

# Wild Times

July | August 2022

## DIGITAL

### It's "Owl" Good

**Bidders  
for Critters**

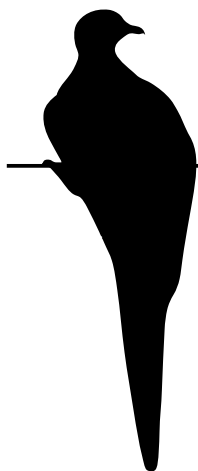
**Dinosaurs  
in the  
Desert  
Returns**

phoenix  zoo  
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION



# ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT



## The Lost Bird Project

**Sculptures** | Africa Trail and Tropics Trail

**Prints and photographs** | Savanna Gallery

**Now – January 31, 2023**

**Included with Zoo admission**



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. All artwork will be for sale with a portion of the proceeds benefitting the non-profit Phoenix Zoo.



**phoenixzoo**  
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

The Lost Bird Project

Now - January 31, 2023

Through the Lens: A Zoonique Perspective

Now - September 5, 2022

Bidders for Critters

July 20 - August 1, 2022

Wildlights for Wildlife

November 6, 2022

## HOURS

Now - August 31, 2022

7 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Daily) | 6 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

September 1 - October 31, 2022

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Daily) | 8 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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602.286.3800 | General Information

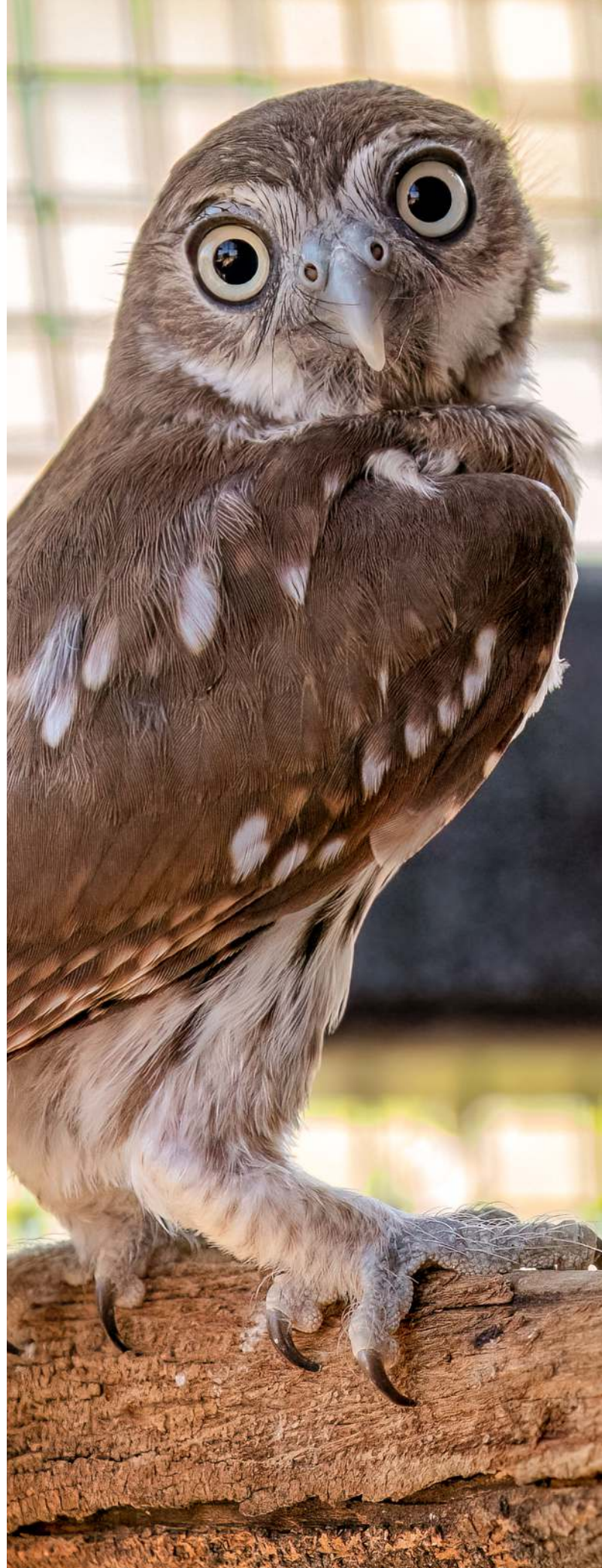
602.914.4333 | Call Center

602.914.4328 | Fax



**phoenixzoo.org**

455 N. Galvin Parkway | Phoenix, AZ 85008



Dear Zoo Friends,

Unlike so many other zoos in the U.S., the summer months see fewer guests visiting the Phoenix Zoo. We change our hours of operation in the hot summer months, opening and closing to guests much earlier than during the rest of the year. But that doesn't mean there's still not a lot going on at the Zoo. Often, we time construction projects to take place over the summer to minimize the disruption to our guests. This summer is no exception, although one of our current construction projects is so large that it will continue into 2023. We're excited to bring our enhanced Africa experience, Predator Passage, to you with new spaces for our lions and warthogs, and new species to the Zoo, like leopards and meerkats. Our main gift shop is also being renovated to bring you additional space and a new restroom. The Desert Marketplace gift shop will be completed and reopen in time for an exciting October... that's also when Dinosaurs in the Desert returns to the Zoo!



We're also using the summer to launch our new Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Awareness Training program. All of our employees, volunteers and third party partners have participated in this valuable training designed to help us understand the importance of DEI in the workplace. I attended this training along with the entire Executive Team here at the Zoo and really valued its emphasis on appreciating our unique differences and fostering positive relationships within our organization and our community. We see this training as just one more way to ensure the long-term success of the Phoenix Zoo.

Speaking of our staff and volunteers, we recently celebrated our volunteers with the first volunteer appreciation and awards luncheon post-COVID. It was wonderful to see their smiling faces back at the Zoo. Additionally, our entire staff from all areas of the Zoo had the opportunity to submit photos to our Arts Committee for a special summer exhibit. You can now see those amazing photos hanging in the Savanna Gallery. As you can imagine, our staff members have unique opportunities to capture fantastic and intimate images of the Zoo's animals. Be sure to stop by the Savanna Grill to see the photos and visit our temporary gift shop location while the main gift shop is under construction.

I know it's hot... but I hope to see you during the gorgeous summer mornings here at the Zoo.

Sincerely,

**Norberto (Bert) J. Castro**

*President / CEO*

*Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo*





# ADOPT ME!

**S**how your love for our Mexican gray wolf family today and become a Wildlife Champion! Your symbolic adoption directly supports the Zoo's mission of providing experiences that inspire people and motivate them to care for the natural world.

This wolf-inspired \$75 package includes:

- Personalized sponsorship certificate
- Plush wolf
- Wolf fact sheet
- Wolf full-color photo
- Subscription to Wild Times Digital



**To become a Wildlife Champion and for a complete list of packages, visit [phoenixzoo.org/support/wildlife-champions](https://phoenixzoo.org/support/wildlife-champions) or call 602.286.3800 x7434.**





# It's "Owl" Good



By **Tara Harris, Ph.D.**  
Director of Conservation and Science

Owl photos By **David Wagner**

**T**hey're cute. They're tiny. They're mighty little predators. And the Phoenix Zoo is helping them return to their native habitat here in Arizona. Meet the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl!

These pygmy-owls used to live right here in the Phoenix region, nesting in saguaro cactus cavities. But their future in Arizona and beyond is in doubt due to habitat loss and fragmentation, as well as climate change. Biologists estimate that they number in the low hundreds in our state.



**H**ere at the Phoenix Zoo, we are working across departments to breed and care for pygmy-owls, and to help our conservation partners release them to the wild in southern Arizona. Through initial releases, we are testing methods that will help us refine our reintroduction strategies. This important work is done in collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Wild at Heart, US Geological Survey, and other conservation partners.

In 2021, we celebrated the first release of pygmy-owls hatched at the Zoo into the wild. Twenty-two owls from the Zoo were reintroduced to two locations in southern Arizona, and subsequently monitored by our conservation partners.

This year we had another successful pygmy-owl breeding season. All six of our owl pairs, including Pat and Porgie who are now exhibited in the Arizona Aviary, laid eggs and produced chicks this spring - for a total of 18 fledglings! We are excited for them to contribute to pygmy-owl recovery in our state.



## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP PYGMY-OWLS?

Just by coming to the Zoo, you are supporting our work to help the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl! Your admission or membership fee helps fund our work to breed and care for these rare raptors.

Also, do your part to combat climate change, from simple actions in your daily life to advocating for big-picture change to keep our state from a hotter, drier future.





## **Andean Bear Day** *(Bear Conservation Day)*

**T**he Forest of Uco on the Tropics Trail is home to many fascinating Latin American species including a charismatic two-year-old Andean bear nicknamed Auggie. His full name is Agapito, meaning “the beloved,” and he is certainly that. Arriving at the Zoo in late 2021 from San Diego, Auggie has quickly become a guest favorite, posing for the camera as he chills in his favorite tree.

Auggie, like all Andean bears, is solitary by nature and arboreal. Using their long front legs and sharp claws, they climb trees to forage for food, sometimes building leafy platforms to nest. The only bear species found in South America, the Andean bear lives in forests, grasslands and scrublands feasting on fruits, grasses, small mammals and birds.

Despite recent efforts to protect their habitats, the Andean bear is still considered a vulnerable species and is part of AZA’s Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) program which focuses on targeted research, monitoring and capacity-building efforts. Shy and reclusive, they’re difficult to find in the wild but you can see one right here at the Phoenix Zoo.

Next time you visit the Forest of Uco, say “hola” to Auggie and wish him happy Andean Bear Day on July 21!

### **More “bear-y” cool facts:**

- They are sometime called spectacled bears due to the rings of light fur around their eyes.
- This bear species was the inspiration for Paddington Bear.
- The longest living Andean bear in managed care was over 38 years old and lived in the National Zoo in Washington D.C.

ANIMAL AWARENESS DAYS

# LET’S CELEBRATE!

## **JULY**

**July 2**

World Porcupine Day

**July 14**

World Chimpanzee Day

**July 16**

World Snake Day

**July 18 – July 24**

National Zookeeper Week

**July 21**

Andean Bear Day

**July 29**

International Tiger Day

## **AUGUST**

**August 4**

Owl Awareness Day

**August 10**

World Lion Day

**August 12**

World Elephant Day

**August 14**

World Lizard Day

**August 15**

Day of the Cotton-top Tamarin

**August 19**

World Orangutan Day

**August 21**

World Goat Day

**August 26**

World African Painted Dog Day





**DINO-MITE DEAL!**  
Join as a Member to Receive Free Admission!





Members will get unlimited free access to Dinosaurs in the Desert through the run of the exhibit! Plus, priority viewing with an exclusive members-only preview event October 1 & 2.

**Join or renew today and you'll also receive  
2 extra months of membership - FREE!**

Use promo code: **WTS22** or **click here**  
to start your 14-month Zoo adventure today!

Offer expires August 31, 2022 Not valid with other offers, discounts or on previously purchased memberships.



# DINOSAURS IN THE DESERT

## PHOENIX ZOO

**They're baaack!**

And this time...

**They've brought friends.**

This October, journey back in time at the Phoenix Zoo! Immerse yourself in a world where colossal dinosaurs and other ancient beasts dominate the landscape in this not-to-be missed prehistoric experience.

All new creatures include *Giganotosaurus*, saber-toothed cat, sea scorpion, terror bird and more.



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# 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 Exclusives



Eat, Drink and Explore



Family Fun



Home and Garden

**AND SO MUCH MORE!**

**Bidding opens July 20 at 9 a.m.  
and closes August 1 at 9 a.m.**

**For auction information and package previews, [click here!](#)**

**Gear up for an incredible  
night in support of the  
Phoenix Zoo!**

**Wildlights  
for Wildlife**  
A Charity Drive

Presented by



**VALLEY TOYOTA DEALERS**

**Sunday, November 6  
5 - 10:30 p.m.**

**ALL AGES WELCOME**

Reservations limited.

[Click here to 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 non-profit 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.\*



#### July Special

Pizza  
& Medium  
Fountain Drink



#### August Special

Pulled Pork  
& Medium  
Fountain Drink

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



## Zoo Crew Project Orangutan

*Ages 9 - 12 years*

Experience a unique, project-based program that incorporates STEAM concepts with the zoo as your classroom! Join our educators for three 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.

**October 4, 5, 6 | 9 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Member: \$75 | General: \$90**

## Zoo Crew: BioConnect

*Ages 12 - 15 years*

Experience a unique, project-based program that incorporates STEAM and biomimicry concepts with the Zoo as your classroom! Join our educators for three consecutive morning classes as we learn in-depth about biomimicry and use our understanding and observations of nature to solve problems for humans. BioConnect is fun, fascinating and promotes hands-on authentic problem-solving. Meets Arizona Academic Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.

**September 6, 7, 8 | 9 - 10:30 a.m.**

**Member: \$75 | General: \$90**

## 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.

**September 15 | October 20**

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

## Family Nature Walks

*All ages*

Each month we pick a different trail to explore within the Zoo. We'll check out the exhibit animals and also search for signs of nature all around us. Family Nature Walks are designed for the whole family to explore nature in the Zoo together!

**September 9, 10 | Tropical America**

**October 7, 8 | Tropical Asia**

**Member: \$5 | General: \$8 (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)**







## Calling All Party Animals!

# WILD BIRTHDAYS



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.



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facebook twitter instagram youtube  
phoenixzoo.org | 602.914.4301



# 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.

## 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](mailto:ltoth@phoenixzoo.org)



THE ANTLER  
SOCIETY



# A *PURRRFECT* Cause



Help Support our **BIG CATS** as we build the **NEW** habitat:  
**Big Cats of Arizona**

For more information on this exciting project, please contact Christopher Gutierrez at [cgutierrez@phoenixzoo.org](mailto:cgutierrez@phoenixzoo.org) or 602.914.4362.

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## 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](mailto:phoenixzooprints@gmail.com) or call 602.286.3800 x7342.



## PREDATOR PASSAGE IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION!



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

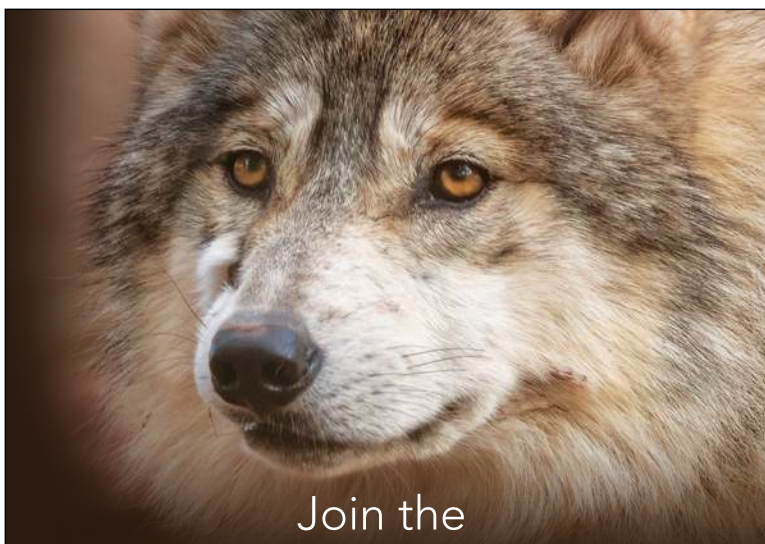
To celebrate this milestone, we are offering the opportunity to purchase personalized bricks which will be installed as pavers in the Passage. Don't miss your chance to become a "piece" of the Zoo!

[CLICK HERE TO ORDER.](#)

phoenixzoo  
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



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.](#)



## ENCOUNTERS & EXPERIENCES

Enhance your day at the Phoenix Zoo with a variety of fun experiences to make your visit even more memorable!

### 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.

### Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater

#### Animal Presentations

Presented By 

Monday - Sunday | 9 a.m.

Weather permitting

### 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  ARIZONA MILK PRODUCERS

### 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.





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**



Avery, Age 7



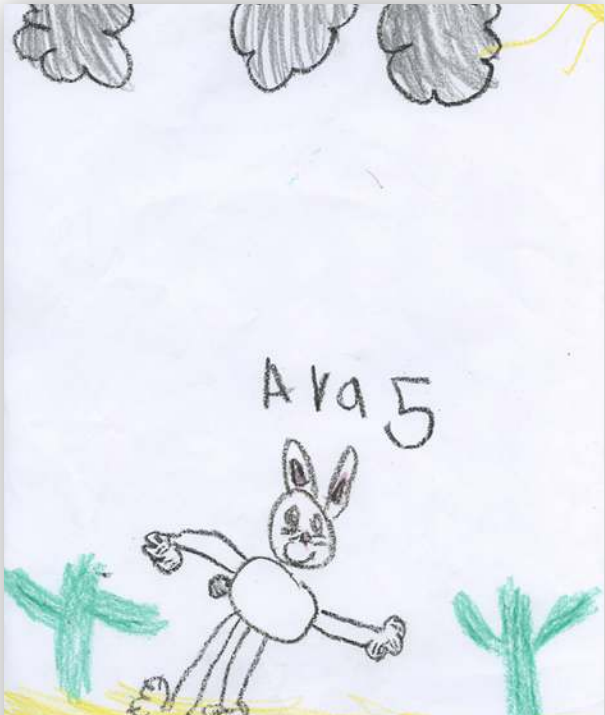
Jennifer, Age 13



Alaina, Age 4



Kensington, Age 6



Ava, Age 5

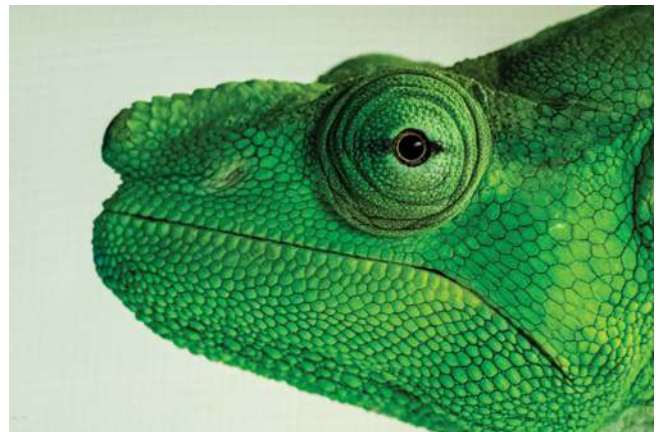
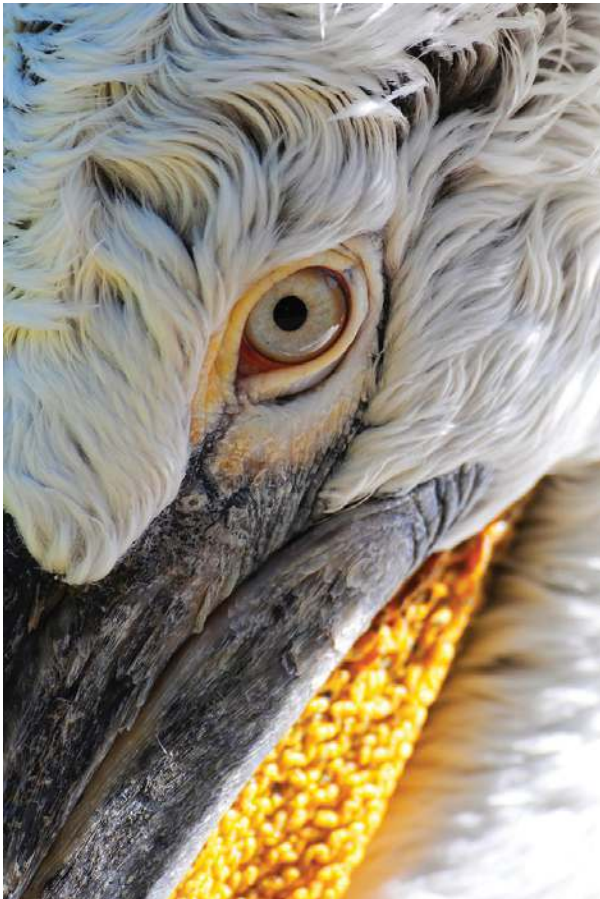


# ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT

## Through the Lens: A Zoonique Perspective

Staff photography exhibit | Savanna Gallery



Now – September 5, 2022

Included with Zoo admission

Betsy Basham

Dave Seibert

In Memory of  
**Douglas T. Flowers**  
and His Love of Photography



**phoen/xzoo**  
ARIZONA CENTER for NATURE CONSERVATION

*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**

