

zoo scape



Photo courtesy of National Park Service

Good Neighbors

As human development expands, people and wildlife are becoming closer neighbors—and not always harmonious ones. Resolving these conflicts is an increasingly important part of conservation projects that the Los Angeles Zoo supports through funding and education. In Asia, the Cambodian Elephant Conservation Group works to resolve friction between elephants and farmers who depend on the same land for food. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association and Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are working to reduce the impact of livestock medications and lead shot on vulture populations in Asia and Africa. Closer to home, Paso Pacifico helps local communities in Mexico and Nicaragua learn how to coexist with jaguars. But you don't have to look very far from the Zoo to find potential human-wildlife conflict.

P-19 is one of many Santa Monica Mountains mountain lions being monitored with GPS and camera trap photos like this one.

See pg. 2 ➔

Photo by Jamie Pham



Make It a Date Brew at the L.A. Zoo

Spend a summer evening sampling beer from local craft and microbreweries, live entertainment, and delicious pub-style food while visiting many of the Zoo's animal residents. General admission tickets are \$50 presale and \$55 at the door (subject to availability); \$45 and \$50 for GLAZA members. VIP tickets are \$99. Designated drivers pay \$25. To receive the member discount, purchase tickets online using the promo code distributed via email, or at Guest Relations with your current membership card and valid ID. You must be at least 21 years of age to attend this event. Tickets are now on sale at www.lazoo.org/brew.
August 7 (Friday)
7–11 p.m.

MEMBERS ONLY Twilight at the Zoo

During this special twilight walking tour, you will meet and learn about some of our engaging animal residents. Then head to Reggie's Bistro and enjoy delectable hors d'oeuvres and crafts for the young at heart. This event is for L.A. Zoosociates only. To upgrade your GLAZA membership and join us for this enchanting evening, please phone 323/644-4244.

August 29 (Saturday)
5:30–7:30 p.m.

Roaring Nights

These wild summer evenings feature live music from local up-and-coming bands, a DJ-fueled dance party, live animal encounters, pop-up keeper talks, and full bar service, plus food trucks and Animal Artistry Paint Party. Ticket price for GLAZA members is \$17. Price for nonmembers is \$20. You must be at least 18 years of age to attend this event. For details, visit www.lazoo.org/roaringnights.
July 24 (Friday), August 21 (Friday)
7–11 p.m.

**ROARING
NIGHTS**
AT THE LA ZOO

Photo by Tad Motoyama



National Zoo Keeper Week: July 19–25

As the need to protect wildlife and vanishing habitat increases, the role of animal keepers in zoo education and outreach has become essential. As people who work most closely with the animals, they offer unique professional and personal insights. During the third week of July each year, zoos across the country celebrate National Zoo Keeper Week. Created by the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK), it recognizes the accomplishments of animal care professionals who are responsible not only for the wellbeing of animal ambassadors in America's zoos, but who, in many cases, are involved in conservation causes that make a difference for wildlife in the field around the world. For all keepers do for the L.A. Zoo, we thank you!

Animal Keeper Cynthia Reynosa and friend.



zoo update
by John Lewis,
Zoo Director

When talking about conservation action, it is often said, “Think globally and act locally.” The great thing about this adage is that it is so malleable. One can compare, for example, the plight of mountain lions in Southern California to that of tigers in Asia. It’s easy to complain about the demise of tigers due

to habitat loss and commercial use of tiger parts elsewhere, wondering why the locals don’t do something to slow the decline. Meanwhile, we continue to develop mountain lion habitat, cutting off migration corridors and fretting about our safety each time one of the cats comes down from the mountain. The issues are the same. So our response to the conservation

needs of local species can be much more powerful than telling others to stop what they are doing. Local actions can also have profound impacts on species not in our backyards. Currently, ivory consumption is at the forefront of challenges facing elephants, particularly African elephants. While ivory trade has been regulated for

animal activities at your Zoo
March 1–April 30

Spring births included numerous species of hoofstock: **bighorn sheep, black duiker, Calamian deer, chevrotain, Nubian ibex, Peninsular pronghorn, red-flanked duiker, and Visayan warty pigs.** Two **California condor** chicks hatched, as did six groups of **Kaiser’s newts**, 16 groups of **sunburst diving beetles**, and four **variable poison frogs.**

Several new birds landed at the Zoo from other institutions during March and April—a **white-cheeked turaco**, a **red-and-yellow barbet**, and a **cape thick-knee.** A female **raven** and a **peregrine falcon chick** both destined for the World of Birds Show also arrived. Two **California condors** came in. One is an adult male who was part of the San Diego Zoo Safari Park breeding program for almost 30 years. He is staying at the Zoo temporarily until he can be released to the wild this fall. The other is a 2014 chick that came from the World Center for Birds of Prey in Idaho in need of wing-repair surgery. Other arrivals included a **blue-eyed lemur**, a **male Calamian deer**, a **pudu**, four **gray short-tailed opossums** (who will become outreach animals), a **Meller’s chameleon**, and a **Baja blue rock lizard.**

Departures included a **Calamian deer**, three **Peninsular pronghorn**, a **chevrotain**, three **Prevost’s squirrels**, a **koala**, a **serval**, two **speckled rattlesnakes**, three **Catalina Island rattle-less rattlesnakes**, a **South American bushmaster**, a **Fly River turtle**, and a **crested oropendola.**



Malay chevrotain

ScholarShare joins us in announcing these newborns and animal activities at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. ScholarShare, California’s 529 College Savings Plan, is a proud sponsor of the L.A. Zoo and supports a shared commitment to education.

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).

Good Neighbors

Continued

In April, Griffith Park’s resident mountain lion, P-22, made headlines around the country when technicians installing a home security system discovered him lounging in the crawl space of a Los Feliz home. Fortunately, wildlife experts familiar with mountain lion behavior and this individual in particular were available to offer guidance. In the end, P-22 departed of his own accord in the wee hours after the human hubbub died down. He returned, as biologists predicted he would, to his home turf in Griffith Park.

According to National Park Service Biologist Jeff Sikich, whose area of expertise is urban carnivores, P-22 was lucky. A similar situation arose in 2012 when a three-year-old mountain lion became trapped in the courtyard of a Santa Monica office complex. That ended with the animal being fatally shot by police despite efforts to tranquilize and remove him.

“It’s important that experts who are used to dealing with these situations are on the scene,” Sikich says. “We appreciate it when we get calls because we deal with these animals daily, and after [that incident], the Santa Monica Police Department had a working group come in, and they invited us to talk about what should happen if this occurs again and how we can do better in the future.”

Generally, Californians are more aware of the presence of mountain lions and other wildlife, and that has a positive impact on how they are managed. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife, which actually manages the lions, has new policies in place to attempt to remove the animal and bring it to the nearest natural area as a first option. “It’s about educating the game wardens, too,” Sikich adds. “Locally, we have pretty close relationships with some of them. So when these occasions do arise in the Santa Monica Mountains, they will let us know and we work together.”

In California, as in the rest of the world, misinformation is one of the biggest obstacles to conservation. P-22’s local celebrity status worked in his favor. (Fans have created at least two Facebook pages on his behalf.) Most media representations of mountain lions (and predatory animals in general) are wildly distorted.

“Watch TV and the image you see is always a snarling mountain lion,” observes Sikich, who has been studying the Santa Monica Mountains mountain lion population since 2002. “It’s the sensational world we live in, right? Shark Week on Discovery, and one predator killing another. The truth is, even with large carnivores, it never looks like that. Even when I catch these cats, they seldom snarl. They’re trying to get away because they prefer natural areas away from people. Occasionally they will end up in developed areas, especially young animals that are dispersing. They don’t necessarily know a suburb is there unless they come right up to it, and they soon turn around and leave. But people who don’t know about mountain lions only hear, ‘Wow, in California, mountain lions are going into downtown areas and ending up under homes!’ What you don’t hear about are the thousands of times every year that someone sees a lion and the lion runs the other way.”

Sikich points out that every year more people die from bee stings and vehicle collisions with deer than from carnivore attacks. “I think even vending machines kill more people every year... Just driving myself to the trailhead every morning, I have a greater risk of getting killed than when I’m tracking one of my mountain lions.”

Other wildlife-human conflicts Sikich helps mitigate are similar to those in other parts of the globe. Many hobbyists in Southern California raise goats, sheep, and other livestock that are sometimes lost to large carnivores. As in Asia and Africa, proper fencing, sturdier enclosures, and guard dogs usually solve the problem. Collisions with vehicles are common not only on the many freeways of Los Angeles, but on the many secondary roads, especially those that run through wilderness areas. Another issue is toxins, such as rodenticides. A recent ban on consumer sales of super-toxic poisons (second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides) is an important first step. (Though licensed commercial pesticide applicators are still able to use them.) “We don’t know yet if that will have an impact or not,” Sikich says. “But it’s moving in the right direction.”

The more we learn about animal behavior, the better able we will be to share this planet—the only home we have. So when you visit the Zoo and discover how people around the world are learning to live with wildlife, take that knowledge home with you and apply it in your own backyard.

Photos Courtesy of National Park Service

Camera traps set by field biologists capture some of the nightlife in Griffith Park: 1. mountain lion P-22, 2. mule deer, 3. coyote, and 4. gray fox.



many years, the illegal trade persisted, albeit at an arguably controllable level. That has changed with organized crime and terrorist groups using military-style weapons and tactics to kill elephants for their tusks in record numbers. An estimated 96 elephants a day are killed in Africa. At that rate, the entire population of 300,000-plus African elephants will be wiped out in about 10

years. Other species such as vultures are also affected when the killers poison them so they won't alert rangers to locate poached elephants. It is a crisis that we can prevent. Stop buying ivory. AB96, a law approved by the California Legislature in June, will close loopholes that allowed the continued purchase of antique ivory (from extinct mammoths, for example),

which is often used to hide the sale of illicit ivory. Legislation will help, but ending the demand for ivory is what will stop the poaching. Take action by not buying ivory. One of the hardest challenges in conservation is staying the course. We are pretty good at responding to a crisis, but often revert to old habits once the crisis is over. There is talk of a potential

El Niño this winter, which could bring much needed rain and snow to California—a relief for sure, but not a long-term solution. Let's all practice water conservation now and after the drought to lessen the impact of the next dry spell in California.

home BIOME

Although it is warm and arid, the Los Angeles Basin is not a desert, but a distinct and rare biome. The world's five Mediterranean climate zones all share dry, hot summers and mild winters when most of the annual 11 to 17 inches of rain fall. By comparison, deserts receive only 0.5 to 11 inches of annual precipitation. Chaparral habitat in California often borders on oak woodland, and the flora and fauna in it are specially adapted to cope with drought and fire—like animals and plants in Australia's mallee, Chile's matorral, the fynbos in the Western Cape region of southern Africa, and southern Europe's Mediterranean Basin—the largest region with this type of climate. California's native plant community is diverse and beautiful, from stunning manzanita, to vibrant monkey flower and colorful ceanothus. Plants from other chaparral regions include Australia's diverse grevillea species, which range from groundcovers to huge trees; many bromeliads and cacti from Chile; Mediterranean favorites such as rosemary, rock roses, and lavender; and myriad southern African plants including familiar geraniums, proteas (pincushion flowers), and red-hot poker, plus a multitude of succulents and bulbs. Most of these introduced plant families happily adapt to California growing conditions and are common in the nursery trade. People are often reluctant to give up lawns and tropical exotics because they believe the only alternative is a desert landscape. Fortunately, we don't live in a desert! "Drought-tolerant" means so much more than cactus—so if you want a less thirsty garden, explore the many lovely chaparral plants from Southern California and beyond!

1. Australia's mallee
2. California chaparral
3. Chile's matorral
4. Europe's Mediterranean Basin
5. Africa's fynbos in the Western Cape region



Safari Society offers you a deeper connection to the Zoo through a number of special benefits, including docent-led cart tours, behind-the-scenes opportunities, VIP events and lectures, and a dedicated Access Line for all things L.A. Zoo. For annual gifts at levels starting at \$1,500, Safari Society donors help advance the education and conservation mission of the Zoo, providing funds to help maintain various programs across the park. This upper-level giving program is a mainstay of the Zoo. Consider joining this public-spirited group today, and come closer to the life of the Zoo through fun and inspiring experiences. For more information, e-mail nsimerly@lazoo.org or phone the Safari Society Access Line at 323/644-4717.



Local produce in a colorful salad.

LOCAVORACIOUS

You probably know that biodiversity means a robust variety of plants and animals in a particular ecosystem. But did you know that this applies not only to wilderness, but to farms as well? Since 1900, about 75 percent of the diversity in domestic crops and livestock have been lost as farmers opt for more genetically uniform and high-yield animals and plants instead of heirloom varieties and heritage breeds. Fortunately, growing interest in sustainable food has spurred an interest in these vanishing breeds and varieties, many of which were developed to thrive in specific regional climates and soil conditions. "People in general are doing the right thing and getting educated," says the Los Angeles Zoo's Executive Chef Brad Robertson. "They know the longer the food travels to get to you the greater the loss in quality and nutrition." Service Systems Associates (SSA), which operates the Zoo's concessions and food services, has followed the Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch recommendations for several years. Since 2014, when Robertson signed on, SSA has become a certified Seafood Watch business partner, and catering services now use locally sourced produce as well. As with many conservation practices, there are some challenges. The industrial farm system dominates because it produces a reliable supply of uniform product. Sustainable sourcing can be less consistent. Robertson cites the example of beautiful baby beets that were received through the local produce broker. As appetizing as they looked, they were lacking in flavor, so with some quick thinking, they became delicious marinated beets. In the kitchen, as in the jungle, the ability to adapt is the key to success. "It's nature," Robertson observes. "You just have to roll with it."

CONSERVATION CORNER

Vultures aren't as attractive to humans as are other birds, yet they play a crucial role in the environment. These carrion eaters are perfectly designed to digest rotting carcasses and in doing so keep diseases like anthrax, rabies, and cholera from spreading among wildlife and people. The Los Angeles Zoo is well known for its conservation efforts with the California condor, but the Zoo also helps other less familiar vulture species. Asian species such as long-billed, Oriental white-backed, and slender-billed vultures were common in India and Asia just a decade ago. All three are now classified as Critically Endangered by the

IUCN. Since the 1990s, their populations have plummeted by nearly 97 percent—estimated to be the most rapid avian species decline in history. This was traced to the use of diclofenac, a common anti-inflammatory drug used in cattle. Unfortunately, it remains in the tissues of dead animals and causes kidney failure in vultures who ingest the carcasses. The Zoo provides funding to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) to help save those vulture populations. Captive-breeding centers for the various Asian vulture species have been set up so the birds may one day be reintroduced into "safe zones" that are free of diclofenac. The Zoo also contributes funding to the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association to support their

conservation work for the endangered Egyptian vulture, especially in Oman and Djibouti, home to large concentrations of vulture populations. Their numbers have been steadily declining due to habitat loss, diclofenac ingestion, poisoning from lead shot, and electrocution from power lines. Learn more about how these programs are saving these amazing birds at www.lazoo.org/conservation/projects/. —Bonnie Heather Holland



Volume XXXIX
Number 1

Greater Los Angeles Zoo Association Annual Memberships:
Individual \$55, Individual Plus \$75, 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
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Jamie Pham, GLAZA Photo Editor
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calendar of events

MEMBERS ONLY

Members Appreciation Month

To show how much we appreciate your support, we are celebrating GLAZA members throughout the month of August! Be on the look out for a special e-mail invitation with a calendar of special events, giveaways, and incentives. Add your e-mail address to your membership record by phoning 323/644-4244.

Members Appreciation Morning

Early morning is the ideal time to see many of the Zoo's residents at their best, and GLAZA offers three opportunities a year for our

members at all levels to explore the Zoo before it opens to the public. RSVP for this event by phoning 323/644-4770.

**August 15 (Saturday)
8:30–10 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.

**July 12 (Sunday)
July 18 (Saturday)
July 25 (Saturday)
July 26 (Sunday)
August 8 (Saturday)
August 9 (Sunday)
August 22 (Saturday)
August 23 (Sunday)
September 12 (Saturday)
September 13 (Sunday)
September 19 (Saturday)
September 20 (Sunday)**
(Meet at the waterfall near the entrance to the International Marketplace at 10:30 a.m.)

SAFARI SOCIETY ONLY

Zoo Director's Series

These special presentations and opportunities to interact with wildlife experts at intimate gatherings are held on Zoo grounds throughout the year. Guests learn about conservation programs supported by the Zoo from scientists working directly with animals around the world, as well as Zoo staff who are personally involved with wildlife conservation. Talks include wine and hors d'oeuvres, plus conversation with speakers, curators, and our own zoo director. Safari Society donors, watch the mail for your invitation.
**August 23 (Sunday)
3–5 p.m.**

Sunset Safari

Safari Society and Business Partners donors are invited to enjoy this exclusive after-hours event featuring animal encounters, dinner, and music. To join GLAZA's upper-level giving program and attend this all-time favorite Zoo evening, please phone the Safari Society Access Line at 323/644-4717 or e-mail nsimerly@lazoo.org. Business Partners and Safari Society donors, watch the mail for your private invitation. To learn more about Business Partners, contact Jan Frazier at 323/644-4722.
**September 12 (Saturday)
6–8 p.m.**

SPECIAL TOURS

These docent-led tours are free to GLAZA members but space is limited. For reservations, phone 323/644-4703 or e-mail docents@lazoo.org. Specify "Bird Walk" or "Bat 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.

Wings of Summer

Meet a variety of native birds and maybe spot an exotic visitor or two during this morning bird walk!
July 25 (Saturday), 8–10 a.m.

Night Flight (Date Change)

Griffith Park is an important oasis for local and migratory

wildlife, including bats. Strolling Zoo grounds at dusk is a perfect opportunity to see resident bats take to the air. Children attending this event must be at least four years of age. Due to limited spaces and high demand, a maximum of four people may register per membership.
July 18 (Saturday) and August 14 (Friday), 6–8 p.m.

FAMILY JAM

Join us for a family-friendly evening of live entertainment, including music, karaoke, and food truck delectables. Enjoy Animal Artistry Paint Party, keeper talks, live animal encounters, and more fun under the stars! Ticket pricing: GLAZA members adult \$17/child \$14; nonmember adult \$20/child \$17. Check www.lazoo.org/familyjam for ticket availability.
**July 11 (Saturday)
6–9 p.m.**

JULY-AUGUST 2015

zoo scape

Member Newsletter of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens

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**NATIONAL
ZOO KEEPER
WEEK** 19-25 JULY 2015

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.

SLEEPOVERS

Creature Camp-Out

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 is now open. Visit www.lazoo.org for details, or phone 323/644-4211 for more information.

SUMMER 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 is now open. Visit www.lazoo.org for details and get ready for a wild summer of creature camp adventure!
June 15 (Monday) through August 14 (Friday), 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Morning and afternoon extended care are available for an additional fee.

L.A. Zoo Photo Day

Photo Day 2015 takes place on November 8, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This fantastic opportunity for photographers of all ages and skill levels is presented jointly by Paul's Photo and GLAZA. Paul's Photo experts and representatives from the greatest brands in photography will be on hand to assist you. Take advantage of limited-loan equipment from major manufacturers and enjoy a catered lunch, a T-shirt, and a full day of photography. (Guests receive lunch and early Zoo admission only.) Register now for significant savings! Photographers who are GLAZA members, students with valid school ID, or Paul's Photo Club members receive a \$10 discount (no discount for at-the-door registration). For registration forms, phone 323/644-4703, e-mail volunteers@lazoo.org, or register online at www.lazoo.org/photoday.

REGISTRATION FEES ARE:

July 1–31: \$115 for photographers and \$50 for guests

August 1–31: \$135 for photographers and \$60 for guests

September 1–November 5: \$175 for photographers and \$70 for guests

November 6–8: At-the-door registration \$200 for photographers and \$80 for guests (no discount for at-the-door registration)

Make Some Memories

Don't forget to use your promotional cards good for a free personalized, hardcover photo book from Shutterfly. This offer, available for both new and existing customers, is good through July 27, 2015, and can be used for a free 8-by-8-inch hardcover photo book (worth \$29.99) or credited toward a larger photo book offered by Shutterfly. It's a great way to capture your Zoo adventures!



CHECK THE L.A. ZOO WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ABOUT UPCOMING FALL CHILDREN'S CLASSES!

Cancellation Policy: The Zoo must receive at least two weeks (14 days) advance notice by phone (323/644-4211) or fax (323/644-4299) in order to issue a full refund. No refunds will be issued after this period. No refunds or transfers will be honored for no-shows. Prices and program dates are subject to change without notice. For more details about cancellation, transfer, refund, and booking policies, visit www.lazoo.org.