

SAVE THE DATE!

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!





Eat,
Drink and
Explore

Family Fun









Home and Garden

AND SO MUCH MORE!

Bidding begins on July 19 at 9 a.m.



Art on the Wild Side

Savanna Gallery Into the Wilds

Now – May 29

Wild Side Gallery
Between River and Rim
Now – September 4

Zoo-ography!

June 2 – August 13

Roars and Pours

May 4

Bidders for Critters

July 19 - July 31

HOURS

January 22 — May 31, 2023

9 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Daily) | 8 a.m. (Member Early Entry)

June 1 - August 31, 2023

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.

features



get closer

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phoenixzoo.org

455 N. Galvin Parkway | Phoenix, AZ 85008



Dear Zoo Friends,

We've enjoyed a beautiful spring filled with cool weather, lots of rainfall and an amazing bloom of wildflowers. But the hot weather is approaching fast and on June 1 we'll switch to our summer hours – opening at 7 a.m. (6 a.m. for members) and closing at 1 p.m. This is the time of year that we typically try to work on construction projects and this summer will be no exception.

Predator Passage, as you will read in this issue of "Wild Times," is nearing completion. We'll have our grand opening in the fall, but we're using the summer to give the plants a chance to get established before we introduce the animals. We've taken a different approach with this exhibit as we're



not only highlighting the African animals, but also using bright, colorful art to add a human cultural element to the area. We're excited to have a new home for what will be a breeding group of lions, but also to introduce some new animals to the Zoo, like the beautiful and endangered Amur leopard.

Thanks to the tremendous support we've received from our community, especially our members like you, we're planning to break ground on Big Cats of Arizona early this fall. This habitat on the Arizona Trail will provide a more spacious, state-of-the-art home for our mountain lions and jaguars. We'll also be bringing two new species of endangered smaller cats to the Zoo, with ocelots and clouded leopards moving into the current mountain lion and jaguar habits respectively.

We're also completing a brand-new horticulture building. While this area is out of public view, it will provide our horticulture team with much-needed space that replaces a collection of small, older buildings that were outdated and in need of replacement.

We had our highest attendance ever this past March, thanks to our expanded and renovated parking lot. We no longer have to turn away dozens of cars each day in the spring due to limited parking. Plus, our guests now have a much easier and better experience arriving for their day at the Zoo. This parking lot was designed and constructed with sustainability in mind, using permeable paver areas, swales that allow water to flow and water the hundreds of new shade trees, and electric vehicle charging stations. We are proud that this project was recognized in April with an Award of Distinction for Site Development at Arizona Forward's 41st Annual Environmental Excellence Awards.

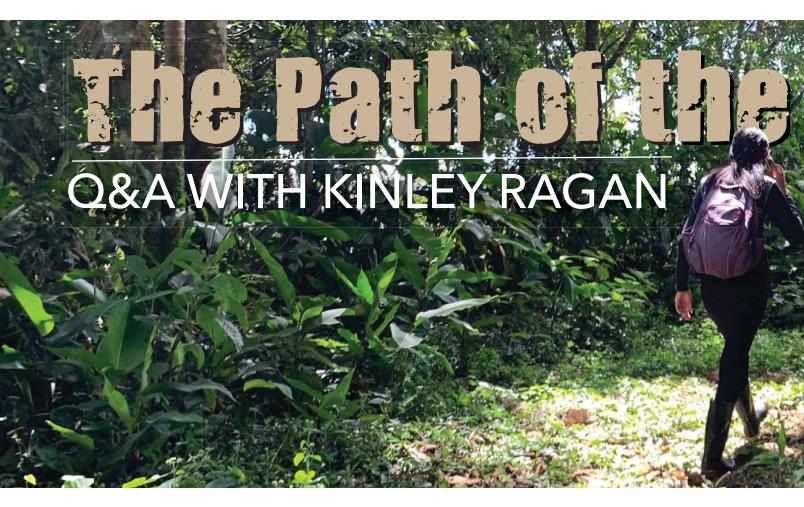
So even though we're heading into our hottest months, the gates will be open early to take advantage of the cooler morning temperatures... and there will be plenty of places to park!

See you at the Zoo!

Norberto (Bert) J. Castro

President/CEO

Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo



inley Ragan is the Field Research Project Manager for the Arizona Center for Nature Conservation / Phoenix Zoo. There are several international projects that Kinley and the Field Conservation Research Department work on to make sure they are all running smoothly. Currently, her time is focused on their incredible Path of the Jaguar project in Costa Rica.

What are the main goals of this project overall?

Our goal is create a wildlife corridor to reconnect the Osa Peninsula to the Talamanca Mountains and to help foster a future of coexistence for wildlife and people.

Who is involved in this work?

In addition to our Field Conservation Research staff, our work includes a diverse team of professionals across many different agencies! Our project would not be possible without Arizona State University professor and Phoenix Zoo Research Associate, Dr. Jan Schipper, as well as Dr. Jose Gonzalez-Maya who is a founder of Fundacion ProCAT Costa Rica. ProCAT is our essential partner organization that helps keep the project running locally. We are also in direct communication with national park rangers from La Amistad International Peace Park and MINAE (Costa Rica Ministry of Environment officials). We also

rely heavily on the technological genius of Arizona State University professor and acoustic ecologist, Dr. Garth Paine. There are many other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), students and local agencies that are vital to the overall success of a project at this scale.

Why is the Phoenix Zoo involved?

The Zoo has supported projects in Costa Rica for almost a decade now, establishing a strong connection with the community in the Talamanca region. Dr. Schipper, one of the creators of The Path of the Jaguar Project, has over 20 years of experience in Costa Rica and was Director of the Field Conservation Research Department until December 2022. Now he continues as a Research Associate with the Zoo. The Phoenix Zoo recognizes the vital importance of the wildlife corridor we are building in Costa Rica both for humans and wildlife. We also recognize the global impact both the success of this project and the innovative technology we are developing could have on other communities around the world! An opportunity to positively impact species in the wild at this scale is not something we take lightly.

How would you describe this project briefly if someone asks you why you're going to Costa Rica on your next flight?

We are headed to Costa Rica for our final field trip on a two-year US Fish and Wildlife Service grant for The Path of the Jaguar project! This project has four components: (1) developing a real-time anti-poaching gunshot detection system, (2) monitoring biodiversity using wildlife cameras and acoustic devices, (3) engaging with the local community and participating in restoration, and (4) establishing a wildlife-friendly economy through coffee and cacao. Our goals for this trip are to





a real-time acoustic system which recognizes the unique call of the endangered three-wattled bell bird and directly report's their presence to researchers.

(3) Community Engagement & Restoration:

We engage with the local community by listening and communicating with farmers, participating in education workshops, and contributing to active forest restoration practices. Our goal is to work alongside community members to better understand what their needs are and see where we can offer support to help create the sustainable wildlife-friendly initiatives.

(4) Jaguar Friendly Economy:

We are establishing a jaguar-friendly economy with a selected group of local farmers to ensure a sustainable wildlife-friendly economy in the Talamanca region. By helping farms become more wildlife and eco-friendly, we can then certify them within our "jaguar-friendly" project and are able to sell their coffee and cacao at higher rates to international markets. Our goal is to best encourage a future of coexistence between people and wildlife.

What's your background?

I graduated from ASU with my bachelor's in conservation biology in 2019 and my master's in wildlife biology in 2020. I've always been passionate about wildlife and finding unique solutions to better coexistence between humans and wild animals. I'm grateful for the opportunity to work on real solutions here at the Phoenix Zoo.

How did you get involved in this project?

I have a bit of a history with the Phoenix Zoo. During my sophomore year of college, I began volunteering with Dr. Schipper through Arizona State University. I spent hours sorting thousands of photos for months. Eventually this led to an internship between ASU and the Phoenix Zoo where I was able to take on and develop my own projects. In 2019, I began my master's with Dr. Schipper to finish one of our Zoo US-Mexico borderland projects on mammals using wildlife cameras. Throughout this process, I helped with any additional work needed including analysis work in Costa Rica. In 2020, I graduated with my master's degree and was contracted to do some work and became aware of the developing Path of the Jaguar Project. I stayed in touch with Dr. Schipper and aided with details, as possible, over the next year. After the grant funding was awarded, I was offered a position to formally work at the Zoo in December 2021. The Path of the Jaguar quickly became my primary project due to its scale and scope.

What comes to mind when you think of highlights of your time working on this project?

I feel very grateful to be working on a project of this magnitude and importance with the Phoenix Zoo and our partners. There are too many highlights to name due to its cutting-edge technology, ideas and the creative team I get to do it alongside. Most significantly, the local people in Costa Rica - whether it's the local brigade of bird watchers or the ecolodge we stay at - are all wonderfully kind individuals. Additionally, the Talamanca mountains are a stunning backdrop for this intense project. Lush dense rainforest that makes up some of the largest sections of remaining and intact primary forest in Central America. It is filled with so much life - from vocal monkeys to large tapirs to endangered frogs and colorful birds every day something new catches the eye.

What about some notable highlights for the project team?

This project requires massive collaboration from people across a variety of sectors! It makes for incredibly fun and enlightening field trips filled with conversation topics ranging from wildlife, birds and climate change to cutting-edge technology, the science behind sound and how a flute player comes to build gunshot detection systems in the middle of the rainforest.

What are you most proud of accomplishing so far while doing this work?

I'm most proud of the fact that we are laying the foundation for the next decade of conservation and research in this region. Not only have we created a fully functioning gunshot detection system in the seemingly impossible landscape of the dense rainforest canopy, but we are establishing long-term relationships with community members in the region. I'm most proud of the team we have put together and the connections we are making along the way.

What has surprised you the most as you've worked on this project?

There truly is not one day that something doesn't surprise me. That's the reality of building a cutting-edge system and, really, working in conservation. One moment that has surprised me the most is the success of our gunshot detection system so far. We put a lot of time and energy into the design of these devices and especially to making sure they were as rain-, heat-, insect- and monkey-proof as possible. But the real test is deploying it in mother nature; so far the system is excelling and we are super proud of this major accomplishment.

What's been the most challenging element(s)?

The most challenging element to this project is probably how complex it is and how many different pieces there are to its success. It's easy



to get fixated on one part of the project, whether that be the gunshot detection component or the camera trapping or the surveying. But, at the end of the day, all of these components are intermingled and equally essential. They must all co-occur and be successful or our jaguar-friendly ecosystem won't be sustainable.

What might next steps be for this project, or similar work?

Conservation is never a quick fix but instead a long-term investment. Although we have laid a foundation that we are incredibly proud of, the work is just getting started. But, thankfully, we have a great partnership with ProCAT who will continue to build and run the local elements. Next steps include supporting ProCAT in finalizing relationships with farmers in the region and connecting them with more sustainable practices to create a wildlife-friendly economy. We also will be analyzing the year-one data collected via gunshot detections, wildlife cameras, acoustic recorders and more!

Additionally, on the larger scale, we are looking forward to finding more communities where our technology and skillsets can be beneficial. Specifically, we want to test our gunshot detection system in new, arid ecosystems and support anti-poaching work in southern Africa.

What haven't you gotten to share about it that you hoped we'd ask?

The problems that much wildlife face, like habitat fragmentation and poaching, can feel far away like in Costa Rica but really these problems are quite close to home! Not only are other wildlife facing these similar issues in our own backyard, but through our everyday actions and purchasing decisions, we could also be contributing to these problems. These conservation issues are international in scope. We are all responsible for helping change the tide! The products you buy and where you chose to invest your money – from even the food you eat from the grocery store – impacts global markets and could contribute to saving wildlife and wild spaces.

What advice do you have for someone thinking about setting up an acoustic ecology project in the rainforest?

You might want to collaborate with us at the Phoenix Zoo! But, seriously, my advice for someone thinking of doing an acoustic ecology project in the rainforest would be to find the right collaborators and to make sure you are appropriately connecting with the community and the spaces you are conserving! Advancing technology is an exciting field and there's a lot we can do within it, but it's important to be considerate of the needs of the ecosystem (including the humans) that live within it and to make decisions with the appropriate people at the table!



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







ANIMALS AFTER DARK:

Thank you for your **3100 VX** support!

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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, you can help save endangered animals every month!

Click here to get started.









Hours of encounters and activities are subject to change or close without notice. Weather may affect some activities.



ENCOUNTERS & EXPERIENCES

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

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!

ScooterPals

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

Monkey Village

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

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.

WATER PLAY AREAS & PLAYGROUNDS

Enchanted Forest

Presented By Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust

Discovery Farm

Presented

Leapin' Lagoon Splash Pad

Yakulla Caverns

ZOO TOURS

Safari Cruiser

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!



Your membership also includes 12 months of incredible perks like:

- Free unlimited Zoo admission
- Early entry to the Zoo (one hour before public opening)
- Discounts on Zoo encounters, experiences, and behind-the-scenes tours
- Entry to the new Wild Side Gallery
- 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!

Become a member and save \$10 using promo code: WTSP23

JOIN TODAY

We look forward to seeing you at the Zoo soon!

Offer not valid on previously purchased memberships. Cannot be combined with other offers or discounts. Expires June 30, 2023. Did you know that Phoenix Zoo Members receive the great benefit of FREE or discounted admission to more than 150 AZA Accredited zoos and aquariums across the country?!* Check out the complete list of participating locations and be sure to take your Phoenix Zoo membership card when traveling this summer!

Affiliate List

*Your Phoenix Zoo membership card and a photo ID must be presented at the participating zoo or aquarium at the time of purchase to receive the discount. Each participating location is responsible for determining their reciprocal admission policies. These are subject to change without notice. We recommend calling ahead before visiting to confirm benefits.

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

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)

—COMING SOON IN THE FALL—



Homeschool Days

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.

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.





Summer Camp Zoo 2023 is almost sold out!







THE ONE. THE ONLY.



Ever wonder what it's like to work at the Zoo? Campers will come behind the scenes with us as we explore a week in the life of caring for our many animals! Through science experiments, games, hikes throughout our trails and up-close animal encounters, campers will get to learn all about the various jobs at our Zoo, and how our work with the animals goes beyond Zoo grounds and into conservation projects around the world.

If you missed registering for Summer Camp Zoo, keep an eye out for Fall, Winter and Spring Break camps coming this year!

ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT



Tall Tale | Guy Combes



JOY | Jennifer Krueger



Sedona Milky Way Rainbow | Ray DelMuro

Into the Wilds

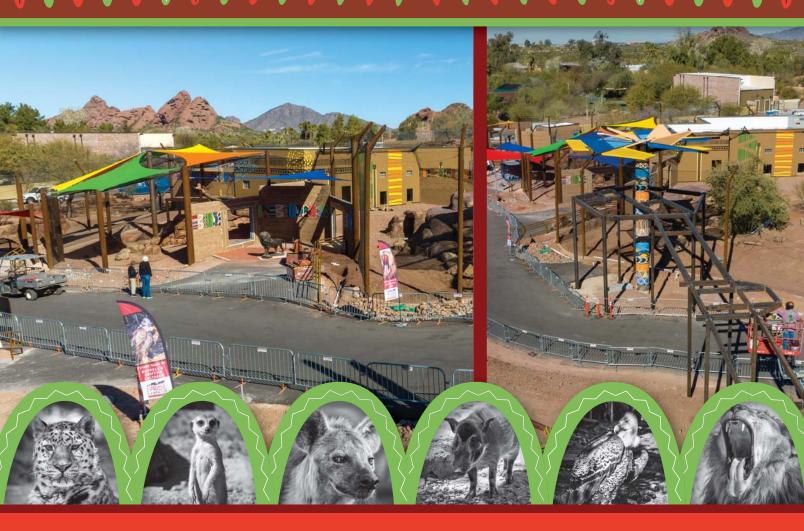
Now - May 29, 2023

SAVANNA GALLERY
Included with Zoo admission









PREDATOR PASSAGE

onstruction continues at the Africa Trail making great strides toward opening our newest expansion, Predator Passage.

Upon completion, the final element of The Pride Campaign, the \$8.5 million six-acre expansion will be the Zoo's largest capital project to date, adding an extraordinary immersive experience to Arizona's world class Zoo. Guests will soon enjoy the up-close viewing of lions, hyenas, meerkats, warthogs, red river hogs, a fennec fox, Rüppell's griffon vultures and an Amur leopard.

Predator Passage is slated to be complete in May. However, the public opening will be deferred until November; it's safer for the health and well-being of our new animals to transport them during cooler months!

We are pleased to share a few current photos of the Predator Passage construction site. The new Africa Trail will feature an overhead bridge that will take you over the road to a viewing tower where you'll look west into the lion habitat!

The habitats and buildings are African-themed with colorful graphics and large sunshade sails.



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!







Auggie's Awesome Word Search!

WORD LIST

Africa Trail C
African Lion D
Amur Leopard F
Andean Bear H
Antler Society M
Art on the Wild Side M
Auggie C
Bidders for Critters
Conservation

Costa Rica
Desert Marketplace
Fennec Fox
Hyena
Meerkat
Monkey Village
Orangutan

Predator Passage Red River Hogs Summer Warthog Wgasa Wild Child Wild Times Wolfpack

Phoenix Zoo



Visit Auggie in his Andean bear habitat sponsored by

ART ON THE WILD SIDE

A PHOENIX ZOO ART EXHIBIT

WILD SIDE GALLERY

Included with Zoo admission

Featured in National Geographic Magazine

BETWEEN RIVER AND RIM:

Hiking Through the Grand Canyon

Now – September 4, 2023





Photography by Pete McBride

Presented by





Barry & Jean Bingham





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