Zos Seajee





Make It a Date

Big Bunny's Spring Fling

This annual event features a slew of fun activities—pet a fuzzy bunny, have your face painted, make a be-a-bunny craft, have your photo taken with Big Bunny (for a nominal fee), and enjoy children's musical entertainment. This event is free to GLAZA members and with paid Zoo admission.

April 3 (Friday), 4 (Saturday), and 5 (Sunday) 10 a.m.—4 p.m.



MEMBERS ONLY Big Bunny's Spring Fling Upper-Level Member Preview

Hop on over to the Zoo and celebrate the season! GLAZA members at the Family Deluxe level and higher are invited to enjoy special early access to Big Bunny's Spring Fling before it opens to the general public. To upgrade your support, please phone 323/644-4244. To RSVP, phone 323/644-4770.

April 4 (Saturday) 8:30–10 a.m.

On Saturday, April 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (8:30 to 10 a.m. for upper-level members) visit the ScholarShare table to learn about ways to begin saving for your child's education. The ScholarShare College Savings Plan is a proud sponsor of the L.A. Zoo and supports a shared commitment to education. More information about ScholarShare can be found at www.ScholarShare.com.



Welcome the season with us during spring break! Children ages four through nine will have a blast turning over a new leaf during Spring ZooCamp. Registration fee for each day of animal exploration is \$60 for members and \$65 for nonmembers. Registration is now open. For details, visit www.lazoo.org. Extended care is available for an additional fee.

March 30 (Monday)—April 3 (Friday) 9 a.m.—3 p.m.





Earth Day Expo

Learn more about conservation, sustainable living, and how to make Earth a better place to live. Two days of Earth Day festivities include recycled crafts, information booths, and lots of fun activities. This event is free to GLAZA members and with paid Zoo admission.

April 18 (Saturday) and 19 (Sunday) 10 a.m.–4 p.m.



Working cooperatively with the chief veterinarian on the care and husbandry of the Zoo's animal residents, the general curator is the top management position in the L.A. Zoo's Animal Care Division—and one that was vacant for too long. Beth Schaefer recently assumed this important post.

Prior to arriving here, she was an animal curator at the Houston Zoo and previously also worked at Disney's Animal Kingdom and the Kansas City Zoo. Although new to the L.A. Zoo, Beth is not new to the area as she is originally from Southern California. Beth's responsibilities will include Animal Care, Research and Behavioral

Enrichment, Animal Records, and being part of senior management. I am glad to welcome Beth and look forward to her contributions toward our continued growth and development.

It's hard to believe that seven years have passed since our previous general curator, Michael <u>Dee, retired. Due to the recession</u>,

Rhonos Contract American Association of Zoo Keeper

Since it began in 1990, Bowling for Rhinos has generated more than \$5.4 million to control poaching and protect rhinos as well as the countless species that share their habitat—and the Los Angeles Zoo has led the way for the past six years, consistently raising more funds than any other participating zoo.

This year, the Los Angeles chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) hopes to raise even more funds with a night of bowling at Jewel City Bowl in Glendale. Festivities will include a silent auction, opportunity drawings, food, costumes—and, of course, bowling! Learn how to help by contacting Kris Willis (AAZKLosAngeles@Gmail.com), or leave a message with your name and phone number at 323/644-6004. Registration information is available at AAZKlosangeles.org/BFR.

May 16 (Saturday) Jewel City Bowl, Glendale 6 p.m.–12 a.m.



Volume XXXVIII Number 5

Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association Annual Memberships: Individual \$55, Individual Plus \$75, Family \$126, Family Deluve \$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
Tad Motoyama, Zoo Photographer
Jamie Pham, GLAZA Photo Editor
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- **1.** Male and female blue-eyed lemurs may share the same eye color, but the sexes have different coat colors.
- 2. Ring-tailed lemurs are probably the most commonly found lemur in zoos

ALLURING LEMURS

By Jennie Becker, Curator of Mammals Continued

Lemurs are prosimians, a group of primates considered to have more primitive anatomical characteristics than the simians (monkeys, apes, and humans). They are found in Africa and Asia along with monkeys and apes—but they are the only primates found on the island of Madagascar.

Madagascar is the fourth largest island in the world. In prehistoric times it was part of the supercontinent Gondwana, but it separated from the mainland some 90 million years ago and is now located off the southeastern coast of Africa, approximately 250 miles from Mozambique. It is a biodiversity hotspot—90 percent of the fauna and flora are endemic, meaning they occur nowhere else on earth.

Having evolved in the unique conditions of Madagascar over the past 62–65 million years, lemurs share some similarities with their mainland relatives, but also have many distinctive features.

A modified toenail on each foot and "tooth comb" (forward-slanting lower incisors) are used for grooming. Some species have at least four nipples instead of just two, and may produce litters rather than single infants. Lemurs have smaller brain cases and the two halves of their lower jaws are not fused. Built for leaping, their hind legs and tails are long in comparison to their bodies and arms. In most cases, females are dominant over males. Like other prosimians, lemurs do not have stereoscopic color vision, but they do have a tapetum lucidum that reflects light, resulting in "eye shine" in the dark, and also a long muzzle with a moist rhinarium (the area below the nostrils)—both common features in carnivores.

The L.A. Zoo has worked with a variety of lemurs both for exhibit and breeding since the 1960s. Currently, our efforts focus on three species. Ring-tailed lemurs are widely distributed in zoos and are easily recognizable with their black-and-white tails. Classified as "near threatened," they come from the tropical dry forest and spiny forests of southern and southwestern Madagascar, and live in multi-male/multi-female groups dominated by the females. Both sexes have scent glands on the inside of their wrists; in the males it is covered with a spur of tissue. Unique to this species, males will pull their long tails between their legs and rub them with these glands, afterward waving their tails in the air to threaten other males in a ritual known as a stink fight. The Zoo recently received a new male to join our three females.

Blue-eyed lemurs are a stunning example of dichromatism—males are black and females are rusty orange brown. They are one of very few primate species that consistently have blue eyes Critically endangered, they are found in sub-tropical forests of northern Madagascar, where they live as bonded pairs or in small multimale/multi-female groups. This species appears to be particularly sensitive to its environment and has not done as well as hoped in captivity. Recently, the Duke Lemur Center (DLC) in North Carolina (the largest collection of lemurs in captivity) asked if we would be willing to take a young pair in hopes that the female will become a first-time mom. Of course we said yes, but they will stay off display in a quiet area of the Zoo until we are sure that they are well bonded and reproducing.

The endangered Coquerel's sifaka can be found in the tropical dry lowland forest of northern Madagascar. Sifakas are exceptional clingers and leapers—they crouch with their long tails curled behind them, then use their powerful legs to launch themselves up to 30 feet from branch to branch. Because of our compatible climate, year-round browse availability, and staff expertise, L.A. Zoo was the first North American zoo to be loaned a breeding pair by DLC, and we have done extremely well with them. Currently, the Zoo is home to a breeding pair with three male offspring. A second young breeding pair has been established in an off exhibit area. Surprisingly, not many zoos have shown interest in working with this spectacular primate.

Beautifully unique and delicate, lemurs exude a sense of innocence. When you visit the Africa section of the Zoo, spend some time observing them and you will

come to appreciate what makes them special.





male saiga antelope

Saiga antelope, relicts surviving from the ice age, look more like Dr. Seuss characters than real animals. The saiga's bulbous nose—its most noticeable characteristic and the one that gives it its cartoonish appearance—has helped this creature survive in some of the most extreme habitat on earth. Filled with bony structures, hair, and mucous glands, the enlarged nasal cavities help cool blood and filter dust in the summer, and in winter protect the animals' lungs from bitterly cold air by acting as a warming chamber.

Saiga range historically spanned most of Europe and Asia, from the British Isles through central Asia to what is

now Alaska. Its numbers reached into the millions. Today only about 50,000 individuals remain, restricted mostly to one location in Russia and three areas of Kazakhstan. Due in part to hunting for its horns, which are used in traditional Chinese medicine, saiga numbers have plummeted 95 percent in the last 15 years—the fastest recorded decline of a mammalian species. The saiga is classified as critically endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Although saiga have not been part of the Los Angeles Zoo collection (or any U.S. zoo) since the early 1990s, the Zoo hopes to help this little antelope make a comeback by donating funds to the Saiga Conservation Alliance (SCA)-Kazakhstan. This SCA branch monitors saiga populations to determine conservation efficacy by surveying poaching activities and the reasons behind them. Their studies help the government and other organizations plan new interventions to save this species from imminent extinction. Beginning this year, the L.A. Zoo, through the GLAZA Conservation Fund, will donate \$3,000 annually through 2020 to the SCA. Learn more at www. saiga-conservation.com.

— Bonnie Heather Holland

the position was left unfilled to pay for other employees. But the work of the general curator still had to be done, and many of these responsibilities were parceled out to the animal curators. I want to mention them here because Curators Jennie Becker, Jeff Holland, Susie Kasielke, and Ian Recchio took on the additional

work to help keep this ark afloat. Their efforts, like those of so many at the Zoo, filled gaps during the recession and resulting budget challenges and allowed us to continue the important work of caring for the animals and serving the public. I want to extend a great big thanks to the curators and also to Dr. Cathleen

Cox for your extra efforts during these past years.

Soon the new jaguar habitat will be completed and the Red Ape Rain Forest reopened. These projects reflect continuing improvements at the Zoo, but there is more to be done. In 2016 the new Los Angeles Zoo in Griffith Park will be 50 years old.

Much has changed and has been learned about animal care and visitor services during that time. The women and men employed in all aspects of this Zoo along with the volunteers and docents who support us are committed to the advancement of this institution. For that ongoing effort, I thank you.



SPINY WONDERS

The island of Madagascar is a land of extremes. At 224,533 square miles, it's about 44 percent larger than California with habitat ranging from rainforest to desert, and a wide variety of climate conditions. Arid regions have produced many succulent and thorny plants. Among the plants that give the Madagascar spiny forests their name is the alluaudia or Madagascar ocotillo. It looks very similar to the ocotillo that grows in the deserts of the American Southwest. Both plants produce long whip-like stalks and are embedded with thousands of thorns along the whole length of each stalk. I have seen places in Arizona where ocotillo is used as a living fence, and I would imagine people in Madagascar do the same. It is a very ferocious denizen indeed! But despite the many similarities between the two plants—the result of evolving in very similar climate and habitat—they are genetically completely unrelated.

Outside the LAIR you can find alluaudia growing near the radiated tortoise exhibit, where it seems to provide thorny cover for the animals to hide under. In the wild, these tortoises share the same habitat and include alluaudia in their diet. Lemurs will nibble the small leaves that are interspersed with the thorns and, even more remarkably, are able leap from branch to branch and without being impaled on the plants' vicious armament—an impressive feat indeed! And one that is unique to Madagascar, as there are no North American primates to navigate our ocotillo.

- —Andrew Lyell, Senior Gardener
- Madagascar's iconic fauna and flora: lemur in alluaudia thicket.
- 2. Soft alluaudia leaves are defended by fierce thorns.



condors, who were returned to the wild, and three transferred to other institutions (Santa Barbara Zoo, Oregon Zoo, and the World Center for Birds of Prey in Idaho); two blueeyed lemurs, who were transferred to Jacksonville Zoo; a black duiker; a brush-tailed bettong; and a yellowfooted rock wallaby.



In 2014, Congress reinstated the IRA Charitable Rollover, also known as the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). The legislation allows taxpayers aged 70½ years and older to contribute all or part of their required annual distribution from traditional IRA accounts directly to charitable organizations as taxfree gifts. For more information, phone 323/644-4782. Those who wish to make an IRA charitable distribution for 2014 should consult a legal and/or tax advisor for specific guidance on their individual situations.

Want to double your charitable impact? Your employer (or former employer, in the case of retirees) may match—perhaps even two-fold—your charitable contribution to GLAZA. Before making a gift, please check to see if your company will match your donation. To search for your employer's charitable giving policy, visit www.lazoo. org/support/matchinggifts/. Donations to GLAZA are taxdeductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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 o the event or activity you wish to attend. Fo further information, please contact: 323/644-4200 (voice/TTY).



Photos: left, bumblebee poison frog; right, four of the magnificent tree frogs that arrived from Australia last June are now on exhibit at the LAIR.

animal activities at your Zoo November 1-

December 31

Births in November and December included a red-rumped agouti, a Coquerel's sifaka, a male Masai giraffe, and a pale-headed saki monkey. A giant horned lizard hatched just before Christmas.

Three California condors arrived in need of medical attention. Six nose-horned vipers arrived from the Universeum in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The species is found in Montenegro, located on the Adriatic Sea, situated between Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, and Albania. Four each of three **poison dart frog** species (golden, yellow-and-blue, and bumblebee) arrived, as well as a bevy of invertebrates: 79 sunburst diving beetles, 21 Sonoran Desert millipedes, two giant desert centipedes, one blond desert tarantula and one Mexican red-kneed tarantula. Also new from other zoos: a ring-tailed lemur, a Francois langur, a paleheaded saki monkey, two red-flanked duikers, and a takin. Four female reindeer paid a visit during Zoo Lights.

Departures included five California

MEMBERS ONLY

GLAZA members at the Wildlife Associate and Conservation Circle levels are invited to this event that focuses on how Zoo staff keep our residents healthy by offering them enrichment that encourages natural behaviors. Members, watch your mailbox for an invitation with details. To upgrade your support and attend this special event, phone 323/644-4244. March 7 (Saturday), 8:30 a.m.

Members Appreciation Morning Early morning is the ideal time to see

number of members in your party,

ages of attending children, and your

phone number. Please gather at the

group entrance to the Zoo.

many of the Zoo's residents at their best, and GLAZA offers three opportunities a year for members at all levels to explore the Zoo before it opens to the public. RSVP by phoning 323/644-4770. March 28 (Saturday), May 3 (Sunday)

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.

March 1 (Sunday) March 7 (Saturday) March 14 (Saturday) March 15 (Sunday) April 11 (Saturday) April 12 (Sunday) April 25 (Saturday) April 26 (Sunday) May 2 (Saturday) May 3 (Sunday) May 16 (Saturday) May 17 (Sunday)

(Meet at the waterfall across from Reggie's Bistro at 10:30 a.m.)

SPECIAL TOURS

These docent-led tours are free to **Spring Collection Garden Tour** GLAZA members but space is limited. Early spring is the peak period of For reservations, phone 323/644-4773 bloom for the Zoo's native plants, now or e-mail docents@lazoo.org. Specify flowering throughout the Zoo. Enjoy this "Spring Collection," "Summer Glory," annual floral display with a garden tour! or "Bird Walk" in the subject line and March 28 (Saturday), 8-10 a.m. include the following in your e-mail: ımmer Glory Garden Toui your name, membership number,

The Zoo is at its floral peak in late spring with colorful flowers, foliage, and even some ripening fruits. Enjoy a garden tour to celebrate Plant Conservation Day and the onset of summer. May 30 (Saturday), 8-10 a.m.

Happy Bird-day!

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) spotlights one of the most spectacular events in the Americas. Since it began in 1993, more than 600 sites from Canada to Argentina now observe IMBD. You can celebrate with a bird walk at the Zoo, home to a dazzling array of local birds and migratory guests. Learn more about IMBD at www.birdday.org. May 9 (Saturday), 8-10 a.m.

SAFARI SOCIETY ONLY

Safari Society, GLAZA's upper-level, annual giving program, offers donors a range of exclusive events and unique opportunities to explore the Zoo. To learn about Safari Society, contact Nancy Simerly at nsimerly@lazoo. org or visit www.lazoo.org/support/ safarisociety. Conscientious corporate leaders support the Zoo through Business Partners. For details about this program, contact Brian Levitz at blevitz@lazoo.org.

Zoo Director's Series Wonderful Uakaris: In the Red Zone

The L.A. Zoo is the only institution outside of South America that is home to red uakari. Learn about these magnificent, endangered monkeys from their keeper, Danila Cremona, who holds them dear to her heart. This event includes wine and hors d'oeuvres, plus conversation with the speaker and our own zoo director. Safari Society donors, watch the mail for your invitation.

March 1 (Sunday), 3-5 p.m.

Searching Safari

This annual celebration begins with

a continental breakfast and features animal walkabouts, a scavenger hunt, 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! March 14 (Saturday), 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Safari Society Leadership Dinner

Enjoy a sit-down dinner with Zoo Director John Lewis and GLAZA President Connie Morgan. Discuss Zoo developments and conservation issues in a special setting. Safari Society donors at the Elephant Herd level and above will receive details by mail. Gorilla Troop donors have their choice of seating for the event.

April 11 (Saturday), 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Morning at the Zoo

Safari Society and Business Partners donors are invited to enjoy a unique morning of keeper talks, special feedings, and animals at their most active. Current donors, watch the mail for your invitation with details and RSVP information.

May 16 (Saturday), 8:30 a.m.

MARCH-APRIL 2015



Member Newsletter of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens

Zooscape (ISSN 1060-3859) is published bimonthly by the Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association, 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027.

Periodical Postage paid at Los Angeles, CA.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *Zooscape*, 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027-1498







Volunteer Appreciation Week: April 12–18, 2015 Learn how to be a zoo volunteer at www.lazoo.org/support/volunteer!

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 admission. 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.)

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

I'm All Ears

April 6 (Monday), 7 (Tuesday), 8 (Wednesday), and 11 (Saturday)

May 4 (Monday), 5 (Tuesday),





CRITTERS 'N' KIDS

Ages 3 to 4, with an adult (limit one) Members: \$24 per child/adult pair Nonmembers: \$27 per child/adult pair Class time: 9:30 a.m.

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 are not provided by the Zoo.)

Fabulous Flamingos March 9 (Monday), 10 (Tuesday),

11 (Wednesday), and 14 (Saturday)

Loveable Lemurs April 13 (Monday), 14 (Tuesday),

15 (Wednesday), and 18 (Saturday)

Exciting Elephants

May 11 (Monday), 12 (Tuesday), 13 (Wednesday), and 16 (Saturday)

PATCH PROGRAM

This program offers Junior Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts the opportunity to earn a special zoo patch while learning about zoos, zoo careers, animals, and conservation. The cost is \$15 per Scout and patches are included in the program fee. One adult leader may attend free with every ten scouts. Additional adult leaders pay \$20. For availability and registration, visit www.lazoo.org, phone 323/644-4702, or e-mail docents@lazoo.org. Attendance is limited to 45 people.

Jelly Belly Art Event

Watch artist Kristen Cumings craft a sweet portrait of one of the Zoo's Grevy's zebras entirely out of Jelly Belly jellybeans while you sample some Jelly Bellies (while supplies last). The resulting four-by-five-foot mosaic will become part of the Jelly Belly Endangered Species Bean Art collection. To see the collection, visit www.jellybelly.com/templates/ArtGallery. March 28 (Saturday) and 29 (Sunday) 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

SLEEPOVERS

Your adventure begins with a guided Zoo tour that leads to your tent at base camp, and an evening filled with family fun, including a sweet treat and beastly bedtime stories. Wake to lions roaring and chimps hooting, enjoy a continental breakfast, greet some of the Zoo's early risers, and have a special animal encounter. Then, take your memories home along with a souvenir T-shirt. This event begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 10 a.m. the next day. Please note that dinner is not included in this program. Registration begins April 20. For details, visit www.lazoo.org or phone 323/644-4211.

ZOOCAMP

Children will make new discoveries and have the time of their lives going ape over the Zoo's amazing animals. Through fun, safe, engaging activities, your campers will trail blaze through the week. Each camp is led by specially trained, experienced, adult staff. Registration for summer ZooCamp opens April 6. Visit www.lazoo.org for details and get ready for a wild summer of creature camp adventure! June 15 (Monday) through

August 7 (Friday) 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Morning and afternoon extended care will be available for an additional fee.

Sesame Street Live Weekend

AT THE L.A. ZOO!

Take a photo of your child with the star of Sesame Street Live "Let's Dance!" when Elmo visits the Zoo. Free to GLAZA members and with paid Zoo admission. March 21 (Saturday) and 22 (Sunday)

11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Members at the Contributing Associate level and above can enjoy early access to this event. For membership upgrades or to RSVP, phone 323/644-4244. March 21 (Saturday) 8:30-10 a.m