



May | June 2022

Wild Times

DIGITAL

Conservation in Action

COSTA RICA

phoenix  zoo

ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT

LOST BIRDS *and the Art of Conservation*

Savanna Gallery at the Phoenix Zoo
Now – May 30, 2022



Heath Hen

Todd McGrain | Cast Bronze



A Study of Air Supremacy

Katherine Cudney | Oil on Board



East Yellowstone

Charles Thomas | Oil on Panel



The Lost Bird Project

The Lost Bird Project is an acclaimed sculpture installation by artist and sculptor Todd McGrain, featuring five extinct North American bird species — the passenger pigeon, great auk, Labrador duck, Carolina parakeet and heath hen. The Project uses art to raise awareness of vanished species and inspire a greater connection and stronger relationship with the Earth.

The Lost Bird Project's magnificent bronze sculptures will be displayed throughout the Zoo, with prints and photographs featured inside the Savanna Gallery. The breathtaking works of artists Charles Thomas and Katherine Cudney complement the importance of the conservation message of The Lost Bird Project. Thomas' landscapes pay tribute to the varied habitats that are vital to the preservation of species. Cudney's works highlight species brought back from the brink of extinction and the hope that their conservation success stories provide. All artwork will be for sale with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the non-profit Phoenix Zoo.

phoen/xzoo
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

The Desert Marketplace Gift Shop is being renovated!



Please visit the Gift Shop inside Savanna Grill while construction is in progress.

Our commitment to sustainability extends throughout the store design and construction work including eco-friendly behind-the-scenes practices to protect our planet, such as:

- Zero toxicity paints, stains, and inks
- Recycled and reusable materials for bins and signs
- The elimination of all unnecessary waste in the fabrication and shipment of materials
- Store fixtures and merchandising systems created from Forest Stewardship Council-certified wood sources

Art on the Wild Side Lost Birds and the Art of Conservation

Now – May 30

Roars & Pours

May 19

Bidders for Critters

July 20

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. – 1 p.m. (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.

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Having a “Sloth” of Fun in Costa Rica



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Wild Child

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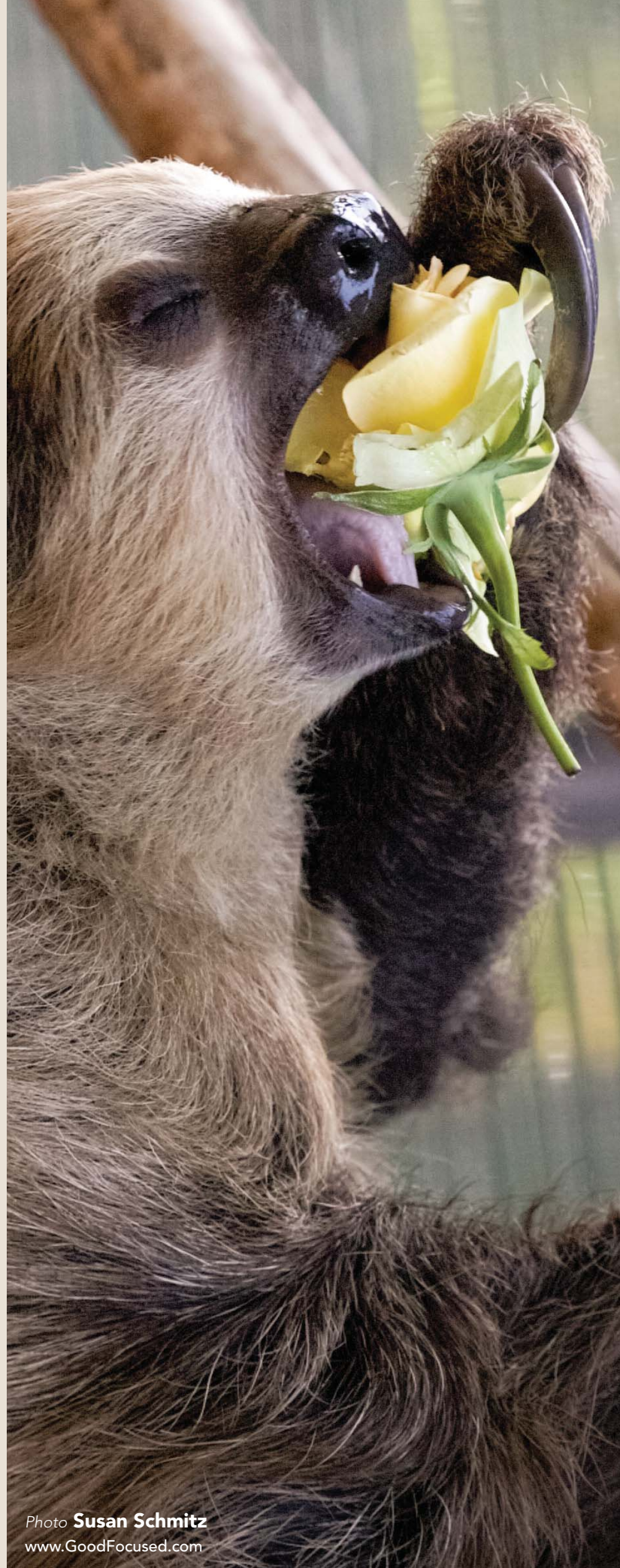


Photo **Susan Schmitz**
www.GoodFocused.com

Dear Zoo Friends,

A few years ago, we rebranded our governing body as the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation. We did that because we wanted to emphasize our role as a conservation center, which is a very big part of who we are. When you come to the Zoo, you'll see the animals we are so fortunate to care for and we hope you have a fantastic time while you're here. But there is so much more that goes on at the Zoo (and beyond!) that you might not know about.

We've been working for some time on conserving jaguars in Costa Rica. As you'll read, this work involves establishing a corridor to connect jaguar populations and, more recently, installing an acoustic gunshot detection system to help reduce poaching of these endangered cats. Kinley Ragan, a Field Conservation Research Technician here at the Zoo, shares her experiences on her first trip to Costa Rica. Additionally, Collection Manager of Primates Mary Yoder's work with sloths and other animals was not only personally satisfying, but equally as helpful. She shared some of the techniques we use here at the Zoo with the people at Rescue Center Costa Rica caring for orphaned animals, preparing them for reintroduction back to the wild. While Kinley is a part of our Conservation team, Mary was able to travel to Costa Rica through funding from the Conservation Grants Program here at the Zoo.

I am thrilled that Mary and Kinley are sharing their experiences with you. Our Conservation Grants Program provides staff with the opportunity to propose conservation projects around the world they'd like to pursue. Those proposals are reviewed annually as we select and fund projects that enable our staff to get hands-on experience in grassroots conservation efforts.

Times have really changed from when I first began my zoo career. Just a few decades ago, zoos and aquariums were much more focused on sustaining their individual animals than working on conserving those species in the wild. Today, zoos and aquariums around the world are devoting time, energy and resources to actively conserve wildlife and wild places. Our dedicated and passionate staff members have participated in some valuable conservation projects, sharing their knowledge and expertise, and bringing back enthusiasm to the Phoenix Zoo. I firmly believe that an important part of a leader's job is developing new leaders. We are very proud of our Conservation Grants Program and delighted to be able to provide development opportunities for our next generation of conservation leaders.

I hope you enjoy reading about these projects and look forward to seeing you at the Zoo soon.



Sincerely,

Norberto (Bert) J. Castro

President / CEO

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo



Having a "SLOTH" of Fun in Costa Rica

By **Mary Yoder**

Collection Manager of Primates

Three years ago, in 2019, I was awarded an Animal Welfare Grant by the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation/Phoenix Zoo to travel to Costa Rica and work with native wildlife, particularly sloths.

Unfortunately, a week before I was supposed to leave, a global pandemic hit which forced my much-anticipated trip to be delayed till March of 2022... but I made it!

I was assigned to the veterinary team, where my duties varied considerably depending on the day. A "typical" day included starting at 6 a.m. with feeding baby birds, baby squirrels and a baby prehensile tailed porcupine named Mosi who quickly became one of my favorites.



After the babies had full crops and bellies, it was time to start cleaning sloth cages by having the young sloths (weighing anywhere from 500g to 2,000g) hold on to their stuffed animals to transport them in little bins so they could have fresh blankets and leaves. If a sloth had pooped, we would weigh the sloth and record it on a white board. It is important to track the weight of the sloths because if they started declining, they needed to be supplemented with milk. The rescue center has anywhere between 10-15 baby sloths on a given day.

Most of the animals at the center arrive orphaned after their mothers were electrocuted from trying to cross lines over the roadways. The animals are fed and rehabilitated until they can be released back into the wild where they were initially found.

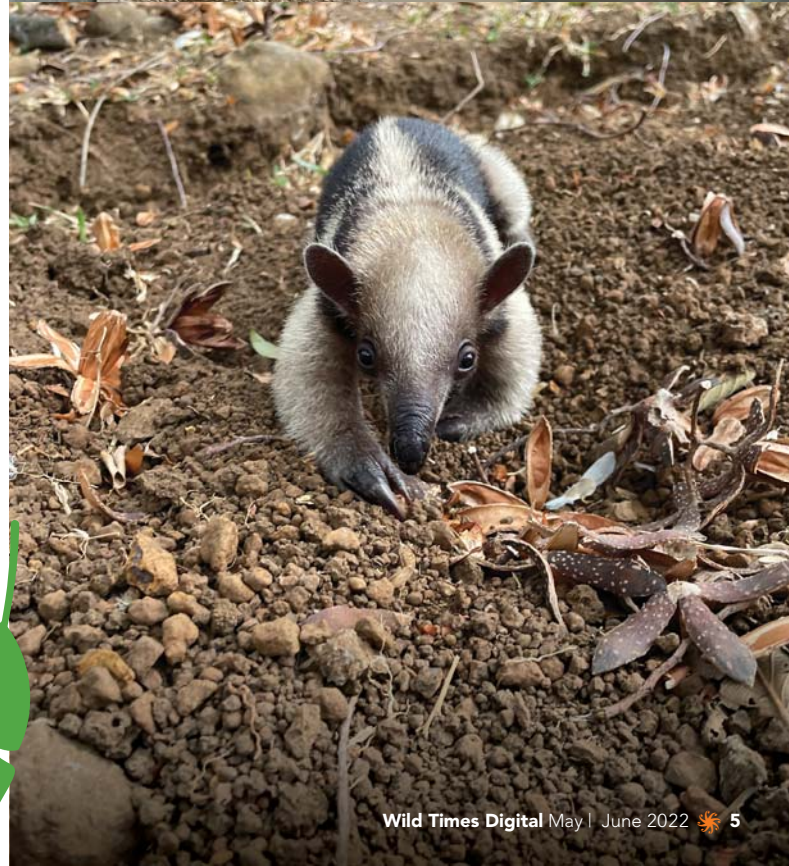
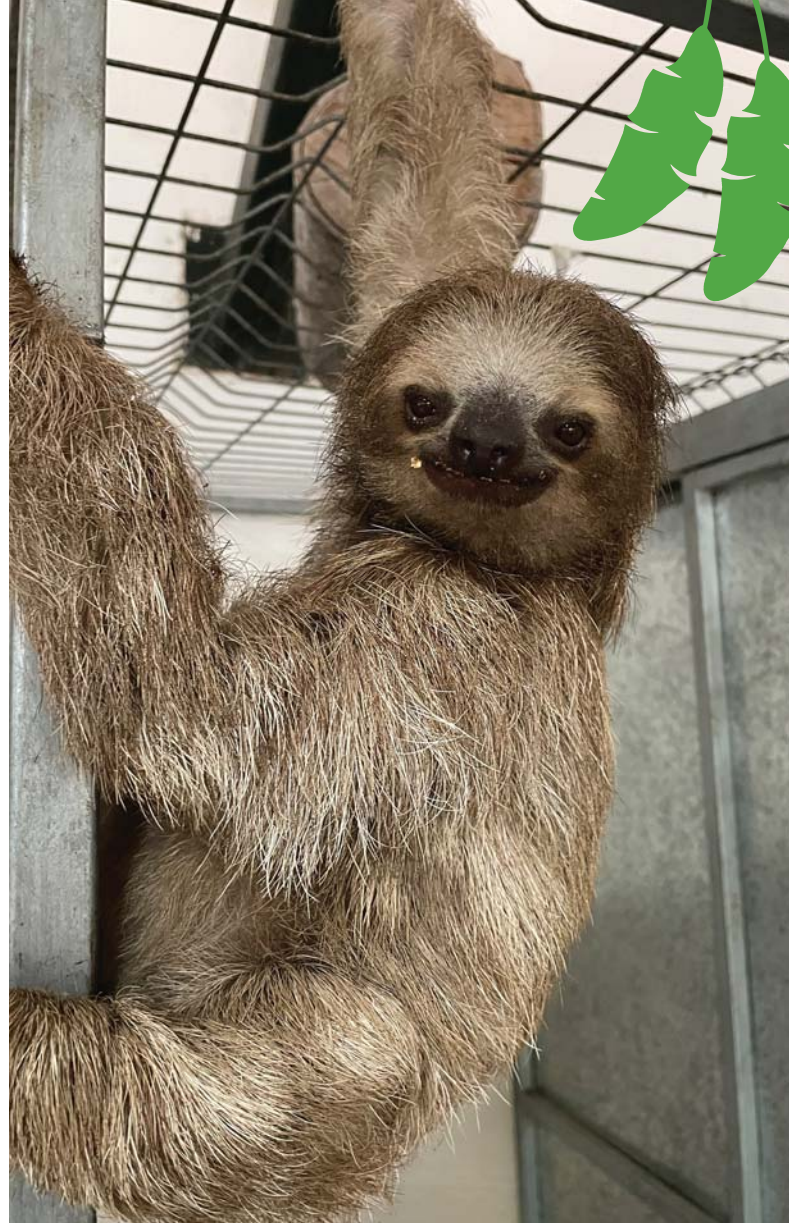
Two-toed sloths eat a variety of leaves and can be supplemented with cooked green beans and carrots, whereas three-toed sloths only consume two types of plants and the fruit the plant produces. Their demeanor also varies drastically as two-toed sloths are more aggressive and will try to bite. However, three-toed sloths are very docile.

I was able to experience this firsthand as in the afternoons we would take the sloths out to nearby trees for climbing lessons. Some of the sloths enjoyed going outside and eating fresh leaves while gaining exercise, however, some were not happy to leave their blankets and stuffies and would try to bite or make a grunt-like sound to let you know of their displeasure.

Honestly, all their personalities and sounds they made were adorable!

I gained valuable experience working with such a diverse collection of animals and was able to impart new husbandry techniques and enrichment devices that we use here at the Phoenix Zoo.

I am so thankful for the experience!



Protecting the Path of the Jaguar

By **Kinley Ragan**

Field Conservation Research Technician

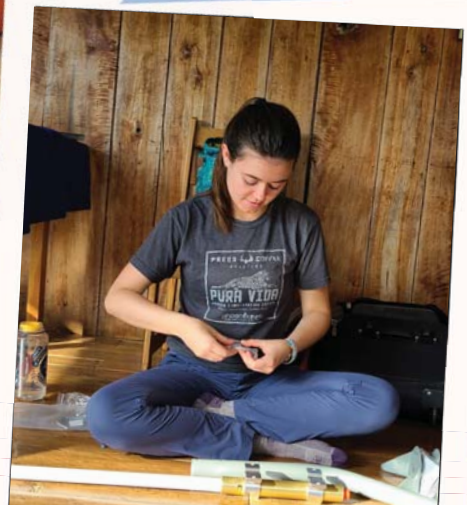
Mary is not the only Phoenix Zoo team member to put her skills to work in Costa Rica this year. As part of a US Fish and Wildlife Service grant project, our Field Conservation Research team traveled to the Talamanca region of the country in January, building and testing anti-poaching technology in and around parks and protected areas. Working with partners from Arizona State University and ProCAT Costa Rica, we are helping secure safe passage for jaguars

moving between protected areas. Illegal hunting and habitat loss are major threats to jaguars and other wildlife in the region. In addition to anti-poaching technology, this project includes tree planting for habitat restoration and economic incentives for land management activities that support biodiversity (jaguar-friendly coffee and cacao, for example). Here are a few snapshots from the team's first trip in 2022. We look forward to sharing the next chapters of this story when they return from their next trip in May.



Made it! Dr. Garth Paine (ASU), Kinley Ragan and Dr. Jan Schipper (Phoenix Zoo) are happy to have arrived in Costa Rica after months of active preparation. The team gives thumbs up and peace signs as they wait for the shuttle outside of the San Jose airport with 400 pounds of equipment and supplies. Getting through customs with only minor questions was a huge relief!

STEM education for the win! Biologist Kinley is learning a ton about how technology, engineering and math help conservation scientists in the field. Acoustic ecologist Dr. Paine is programming the "nodes" that will be set up in the forest and send signals to the "gateway". The nodes have acoustic sensors and send reports to the gateway to activate alerts when illegal hunting activity is detected. There is a lot of trial and error involved in this process. And coffee.





More STEM! Team members test the gunshot detection system's range. That white stick/pole is an antenna that helps the nodes "talk" to the gateway, or hub of

the detection system. Ultimately, when a gun is fired within

range of one of the nodes, a signal will be sent through the detection network that alerts park officials about the concerning activity. The National Park team can see where the noise was detected, greatly speeding up their response and increasing the chances of catching the hunters and discouraging future poaching attempts.



Jan (right) provides a brief lesson on the gateway and node system to Costa Rican National Parks official Irene (left) and the rest of the project team. Park rangers helped our team better understand their experiences with poachers in the parks, which will strengthen the overall project.



¡Adelante! The success of this project depends on the diverse strengths of our team. Here you see Marilyn (left), Diego (center), and Roci (right) from ProCAT Costa Rica, a long-timer partner of the Zoo. They are responsible for the community-based activities in the grant including establishing relationships with farmers and community members along our wildlife corridor, working on forest restoration efforts, leading conservation education programs for youth in the region, and also helping to implement the gunshot detection system

The gunshot detection system is focused in and around protected areas. La Amistad International Peace Park straddles eastern Costa Rica and western Panama and is home to the largest remaining jaguar population in Costa Rica. Restoration and economic livelihood activities will focus on creating and protecting habitat patches in between larger parks and protected areas. Jaguars need a safe route to move between these bigger areas. This project continues our long-term efforts to secure a "corridor" connecting Costa Rican jaguar populations to each other, helping ensure that the smaller coastal populations are not isolated to the point of local extinction. We look forward to sharing more snapshots from our trip in May!





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.

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 mobility-style 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.

Camel Rides

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

WATER PLAY AREAS & PLAYGROUNDS

Enchanted Forest

Presented By  Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Yakulla Caverns

Discovery Farm

Presented By 

Leapin' Lagoon Splash Pad

ZOO TOURS

Safari Cruiser

Presented By  VALLEY 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.

Backstage Adventures

If you're looking for a truly unique experience, join us for a Backstage Adventure and get an insider's glimpse of some of our animal habitats such as flamingo, elephant and Stingray Bay.

Premium Adventures

Looking for the ultimate Zoo tour? Try a Premium Adventure – a fully customized experience for you and your special guests.

* 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.

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.**

Member Wednesday Lunch Special

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



May Special

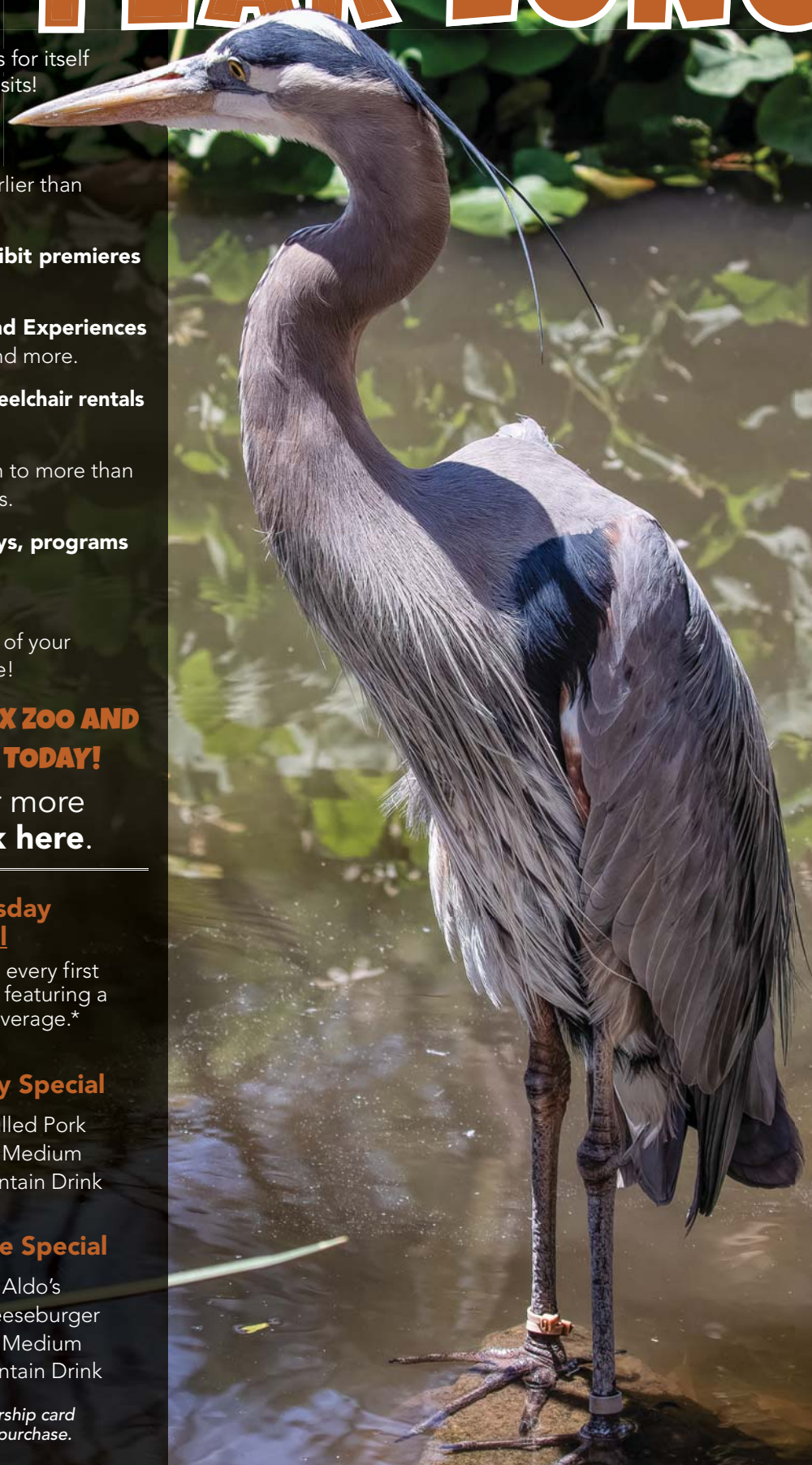
Pulled Pork
& Medium
Fountain Drink



June Special

Aldo's
Cheeseburger
& Medium
Fountain Drink

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



ANIMAL AWARENESS DAYS

LET'S CELEBRATE!

MAY

May 1

Save the Rhino Day

May 14

World Migratory Bird Day

May 20

Endangered Species Day

May 23

World Turtle Day

May 25

World Otter Day

May 31

World Parrot Day

June

June 8

World Ocean Day

June 20

American Eagle Day

June 21

World Giraffe Day

June 22

World Camel Day

June 23

Pink Flamingo Day

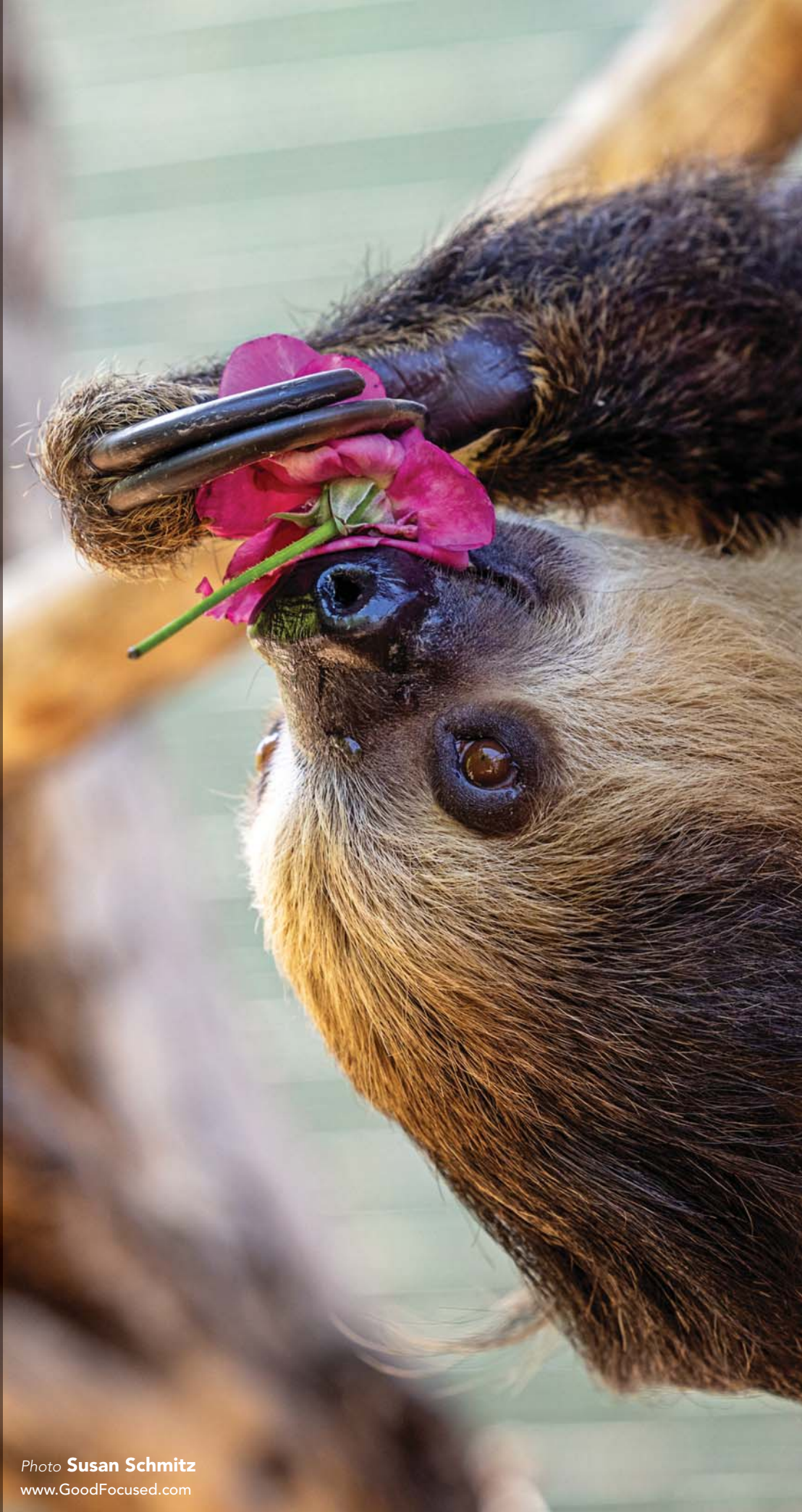


Photo **Susan Schmitz**
www.GoodFocused.com



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ARIZONA CENTER *for* NATURE CONSERVATION

Storytime at the Zoo!

Ages 2 – 6 and a caregiver

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!

May 2 | "Owl Babies" by Martin Waddell

May 14 | "Tricky Tortoise" by Mwenye Hadithi and Adrienne Kennaway

May 20 | "Dig Wait Listen: A Desert Toa's Tale" by April Pulley Sayre

May 26 | "Here is the Southwestern Desert" by Madeleine Dunphy

May 29 | "The Seed and the Giant Saguaro" by Jennifer Ward

Member: \$5 per child | General: \$5 per child (Zoo admission not included)

Birding 101

Ages 16 years and up

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.

May 7

Member: \$18 | General: \$20 (Zoo admission not included)

Bird Walks

Ages 16 years and up

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

May 19

Member: \$8 | General: \$10 (Zoo admission not included)

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

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!

\$260 per Outreach Specialist first hour

\$150 for each additional Outreach Specialist or hour

ZooToYou – Distance Learning

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.

\$125 per presentation

Guided Tours for Groups

Guide-led, walking field trip tours happen in conjunction with your daytime field trip to enhance your students' experience. All our programs are designed to support academic standards, are grade-level appropriate and include a variety of inquiry-based techniques. Your Zoo instructor will encourage critical thinking and deductive reasoning as your students explore their surroundings using multiple senses, including actively viewing animals on exhibit. Choose from one of the topics below, each covering a wide span of animal and conservation sciences. Each guided field trip is 45 minutes in length.

\$2 per person or \$5 per person for custom themes (Zoo admission not included)



THE ONE. THE ONLY.



The best summer camp in the Valley is back!

June 6 – July 29 | 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ages K – 8

Limited availability.



Click here to register!

ADOPT ME!

Share the care and welcome
Howie to the Phoenix Zoo.

Help us keep the
white rhino and other species
from disappearing forever.



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

**Become a
Wildlife Champion
today!**

For a complete list of packages,
visit phoenixzoo.org.



BIG

Featuring the mountain lion and jaguar,
Big Cats of the Sonoran Desert is the
Zoo's newest \$3.2 million initiative.

Located on the Arizona Trail, this 20,000-square-foot installation will provide ample space for these intriguing desert cats and facilitate guest viewing, unlike current habitats.

These animals are rarely seen in the wild, so multiple viewing opportunities will improve visibility. This exhibit space will incorporate educational messaging explaining the big cats'



CATS of Arizona

historical native ranges and potentially 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. In the 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 assist 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.



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.



For more information, email phoenixzooprints@gmail.com or call 602.286.3800 x7342.



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.





THE ANTLER
SOCIETY

Join the Antler Society -

LEAVE A LEGACY

If 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.



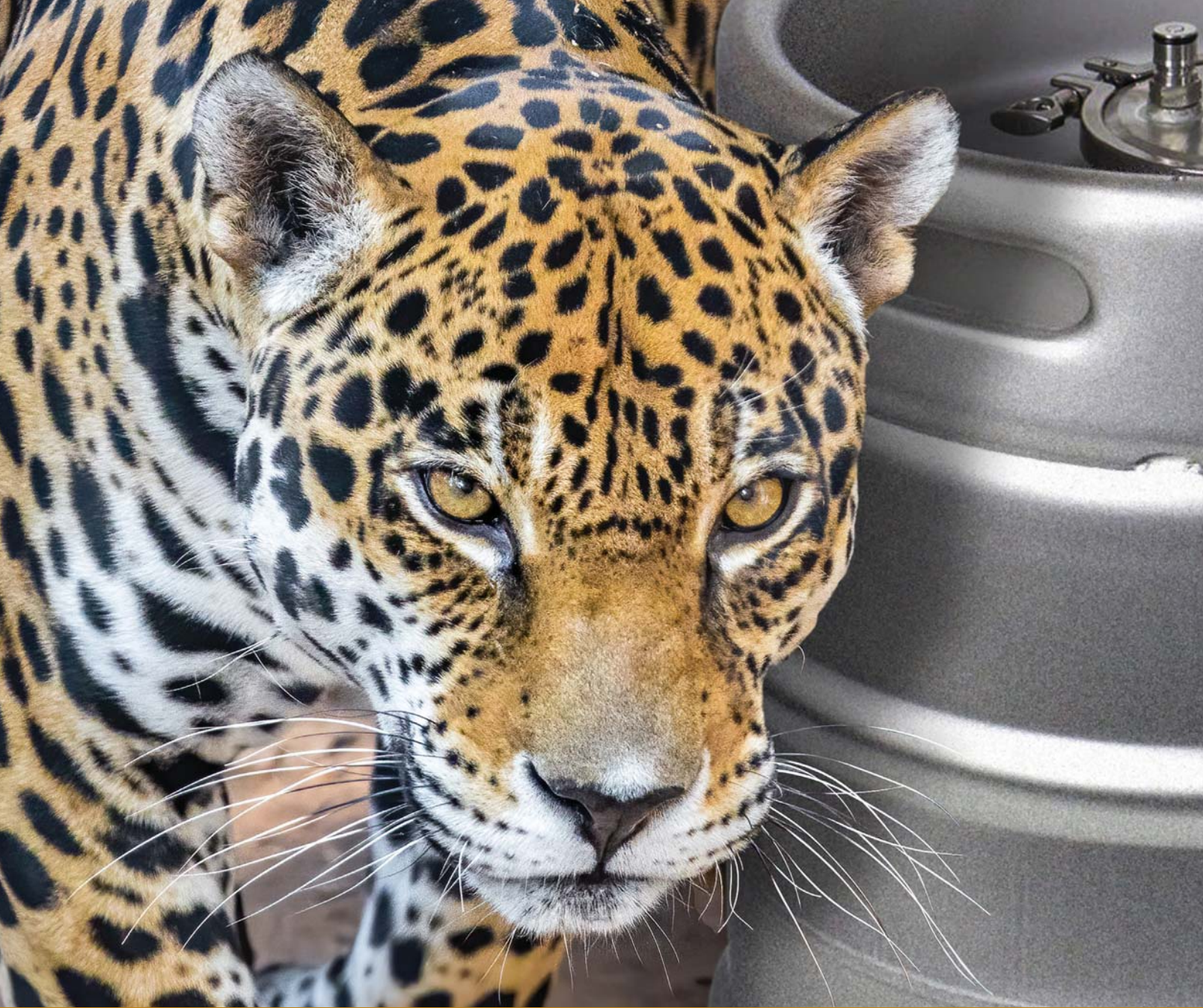
Would you like more information? **Click here** to download this free comprehensive Estate Planning Kit. It will help you protect loved ones, organize everything in one place, and save on taxes.

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



ROARS&POURS

HAPPY HOUR SERIES

MAY 19



**CROOK
& MARKER**

Guests can sip and stroll along select Zoo trails.

21 & Older Only | 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

\$10 tickets at phoenixzoo.org



**RENEWAL
by ANDERSEN**
FULL SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT

93.3
ALT+AZ
ARIZONA'S ALTERNATIVE

PREDATOR PASSAGE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION!



As the final element in The Pride Campaign, this long-awaited and exciting project expands the Africa Trail.

To celebrate this milestone, we are offering the opportunity to purchase personalized bricks which will be installed as pavers in the Passage. Don't miss your chance to become a "piece" of the Zoo!

CLICK HERE TO ORDER.

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ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

**THANK YOU ALL
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

**LIONS, HYENAS, AND
MEERKATS, OH MY!
- PREDATOR PASSAGE -**



**THE CASTRO FAMILY
WE LOVE THE ZOO!**

**ROBERT E. MAYTAG
EAGER
PHILANTHROPIST
ANIMAL LOVER
PHOENIX ZOO
FOUNDER**

8.23.1923 - 3.14.1962

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



Melissa, Age 10



Sammy, Age 7



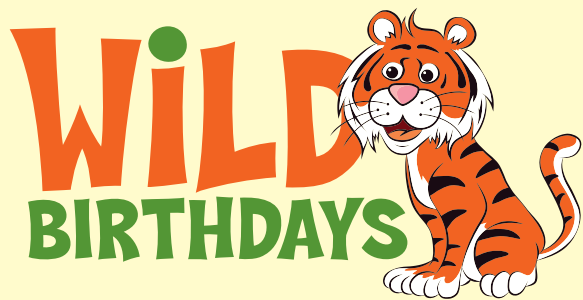
Jordyn, Age 8



Obadiah, Age 5



Charlotte, Age 5



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!



602.914.4333



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.

phoenix**x**zoo
ARIZONA CENTER FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

phoenixzoo.org | 602.914.4301

Bidders for Critters

The sizzling summer online auction in support of the non-profit Phoenix Zoo
Don't miss your chance to win... there's something for everyone!



Zoo Experiences



Eat, Drink and Explore



Family Fun



Home and Garden

AND SO MUCH MORE!

Bidding begins on July 20 at 9 a.m.

SAVE THE DATE!

For information, [click here!](#)

*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**

