DIGITAL

March | April 2022

featuring David Wagner



It's a Party for the Planet!

Presented by

Saturday, April 16 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Included with Zoo admission

'Spring into action' at the Phoenix Zoo as we explore ways to connect with nature, clean our environment and create a better world for all creatures great and small.

Pitcings



Art on the Wild Side Lost Birds and the Art of Conservation Now – May 30

Roars & Pours March 17 | May 19

Kinder Joy[®] Bunny Brunch April 10

Earth Day April 16

Día del Niño April 30

HOURS

January 21 – May 31, 2022 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Daily) | 8 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

June 1 – August 31, 2022 7 a.m. – Noon (Daily) | 6 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

Please note: Encounters, tours and experiences are not open until general public hours. Also, we do our best to have the majority of our animals in their habitats by opening time, but this cannot be guaranteed.

features



16 Lost Birds and the Art of Conservation

get closer

10 Zoo Programs

26 | Plan Your Adventure

14 Animal Awareness



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Dear Zoo Friends,

This issue of "Wild Times" features more photos of our amazing animals than ever before. You'll also read a little bit about each photo, which is a fun way to gain some insight into our animals and volunteers, like photographer David Wagner.

People come to the Zoo for lots of different reasons. Of course, families with small children are a big portion of our daily visitors. But many adults come without children to learn about the animals, get in an invigorating daily walk or use their photographic skills to capture incredible images of animals from around the world. The Phoenix Zoo truly has something for everyone.

This spring we'll still have our new Predator Passage under construction, so the north side of



the Africa Trail will be closed, but there is plenty to see and do. If you haven't visited Chutti the greater one-horned rhinoceros, he should definitely be on your must-see list. He's quickly become a Zoo favorite, both with our guests and with our keepers. Our newest female baby giraffe will soon be out on the Savanna. We also have a new baby siamang, as well as an Arabian oryx calf and desert bighorn lamb.

If you've come to the Zoo in the spring before and had trouble finding a parking space, our newly-renovated parking lot should help remedy that. We've added 600 new spaces, 20 electric vehicle charging stations, new shade awnings and gorgeous trees.

So take advantage of our beautiful spring weather and plan a visit to the Phoenix Zoo! The heat of the summer will be here before you know it!

I hope to see you all at the Zoo!

Sincerely,

Norberto (Bert) J. Castro President / CEO Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo

I shot this while standing outside the petting area (there's a corner of the yard you can access from just off the path). More often than not, these goats tend to be pretty relaxed, but they do like to play and interact with each other... especially in the morning! When they do, they're a hoot to watch! I stumbled upon these two early one morning and they were already going at it — so I didn't have to wait long for something to happen and got this shot!

THE PHOTO DISSUE featuring David Wagner "Keep your love of nature, for that is the true way to understand

for that is the true way to understand art more and more."

– Vincent van Gogh

ithout knowing it, you've probably seen one of David Wagner's stunning photographs.

And there's a good chance it was followed by a smile and, "Wow!"

His detailed, vibrant work is featured on our website, social media channels, advertising and throughout Zoo grounds. Not only does Wagner have the "eye" to photograph even the most intricate and detailed animal scenes, he sees photography as a way to further the Zoo's mission of inspiring people to care for the natural world.

In this special issue, Wagner takes us beyond several of his most popular photos and recounts the stories behind them. The rhinoceros hornbills are fun, yet challenging to shoot; it usually requires some patience and perseverance to get a good shot because they tend to jump around and move erratically. I've even seen them take flight across the length of their habitat! If I had to pick one attraction where a photographer is almost guaranteed to get a good shot, it would be the prairie dogs (their next-door neighbors, the burrowing owls, are probably a close second). These little guys are always so active and the action changes constantly – sometimes to the point where it's hard to decide where or on which one to focus! This shot actually ended up being one of my favorite photos. It wasn't until I got home and started culling photos that I saw that cute facial expression and the tongue glistening in the sun that I realized this was my shot of the day!

I think this was only the second time I had ever seen Chutti, and it was the first time I saw him in his pool. Most of his pool time was spent almost completely submerged, with less than half of his head above water, so I had to wait patiently until he rose up to get this "funny face" shot (only for him to submerge again shortly thereafter). I always try and shoot MacLeod in the morning, as the rising sunlight really brings out the yellow and green colors of his skin more. And when the sunlight hits even part of his open mouth, it can make the reds and pinks inside really come through and almost glow. The hard part is getting an opportunity to see him with his mouth open... this shot was taken during one of only two times I've ever seen him do this.

The pavilion behind the aviary is where I go when I just want to sit and relax. It's kind of out of the way and not very well marked, so I rarely see more than one other group of people. But it's the best location to view and photograph the buffcheeked gibbons! I've never had much luck getting a good (i.e. in focus) "swinging gibbon" action shot. Due to the way camera autofocus works, the blonde female gibbon (China) is usually less challenging than the black male gibbon (Enik) when shooting against a bright background. But it's still challenging. On this day, no joke, I think just got lucky!

Auggie is, in my opinion, one of the most photogenic animals at the Phoenix Zoo (Chutti is right there with him)! In the short time he's been here, Auggie has frequently "posed" for some magnificent portraits, yet I have taken many action shots that exhibit his personality and playfulness.

I had been shooting Auggie for some time from about 25-30 feet away, and then he suddenly disappeared around the corner out of view from me. Luckily, I didn't move from my position, because he soon appeared again from around the corner, only this time with a fish in his mouth. I thought it was funny the way he strutted across the yard - he seemed so happy and proud to be carrying that fish!

It can be difficult in Monkey Village to decide where to focus your attention (and camera) without missing the action somewhere else, as these monkeys are almost always on the move. I was tracking this monkey scurrying up a tree and across branches, staying partially covered by the leaves, when he appeared in a little clearing and dip on this tree branch. Right spot, perfect timing!

I'm almost embarrassed to admit this, but for the longest time I didn't even realize that there were lemurs on those islands! Once I learned of their existence, I tried in vain to get some good shots. I got a few that were just "alright," but nothing I was really happy with. But after many shots, I was happy to finally get this one!

VE LER VIEW



Commemorate the love you have for your pets

Don't miss out on this unique opportunity to add your pet's pawprint and name to the Etched in Glass Donor wall.

Purchase yours today before they are gone! Tiles are \$500 each.

Proceeds will benefit The Pride Campaign's new African Lion and Spotted Hyena Habitat.









Animals After Dark AN AERIAL EXPERIENCE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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CAMP ZOO Phoenix Zoo

Camp Zoo Registration Opens March 7!

Sign up now for the best summer camp in the Valley.

Class size is limited this year so don't delay!

June 6 – July 29 Ages K – 8

000

Click here to Register

Project Orangutan Zoo Crew Ages 9 – 12 years Member: \$75 | General: \$90

Experience a unique, project-based program that incorporates STEAM concepts with the zoo as your classroom! Join our educators for 3 consecutive morning classes as we learn in-depth about orangutans and design a new enrichment item for them. Project Orangutan is fun, fascinating and promotes hands-on authentic problem-solving. Meets Arizona Academic Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

> March 15, 16, 17 | 9 – 10:30 a.m. April 5, 6, 7 | 9 – 10:30 a.m.

Storytime at the Zoo!

Ages 2 – 6 and a caregiver Member: \$5 per child General: \$5 per child (Zoo admission not included)

Join us at the Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater! Follow along on the big screen as we read some of our favorite books and meet ambassador animals!

March 5

"Here is the Southwestern Desert" by Madeleine Dunphy

March 10 "Verdi" by Janell Cannon

March 13 "Hedgehog Needs a Hug" by Jen Betton

March 19 "Steve the Dung Beetle" by Susan Stotlz

March 25 "Tricky Tortoise" by Mwenye Hadithi and Adrienne Kennaway

"Can you Cuddle like a Koala?" by John Butler

April 3 "Dig Wait Listen: A Desert Toad's Tale" by April Pulley Sayre

April 14 "The Seed and the Giant Saguaro" by Jennifer Ward

> April 24 "Hedgehog Needs a Hug" by Jen Betton

Conservation Science Night Families

Meet real conservation scientists and learn about the work we do to help save species in Arizona and around the world.

This event is geared toward families with school age children, but there is something for everyone! Explore a variety of activity booths to try your hand at conservation science activities, including:

- Tackle engineering challenges to help save endangered species!
- Try your hand at tracking using telemetry!
- See if you have what it takes to graduate ferret bootcamp!
- Find out what you can do to help conservation!

This event is free, but advanced registration is required as space is limited.

Virtual Teen Career Conference

Ages 13 years and up

Through specially selected speaker panels, attendees will hear from experts in Zoology, Conservation, Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Care working both within the Zoo and in the field. The speakers will offer insights into their career paths and advice on breaking into their respective fields.

Representatives from the Zoo and other scientific and educational institutions from around the Valley will be on hand to offer information about their programs and opportunities for teens to begin working toward their careers right now. Volunteer opportunities, camps and other programs will also be highlighted.

Also included this year are two professional skill-building workshops designed to offer participants an opportunity to begin building skills that will benefit their professional knowledge and personal growth.

The event is free but pre-registration is required to receive the Zoom link.

Photography Walkabouts Adults Member: \$18 | General: \$18 (Zoo admission not included)

Tips, tricks, and technique guidance abound in this casual walkabout program led by one of the Zoo's expert volunteer photographers.

> March 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26 April 2, 6, 9, 15, 20, 23, 27



Birding 101 Ages 16 years and up Member: \$18 | General: \$20 (Zoo admission not included)

Join our resident bird expert for this class designed for beginner birders. Common backyard birds and how to look at birds will be introduced in the classroom and then we will practice our birding in the Zoo.

March 21 April 8

Bird Walks Ages 16 years and up Member: \$8 | General: \$10 (Zoo admission not included)

Enjoy a nice leisurely walk around the Zoo's ponds looking for native and migratory birds with Zoo staff. All levels welcome.

March 17 April 21

Custom Group Night Camps

Ages 7 years and up

Group Night Camps are perfect for birthdays, family reunions, youth groups and more. The camp consists of guided trail hikes, animal discoveries and educational activities. Visit our website for more details. **ZooToYou – Live On Location** \$260 per Outreach Specialist first hour \$150 for each additional Outreach Specialist or hour

Did you know the Zoo brings animals to birthday parties, day care centers, churches, corporate and family events, senior care centers and many more in addition to schools? Zoo Outreach Specialists provide exciting and educational programs for children and adults. Put a wild twist on your next event!

ZooToYou – Distance Learning \$125 per presentation

With Virtual Programs, Phoenix Zoo educators can broadcast into your home or classroom with live animals, engaging activities and inquiry-based programs – the same quality programming you expect from the Phoenix Zoo, just virtual. All you need is a computer, and an internet connection, although we recommend a projector for larger groups. Our interactive presentations are designed to meet Arizona State Academic standards and may include a mix of live discussions and demonstrations, pre-recorded videos, interactive quizzes and questions, as well as live animal presentations.

ANIMAL AWARENESS DAYS

LET'S CELEBRATE!

MARCH

March 1 National Pig Day

March 3 World Wildlife Day

March 14 Save a Spider Day

March 20 World Frog Day

<u>APRIL</u>

April 2 National Ferret Day

April 17 Bat Appreciation Day

> **April 22** Earth Day

April 27 Crow and Raven Day

> **April 30** World Vet Day

It's usually easy to get a nice, sharp photo of these burrowing owls (I have many!), as they stay still for the most part, but it was the composition of this photo that appealed to me. I took this photo early in the morning while the sun was just beginning to peek through into their habit. There were other owls in the front, closer to me that I was shooting. Then I noticed this one in the background emerging from her pipe, and I zoomed in and took the shot. You can see the sunlight just peeking through by her feet.

ADOPT ME!

Share the care and adopt a favorite animal for yourself or a loved one.

Amazing adoption packages start at \$25 with plush options starting at \$75.

> Support the Phoenix Zoo and become a Wildlife Champion today!

> > For a complete list of packages, <u>click here</u> or call Ursula Hamblin at 602.286.3800 x7434.



LOST BIRDS and the Art of Conservation







e hope the artwork you see in the Savanna Gallery and on the Zoo's trails inspires both reflection and hope. As a conservation organization, the Zoo takes seriously its role as steward of each of the animals in our care. In addition, we strive to foster in others a commitment to save species from the fate of the passenger pigeon and the other animals featured in Todd McGrain's Lost Bird Project.

The breathtaking works of artists Charles Thomas and Katherine Cudney (featured in the Savanna Gallery) complement the message of The Lost Bird Project (with sculptures found throughout the Zoo). Thomas' landscapes pay tribute to the varied habitats that are vital to healthy wildlife populations. Cudney's works highlight species brought back from the brink of extinction and the hope that their conservation success stories provide. Phoenix Zoo scientists work with other biologists and land managers across the state and around the world to protect wildlife and wild places, from cactus ferruginous pygmy-owls in southern Arizona to Palawan peacock-pheasants in the Philippines. Extinction leaves a hole in the heart of everyone who cares deeply about animals. Sparking compassion and encouraging action to support wildlife conservation is our mission.

Next time you're at the Zoo, when you look at the pieces in this gallery display, we invite you to think about the animals you see in your own neighborhood. As you notice the birds and other wildlife who share your habitat, we hope that you will be inspired to care about them and share your excitement with others. Choosing plants that provide food and shelter for native wildlife and avoiding pesticides, keeping cats indoors, and sharing your excitement for healthy bird populations with friends and family are just a few ways to take action for birds.

Thank you for your support for the Phoenix Zoo and our conservation initiatives. Visit our website to learn more about how you can help us continue this important work and to register for education programs that build excitement in the next generation of wildlife champions.







The Lost Bird Project will be on display throughout the Zoo until January 31, 2023, while the Savanna Gallery will feature Lost Birds and the Art of Conservation until May 30, 2022.



A wedding like no other...

Whether dreaming of a quaint ceremony or lavish affair, the Phoenix Zoo provides exotic charm and stunning scenic views. Offering more than 15 unique venues and wild touches only found at the Zoo

— your forever starts here.

phoenixzoo.org | 602.914.4301





I have been fortunate to have taken many great shots of the jaguars, although by a wide margin, I have had much better luck and results with Caipora than Saban. This is mainly because Caipora tends to be more active and her habitat offers better photo opportunities (although on sunny days the fence can present a challenge). When she is active, I will usually stay and observe her for a while in hopes of getting something interesting ... and on this particular day it paid off!

-

BIG CATS of Arīzona

he Zoo's initiative is to install a new, \$3.2 million Big Cats of Arizona habitat, featuring mountain lions and jaguars. This 20,000 square foot installation will provide ample space for these intriguing native cats and facilitate guest viewing unlike current exhibits on the Arizona Trail. These animals are rarely seen in the wild, so providing viewing from different angles will improve visibility for guests. The exhibit space would also include educational messaging to explain the historical native ranges of the species and include a water feature for behavioral enrichment, which is the act of providing animals with mental and physical stimulation to increase natural and healthy behaviors. This project will contain a centralized multi-use holding building, allowing flexible use by keepers in providing animal care.

This past fall we were thrilled to report that the Zoo was awarded \$768,000 from the Arizona Office of Tourism (AOT). The AOT grant program, entitled Visit Arizona Partnership, was rolled out to support productions that directly support jobs in the travel and hospitality sectors and increase Arizona tourism.

Planning, fundraising, design and approval process will begin this winter (a 12-month process), with an additional 12-month construction period. Contribute today and help us raise the additional funds of \$2.4 million needed to make this project a reality. For further questions or to donate please contact Christopher Gutierrez at 602.914.4362 or cgutierrez@phoenixzoo.org.



AFRICA TRAIL - PREDATOR PASSAGE

e are excited to embark on the remaining key element of The Pride Campaign, designing an expanded Africa Trail. The expression "last but not least" clearly conveys how we feel about this portion of the Campaign.

Upon completion, the \$7.3 million, six-acre expansion of the Africa Trail will be the Zoo's largest Capital project to date. Guests will enjoy the new, one-acre African lion and spotted hyena habitat, as well as habitats for meerkats, warthogs and the endangered Amur leopards.

The architectural design of the new Africa Trail is in motion. Construction is already underway and the expansion is scheduled to be completed by the fall of 2022.

We invite you to Join the Journey, by making a gift and helping the Zoo during the final phase of fundraising for The Pride Campaign. Naming opportunities begin at \$1,000.

For further questions, please contact Lorraine Frias, Senior Vice President of Institutional Advancement, at 602.914.4322 or Ifrias@phoenixzoo.org.

Take your support of the Phoenix Zoo to the next level!

Help ensure a bright future for endangered species, educate audiences about the importance of conservation and play an essential role in the future of the Zoo.

Guardian Conservation Society

- Starting at \$1,500
- Includes Base and Supporting level benefits
- Special access to guest experiences, guest admissions, exclusive Society events, an annual behind-the-scenes tour and more!*

Supporting Memberships

- Starting at \$500
- Includes Base level benefits
- Special access to select Zoo venues, guest admissions, on-grounds donor recognition and more!*

Upgrade your support today!

For more information contact Shannon Kinsman at 602.914.4346.

*Benefits vary depending on level of membership selected. Visit phoenixzoo.org/membership to learn more.

Join the WOLFPACK

Become a monthly donor today!

For as little as \$25 a month you can provide toys for Luna, one of our Mexican Gray Wolves.

Click here to get started.



On this particular day, I stayed and watched Auggie for a good 45 minutes as I had a great position to shoot from and he was only 30 feet away the entire time. He had this big branch he was playing with, when he suddenly just stopped and turned to look at me for about 15 - 20 seconds, which allowed me plenty of time to capture this handsome portrait – he gave me a great pose, don't you think?!



Join the Antler Society - LEAVE A LEGACY

f you've ever wanted to express your appreciation for the Phoenix Zoo, a gift in your estate plan could be the perfect option for you. Whether you make a gift today or after your lifetime, you will help to provide experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world. With a little planning today, your impact can be felt for generations to come.

The "Antler" name draws on an analogy between our thoughtful donors who have remembered the Phoenix Zoo in their will or estate plan and the deer that leave behind its antlers for the nourishment of other living creatures. Membership in this society is extended to those who share with us their intention to leave a legacy with the Phoenix Zoo. These very special Antler Society gifts will fund conservation and education programs well into the future and ensure the financial sustainability of the Zoo for generations. Many habitats and programs at the Zoo have been developed through the generosity of Antler Society members.

Would you like more information? **Click here** to download this free comprehensive Estate Planning Kit. It will help you protect loved ones, organize everything in one place, and save on taxes.

Have a question?

Liz Toth, Gift Planning Manager would be happy to speak with you in confidence and with no obligation.

Phone: 602.286.3881 Email: ltoth@phoenixzoo.org







MAR 17 | MAY 19

Guests can sip and stroll along select Zoo trails.

21 & Older Only | 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. \$10 tickets at phoenixzoo.org





Get ready for an eggs-cellent morning at the Phoenix Zoo!

Kinder BUNNY Sol BRUNCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 10 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Savor the delicious taste of Kinder Joy® while enjoying a buffet brunch, amazing animal show and photos with the Easter Bunny*!

*separate fee required

A AND

Tickets are limited...Get yours today! phoenixzoo.org

WATER PLAY AREAS & PLAYGROUNDS

Enchanted Forest Presented By Virginia 6. Piper Charitable Trust

Discovery Farm Presented By

Yakulla Caverns

Leapin' Lagoon Splash Pad

ENCOUNTERS & EXPERIENCES Enhance your day at the Phoenix Zoo with a variety of fun

experiences to make your visit even more memorable!

Rydables

Adorable stuffed animal on the outside, super safe mobilitystyle electric cart on the inside. Rydables are a flexible and enjoyable way to experience the Zoo!

Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater

Zoocademy Awards Presented By

Animal Presentations

Monday – Sunday | 10:30 a.m. Additional shows Friday – Sunday | 12:30 p.m.

Endangered Species Carousel

Take a spin on the Endangered Species Carousel! Each animal is unique and beautifully handcrafted for an authentic, distinctive look.

Stingray Bay

Our 15,000-gallon interactive pool offers you the chance to come hand to fin with our cownose stingrays and even feed them fish and shrimp.

Camel Rides

Go for a ride on one of the most amazing animals in the world and even get your picture taken!

ZOO TOURS

Backstage Adventures

unique experience, join us for a

Backstage Adventure and get an

insider's glimpse of some of our

animal habitats such as flamingo,

If you're looking for a truly

elephant and Stingray Bay.

Premium Adventures

Looking for the ultimate Zoo

you and your special guests.

tour? Try a Premium Adventure -

a fully customized experience for

Safari Cruiser

Presented By OVALLEY TOYOTA DEALERS Hop aboard for a fun, narrated,

25-minute tour meandering past a large portion of the Zoo's animals, encounters and experiences.

Discovery Tours

A Discovery Tour is a 75-minute guided tour through the Zoo in one of our eco-shuttles. You'll be able to hop on and off the cart for closer viewing and for photo opportunities throughout the tour.

* Discovery Tours, Backstage Adventures and Premium Adventures are limited to same party groups only and must be booked in advance by calling our Reservations Department at 602.914.4333.

Phoenix Zoo members receive a discount!

*Fees apply | Must show your current Phoenix Zoo membership card and photo ID at each venue to receive discount at time of purchase.

This shot of a snowy egret was taken while crossing the water on the northern path heading to the Children's Trail. I just happened to notice him perched out there in the middle of the water, and he appeared to be looking for fish. The morning sunlight created this reflection that just blew me away. In fact, if you look closely, the reflections are actually brighter than the rest of the photo.

Member Wednesday Lunch Special

Enjoy a **\$5 Member Meal** every first Wednesday of each month featuring a signature meal and a beverage.*



March Special

Hot Dog with a Medium Fountain Drink



April Special

Pizza with a Medium Fountain Drink Becoming a phoenix zoo member opens a world of wonder

ALL YEAR LONG!

In fact, membership pays for itself in as little as **two** visits! BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Free Daytime Admission Member entry is one hour earlier than general admission.
- Exclusive invitations to exhibit premieres & events
- Discounts on Encounters and Experiences Safari Cruiser, Stingray Bay and more.
- Discounts on stroller and wheelchair rentals

- Reciprocal Admission Free or discounted admission to more than 150 other zoos and aquariums.
- Discounts on WILD Birthdays, programs & camps
- **100% Tax Deductible** As a nonprofit Zoo, a portion of your membership is tax-deductible!

SUPPORT THE PHOENIX ZOO AND BECOME A MEMBER TODAY! To sign up or for more information, **click here**.

* Must show current membership card and photo ID at the time of purchase.

Wild **Child** Wild Child artwork is randomly selected.

Share your animal drawings with us. Parents – please write your child's name legibly along with their age.

Send to: WT – Wild Child | Attn: Linda Hardwick 455 N. Galvin Pkwy. Phoenix, AZ 85008





2022 Wild Times Digital



Emma, Age 10



Jovan, Age 8

and the second of the second se



Braxton, Age 7





Calling All Party Animals!



Let the Phoenix Zoo host your child's next birthday party and enjoy a fun, stress-free day celebrating. It's sure to be a wildly good time!





Amazing Activities | Animal Discoveries

and FREE Carousel courtesy of

VALLEY TOYOTA DEALERS

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation advances the stewardship and conservation of animals and their habitats while providing experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world. ACCREDITED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS AQUARIUMS

