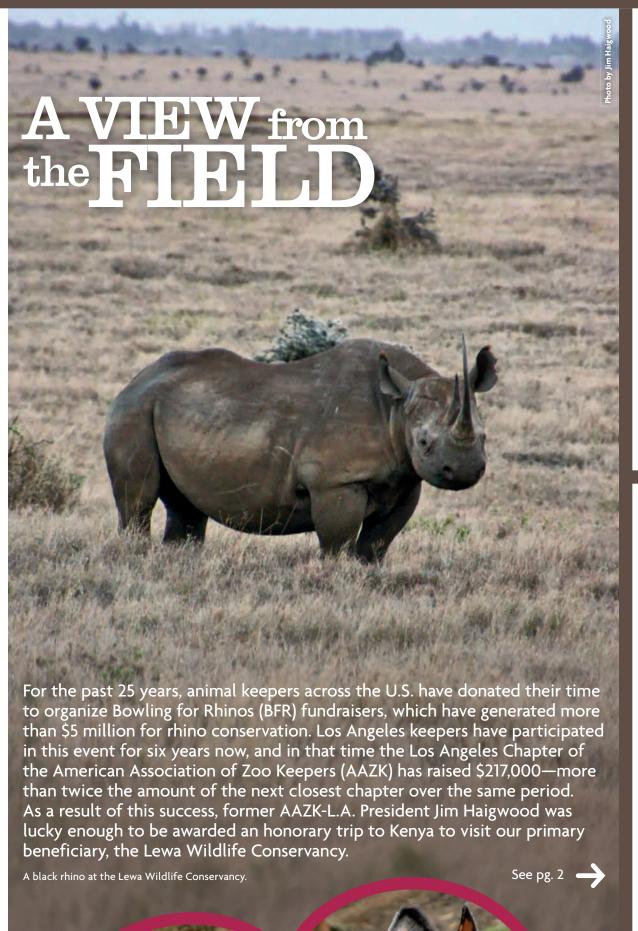
## ZOS SGAJEE





Don't miss wintery fun and the opportunity to watch inquisitive creatures exploring a snowy wonderland. All activities are free to GLAZA members and with paid Zoo admission.

January 24 (Saturday) and 25 (Sunday) 10 a.m.-4 p.m.





Many cultures count the beginning of a new year based on the first new moon cycle after the winter solstice in December. Celebrate the Lunar New Year at the Zoo! Explore the connections between the New Year and the animals of the Zodiac. Festivities will include food, music, dancing, and special information about animals featured in our ZOOdiac. All activities are free to GLAZA members and with paid Zoo admission.

February 21 (Saturday) and 22 (Sunday) 10 a.m.-4 p.m.



bighorn sheep



### Make It a Date

Have a wild Valentine's Day at the Zoo with a provocative "birds and bees" presentation. Festivities include wine, decadent refreshments, and (for an additional fee) an intimate three-course dinner at Reggie's Bistro. This event is for adults (age 21 and up) only. Tickets cost \$30 per person for GLAZA members, with the dinner option an additional \$65 per person, and \$40 per person for nonmembers, plus an additional \$75 per person for the dinner option. New this year—enjoy a special beer or wine pairing with your meal for an additional \$15. Seating is limited, and reservations are required by February 3. For information, phone 323/644-6042 or visit www.lazoo.org.

February 7 (Saturday)
Reception: 5-6 p.m.
Lecture: 6-7 p.m.
Witherbee Auditorium



Naturally, zoos rely on the work of field biologists who study endangered species in the wild because an understanding of these creatures' natural history is vital to their care in captivity. But increasingly, zoo animal care staff expertise and experience have proven to be a valuable resource for conservationists working out in the field.

One of the most notable accomplishments resulting from collaborations between field biologists and zoo staff was the first birth of a Sumatran rhinoceros at Way Kambas National Park in Indonesia in 2012. That calf, Andatu, was born to mother Ratu and father Andalas, who was the first of his species born in captivity for more than a century, and who lived at the

L.A. Zoo for several years before being sent to his ancestral home. Biologists at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary at Way Kambas relied on data and insights from zoo staff in achieving this success.

Closer to home, the partnership between wildlife biologists and zoo staff rescued California condors and the Peninsular pronghorn from the brink of extinction.

### animal activities at your Zoo September 1-

Zoo staff and guests were treated to a "hippo" Halloween when female Mara gave birth on exhibit. This big arrival was preceded by numerous births including a crested capuchin monkey, a chimpanzee, four giant otters, five hedgehogs, one black duiker, a pudu, and a red-rumped agouti. Five Chilean flamingo chicks are doing well (four with parents and one being hand reared), and two superb starlings hatched.

Arrivals included two blueeyed lemurs, a sifaka, a paca, two brush-tailed bettongs, and a new male Sumatran tiger. The Zoo switched out male **mountain** tapirs with the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo in Colorado, and only two California condors were sent to the Zoo for medical treatment while four were returned to the wild. The Zoo received the escaped pet monacled cobra that was captured in Thousand Oaks and transferred it to the San Diego Zoo. Other reptiles that arrived to stay included two **Tamaulipan rock** rattlesnakes, a yellow-blotched palm pitviper, two lichenose leaftailed geckos, and a giant horned lizard. Fifty mountain yellowlegged froglets arrived from the wild to bolster the captive breeding population.

Outgoing reptiles/amphibians included four Yarrow's spiny lizards, four scorpion mud turtles, and eight mountain yellow-legged frogs that were transferred to the San Diego Zoo.

Other departures included a steenbok, a group of 26 parrots, parakeets, and conures that were confiscated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and transferred to the Zoo for temporary holding, and western lowland gorilla Glenda, who was transferred to Denver Zoo where she was born in 2005.

# Photo by Jamie Pham

chimpanzee baby

### A VIEW FROM THE FIELD

By Jim Haigwood, Senior Animal Keeper Continued

While I have given a number of talks over the years about the work that Lewa does, it was educational and rewarding to see this operation firsthand. Having visited a number of critically endangered species around the world, it never ceases to amaze me how human settlements press right up against these animals' habitats. Lewa understands this and has been pursuing cutting-edge work on the community conservation front.

Lewa realized that in order for animals to be safe, the people who live with them need to value their presence. In order to accomplish this, Lewa set up hospitals, schools, nutrition programs for children, wells that provide clean drinking water, loan opportunities for women to start businesses, and law enforcement to help patrol not only the park but also settlements around it. They are also working to reduce underage pregnancy and STIs (sexually transmitted infections). These tangible benefits motivate neighbors to work with Lewa to find solutions instead of retaliating when human-wildlife conflicts occur. The communities also provide invaluable intelligence about potential poaching events. Lewa's success on these fronts has become a model for other conservancies in the region.

Due to the excellent security staff at Lewa and community cooperation, there were no rhino poaching incidents this past year, and the park has reached its carrying capacity for rhinos. Fortunately, Lewa has an outstanding relationship with a neighboring conservancy and they will be taking down the fence that divides them, which will increase their rhino carrying capacity.

While elephant poaching is an epidemic in Africa, there were no incidents at Lewa last year. Likely as a result of this safety, elephants are migrating to Lewa in record numbers, and elephant "exclusion zones" have become necessary. Hot wire surrounds prime black rhino habitat so that rhinos may enter but not elephants. Some elephants use their tusks (which do not feel the electric charge) to take down these barriers. In these instances, Lewa staff shortens the tusks on these "troublemakers."

The level of hands-on-management required at Lewa made a significant impression on me, and I could see parallels with the way we manage animals here at the Zoo. At Lewa, when some of the critically endangered species, such as Grevy's zebra, are injured, veterinary staff intervene. They are also currently hand-rearing three black rhinos who were orphaned due to a multitude of issues, including the loss of a mother to a poacher's bullet.

Since I was near Rwanda, I decided to fulfill a lifelong dream and take a hike up the volcanic mountain of Virunga National Park to visit the mountain gorillas as well as go on safari in Tanzania. Although it costs \$750 to purchase a permit to visit mountain gorillas for one hour, it was well worth the price. Words cannot describe what an awe-inspiring experience this was. Tourism is vital for the survival of many species and another way to help save endangered species. After agriculture, tourism is the second biggest revenue generator in Rwanda. If we tell governments with our dollars that these animals have value, then the leaders will certainly fall in line.

While there are many depressing conservation stories, I actually left Africa much more optimistic than when I arrived. What we have to keep in mind is that relying on governments, conservation organizations, and wealthy individuals is not enough to stave off the biodiversity crisis. It is incumbent upon all of us to be part of the solution. Almost every decision we make in life impacts the environment. Are the products you buy made with sustainable palm oil? Do you eat sushi with re-usable chopsticks? What is your carbon footprint? And of course, will you spend the evening of May 16 Bowling for Rhinos with the animal keepers of the Los Angeles Zoo? I hope to see you there. For information visit www.aazklosangeles.org.

2. Elephants seem to

understand that Lewa

is a protected area.

3. The reticulated giraffe is a different subspecies than the Masai giraffes that reside at the Zoo.

4. Southern white rhinos are the most plentiful rhino species, but still need protection.



hotos by Jim Haigwood







### Conservation with Sole

African fish eagles were

plentiful at Rwanda's

Akagera National Park.

What do the Zoo and TOMS shoes have in common? Conservation of course! The TOMS Animal Initiative is a unique way for organizations to work together to support endangered species, as well as people. TOMS, as always, donates a pair of shoes to children in need for every pair of shoes purchased. Now, with your purchase of special limited edition shoes, TOMS also gives a portion of the proceeds to a specific conservation organization. Last year, the L.A. Zoo was the first zoo to support TOMS Animal Initiative by offering these special shoes for purchase in the gift shop.

The first special edition shoe benefited Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). It featured the park's logo, representing the critically endangered mountain gorilla, the second largest of the four gorilla species. Although the L.A. Zoo does not exhibit this species, it is home to two groups of western lowland gorillas, who are slightly smaller, have brown/gray coats, wider skulls, and are more numerous and widespread.



Mountain gorilla youngster in Rwanda's Virunga National Park

TOMS mountain gorilla series is sold out, but the new elephant design, which benefits the Clinton Foundation and Wildlife Conservation Society, is now available in the Zoo gift shops. For more information, visit www.toms.com/the-toms-animal-initiative. —Bonnie Heather Holland

GLAZA supports a wide range of conservation programs around the world, providing funding for material needs and underwriting the cost of sending L.A. Zoo staff to consult and participate in field studies.

The Sloan Animal Keeper Advanced Studies Fund awards grants so that keepers can participate in fieldwork that will enhance their understanding of the animals in their care. Often,

those keepers find their experiences at the Zoo offer valuable insights to those in the field as well. This year Dani Cremona, who works with our red uakaris, went to Peru, where she was able to experience these amazing primates in their native habitat and share training techniques that will help staff at Pilpintuwasi Animal Orphanage better care for their charges.

Senior Animal Keeper Jim
Haigwood is a past Sloan Fund
recipient, but his recent stay at
the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy in
Kenya was an honorary trip that
he received in appreciation for his
leadership in helping the Los Angeles
Chapter of the American Association
of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) become one
of the top fundraisers in the annual
Bowling For Rhinos charity event.

I hope you enjoy the insights and photos that Dani and Jim share in this issue of *Zooscape*, and realize that your support of our zoo here at home supports conservation efforts around the world, and helps bring people together for the common cause of preserving the natural world for generations to come.

### RED ZONE

Animal Keeper Dani Cremona has cared for the Zoo's group of three red uakari monkeys since 2005. Earlier this year, she received a grant from the Sloan Animal Keeper Advanced Studies Fund that enabled her to learn about the red uakari in their native habitat at Pilpintuwasi Animal Orphanage and Butterfly Farm in Peru. The exchange of ideas and experience was rewarding and memorable for Dani and the staff at the wildlife rescue center.



Habitat destruction is one of the biggest threats to all rainforest species, uakaris included.

Small areas of tropical forests in Peru and Brazil are habitat for red uakari monkeys. Due to deforestation, illegal hunting, and the illegal pet trade, wild red uakari populations are dwindling. Conservation and rescue efforts are being made by a remarkable woman named Gudrun Sperrer. My journey began at her rescue facility and orphanage.

Pilpintuwasi is a wildlife rescue and temporary custody center located on 20 hectares of land in the village of Padre Cocha, 20 minutes across the river from Iquitos, the largest city in the Peruvian Amazon. Pilpintuwasi is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting animals affected by poaching and the illegal pet trade. The rescue center works with the ecological police to take in animals confiscated from markets, airports, and homes. Sadly, these animals often arrive malnourished and with injuries. Pilpintuwasi is a semi-captive environment, where many of the animals live free of cages in enclosures that mimic their natural environment. Nine red uakari, ages 1.5 to 7 years, reside there—the largest captive population in any range country. Pilpintuwasi is also home to jaguar, coati, ocelot, sloth,

anteater, boa, pygmy marmoset, macaw, and several monkey species (saki, capuchin, squirrel, red howler) as well as a butterfly garden and more.

My mornings began with a 20-minute boat ride from the town of Iquitos to the rescue center. As I walked to the main house, I would be greeted by the free-ranging red uakari—one of the most beautiful sights I've ever seen! I am already privileged to work with the red uakari at the Zoo, but to see a troop a hundred feet in the air, climbing, swinging from trees, naturally foraging, running past my feet, and wrestling on the ground—there are no words to describe the way I felt. I could have spent every day for two weeks just watching the red uakari. However, I did have a broader agenda. I was going to teach Gudrun and her staff how to train with operant conditioning, using positive reinforcement.

Our goal was to be able to complete swabbing of the uakari for hormone and parasite testing. Training free-ranging monkeys who have no relationship with me was difficult. Over the two weeks, I built some trust, but with my guidance, Gudrun and her right-hand man, Secondo, did

Research Assistant Lisseth Lavajos, Pilpintuwasi founder Gudrun Sperrer, and Animal Keeper Dani Cremona

most of the behavior-shaping steps. With instruction from wildlife biologist Dr. Mark Bowler and permission from a participating conservation village, we took a oreak from training for a few days to venture up river and into the jungle. Dr. Bowler is the only researcher studying the red uakari in the wild. He studies behavior and dietary intake, as well as teaching sustainable fishing practices to the loggers in an effort to reduce or diminish logging by providing an alternative livelihood. His group travels the territory during the year to conduct mammal surveys and set up camera traps. The dense jungle was thriving with thick green life. We came across a saki monkey, paca, various birds, and a jaguar den. Upon returning to the village, I saw a tree with more than 50 occupied oropendola nests truly an amazing sight!

I learned so much from Gudrun and her staff. In return, I taught training methods, offered dozens of behavioral enrichment ideas, constructed a broom scratcher for a jaguar, and was even consulted about a capuchin exhibit that will soon be built for a troop of seven orphaned capuchins.

Pilpintuwasi participates in re-release of animals when possible, though due to the diminishing rainforest, this option is rare, and it is a last resort for many animals. With support from the Zoo, Pilpintuwasi, and Dr. Bowler, groundbreaking studies of captive and wild red uakari populations are continuing. I am lucky to be a participant in the conservation of this magnificent species. —Dani Cremona



Founded in 1894 by Adam Clark Vroman, Vroman's Bookstore is the oldest and largest independent bookstore in Southern California. Community support has kept this beloved bookseller in business, and Vroman's returns the favor through the Vroman's Gives Back program. When you join this program, a portion of the proceeds from your purchases at Vroman's Bookstore, Vroman's Hastings Ranch, or Vroman's Newsstand can be donated to the Los Angeles Zoo! There is no fee or extra card to carry—just sign up at www.vromansbookstore.com/ signup-gives-back. When you make your purchase, be sure to tell the cashiers that you are a member of Vroman's Gives Back, give them your name, and they take it from there!

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Zoo do not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon reasonable advance notice, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability, you are advised to make your request with reasonable advance notice prior to the event or activity you wish to attend. For further information, please contact: 323/644-4200 (voice/TTY).

### **Conservation Corner:**



Since 2010, the Conservation, Nature and Life Organization (CONAVI) has been involved in research and field conservation at Escudo de Veraguas Island off the coast of Panama. This

island is located in a biodiversity hotspot, and contains the world's only population of pygmy three-toed sloths.

Listed as critically endangered by the IUCN, the pygmy three-toed sloth was first discovered in 2001, and it is a dwarf in comparison with its mainland counterparts. CONAVI's mission is to "foster sustainable development and natural resource conservation programs in rural and indigenous territories of Panama." They have been focusing on forest regeneration to conserve the last sanctuaries for endemic species such as the Azuero painted conure, Azuero howler monkey, Antillean manatee, and the only worm salamander endemic to a neotropical island, the

Escudo worm salamander. Currently, the Zoo is funding CONAVI to help continue surveys of sloth populations and habitat use as well as behavioral ecology studies needed to establish a monitoring and management program for the species.

The Zoo exhibits a close cousin of the pygmy sloth, a Linne's two-toed sloth, in the front window exhibit of the Winnick Family Children's Zoo. He has captured the hearts of many visitors and keepers alike, thus helping the conservation of all sloths by creating awareness and appreciation of his kind. To find out more about the project, visit www.conavida.org.

—Bonnie Heather Holland



Volume XXXVIII Number 4

Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association Annual Memberships: Individual \$55, Individual \$185, Family \$126, Family Deluxe \$165, Contributing Associate \$250, Wildlife Associate \$500, Conservation Associate \$1,000. Each membership category includes unlimited admission to the Los Angeles Zoo for one year, one-year subscriptions to Zoo View and Zooscape, 10-percent discount at Zoo restaurants and shops, and invitations to special events. Students and seniors receive \$10 off an annual membership

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is located in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and the Golden State (I-5) freeways. We are open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except December 25.
For information, phone 323/644-4200, or visit us on the Internet at www.lazoo.org.
Sandy Masuo, Editor
Brenda Posada, Director of Publications
Pickle Group, Graphic Design

Pickle Group, Graphic Design
Tad Motoyama, Zoo Photographer
Jamie Pham, GLAZA Photo Editor
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Nurturing wildlife and enriching the human experience



### calendar of events

### MEMBERS ONLY

**Animal Enrichment Morning** 

GLAZA members at the Wildlife Associate and Conservation Circle levels are invited to this exclusive event that focuses on how Zoo staff keep our residents active and healthy by offering them enrichment to encourage natural behaviors. Members watch your mailbox for an invitation with more details. To upgrade your membership support and attend this special event, phone 323/644-4244.

March 7 (Saturday) 8:30 a.m.

### **Member Tours**

Docent-led tours are available to GLAZA members only, and are free for everyone eligible on your membership. No confirmations will be mailed. Please make reservations at least two weeks in advance by phoning 323/644-4244.

January 4 (Sunday) January 10 (Saturday) January 17 (Saturday) January 18 (Sunday)

February 1 (Sunday) February 7 (Saturday) February 14 (Saturday) February 15 (Sunday) March 1 (Sunday) March 7 (Saturday) March 14 (Saturday) March 15 (Sunday) (Meet at the waterfall near the

entrance to the International

Marketplace at 10:30 a.m.)

### **Great Backyard Bird Count**

Enjoy a morning bird walk on Zoo grounds and take part in the national Great Backyard Bird Count, sponsored each year by the Cornell University Ornithology Lab. Join teams of watchers counting birds all over the country during the Presidents' Day weekend! Cornell uses the data to track trends in bird populations. February 14 (Saturday)

8-10 a.m.

### SAFARI SOCIETY ONLY

**Zoo Director's Series Topics in Conservation:** 

Jaguars In Jeopardy With the opening of the Zoo's new jaguar habitat around the corner, the time is right for this joint presentation by Curator of Mammals Jennie Becker and Wildlife Biologist Miguel Ordeñana, who will discuss efforts to conserve these magnificent cats in the wild and in zoo settings. The talk includes wine, hors d'oeuvres, and conversation with speakers as well as our own zoo director, John Lewis. Safari Society donors, watch the mail for your invitation.

January 11 (Sunday) 3-5 p.m.

**Zoo Director's Series Topics in Conservation** March 1 (Sunday) 3-5 p.m.

### **Searching Safari**

This annual celebration begins with a continental breakfast and animal walkabouts, followed by a scavenger hunt. We'll wrap up with an animal enrichment experience and a keeper talk. Details will be mailed to Safari Society homes, so be on the lookout for that special envelope! If you'd like to make a difference and join the fun, contact Nancy Simerly at nsimerly@lazoo.org or 323/644-4717, or visit www.lazoo.org/support/ safarisociety.

March 14 (Saturday) 8:30-10:30 a.m.



### SPECIAL TOURS

These docent-led tours are free to GLAZA members but space is limited. For reservations, phone 323/644-4773 or e-mail docents@ lazoo.org. Specify "Winter Wonders," "Spring Collection," or "Bird Walk" in the subject line and include the following in your e-mail: your name, membership number, number of members in your party, ages of attending children, and your phone number. Please gather at the group entrance to the Zoo.

**JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015** 

### **Winter Wonders Garden Tour** In the heart of winter, many succulents

are in bloom. Join us for an exploration of the Zoo's dramatic desert plant collection and other early blooming plants. January 24 (Saturday) 8-10 a.m.

**Spring Collection Garden Tour** 

Early spring is the peak period of bloom for the Zoo's native plants, now flowering throughout the Zoo. Enjoy this annual floral display with a garden tour! March 28 (Saturday) 8-10 a.m.

### Member Newsletter of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens

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### ED-ZOO-CATIONAL Adventures

FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO WWW.LAZOO.ORG/EDUCATION/CHILDRENSCLASSES/. TO REGISTER, GO TO WWW.LAZOO.ORG AND CLICK ON "BUY TICKETS." Registration Policy: Registration for Ed-zoo-cational Adventures begins two months prior to the program date. Please check www.lazoo.org for class availability. For more information, phone 323/644-4211.

### TODDLER TOTES

Age 2, with an adult (limit one) Members: \$18 per child/adult pair Nonmembers: \$20 per child/adult pair Class times: 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. E-ticket required for class

These 45-minute classes include circle time, story time, hands-on learning, and a special guided walking tour of the Zoo. (Strollers are not provided by the Zoo, but are strongly recommended.)

**Terrific Tails** January 5 (Monday), 6 (Tuesday), 7 (Wednesday), and 10 (Saturday)

**Wonderful Whiskers** February 2 (Monday), 3 (Tuesday), 4 (Wednesday), and 7 (Saturday)

**Bouncing Babies** March 2 (Monday), 3 (Tuesday), 4 (Wednesday), and 7 (Saturday)

Slithering Snakes February 9 (Monday), 10 (Tuesday),

A Hoot For Chimps January 12 (Monday), 13 (Tuesday), 14 (Wednesday), and 17 (Saturday)

are not provided by the Zoo.)

CRITTERS 'N' KIDS

\$27 per child/adult pair

Class time: 9:30 a.m.

Ages 3 to 4, with an adult (limit one)

Members: \$24 per child/adult pair

E-ticket required for class admission.

These hour-long programs include fun,

age-appropriate, hands-on activities

such as stories, games, and crafts, plus

adventures on Zoo grounds. (Strollers

11 (Wednesday), and 14 (Saturday) **Fabulous Flamingos** 

March 9 (Monday),

10 (Tuesday),

14 (Saturday)

PATCH PROGRAM

Scouts and Cub Scouts the

The cost is \$15 per Scout and

This program offers Junior Girl

opportunity to earn a special zoo

patch while learning about zoos, zoo

careers, animals, and conservation.

patches are included in the program

For availability and registration, visit

4702, or e-mail docents@lazoo.org.

Attendance is limited to 45 people.

fee. One adult leader may attend

free with every ten scouts. Each

www.lazoo.org, phone 323/644-

additional adult leader costs \$20.

### **SLEEPOVERS**

### **Zoopendous Nights**

Bring your group or troop to the Zoo for an indoor all-night, interactive experience. Tour the Zoo after dark, enjoy a pizza/ salad feast, participate in hands-on animal activities, and fall asleep to beastly bedtime stories. In the morning, enjoy a continental breakfast while meeting some of the Zoo's animal ambassadors. Scout groups have the opportunity to earn a badge during this overnight experience. This event is designed for children age seven through twelve. Cost is \$55 per person. Schedule for the 2014-2015 school year can be found at www lazoo.org/education. Contact Coral Barreiro at 323/644-4709

### **ZOOCAMP**

### Spring ZooCamp

Children ages four through nine are sure to have a great time springing into action at the Zoo during Spring ZooCamp! Registration fee for each day of animal exploration is \$60 for members and \$65 for nonmembers. Turn over a new leaf and welcome the season with us during spring break! Registration for Spring ZooCamp opens on February 2. For more information, visit www. lazoo.org/education/zoocamp. Extended care will be available for

March 30-April 3 9 a.m.-3 p.m.