

# zoo scape

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2016



While a lot has changed at the Los Angeles Zoo in our first half century, many things have remained the same: our focus on education and conservation, our unwavering dedication to animal care and welfare, our drive to continually improve and innovate, and our commitment to the Los Angeles community.

Throughout this year, we're celebrating the milestones that make up our narrative as an organization. But they don't tell the whole story. For that, we need you. Go to [ZooLABrate50.org](http://ZooLABrate50.org) to learn about all the ways we're commemorating our birthday in the next year and how you can join in. There, you'll be asked to share your memories, photos, and even memorabilia to help us tell the rich, wonderful, diverse, fascinating, touching, inspiring, and sometimes funny story of the Zoo. It's a story that you make possible every day.

The "ZooLABration" officially kicks off on November 18 with the grand opening of L.A. Zoo Lights—which will feature "golden" touches throughout, as will Reindeer Romp. On November 28—the anniversary of our opening at the current location—single-day admission will be discounted 50 percent. The "party" will continue every month thereafter, with special activities, programming, limited-edition keepsakes, and more, culminating with a special Beastly Ball gala focused on the extraordinary opportunities to save animals and inspire new generations in next 50 years.

So let's ZooLABrate. Together.

## Island TIME

In June, this year's Duttenhaver Conservation and Field Study Program team traveled to the Caribbean. Led by General Curator Beth Schaefer, Senior Animal Keeper Robin Noll, and Curator of Education Dan Keeffe, the nine Zoo Magnet School students and student volunteers—Dahlia Shammas, Avery Rush-Elias, Viviana Gutierrez, Chiara Berruto, ImanElijah Zeinali, Tatiana Styles, Sabrina Park, Joy Gursky, and Chloe Butler-Jones—embarked on a week-long expedition to monitor ocelot populations on the island of Trinidad. In this issue, Joy Gursky explores the contrasts between the lush rainforest she discovered there and the concrete jungle that she calls home.

See pg. 2 ➔



### Winter Wild!

GLAZA members at all levels are invited to celebrate the season with this special morning event featuring the mobile mural lab, face painting, holiday extravaganza puppet show by Swazzle, and rides on the Tom Mankiewicz Conservation carousel (\$3 per ride).  
**December 3 (Saturday)**  
8:30–10 a.m.

### Breakfast With Santa

**December 3 (Saturday), 8–10 a.m.**  
Breakfast ends at 9:45 a.m.

\* Watch your inbox for an invitation soon!  
To receive Zoomail, send a request to [lbenigno@lazoo.org](mailto:lbenigno@lazoo.org).

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS



### L.A. Zoo Lights

This year's holiday celebration will be brighter than ever with more nights and lights, new 3D projections, and a new water show! Enjoy extraordinary light installations, festive sounds, and holiday treats throughout the Zoo at L.A.'s merriest event. For details and tickets, go to [LAZooLights.org](http://LAZooLights.org).  
**November 18 (Friday)–January 8 (Sunday), except November 24, December 24, and December 25**  
6–10 p.m.

### L.A. Zoo Lights Holiday Happy Hour

Celebrate this festive time of year in style at the Holiday Happy Hour! These special evenings include express entry into L.A. Zoo Lights beginning at 6 p.m. and access to a private lounge serving complimentary hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer, and specialty cocktails from 6:30–8:30 p.m. Due to popular demand, we added a second Holiday Happy Hour this season. Limited tickets are available for each night, so make your reservations early! Cost is \$75 for nonmembers and \$70 for members. You must be at least 21 years of age to attend this event.  
**December 8 (Thursday)**  
**December 15 (Thursday)**  
6–10 p.m.

### L.A. Zoo Lights Family New Year's Eve Party

Looking for a wild way to roar in the New Year? Look no further—the L.A. Zoo Lights Family New Year's Eve Party has fun for all ages! Tickets include express admission to L.A. Zoo Lights; family-friendly dinner buffet with soft drinks, dessert, and coffee; carousel rides; party favors; a dance party with games and contests; and a live broadcast of the Times Square ball drop at 9 p.m. At East Coast midnight, toast the arrival of 2017 with a complimentary glass of champagne for adults (21-plus) and sparkling cider for youngsters. This event sold out last year, so mark your calendars now!  
**December 31 (Saturday)**  
6–10 p.m.

### Reindeer Romp

The holidays are just around the corner, and reindeer will be bringing seasonal cheer to the Zoo before you know it! See them daily in Eucalyptus Grove and on weekends, enjoy special holiday activities, including crafts. Visit [www.lazoo.org/reindeerromp](http://www.lazoo.org/reindeerromp) for details.  
**November 18 (Friday)–January 8 (Sunday)**  
10 a.m.–4 p.m.



Photos by Jamie Pham





**zoo update**  
by John Lewis,  
Zoo Director

“Happy Birthday, Mr. and Ms. Resident! Happy Birthday to Zool!” You guessed it. Your Zoo is having a birthday. Fifty years ago, on November 28, 1966, the new Los Angeles Zoo in Griffith Park opened its gates for the first time. Starting with this year’s L.A. Zoo Lights, we will celebrate our Golden Anniversary with some very special events, including an enhanced

(if it could be) Beastly Ball. So stay tuned to social media and your e-mail for details. As I write this column, many Zoo and GLAZA staff members have just returned from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) annual conference, which this year was attended by more than 2,700 individuals representing zoos and aquariums world wide. The conferences always start with working sessions for

committees and animal management programs, followed by speakers sharing their recent work and ideas. Like all good associations, we like to recognize important work with awards. The L.A. Zoo along with Dallas Zoo, Detroit Zoo, Disney’s Animal Kingdom, Houston Zoo, Jacksonville Zoo, Nashville Zoo, Sedgwick County Zoo, and Utah’s Hogle Zoo received the top international conservation award for our



1.

Photo by Chiara Berruto



2.

Photo by Chiara Berruto



3.

Photo by Viviana Gutierrez



4.

Photo courtesy of ImanElijah Zeinali

## ISLAND TIME

Continued

In Trinidad, anything that isn’t made of concrete is referred to as “the bush.” Locals are generally wary of the bush; with its dense foliage and intense fog, it is the ideal hiding spot for anything capable of harming lonely travelers. They say that snakes, insects, bandits, and other dangers lurk amongst the bush’s trees and rivers, preying upon unsuspecting hikers. While these fears are reasonable, they are also limiting. The rainforest holds an abundance of spellbinding wildlife, the allure of which was unlike anything my team of nine urban American teenagers had ever witnessed.

I come from my own concrete jungle, the city of Los Angeles. Having grown up visiting the Los Angeles Zoo and watching the children’s television series *Zoboomafoo*, I had many preconceived notions about science and the rainforest. These notions changed the first time we visited Asa Wright Nature Center in Trinidad. Our task was simple in theory but difficult in practice: we were hiking to different locations within the rainforest to retrieve and replace camera trap SD cards, which contained photos of different animals that we would later sort according to species. Titled “Monitoring Ocelots in Trinidad,” the aim of the research study is to “conduct the first comprehensive survey of all of Trinidad’s terrestrial wildlife, particularly in relation to the island’s distribution of ocelots.”

Many people experience the beauty of the rainforest through television or photos, but witnessing it firsthand inspires a level of appreciation for it that borders on transcendence. The world is transformed into an intricate puzzle, with each creature representing its own ecological niche or piece of that puzzle. I remember the sky opening up on us as we trekked through the forest that first day to check each camera trap. The downpour washed away all the sweat from the humidity compounded by arduous exercise. As I walked through trees layered with bell bird nests, their arias became the soundtrack to my life. I felt small in the grand scheme of things, one tiny puzzle piece in this grand masterpiece with its infinite components.

Participating in this field study—the first of its kind on the island—brought a whole new meaning to the word “science.” We all take science classes in school, but this expedition taught me that science is a process of testing and retesting, retesting, retesting—not a readymade textbook. It made me appreciate the effort behind every single discovery and scientific milestone. And it made me realize that the rainforest is worth protecting—if not for the sake of the animals in it, then for the sake of humanity and the benefits that we as a species continually reap from it.

We had torrential rain on our last day in the country, almost as though the island was sad to see us go. This expedition turned me and eight other teenagers into advocates for rainforest conservation and left me with a desire to explore more of the world. There may be dangers lurking in the bush, but the discoveries that are yet to be made are certainly worth the risk. On behalf of my teammates and me, special thanks go to Linda Duttenhaver for making this journey of discovery and inspiration possible.



Photo by Nigel Noriega

1. Torch ginger is native to Southeast Asia but has naturalized in the tropical habitat of Trinidad.
2. Bats are an important part of Trinidad’s ecology.
3. Leaf-cutter ants make short work of foliage.
4. The only ocelots sighted were those captured with camera traps.
5. Back row, left to right: Senior Animal Keeper Robin Noll, ImanElijah Zeinali, Sabrina Park, Avery Rush-Elias, Earthwatch staffer Tyler, Curator of Education Dan Keeffe, Chiara Berruto, and Dahlia Shammas. Front row, left to right: Tatiana Styles, Viviana Gutierrez, Joy Gursky, General Curator Beth Schaefer, and Chloe Butler-Jones.

### animal activities at your Zoo

July 1–August 31

Births in July and August included 15 **Catalina Island rattleless rattlesnakes**, seven **Aruba Island rattlesnakes**, six **speckled rattlesnakes** (three of which were sent to Denver Zoo), an **Armenian viper**, a **lowland paca**, a **yellow-footed rock wallaby**, a **Delacour’s langur**, and a female **red-flanked duiker**. Numerous hatchings took place: a group of **Australian red-eyed tree frogs**, a group of **Madagascar hissing**

**cockroaches**, eight **Baja blue rock lizards**, five **black-headed weaver birds**, two **Bruce’s green pigeons**, a **blue-breasted kingfisher**, one **Cape thick-knee**, three **Chilean flamingos**, one **white crested turaco**, three **east African gray-crowned cranes** (who will join the World of Birds Show), and one **blue-throated macaw**, a critically endangered species.

Arrivals included a male **Bali starling** from Lowry Park Zoo—a new mate for the resident female, six **galahs** (also known as **rose-breasted cockatoos**), a group of eight **giant horned lizards** (two male, six female), a female **François langur** from Toledo Zoo, ten **red rainbow fish**, a female **southern hairy-nosed wombat** from Adelaide Zoo in Australia, 26 **threadfin rainbow fish**, one female **American alligator**, one male

**Chinese goral**, six **mangrove pit vipers** from Zagreb Zoo in Croatia, a male **Mexican lance-headed rattlesnake** from Buffalo Zoo, two female **ring-tails** from the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Desert, and two **yellow-backed duikers** from Sacramento Zoo.

Among the departures were three male **Chacoan peccaries**, three **Southwestern speckled rattlesnakes** to Houston Zoo, two **Catalina Island rattleless rattlesnakes** to Knoxville and Oklahoma Zoos, one male **gray short-tailed opossum** to Houston Zoo, four **lesser Egyptian jerboas** went to Bronx Zoo, and a **Prevost’s squirrel** went to the St. Augustine Alligator Farm Zoological Park.

For the two-month period, 14 **California condors** arrived for medical attention, and 11 returned to the wild.



ring-tail cubs

Photo by Tad Motoyama



work with the Gorilla Rehabilitation and Conservation Education Center (GRACE). GRACE focuses on the endangered Grauer’s gorilla in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. This is the second year in a row that the L.A. Zoo was part of a team honored with this award.

Several sessions covered public perceptions of zoos and aquariums and our future. One data set that caught

my attention was how people who have recently visited a zoo or aquarium had the most favorable opinion about and best understanding of what we do. This is true in my own experience when talking with people who haven’t been to an AZA-accredited facility in decades. They haven’t experienced the evolution or learned about the increased responsibilities we have assumed for

animal welfare, rehabilitation, education, and conservation, which is too bad. We need as many people as possible to understand and care about the issues facing wildlife to make a difference.

As part of the group that most likely has recently visited the L.A. Zoo, you can help. We all know individuals who haven’t visited a zoo lately or have uninformed opinions about zoos and aquariums. Bring

them to the Zoo. Tell them about our good work, how they can get involved, and why they should care. Because together with you and them, we can continue saving California condors, reintroducing Peninsular pronghorn and mountain yellow-legged frogs, rehabilitating gorillas with GRACE, and much more. So bring them on. We’ll accomplish great things together. Thanks.

# GOT YOUR GOAT!

Meet Muriel and Max! Two of the Nigerian dwarf goats born in May have been named for the founders of the Max H. Gluck Foundation. Muriel’s Ranch opened in August 2001 and has been visited by more than one million children and their families, but few know the story of the contact yard’s namesake. Muriel Gluck, who passed away in 2008, was an exceptionally modest philanthropist. She cofounded the Max H. Gluck Foundation with her husband (who passed away in 1984) and was the force behind nearly 20 cultural centers throughout Los Angeles, San Diego, and New York, but Muriel’s Ranch is the only project that bears her name. The next time you visit the Zoo, be sure to stop in at the Winnick Family Children’s Zoo to say hello to Muriel and Max!



Nigerian dwarf goats Muriel and Max

Photos by Jamie Pham

## CONSERVATION CORNER

What’s in a name? The ocelot has many common names in Spanish, including *manigordo*, *gato onza*, *ocelote*, and *tigrillo*. In the Nahuatl language, the Aztec people called this small spotted cat *tlal-ocelotl* or “field jaguar,” which, ironically, became shortened to ocelot. The big cat that we call jaguar was so named by Portuguese explorers.

Like jaguars, ocelots are highly adaptable and are found in much of the same range. Averaging about twice the size of a

domestic cat, ocelots belong to the small cat subfamily, Felinae, and can be found in diverse habitats from Arizona and Texas in the U.S. through Mexico, Central America, and all of South America with the exception of Chile. Nocturnal and secretive, much is not known about their biology and habits. Genetic analyses are currently shedding light on specific subgroups of ocelots, but it is clear that certain regional populations (considered “vulnerable” by the IUCN) are declining, including those in the U.S. and parts of Brazil outside the Amazon basin.

The Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) is working with the Brazilian government to establish insurance populations of Brazilian ocelots in North American zoos. Currently, ocelots are found in about 100 facilities; of these, just 29 house the Brazilian subspecies. The Los Angeles Zoo has included ocelots in its collection for some time, and the female currently in residence is of Brazilian descent, as is the young male at Santa Ana Zoo who will eventually join her. This match-up is a Species Survival Plan recommendation, and it is hoped that the pair will produce offspring after settling in to the recently renovated roundhouse exhibit in South America. The exhibit upgrades were made possible by a generous contribution from the June Irene Chiltern Healey Foundation.

Photos by Jamie Pham



ocelot

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Editor  
August 31, 2016



Photo by Jim Haigwood

eastern black rhino

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).



Volume XL  
Number 3

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).  
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# 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 5 (Saturday)**

**November 6 (Sunday)**

**November 19 (Saturday)**

**November 20 (Sunday)**

**December 3 (Saturday)**

**December 4 (Sunday)**

**December 10 (Saturday)**

**December 11 (Sunday)**

**January 7 (Saturday)**

**January 8 (Sunday)**

(Meet at the waterfall near the entrance to the International Marketplace at 10:30 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 Development office at 323/644-6035 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

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.

**November 5 (Saturday)**

**8:30 a.m.**



## SPECIAL TOURS

These tours are free to GLAZA members, but space is limited. To register, e-mail [docents@lazoo.org](mailto:docents@lazoo.org) or telephone 323/644-4702. Please provide your first and last name, membership number, telephone number, e-mail address, the number of people attending, and the age of any children attending.

### For the Birds

Have you met your wild neighbors? The Los Angeles Zoo is home to a variety of native birds. During this morning bird walk on Zoo grounds,

we'll introduce you to your avian neighbors and maybe spot an exotic visitor or two.

**November 19 (Saturday)**

**8–10 a.m.**

### Jurassic Plants

Plants all have stories to share—and many are survivors of long vanished worlds. On this tour, we'll see plants that were part of ancient landscapes shared with animals from dinosaurs to saber-toothed tigers.

**November 12 (Saturday)**

**8–10 a.m.**

### L.A. Zoo Photo Day

Photo Day 2016 takes place on November 6, 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.) Sign up early 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). Registration forms can be found at [www.lazoo.org/photoday](http://www.lazoo.org/photoday). Phone 323/644-4703 or e-mail [volunteers@lazoo.org](mailto:volunteers@lazoo.org) for more information.



**Registration fees through November 1:**  
photographers \$175/guests \$70

**November 2–6:** photographers \$200/guests \$80

## NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2016

# zoo scape

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

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### Inside this issue



# ZOO LABRATE!

## 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 a.m. (Wednesdays,**

**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.

#### Terrific Tails

**November 2**

**(Wednesday),**

**4 (Friday), and**

**5 (Saturday)**



#### Fascinating Feet

**November 30 (Wednesday),**

**December 2 (Friday), and**

**December 3 (Saturday)**

### CRITTERS 'N' KIDS

**Age 3–4 years**

**Members: \$24 per child/adult pair**

**Nonmembers: \$27 per child/adult pair**

**Class Time: 9 a.m. (Wednesdays/**

**Fridays/Saturdays)**

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

Critters '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.

#### Giddy About Goats

**November 9 (Wednesday) and 12**

**(Friday)**

#### Cool Cats

**December 7 (Wednesday), 9 (Friday),**

**and 10 (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.

#### Winter Warriors

**December 17 (Saturday)**

#### YOGA IN THE ZOO

Connect with your child through a morning yoga adventure in the Zoo. We will visit with those masters of breathing, the seals, discover inspiring poses with flamingos, and enjoy some fitness moves with the giant

### SLEEPOVERS

#### Zoopendous Nights

Bring your pack 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. This event is designed for children, ages seven through twelve. Cost is \$55 per person. Schedule for the 2016–2017 school year can be found at [www.lazoo.org/education](http://www.lazoo.org/education). For more information or to be placed on the wait list, please contact Sean den Bok at 323/644-4212 for assistance.

river otters. No yoga experience, no mat—no problem. This yoga class is designed for beginners, and mats will be provided. Join us for a wild morning of wellness with the animals!  
**January 7 (Saturday)**  
**9 a.m.**

### ZOO CAMP

#### Winter Zoo Camp

Embark on an arctic adventure 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 Zoo Camp registration is now open! Extended care (mornings 8–9 a.m. and afternoons 3–5 p.m.) is available for an additional fee.

**December 26 (Monday)–30 (Friday)**  
**9 a.m.–3 p.m.**



**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).