



Wild Side Gallery

Between River

February 2 –

September 4

and Rim

Art on the Wild Side

Savanna Gallery
The Lost Bird Project

Now – January 31

A Closer Look

Now – January 31

Into the Wilds

February 17 – May 29

Dinosaurs in the Desert

Now – April 30

Sensory Friendly Dinosaurs in the DesertJanuary 9, February 9, March 9, April 9

Reyes Magos /Night of the Three Kings
January 5

Zoo Move & Groove

January 21

HOURS

November 1 — January 21, 2023 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Daily) | 8 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

January 22 — May 31, 2023 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Daily) | 8 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

ZooLights: November 23 — January 15, 2023 5:30 - 10:30 p.m. (Nightly)

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





get closer

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Dear Zoo Friends,

A few years ago, I wrote the following article for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums as part of a series of articles on diversity. As you can read in this issue of "Wild Times," the Phoenix Zoo continues to keep issues of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEIA) at the forefront of all that we do. Whether it's staff, our Board of Trustees, volunteers, events at the Zoo or the guests that visit every day, we look through a DEIA lens to do our best to function as a place for all. The zoo and aquarium field has come light years in terms of DEIA since I began my career, but we still have a long way to go - especially in leadership positions in the field.

This is my story...

As many of you know by now, my family immigrated to the U.S. from Cuba when I was very young. My parents left Cuba for many reasons, but one of the most compelling was to provide opportunities for a better life for their children. The chance for a college education was a big part of that for them. So when it was time for me to go to college, my parents were proud to help make that possible, even though it was a tremendous financial sacrifice for them. I was the first in my family to graduate from college. But when my college major became zoology and I started talking about being a zookeeper, my parents were less than thrilled.

To be fair, they should have seen it coming. As a child, I tried to keep every animal I found in my backyard. You name it, I had it. I had rabbits, chickens, dogs, quail, mice, rats, a goat and even a pig, which my dad allowed me to bring home in his car. I caught snakes and put them in the mailbox to scare my mom. When I was 7, I went to a birthday party at the Tulsa Zoo and came home telling my mom I wanted to be a zookeeper and take care of the elephant I met that day. So it shouldn't have come as a surprise when my career of choice became zookeeper. But my parents were not happy to see my college education used for something they saw as a manual labor job.

I think this kind of thinking in families like mine is now reflected as we look at our industry and notice a stunning lack of diversity, especially in positions of leadership. Many families of populations underrepresented in our field don't want their hard-earned dollars paying for a college degree for something they perceive as not a professional career. While I certainly don't think this is the only reason for the lack of diversity we see, it was my experience in my immigrant family.

Before the time I graduated from college, zookeeping was, for the most part, not seen as a profession The requirements were more about



a person's physical capabilities than their education. But as I was entering the field, those requirements were changing. Zoos and aquariums were beginning to require college degrees and experience with animals for entry level jobs. As our industry evolved, more and more career opportunities became available for professions outside of animal care. From marketing to conservation research, today's institutions provide fulfilling opportunities that zoos and aquariums a generation ago could only imagine.

But it does not seem that public perception has kept up with our evolution. We often talk about how we need to get better at telling our success stories. But I think we also need to do a better job of reaching young people with parents like mine who want their children to go to college and become professionals. We need to find more effective ways to reach these underrepresented populations of young people and their parents to make them aware of all that a zoo and aquarium career can offer. You don't have to be the kid with a goat in his back yard to want to grow up and work in our industry. You could be a kid that loves accounting or who wants to be a teacher or a researcher or ... the sky's the limit.

My career has taken me places I could never have dreamed of as a child. I've traveled the world and had the honor of leading two outstanding zoological institutions and the passionate, dedicated and professional staff that have made positions at those institutions their careers. My parents have been gone for many years. I wish they could see me now. I wish they could see that their investment in my education was well spent and their support of my career choice, however begrudging it was, has made all the difference in my life.

Norberto (Bert) J. Castro

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo





Hosted by Ruth Allard, Phoenix Zoo Senior Vice President of Conservation Science, Learning & Engagement

May 7 - 18, 2023

Starting at \$9,995 per person, double occupancy

Visit the Kalahari Desert and the otherworldly Makgadikgadi Salt Pans, where a glowing, white expanse of natural salt deposits create glittering mirages that seem to reach out into the endless horizon. Then, take in the spectacular view over the Okavango; a wetland wilderness of looping channels, islands forested with palms, and wide grassy floodplains. This is one of the most marvelous places on Earth to view wildlife, both on the ground and in the sky, with bird species numbering in the hundreds and Pel's Fishing Owl, Wattled Crane, and the pastel perfection of the Lilac-Breasted Roller. Finish your adventure with an optional extension to Zimbabwe at the mighty Victoria Falls or Mosi-oa-Tunya- "the smoke that thunders."

VIEW ITINERARY | RSVP

Receive a \$300 per person special discount on this trip if you book by January 25, 2023!



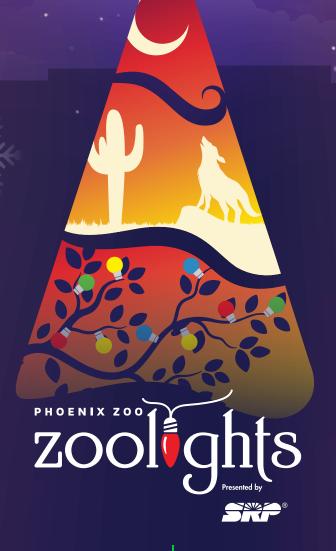
Ruth Allard Senior Vice President for Conservation Science, Learning & Engagement

Ruth Allard oversees the Zoo's conservation and science, field research and educational programming, fueled by a love for connecting people to nature. Ruth has traveled to six continents, with highlights including time in Borneo, China, Tanzania, Vanuatu and the Galapagos Islands. Her list of favorite animals numbers in the hundreds, and is usually topped by her human and canine family members.





adventure everywhere.



CLOSING JAN 15 5:30 – 10:30 p.m.

All New Lake Lights Show | Dinosaurs in the Desert | Polar Park Millions of Lights | Wildlife Lantern Safari | Festive Food & Drinks

Purchase discounted tickets online at phoenixzoo.org.







from their winter habitats and pass through the Valley of the Sun as early as late February. Arizona is known as a birder's paradise due to the number of avian species that call the Grand Canyon State home year-round, as well as the tremendous diversity of birds that use the state as a migratory flyway. For example, more hummingbird species are found in Arizona than any other state in the US. Some pass through briefly during migration, while others are resident here all year.

EVERYONE CAN HELP!

Bird migrations inspire wonder and awe in humans, but can be dangerous for the animals as they travel great distances. What can you do to help them travel safely?

Turn out the lights! Consider dimming or turning off lights from 11 p.m. to sunrise during the most active periods for migration in your region. Lights safe places to rest and healthy sources of food and water. Plants that attract pollinators are great for birds that eat insects, and for those that rely on nectar for fuel. Choose native plants when possible, which will be better adapted for our conditions than plants naturally found far away, and avoid using pesticides and herbicides that may harm the wildlife living in your community or passing through during migration. American Bird Conservancy has more tips for ways to help birds here.

BE A BIRD NOTICER!

Come to the Zoo to see migratory birds resting along their journeys as well as our many resident birds in their exhibits and living in or passing through Papago Park. Sign up for programs to learn more about birds and other ways to connect to nature. Talk to friends and families about the birds you see in your community. You might get them excited about helping birds too.

If you'd like to explore birding hotspots in Arizona, the National Audubon Society has good resources here.

Want to learn more about bird migrations in your area? Check out BirdCast, which provides real-time predictions of nighttime bird migrations to see if today is a big day for migrating birds where you live.

Audubon's Bird Migration Explorer is another great resource, featuring options to track your favorite bird species (over 450 in total!) and visualize their migrations and the challenges they face. Being a bird noticer is a fun and free way to connect to the animals that share our community. Have fun noticing!



he Phoenix Zoo is proud to announce the project, "Flying Gardeners," received funding from the Disney Conservation Fund!

During the global pandemic, senior bird keeper Marisa Boyd was not able to travel to Malaysia to work with local organizations, Gaia and HUTAN. Instead, she diligently worked with the team over Zoom to help draft the grant in 2022 - and her efforts certainly paid off.

The project focuses on protecting 10 hornbill and two flying fox species within the Kenyir watershed in Terengganu. In conjunction with the "Kenyir for Life" initiative, the project aims to empower local and indigenous people to participate in conservation and education efforts in the region.

Marisa is excited to return to Malaysia in 2023 to resume her work and is looking forward to collaborating with new partners, Nature Based Solutions and Project Pteropus on this project.





RULIS&PUUSS

HAPPY HOUR SERIES MAR 2 | APR 6 | MAY 4

Guests can sip and stroll along select Zoo trails. 21 & Older Only | 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. \$10 tickets at phoenixzoo.org



For a limited time only!

PHOENIX ZOO DINO BREW

In collaboration with BEER RESEARCH

The coolest thing since the Ice Age







FEBRUARY



MARCH

Rotating tap monthly at phoen xzoo

Love the look? Get the merch here!





or Phoenix Zoo guests over the past 25
years, the Forest of Uco on the Tropics
Trail has been a metaphorical corridor to
South America.

The lush rainforest landscape includes a walking trail, replicas of a South American mercado,

CENTRI CULTURAL

Additions contained to the second con

Centro Cultural (Cultural Center)

The display window will feature a mix of colorful and older items such as the Colombian flag, Vueltiao hat, Quechua ruana and other cultural artifacts.

scientific ruins and tropical animals. As part of our commitment to diversity, the Forest of Uco recently went through a massive upgrade to make the area even more realistic and accurately represented.

Here are a few highlights...



Club Silvestre (Wild Club)

The roof is faux Spanish tile built with sheets of composite corrugated roofing material.



Frutas y Jugos (Fruit Juice Store)

This building features painted fruit above and forthcoming hand-painted 14-inch tiles along the base.



La Chiquita Escuela (The Little School)

Bright and fun with a vibrant paint scheme, the roof also repeats the Spanish tile-look of Club Silvestre.

12 January | February 2023 Wild Times Digital January | February 2023 Wild Times Digital January | February 2023 13



Family Nature Walks

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!

January 20, 21 | February 10, 11 | March 10, 11

Member: \$5 | General: \$8 (Zoo admission not included)

Animals in Focus: Photography Classes

Ages 18 years and up

Tips, tricks and techniques for photographing animals on this casual walkabout around the Zoo. Led by one of our volunteer expert photographers.

January 3, 14, 18, 22 | February 4, 11, 15, 24

Member: \$30 | General: \$30 (Zoo admission not included)

Homeschool Days

Learners 5 - 17 years old

Join the Phoenix Zoo at Homeschool Days for a morning dedicated to homeschool families and groups! The morning will be filled with STEM-based learning stations, animal interactions, and exploring science-based careers. Stations will feature camera trapping, behavioral enrichment, information on palm oil consumption, bird watching, and so much more!

February 15

Member: \$10 | General: \$18

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 guizzes and questions, as well as live animal presentations.

\$125 per presentation

Guided Tours for Groups

Custom Guided Tours are designed based on your specific interests and needs. Our trained Zoo staff works with you to create a completely customizable 60-minute educational walking tour of one of our Zoo trails - covering the exhibits and topics you are interested in.

\$5 per person (Zoo admission not included)

Conservation Science Night

Celebrate the ACNC's conservation efforts at Conservation Science Night at the Phoenix Zoo. 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. This event is free, but advanced registration is required as space is limited.

February 24 (Maximum of 350 Participants)

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.





Saturday January 21, 2023 5K Run | 5:30 p.m.

Registration includes:

Post-race ZooLights and Dinosaurs in the Desert admission Commemorative shirt | Kettle corn & cocoa

"Glow" necklace/bracelet Raffle ticket to win great prizes

Fundraise by running solo or compete as a team.

WE'RE BUILDING A BETTER ZOO FOR YOU

Be a part of Predator Passage on the Africa Trail by purchasing a personalized brick.

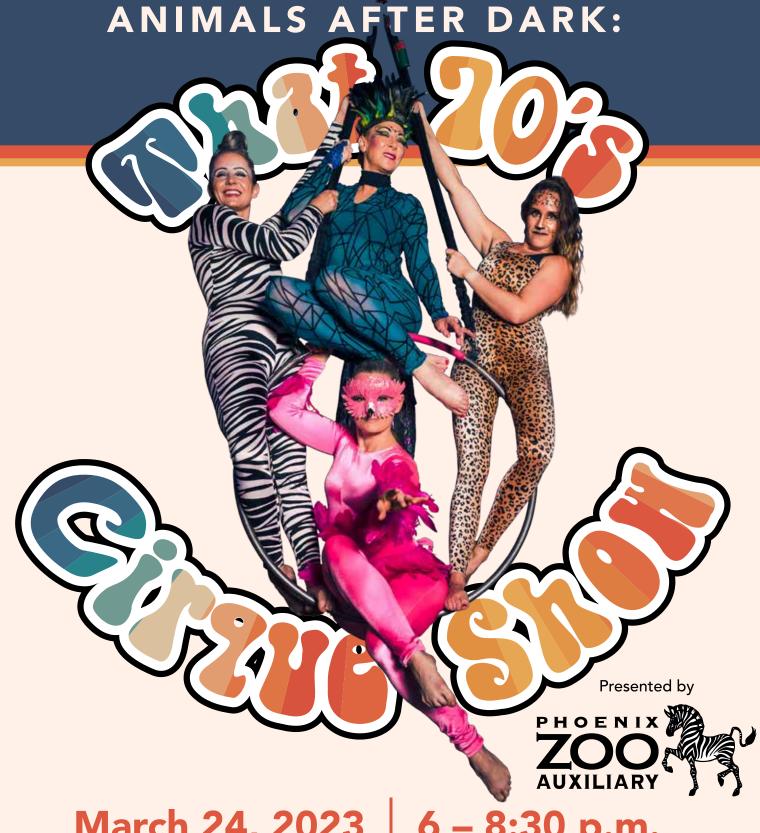


Celebrate a life event! Honor a loved one! Support the Zoo!

Limited Time Only

Get yours today at phoenixzoo.org!





March 24, 2023 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Join us at the Phoenix Zoo for a **STOOVX** evening that takes aerial acrobatics to the max!

Reservations include:

Buffet and drink tickets | Animal meet and greets | Digital commemorative photo | And more!





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.

























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Best way to end your day?



Shopping our newly-remodeled store!

Our newly-remodeled gift shop places an emphasis on our community, celebrating Phoenix's vibrant local artisans and craftspeople. We have expanded our selection of locally produced product as well as engaging local artists to create the artwork found on many of our apparel and souvenir items.



Spend 2023 with the Phoenix Zoo!

Enjoy twelve months of incredible images featuring some of our amazing animals.



Created by dedicated Zoo volunteers, show your support and get yours today in the Phoenix Zoo Gift Shop!



Join the Antler Society LEAVE A LEGACY THE



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



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



ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT

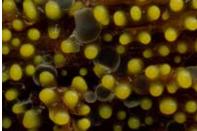
A CLOSER LOOK

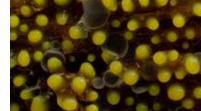
Savanna Gallery











Jack and Jill Bree Deverill

Desert Whimsy | Eirini Pajak

Dreams Bree Deverill

Emerging Yellow | Eirini Pajak

Now – January 31, 2023 Included with Zoo admission



ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT

Into the Wilds

February 17 – May 29, 2023

SAVANNA GALLERY

Included with Zoo admission







JOY Jennifer Krueger



Sedona Milky Way Rainbow Ray DelMuro





ENCOUNTERS & EXPERIENCES

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

Doornbos Discovery Amphitheater Animal Presentations

Monday - Thursday | 10:30 a.m.

Friday - Sunday | 10:30 a.m. & Noon 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!

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.

ScooterPals

Join the ScooterPals Crew for a scooterrific fun and flexible way to experience the Phoenix Zoo.

Monkey Village Returns! After two-and-a-half years, Monkey Village has officially reopened!!

As the only walk-through squirrel monkey exhibit in the United States, this is a mustsee on your visit to the Zoo!

WATER PLAY AREAS & PLAYGROUNDS

Water play areas are closed until the spring.

Enchanted Forest By Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Leapin' Lagoon Splash Pad

Yakulla Caverns

Discovery Farm

ZOO TOURS

Safari Cruiser

Presented WALLEY 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!



Plus, when you join with this Wild Times offer by February 28, you'll save \$10 on the price of your annual membership!

Desert through April 30, 2023!

Membership is such a great value! As a Zoo member, you enjoy FREE unlimited yearround access to more than 3,000 animals and 125 acres of adventure.

Your membership also includes 12 months of incredible benefits such as:

- Discounts on special Zoo events, like ZooLights, presented by SRP®
- Early Entry to the Zoo (one hour before public opening)
- Discounts on Zoo encounters, experiences and behind-the-scenes tours
- Free or discounted admission to more than 150 other zoos and aquariums
- Discounts at the gift shop and on photo souvenir packages
- And much, much more!

We look forward to seeing you at the Zoo soon.

Thank you in advance for helping the Phoenix Zoo protect threatened and endangered species, care for our animals and educate future generations!

No motion, no sound... just a lot of RAWR-SOME dinosaurs!



Sensory Friendly

DINOSAURS N THE DESERT

Available on the 9th day of every month

NOW – APR 9 | 8 – 11 a.m.

Entry included with Zoo admission. For tickets and information, visit phoenixzoo.org.





Sterling, Age 6



Remy, Age 3 ¹/₂



Elizabeth, Age 8

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

Send to: WT-Wild Child | Attn: Communications
455 N. Galvin Pkwy.
Phoenix, AZ 85008







Celebrate the **OPENING** of the Zoo's **NEW**Wild Side Gallery as it features Between River and Rim

You are invited to a special presentation by authors and adventurers Kevin Fedarko and Pete McBride.

Thursday, February 2, 2023 $\mid 5-8 \text{ p.m.}$

Pete McBride, photographer/filmmaker, and Kevin Fedarko, author of the Emerald Mile, will share their journey of nearly 800 trail-less miles through the heart of the Grand Canyon. Their presentation was featured in National Geographic magazine as well as a national tour of the National Geographic LIVE series and is now coming to the Phoenix Zoo. McBride and Fedarko will highlight the beauty of the canyon and the threats to it they discovered along the way.

Presentation begins promptly at 5 p.m. with book signings to follow at the Wild Side Gallery, featuring Pete McBride's stunning photography exhibit from the adventure. Enjoy the Grand Opening of the Gallery, meet & greet with the presenters, book signings, hosted bar and food. *Limited tickets available*.









