


# zoo scape




**INTO THE WOODS**

In July, this year's Duttenhaver Conservation and Field Study Program team traveled to France's Midi-Pyrenees region to study the impact of climate change. Graphics Manager Neal Ward, Senior Animal Keeper Dorothy Belanger, and Senior Gardener Andrew Lyell accompanied Student Volunteers Ethan Abercrombie, Isabelle Panze, Audrey Chen, Suzanne Bernard, and Tarynn Kimmick, plus Magnet School Students Marissa Blanco-Johnson and Manuel Jaramillo on the trip, which was more than a physical journey to another continent. As Suzanne Bernard observes in this issue's cover story, it was also a journey of personal discovery.

**Back Row:** Project Manager/Principle Researcher Bernat Claramunt López, Marissa Blanco-Johnson, Biologist/Researcher Jana Marco, Audrey Chen, Manuel Jaramillo, Isabella Panza, Tarynn Kimmick, Dorothy Belanger, Suzanne Bernard. **Front Row:** Biologist/Researcher Irene Figueroa, Andrew Lyell, Neal Ward, and Ethan Abercrombie.

See pg. 2 →




## Make It a Date

### L.A. Zoo Lights

This year's holiday celebration will be bigger and brighter than ever—including a luminous LAIR, a new Santa's village, and a dazzling light show! Enjoy extraordinary light installations, festive sounds, and holiday treats throughout the Zoo at L.A.'s merriest event. Visit [www.lazoolights.org](http://www.lazoolights.org) for more details and to purchase tickets.

**November 27 through January 3, 2016, except December 24 and 25 6–10 p.m.**



**Don't give your child's college savings the cold shoulder this winter! On select nights, visit ScholarShare's table at L.A. Zoo Lights to learn about simple ways you can prepare for your child's education.**

**Book your holiday party or seasonal celebration at the L.A. Zoo during Zoo Lights! To learn how, contact Cathy Walker at 323/644-4781.**



## MEMBERS ONLY

### Winter Wild!

GLAZA members at all levels are invited to enjoy free holiday festivities including a pop-up visit by Santa, face painting, an ice carving demonstration, holiday puppet show, and crafts, plus a 20-percent discount in the gift shops (TOMS shoes excluded). Don't forget to take a spin on the Tom Mankiewicz Conservation Carousel (\$3 per rider) and be sure to bring your camera for photo opportunities with Santa. To RSVP for this event, phone 323/644-4770.

**December 5 (Saturday) 8:30–10 a.m.**



Photo by Jamie Pham

## Breakfast with Santa

For an additional fee, enjoy a special breakfast during Winter Wild! Included in the ticket price is a delicious buffet (served from 8–9:45 a.m.), unlimited rides on the Tom Mankiewicz Conservation Carousel until 10 a.m., and an exclusive engagement with Santa from 8:30 to 9:15 a.m. Space is limited. Tickets cost \$19 for adults and \$14 for children ages 2–12. Children under 2 are free. Purchase tickets at [www.lazoo.org/winterwild](http://www.lazoo.org/winterwild). Tickets are non-refundable.

**December 5 (Saturday) 8–9:45 a.m.**



## Reindeer Romp

Reindeer will be bringing seasonal cheer to the L.A. Zoo! See them daily at the holiday village in Eucalyptus Grove and learn about reindeer and how adaptations help animals cope with the cold. On weekends, make your own reindeer antlers and other holiday crafts, plus visit Santa and friends for a photo opportunity (nominal fee). Featured Zoo residents will receive holiday-themed enrichment items. All activities except Santa photos and carousel rides are free to GLAZA members and with paid Zoo admission. Craft activities and photos with Santa are available through December 22. Visit [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org) for more details.

**November 27 (Friday) through January 3 (Sunday) 10 a.m.–4 p.m.**



zoo update

by John Lewis,  
Zoo Director



It's that time again—time for the Zoo Lights extravaganza! Thanks to everyone who attended last year when we launched this new event that we hope will become a family tradition in the greater Los Angeles area. If you didn't see Zoo Lights last year, you must see them this year. There will be even more lights, and some of the popular attractions will be relocated for better viewing and less congestion. Santa and his reindeer will be back, along with great food and entertainment. Zoo Lights will be open every night November 27 through January 3, except December 24 and 25. Whether you come to the Zoo for Reindeer Romp or Zoo Lights, be sure and look at the reindeer. I mean, really look at them because all of their strangeness makes them uniquely adapted to the cold climates they inhabit around the world's northern latitudes. The reindeer's large nostrils are adapted to moisturize and warm the dry, frigid Arctic air. And those hooves—splayed and spongy in the summer to move across the soggy tundra but hardened for the winter

animal activities at your Zoo

July 1–August 31

Late summer brought a bounty of babies including eight **Armenian vipers**, seven **Catalina Island rattle-less rattlesnakes**, a **black howler monkey**, a **François' langur**, two **Chacoan peccaries**, two **gerenuk**, two **Speke's gazelles**, a **black duiker**, and a **red-flanked duiker**. Hatchings included eight **black-headed weaver birds**, a **greater flamingo**, two **white-crested turacos**, two **laughing kookaburras**, seven **desert spiny lizards**, two **banded knob-tailed geckos**, and five **Gray's monitors** (or **butaans**).

Among the new arrivals were two **Tadjik markhor**, a **lowland paca**, and a passel of invertebrates: two **giant desert centipedes**, two **giant Indian forest scorpions**, and a **Goliath bird-eating spider**. Also incoming: two **Cape cobras**, two **thick-billed parrots**, and four **California condors**, the latter for medical treatment.

Three **California condors** returned to the wild, and other animals transferring out included a **crested oropendola**, a **Goffin's cockatoo**, a **lowland paca**, a **Masai giraffe**, and a **Speke's gazelle**.

Photo by Ian Recchio



banded knob-tailed gecko hatchling

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.

INTO THE WOODS

By Suzanne Bernard, Student Volunteer

Continued

My favorite part about adventures is that you can never predict them. Whenever I'm anticipating something, I have to stop and tell myself, "No matter how much you think it over, your expectations will not match up with reality." This much remained true for me with my experience in the French Pyrenees.

I definitely expected this expedition to be a learning experience. I wanted to take advantage of the knowledgeable people I was working with. I planned to ask questions and walk every step of the way with open eyes—and I'm glad I did. I took home more knowledge about plants, animals, and climate change than I could hope for. I learned about careers in biology and how exciting (yet repetitive) field studies could be.

But there were many things I didn't expect to learn about while on this trip. By talking to our guides, I learned about the inspiring language, culture, and patriotism of a region previously unknown to me called Catalonia. Another unexpected parcel of knowledge came on our day off, when we learned about the various instruments and music native to the Pyrenees.

I had been told that we would be hiking up to 10 miles most days. Despite the fair warning, I did not expect that the majority of our time would be spent hiking. The hikes were grueling at worst and thrilling at best—occasionally off-trail, often uphill, and always long. We would hike anywhere from six to 10 miles in a day on our duties through stinging brush, biting insects, and incessant humidity. But it was absolutely worth it. The views were unlike anything I'd ever seen before. Oftentimes, I was continuously snapping photos in an attempt to take home pieces

of the unbelievable beauty of the Pyrenees.

However, the hikes weren't all scenery. We had work to do. Some of our undertakings included the maintenance of camera traps, counting seedlings in forest plots, and tagging small mammals.

Despite being hard work, our daily activities were very rewarding. I felt a sense of accomplishment every time I replaced the rechargeable batteries in a camera trap, knowing that the photos the little gadget stored could reveal clear evidence of a mammal species inhabiting the area. Maybe my camera trap would capture a snapshot of a cute, weasel-like martin, or a graceful, goat-like chamois. I enjoyed counting seedlings more than I expected. Every sprout of a tree was a precious little bit of life that, in years, would become a towering denizen adding to the magic of an old forest. I am quite satisfied with my new skill of being able to confidently identify an ash seedling. But by far my favorite activity was checking the small mammal traps. Catching, tagging, and recording data about the animals before we released them again was always an exciting endeavor. It was the only time we had direct contact with the wildlife there, and the information we collected about the cute rodents would help the scientists in understanding the effects of climate change on their population.

This trip easily surpassed my eager anticipations. I became more knowledgeable about biology, excited about careers in science, and closer to a distant culture. I made life-long friends among those who shared in my adventures. And I'm happy to say that reality can be a lot more exciting than mere expectations.

1. Trapping rodents to monitor populations.



2. Changing camera trap batteries.



3. Fire salamanders inhabited the streams.



4. House martins perching on a wire.



5. Learning to identify local plants.



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		Editor September 11, 2015	



to cut ice and crusted snow while walking or digging for food. Hear that clicking? It's their knees, and they are supposed to do that in order to communicate information about size of the individual. That's right, the louder the knees click in a blinding snowstorm, the larger the reindeer. Now look at the antlers. At first glance, they look unwieldy and

nonfunctional. But they can be used to defend against large predators or even other reindeer when protecting food and raking the frozen snow. In males, the antlers match up so that fights for dominance become displays of pushing and shoving versus stabbing and cutting. So look at the reindeer. I think you will see they are pretty cool. This winter should be interesting.

Based on the El Niño forecasts, it will be rainy—or not. At least that's the prediction as I write this. Either way, the Zoo will be open. If it is raining, put on your rain gear, make believe you are in Seattle, and come on out. You'll save money on airfare and no one will throw a fish at you. It will be fun. It will be different. And taking on the elements will invigorate you.

If it is not raining, that's good, too. The animals will be active in the cooler weather, and you can people watch—especially around New Year's depending on who is playing in the Rose Bowl. So fabulous lights, clicking knees, and a *climatic* ending to 2015—how many more reasons do you need to visit the Zoo? See you all soon!

# BUDDING Conservationists

Climate change is a common catchphrase these days: “The sky is falling!” say the media pundits. But in most cases, the alarmists are correct. The glaciers are melting, the ocean temperatures are increasing, and plants and animals are trying to adapt. But some won't be able to. Concern over the impact of climate change was part of what took this year's Duttenhaver Conservation and Field Study Program team almost 6,000 miles away to the Pyrenees. In July, Graphics Manager Neal Ward, Senior Animal Keeper Dorothy Belanger, and myself accompanied Student Volunteers Ethan Abercrombie, Isabelle Panze, Audrey Chen, Tia Onouye, Suzanne Bernard (who wrote this issue's cover story), and Tarynn Kimmick, plus Magnet School Students Marissa Blanco-Johnson and Manuel Jaramillo on a journey to the Midi-Pyrenees region in France, near the Spanish border. Our purpose was to study the effects of climate change in a specific region. We provided support to a small group of scientists by assisting in the collection of field data. A part of the study included wildflower and pollinator observations. The groups would identify types and numbers of local wildflowers, such as yarrow, buttercup, carnations, daisies, and purple clover. Then we would watch as bumblebees flew from flower to flower and take note of which flowers they preferred. As it turns out, they really like clover—a lot. It wasn't part of our responsibility to analyze the findings, only to help collect info. The study was a portion of a long-term process that has been going on for several years and will



Scientists in the Pyrenees are studying the impact of climate change on pollinators, including bumblebees.

Photos by Andrew Lyell and Manuel Jaramillo

continue in the region as long as people are willing to help. We were all inspired by the beauty of the region and like to think that we made a difference in some small way. I also like to think that we were able to inspire a sense of stewardship in the students who performed most of the scientific tasks and hope that they will bring that responsibility of caring for the natural beauty in their homeland to the next generation of conservationists. —Andrew Lyell, Senior Gardener



1.



2.



3.

Among the many wildflowers identified were bellflower (*Campanula rotundifolia*), carnivorous butterwort (*Pinguicula grandiflora*), and common spotted orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*).

## CONSERVATION CORNER

Various species of Caprinae (wild sheep and goats) have long been an important part of the Los Angeles Zoo collection—including the distinctive Tadjik markhor, easily recognized by the males' large, corkscrew-shaped horns. Thought to be the ancestor of some modern goat breeds, the Tadjik markhor is one of four subspecies and the only one represented in captivity. The Zoo is doing its part to protect this endangered species by participating in a captive breeding program and by supporting two conservation projects that aim to save this magnificent goat. The first is a research project by the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry that is studying genetic diversity within the captive population. Objectives include markhor genome sequencing, which will help produce a more accurate pedigree for studbook use, identification of new animals to introduce to the North American population, as well as a comparison of North American and European captive populations to provide a genomic foundation for European breeding programs. The second project is a survey of markhor distribution in Tadjikistan. In addition to monitoring the mountains of that region for markhor, field biologists are talking with local foresters and poachers about the importance of markhor conservation, how to best protect these animals, and ways of eliminating illegal hunting. The L.A. Zoo, together with Safari Enterprises and the Bisbee Conservation Foundation, has agreed to support this project by providing funding for the next three years. Hopefully these efforts will help secure the markhor for future generations. —Bonnie Heather Holland



male Tadjik markhor

Photo by Charlie Morey



Whether you're celebrating a milestone or a lifetime, the Los Angeles Zoo's commemorative program offers enduring tributes that benefit animals and humans alike. Honor those dearest to you in the distinctive landscape of Griffith Park with exclusive opportunities that support the Zoo and its mission. Some of the world's most unusual and charismatic animals have found a home in the Rainforest of the Americas exhibit. As visitors learn about this important habitat and the creatures that live there, they can immerse themselves in the rich surroundings from several beautiful ipe wood benches. These seats can be sponsored for a donation of \$7,500 each and offer meaningful recognition for someone special. Watching the Zoo's resident orangutans is a favorite pursuit for many zoo-goers. Honor an exceptional individual in your life and announce your support of our red-haired cousins by sponsoring one of the powder-coated benches at the Red Ape Rain Forest for a donation of \$10,000. These gifts leave an enduring mark on the Zoo and affirm its mission. For details, please contact Patricia Noland at 323/644-6035 or [pnoland@lazoo.org](mailto:pnoland@lazoo.org). Donations to GLAZA are tax-deductible 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 to the event or activity you wish to attend. For further information, please contact: 323/644-4200 (voice/TTY).



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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](http://www.lazoo.org). Sandy Masuo, Editor Pickle Group, Graphic Design Tad Motoyama, Zoo Photographer Jamie Pham, GLAZA Photo Editor Copyright © 2015 GLAZA. All rights reserved. Printed on 30-percent recycled stock Nurturing wildlife and enriching the human experience





# calendar of events

## MEMBERS ONLY

### 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.

**November 7 (Saturday)**  
**November 15 (Sunday)**  
**November 21 (Saturday)**  
**November 22 (Sunday)**  
**December 6 (Sunday)**  
**December 12 (Saturday)**  
**December 13 (Sunday)**  
**December 19 (Saturday)**

**January 9 (Saturday)**  
**January 10 (Sunday)**  
**January 23 (Saturday)**  
**January 24 (Sunday)**  
(Meet at the waterfall near the entrance to the International Marketplace at 10:30 a.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,” “Lost Worlds,” or “Winter Wonders” 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.

### For the Birds

Many migratory birds overwinter in Southern California. This docent-led bird walk is a great opportunity to meet your avian neighbors and spot an exotic visitor or two!  
**November 21 (Saturday)**  
**8–10 a.m.**

### Lost Worlds Garden Tour

Plants all have stories to share—and many are survivors of long-vanished worlds. On this garden

tour we’ll see plants that were part of ancient landscapes shared with dinosaurs and saber-toothed tigers.

**November 14 (Saturday)**  
**8–10 a.m.**

### 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 collection and other early blooming plants.

**January 30 (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 join Safari Society, phone the Safari Society Access Line at 323/644-4717, e-mail nsimerly@lazoo.org, or visit [www.lazoo.org/support/safarisociety](http://www.lazoo.org/support/safarisociety). Conscientious corporate leaders support the Zoo through Business Partners. For details about this program, contact Jan Frazier at 323/644-4722.

### Morning at the Zoo

Join us just after the sun rises as wildlife wakes for the day! This early-entry opportunity held exclusively for Safari Society and Business Partners donors features a continental breakfast, animal walkabouts, special feedings, and keeper talks. Watch the mail for your invitation to this private event.

**November 14 (Saturday)**  
**8:30–10 a.m.**

## L.A. ZOO PHOTO DAY

Photo Day 2015 takes place on Sunday, November 8, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a fantastic opportunity for photographers of all skill levels to try out the latest equipment with the Zoo as your backdrop. Presented jointly with Paul’s Photo, experts will be on hand to assist with telephoto stations, loaner equipment, and workshops to demonstrate tricks of the trade used by professionals to capture the perfect shot. 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). To register, phone 323/644-4703, e-mail [volunteers@lazoo.org](mailto:volunteers@lazoo.org), or go to [www.lazoo.org/photoday](http://www.lazoo.org/photoday).  
**Registration through 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)

## NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2015

# zoo scape

## 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/](http://WWW.LAZOO.ORG/EDUCATION/CHILDRENSCLASSES/). TO REGISTER, GO TO [WWW.LAZOO.ORG](http://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](http://www.lazoo.org) for class availability. For more information, phone 323/644-4211.

## TODDLER TOTES

Age 24–35 months

**Members: \$18 per child/adult pair**  
**Nonmembers: \$20 per child/adult pair**  
**Class Times: 9:15 a.m. (Wednesdays), 9:15 (Fridays and Saturdays), and 11 a.m. (Fridays and Saturdays)**

**E-ticket required for class admission.**

Toddler Totes classes are educational adventures for your child and you. Learn about adaptations as you investigate the Zoo’s animal collection and discover the ways animals use different parts of their bodies. Each 75-minute class includes a variety of fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities such as storytelling, live animal encounters, and explorations on Zoo grounds.

### Wiggle Squiggle Zoo

**November 4 (Wednesday), 6 (Friday), and 7 (Saturday)**

### Fascinating Feet

**December 2 (Wednesday), 4 (Friday), and 5 (Saturday)**



## CRITTERS 'N' KIDS

Age 3–4 years

**Members: \$24 per child/adult pair**  
**Nonmembers: \$27 per child/adult pair**  
**Class Time: 9:30 a.m. (Wednesdays/Fridays/Saturdays)**

**E-ticket required for class admission.**

Critter 'n' Kids classes take your child and you on an exploration of the Zoo’s animal collections, from cool cats and exciting elephants to slithering snakes and fabulous flamingos. Each 90-minute class includes a variety of fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities such as storytelling, art, games, and adventures on Zoo grounds.

### Go, Go, Gorillas!

**November 13 (Friday) and 14 (Saturday)**

### Slithering Snakes

**December 9 (Wednesday), 11 (Friday), and 12 (Saturday)**



## ZOO EXPLORERS

Age 5–6 years

**Members: \$30 per child**  
**Nonmembers: \$35 per child**  
**Class Time: 9 a.m. (Sundays)**

**E-ticket required for class admission.**

Grab your backpack and explore the Zoo to learn about biomes around the world, from deserts to mountains, grasslands to rainforests. Trek over the rivers and through the woods to seek out cool and amazing animals that call these unique habitats home. This drop-off class is designed for children independent of their parents. All children must bring water and a snack for this three-hour class.

### Mountain Madness

**November 1 (Sunday)**

### Great Grasslands

**January 31 (Sunday)**

## FAMILY CLASSES

All Ages

**Members: \$10 per person/children under 2 are free**  
**Nonmembers: \$20 per adult/\$15 per child (ages 2–12)/children under 2 are free**

**Class Time: 9:30 a.m. (Sundays)**

**E-ticket required for class admission.**

Bring your family to the Zoo and join us for a special adventure. These 90-minute classes offer a unique opportunity for families to come together and share in an adventure while learning about amazing animals.

### Winter Wonderland

**December 20 (Sunday)**

## 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 ages seven through twelve. Cost is \$55 per person. Schedule for the 2015–2016 school year can be found at [www.lazoo.org/education](http://www.lazoo.org/education). Contact Sean den Bok at 323/644-4212 for assistance.

## ZOOCAMP

Embark on an Arctic adventure during Winter ZooCamp at the L.A. Zoo. Campers will have a cool time engaging in fun activities and chilling out with the Zoo’s amazing animals. Each camp is led by specially trained, experienced adult staff. Registration fee is \$65/day for nonmembers and \$60/day for GLAZA members. Winter ZooCamp registration opens November 2. Extended care (mornings 8–9 a.m. and afternoons 3–5 p.m.) is available for an additional fee.  
**December 28 (Monday) through January 1 (Friday)**

**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](http://www.lazoo.org).