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

THE ZOO BY YOU

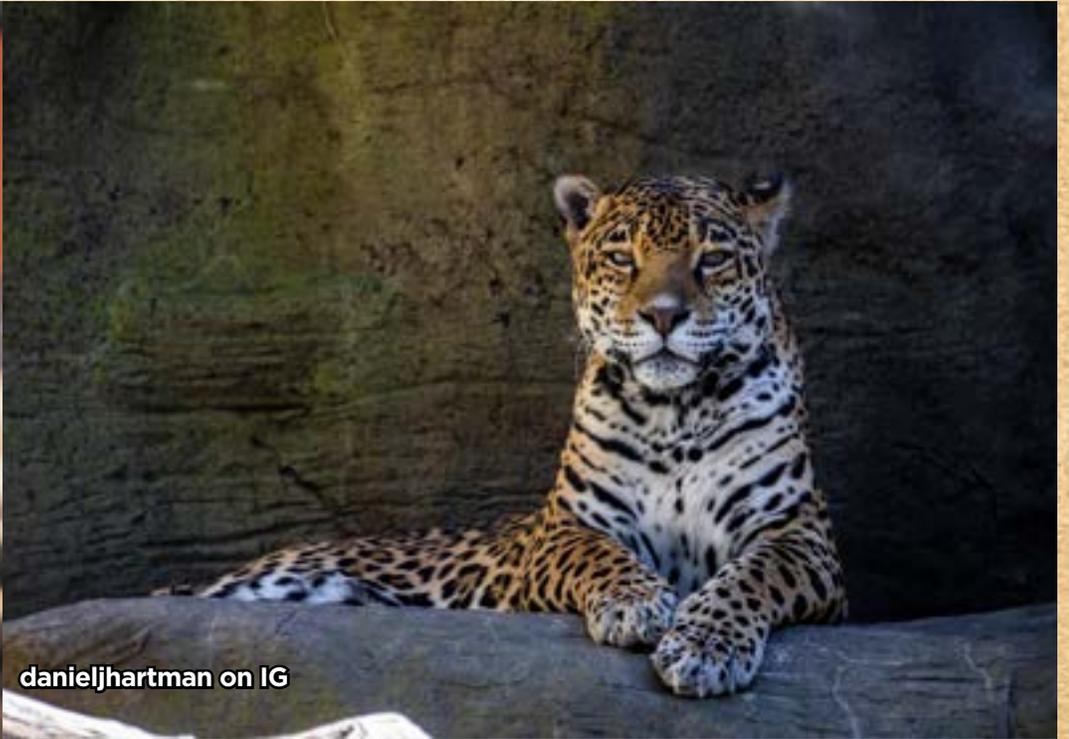
Here's a look at the Zoo through your eyes! Tag us on social media to enter your own photos for the next issue of Zoo & You!



jocey.ohphotography on IG



danieljhartman on IG



steppastore on IG



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THE NEW FLAMINGO LAGOON IS OPEN!

The Chilean flamingo flock's vibrant pink feathers will welcome you during your next visit to the Zoo!

This project is part of Phase 1 of the Zoo's ongoing 10-year Master Plan. The newly renovated space offers the flock a 50 percent increase in their total landmass and walkable water space. The new habitat features many modern comforts to help the flock thrive, including misters, a separate feeding pool, a night house, and an advanced water filtration system.



← As part of the move, the Zoo's vet team performed a health exam on every flamingo in the flock, gently checking their weight, drawing blood, providing vaccinations, and giving each bird a physical examination. The flock is doing well in the new habitat.

A ZOO BUILT BY YOU

The new Flamingo Lagoon was built by and for the community with funding coming from a combination of tax dollar funds and private donations. Board Member Mica Bane and her husband Jeff Bane are the habitat's lead sponsors.

"These wonderful and colorful birds are such a delight to observe," Mica said, reflecting on her long-time appreciation for this colorful species.

Prior to moving to Tucson, the Banes were a part of a Flamingo Club — a group of friends that travelled together, golfed together, and had regular flamingo-themed parties throughout the year. "Over the years our love of this bird came to mean a great deal to us and is centered around friendship, family, fun and many cherished memories."

She appreciates the role zoos play in providing similar opportunities for the communities they serve. "Zoos are critical and they are a very affordable way for families to spend time together as well as learn about our environment. It is always a joy to visit the zoo and see families enjoying the outdoors as well as hear the laughter and see the smiles on children's faces."

When the Banes heard about this beautiful new habitat, they were excited to support



both the improvements for the community as well as the birds. "Jeff and I love animals and feel compelled for future generations to have opportunities to enjoy the family environment created by zoos," Mica said. "This new home for our flock will present a bright welcome of color to our zoo entrance, improve the breeding area for our birds as well as provide much-needed water filtration and night house capacity. We are thrilled to be able to help in accomplishing so much for our flock."

Mica has been on the Reid Park Zoo board for a decade. "I met a current board member who encouraged me to meet with the management team and make an application for the board due to my HR and insurance background. Joining the

board I quickly learned this is an active, working board and each member brings a distinct skill to the group."

"Outside of the zoo we are involved in our community and enjoy family, friends, travel and golf. I retired in 2017 during the time of my chairmanship of the RPZS board. These were years of growth and set the foundation for the 10 Year Master Plan as well as the management agreement with the city," she said. "The community passing the small sales tax in 2017 has allowed the board to move forward with reimagining the zoo, adding exhibits as well as upgrading infrastructure and much-needed maintenance. Jeff and I are thrilled to be a part of this great gift to the City of Tucson and our community."



FOR THE BIRDS, LITERALLY!

Conservation is most successful when partnerships are formed and organizations work together. Reid Park Zoo has worked to protect both native and non-native bird species by doing just that.

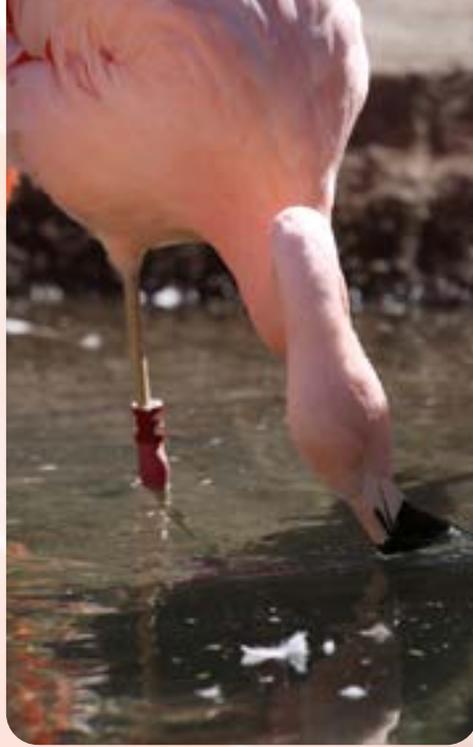
Recently, Reid Park Zoo received a grant from Freeport-McMoRan Sierrita Operations, which facilitated a partnership with the Tucson Audubon Society. As a result of this partnership, a pollinator garden was developed at the Zoo, and nest boxes were installed to protect our native birds. The pollinator garden provides food and shelter, while the 26 bird boxes will provide nesting opportunities for kestrels, owls, Lucy's warblers, and brown flycatchers. Staff from Tucson Audubon identified the best locations

for each box so they can be installed to provide the ideal nesting requirements for each species.

Additionally, Zoo staff is continuing to develop AZA's Andean Highlands Flamingo SAFE (Saving Animals From Extinction) Program. Through this program we are learning more about the three species of flamingo (Chilean, James's and Andean) that live in the salt flats — called salars — at elevations of up to 14,000 feet in the Andes mountains. Researchers have documented that these salars provide vital feeding and nesting opportunities



for the flamingos but are at risk due to unsustainable lithium mining, as well as changes in climate leading to unpredictable rainfall. Along with its partners around the world, Reid Park Zoo staff is developing an educational toolkit that can be shared with other zoos and aquariums to inform and engage our guests to take action to protect this vital habitat.



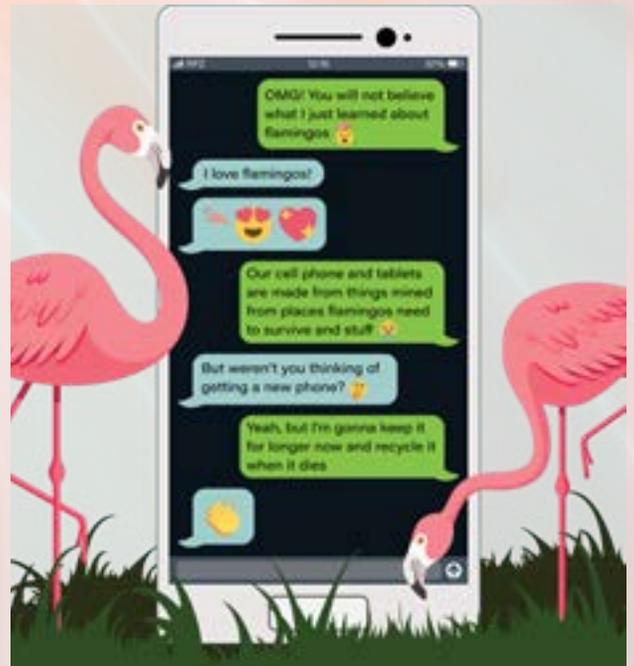
Our Most Important Partner in Conservation: YOU!

We can protect species around the world by taking action together. To protect local bird species, we encourage you to create a bird friendly habitat at your home or talk to your apartment complex about landscaping in a way that provides bird habitats. Tucson Audubon Society has great resources to help you get started!

You can help make a difference in protecting the habitat of Andean Highland flamingos by joining in efforts to reduce the need to mine for new lithium, an element found in rechargeable batteries used in electronics and electric cars. Buying new electronics only when absolutely needed is one step. As consumer demand for more sustainability in products increases, advances

are being made to recycle lithium from batteries and to develop more environmentally-friendly mining practices. You can help by letting companies know you care about this issue.

Lastly, you can help native and non-native species all around the world by decreasing the amount of fossil fuels burned through your daily actions. Burning fossil fuels, like coal, oil, and gas, releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide is a heat-trapping gas that forms a blanket around the Earth, trapping in the Earth's heat. The

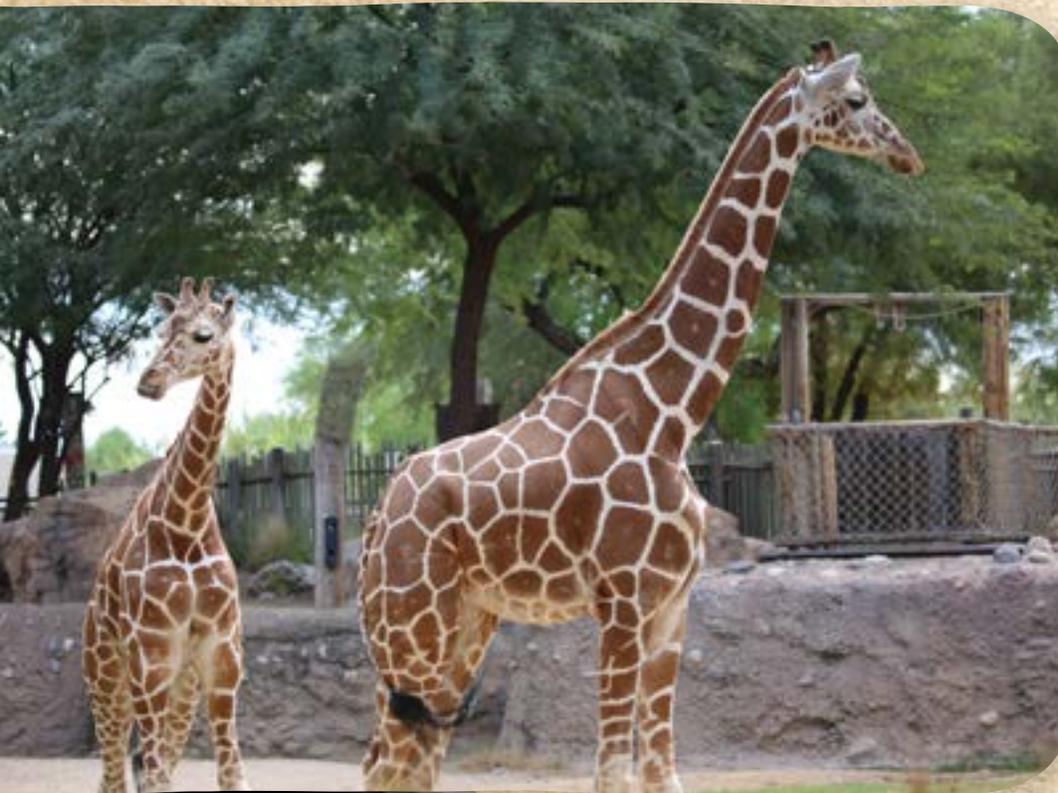


more carbon, the thicker the blanket.

Actions such as not idling your car, supporting alternative energy, and turning off lights when you leave the room can help!

NEW FACES AT THE ZOO

No matter where you look in the Zoo, there's a good chance there's a new face looking back at you! Reid Park Zoo has welcomed several newcomers in recent months: giraffes Penelope and Sota, Tony the lion, Horton the trumpeter hornbill, Siren the capybara, and a pack of four African wild dog sisters!



At about 11 feet tall each, newcomers Sota and Penelope are quite a bit taller than the average Zoo guest — but they are the shortest members of the giraffe herd at Reid Park Zoo! Jasiri and Denver, the Zoo's other two giraffes, are being slowly and methodically introduced to their new companions.



Tony, the male African lion, is long, lanky, and tall. You can immediately recognize him by his medium-sized mane. He is fast moving when playing with his enrichment items in the lion habitat. His curiosity is piqued by the sight and smell of the female lions. Soon he will have the chance to meet the girls in the habitat!



The four wild dog sisters — Grommet, Sandy, Cricket, and Terra — have settled into their new home well. They love to interact with objects floating in their pool - watching leaves swirl and pumpkins bob in the water. The pack works together to explore all-new sensory items placed in their habitat such as elephant dung, treats like yogurt smears and suspended, dangling vegetation. Sometimes new things can be scary to approach, but not when you have your three sisters with you for back-up!

Capybara introductions are always done with great thoughtfulness and care. Siren, our newest addition, and Hendrix had a few chases when first meeting but have settled into a comfortable relationship. While not yet sleeping in a capybara pile, they get closer as time goes by!



Horton, the trumpeter hornbill, was hatched last summer with significant challenges. He was incredibly small and his feathers grew in months later than usual. Because he has spent so much time with staff caring for him, he officially is moving in with the Ambassador Animals, those that participate in programs.



We hope you will enjoy meeting and getting to know all the newcomers!

FANTASTIC FLAMINGOS!

Flamingos often stand on one leg to rest the other one. They switch legs throughout the day to give each leg a break!

Can you pick which of the silhouettes matches this standing flamingo?



A



B



C



D



E



F



DID YOU KNOW?

Flamingos like to dance! One of their courtship behaviors is called "head flapping" and involves a group of flamingos parading together in synchronised movements while turning their heads.

UPCOMING EVENTS



BUNNY HOP

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
April 4

Enjoy a socially-distanced visit with the Easter Bunny and take your own photos. Then, see if you can spot special eggs and bunnies located throughout the Zoo. Kids will receive a pre-filled candy bag from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. while supplies last courtesy of First Watch.



FLAMINGO A-GO-GO

April 17-23
\$15 to \$100 dollars

Shake a tail feather and support your Zoo and flamingos too in this fun virtual exercise event!

There is no official race course or contest — just set a personal goal to complete one to five miles through the exercise of your choice. Go at your own pace and in your own space. You can log miles one day or every day during our race dates of March 22-28, 2021. Run or walk, skate or treadmill, outside or inside. Move your own way and in your own style. Whether you are running a 5K by yourself, or doing a one-mile fun walk with family or friends, you can make a impact and help flamingos stay in the pink. A portion of proceeds will benefit Flamingo SAFE (Saving Animals from Extinction).



Register on our website, and post your progress and share photos, plus get the wing-side story on flamingos through fun facts. Participants at the \$50 and above level get a commemorative t-shirt.

WILD WEDNESDAYS

1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month
Free

Join us for our member exclusive virtual animal experiences on Wild Wednesdays twice a month at 9 a.m! Watch your email for a schedule of topics and links to register. View recordings of previous Wild Wednesdays on our YouTube channel or email membership@reidparkzoo.org to request a link for particular program.

EARTH DAY

Saturday, April 24

Join us for a virtual event throughout the day in celebration of Earth Day. Blogs and activities posted throughout the week prior will inspire your family to take action to protect wildlife and wild places. Details along with info on how to join us will be posted at reidparkzoo.org

SUMMER CAMP 2021

Offered weekly from June 7 -July 30

Mondays - Thursdays

8 a.m. - Noon at the Zoo

Fridays - 9 a.m.- 11 a.m. virtual camp session

\$145 for the week for zoo members (\$175 for nonmembers)

This year's camp includes 4 days of camp at the Zoo and one day of virtual programming. Registration is for all 5 days. Registration required. Scholarships are available. Limited capacity due to COVID-19.

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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Tucson, Arizona 85716

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Penzi's First Birthday Celebration

April 3, 2021

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Activities at the Zoo

2 p.m.

Free Zoom Virtual
presentation

Join the herd in celebrating
Penzi's 1st birthday with
a raffle, cupcakes, and
enrichment for the whole
family!

For more information visit

ReidParkZoo.org

