

ZOOscape

MARCH–APRIL 2017



Photo by Ian Recchio

DON'T TREAD ON ME

Although the southwestern U.S. and Mexico are home to most of the 83 rattlesnake species and subspecies (19 are found in Arizona, nine in California), these New World snakes are found as far north as southern Canada and south into Argentina. These distinctive snakes have served as American icons since before the Revolutionary War, chosen because of what were seen as the animal's admirable attributes—power and prudence.

The southwestern speckled rattlesnake is one of nine rattlesnake species found in California—and one of the most beautiful.

See pg. 2 →



Photo by Gene Kirkland

Make It a Date

To celebrate the Los Angeles Zoo's golden anniversary, guitar legend and longtime GLAZA Board member Slash will rock the house at a very special Beastly Ball slated for Saturday, May 20. This event will mark the L.A. Zoo's announcement of the Species Conservation Action Network (SCAN). This important new GLAZA-funded initiative will define the work of a dedicated curator whose sole focus will be identifying and responding to urgent conservation issues. The L.A. Zoo, drawing on decades of institutional knowledge and scientific expertise, will help coordinate experts worldwide to address critical species survival challenges. Beastly Ball festivities will also include the presentation of the Tom Mankiewicz Leadership Award, which recognizes entertainment industry professionals who play a leading role in wildlife and environmental conservation, or for efforts to promote civic pride and harmony in our multicultural community. Enjoy fine refreshments, engaging entertainment, and guest appearances by some of our charismatic resident creatures. Individual tickets cost \$1,500 each and table reservations start at \$10,000. Learn more about this year's Ball at www.lazoo.org/beastlyball. For event details or to purchase tickets, contact Special Events Manager Maricela Vazquez at 323/644-4753 or MVazquez@lazoo.org.
May 20 (Saturday), 6 p.m.



SPECIAL NOTICE

In order to prepare for this year's Beastly Ball, the Los Angeles Zoo will close early on Saturday, May 20. Ticket sales will end at 3 p.m. Gates will close at 4 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope to see you at the Ball!

Wild For the Planet

Explore many vital facets of conservation during this month-long festival. Special animal enrichment demonstrations, feedings, and keeper presentations spotlight the Zoo's efforts to protect endangered and threatened species. Exhibitors such as the Theodore Payne Foundation, Griffith Park Rangers, and Aquarium of the Pacific will show you how to help safeguard natural resources and promote biodiversity. Enjoy special interactive performances by Swazze's Puppet Show. The Bowling for Rhinos mascot and Rascal the Recycling Raccoon will make special appearances. During your visit, learn what actions Zoo staff members take to minimize their environmental footprints and take an eco-pledge of your own. For more information and exhibitor schedule, go to LAZoo.org/WildForThePlanet.

April 22 through May 14, Saturdays and Sundays
10 a.m.–4 p.m.



Big Bunny's Spring Fling

This annual event features a slew of fun activities—have your face painted, have your photo taken with Big Bunny (for a nominal fee), and enjoy children's musical entertainment and costume characters. This event is free to GLAZA members and with paid Zoo admission.
April 14 (Friday), 15 (Saturday), and 16 (Sunday)
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Big Bunny 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 early access to the event area only before it opens to the general public. To upgrade your support, please phone 323/644-4244. To RSVP, phone 323/644-4770.

April 15 (Saturday)
8:30–10 a.m.



Photo by Jamie Pham



zoo update
by John Lewis,
Zoo Director

You know those things you wish you had done, wish you could do, or wish you had said? For example, I wish I could sing. When I watch talent reality shows, it seems like everyone in the world except me can sing. It is so expressive, so intimate, and potentially impactful. I have mentioned before that good singing often brings tears to my eyes, so it

is probably for the best that I can't sing. Just imagine me blubbering though a version of "My Way" or "Happy." Not very impactful. Fortunately, there are a lot of things I can do. I won't bore you with the whole list, but there's one ability that I do want to mention: inspiring others to achieve their wishes. For example, I bet a lot of you wish you had attended the Beastly

Ball over the past years. I understand. The Ball is a great time to enjoy food from area restaurants and make new friends who also support conservation while strolling through the Zoo, enjoying drinks and entertainment. But for some reason—dogs will miss you, don't want to get dressed up, it's on Saturday—you just haven't done it. Well, it is time to leap over those barriers, walk the hot

SUSTAINABLE WINE+DINNER —SERIES—

The Sustainable Wine + Dinner series is a unique opportunity to learn more about the Zoo's important conservation work while enjoying a seasonally-inspired, five-course farm-to-table dinner. Each course features a wine pairing from a local vineyard that shares the Zoo's commitment to sustainable living. Limited to 50 guests per dinner, the intimate evenings include a wine reception with one of our favorite animal residents, a brief discussion with a curator or animal keeper involved in a special conservation project, a five-course dinner created by the Zoo's executive chef, Brad Robertson, and an introduction of the wines by a representative of the winery. Prices are \$130 per person for members and \$140 per person for nonmembers. Space is limited, so purchase tickets in advance at www.lazoo.org/sustainablewinedinners.

- March 16 (Thursday)**
Sanford Winery (Lompoc)
- April 27 (Thursday)**
Malibu Wines (Malibu)
- May 11 (Thursday)**
Palumbo Wines (Temecula)

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. Conscientious corporate leaders support the Zoo through Business Partnerships. For details, contact Jan Frazier at 323/644-4722.

Zoo Director's Series
This presentation includes wine and hors d'oeuvres. Safari Society donors, watch your in-box for a special invitation.
March 12 (Sunday)

Morning at the Zoo
Safari Society donors and Business Partners are invited to enjoy a unique morning of keeper talks, special feedings, and animals at their most active. Current donors, watch your in-box for a special invitation with details and RSVP information.
April 2 (Sunday)
8:30 a.m.



Our yearlong 50th anniversary celebration continues!! A lot has changed at the Los Angeles Zoo in our first half century, but 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. Go to ZooLabrate50.org to learn about all the ways we're commemorating our birthday and how you can join in. Let's ZooLabrate. Together.

DON'T TREAD ON ME

Continued from page 1

Photos by Ian Recchio and Don Boyer



1.

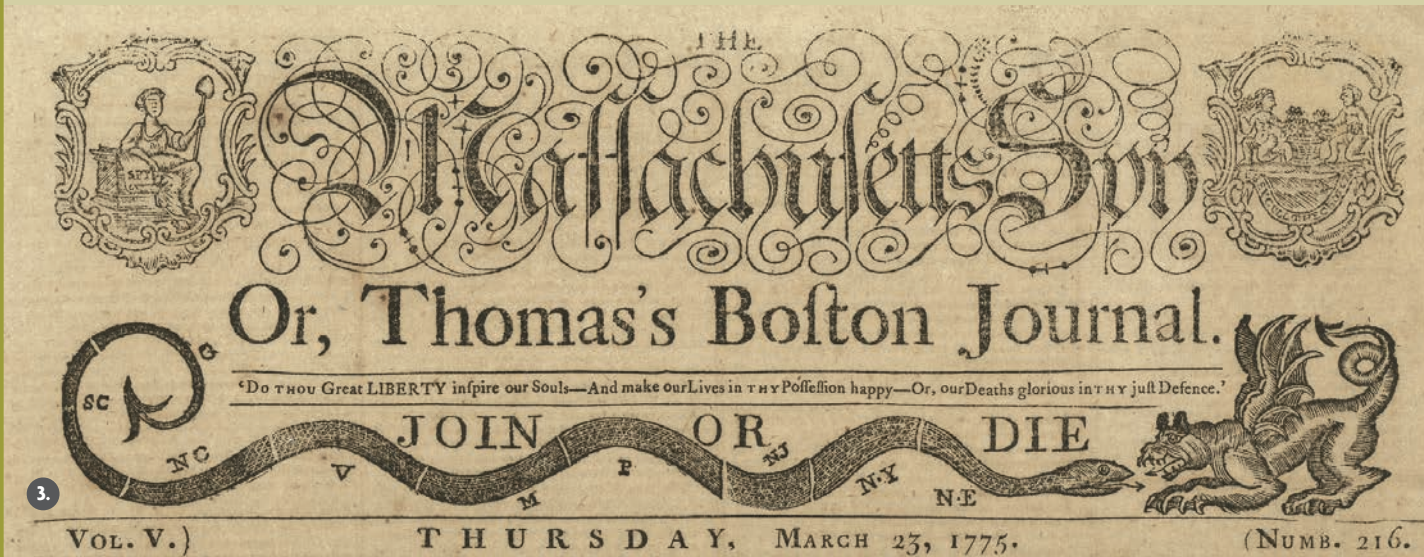
Black-tailed rattlesnakes are so named because their tail scales are dark—though faint banding is sometimes still visible.

2.

Santa Catalina Island rattlesnakes are unique in that they lack rattles.

3.

The masthead of Benjamin Franklin's newspaper, the *Massachusetts Sun* featured a rattlesnake that was depicted in segments that represented the American colonies at the time.



animal activities at your Zoo

November 1–
December 31



Photo by Tad Motoyama

Neonate golden-tailed gecko; this is a protected species in Australia.

Winter births included a **Masai giraffe**, two **gerenuk**, a **red-flanked duiker**, and a **pudu**. The many hatchings included a **golden-tailed gecko** (a first for this species at the L.A. Zoo), seven **knob-tailed geckos**, ten batches of **sunburst diving beetles**, three batches of **splendid tree frogs**, and one **blue-breasted kingfisher**.

Eight **California condors** arrived in need of veterinary treatment; 13 were returned to the wild over the same period.

Among the new arrivals were a **trumpeter swan**, two **blue-billed curassows**, a **Cape vulture**, four **Galapagos tortoises**, a **harbor seal**, four **reindeer** (seasonal visitors during the holiday season), one **roadrunner**, a male **mandrill**, two **sacred ibises**, a **white-fronted marmoset**, and four **smoky jungle frogs**.

Departing animals included a **Masai giraffe**, six **gray short-tailed opossums**, a **thick-billed parrot**, a **black duiker**, one **Dunn's hog-nosed viper**, two **koalas**, a **red-flanked duiker**, a **Sichuan takin**, ten **sunburst diving beetles**, two **white-crested turacos**, and a **white-fronted marmoset**.

coals, and discard the excuses as this will be the best year to attend the Ball. We are celebrating our 50th anniversary, and this party will be bigger and better than ever! We will be raising money to fund a new position and program to extend the Zoo's conservation programming. Species Conservation Action Network, or SCAN, will make a real difference in the fight to save species here and

around the world by connecting the best people and programs to find and effect solutions for urgent conservation needs. SCAN is a major step forward and an appropriate way for the Zoo to start the next 50 years. We have so many skills and so much knowledge to share in conservation efforts. Working together, we can amplify our impact

far beyond what we have done so far. And you can help by attending this year's Ball. If you buy tickets to the 2017 Bestly Ball and attend, I'll make you a promise: I'll see to it that a very important conservationist makes an appearance. Of course I am talking about the incomparable Slash! Though you may know him as a guitar legend, what you might not know is that Slash

is a GLAZA trustee and he uses his celebrity platform to inform millions about animal conservation. Slash will perform for you if you come to the Ball. What more do you need? Fullfill your wish and come to the Ball. You'll have a great time, support conservation, and, if you're lucky, see me crying off stage while Slash makes his guitar sing. See you at the Ball.



Franklin's insights are a favorite quote of Los Angeles Zoo Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians Ian Recchio. "He saw that rattlesnakes are a perfect example of what the United States strives to be, what defense is about," Recchio surmises. "We will warn you, but we are not afraid to defend ourselves when we're cornered. And that's how it is with rattlesnakes. "Rattlesnakes are pretty shy animals and they really don't want to be messed with," Recchio continues. "So they have a succession of warnings. The first line of defense is camouflage. All of them have amazing color patterns that hide them in the landscape so that animals who might want to eat them can't see them. If that doesn't work, they will rattle and give you an audible warning that they're there and that you don't want to accidentally mess with them. So hopefully that prevents whatever large animals are in the area from stepping on them. Defense mechanism number three is escape, and this is where the misconceptions happen about them coming after you. Rattlesnakes are just little animals really, compared with a human being, and it's quite easy for people to kill them. So they become nervous with this large animal hovering over them, and in that case they want to crawl away quickly. Often times in this panicky state, they become confused and will crawl right toward you. If you were to keep still, the snake would go right past you or realize that it's crawling toward you and make a U-turn to go the other way. But it's hard for a little animal that's on the ground to anticipate what this big



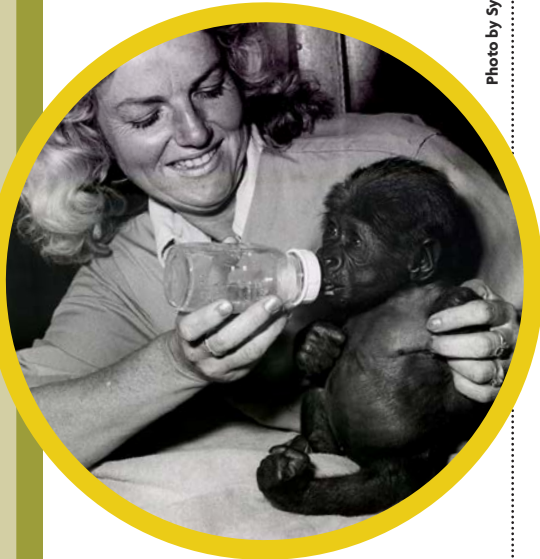
giant creature looming above them is going to do. All they know is that it's potentially dangerous, so that's the fourth and final line of defense. The last resort is to strike and bite. Most bites occur when people get close enough to try and kill them. Leave them alone and they'll leave you alone." Rattlesnakes have evolved venom that is adapted to disable their preferred prey—generally small rodents that have high reproductive rates. So in serving their broader ecological function, to keep prey populations at sustainable levels, they are actually helping people because rodents are not only frequent agricultural pests, but also a public health concern. "Rodents can be vectors for horrible diseases that affect humanity," Recchio observes. "So snakes are the check that keeps things balanced."



- 4. The red diamondback is a large and impressive rattlesnake.
- 5. Neonate timber rattlesnake; this species is found through the eastern U.S. and was probably the rattlesnake that Benjamin Franklin wrote about.
- 6. One of the earliest flags representing our nascent nation was the Gadsen flag, which depicted a coiled rattlesnake above the words "Don't tread on me." Old Glory supplanted it, but the rattlesnake and the motto are still used by the U.S. Navy on the maritime flags flown on the jackstaff in the bows of American vessels that are moored or anchored.



With milestones like the first harpy eagle chicks hatched in the United States, the first gorilla successfully delivered by Caesarian section, and the first birth of a Coquerel's sifaka outside of Madagascar, the Los Angeles Zoo has been at the forefront of wildlife conservation for more than 50 years. Our efforts have directly helped save species—from the Arabian oryx and mountain bongo to the golden lion tamarin, California condor, and more. Celebrate these major achievements and support the Zoo's steadfast conservation work by making a donation! You can help save species. To make a gift, visit www.lazoo.org/support. Donations to GLAZA are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.





Animal Keeper Natalie White with Caesar, the first gorilla ever delivered by Cesianian section. This photo was taken on June 16, 1977, when Caesar was just two weeks old.

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).



Each year, American Association of Zoo Keepers chapters across the country organize Bowling for Rhinos events. Since 1990, zookeepers have raised more than \$6.6 million for conservation! Because the events are run on a completely volunteer basis, 100 percent of the money raised goes to programs that successfully protect ecosystems that support rhinos and the countless species that share their habitat. In 2009, the first year Los Angeles took part in BFR, the top money-raising chapter to date had brought in about \$15,000 annually. The AAZK-Los Angeles chapter now raises more than \$50,000 annually and has become the all-time leader in BFR fundraising with a total in excess of \$321,000. Join us at Jewel City Bowl in Glendale for an evening of festivities that includes a silent auction, raffles, food, costumes—and, of course, bowling! Learn how to register, sponsor a team, make a cash donation, or donate items for the silent auction at www.aazklosangeles.org (click on Bowling For Rhinos 2017), or contact BFR 2017 Chair Jill Werner at AAZKLosAngeles@gmail.com or leave a message with your name and phone number at 323/644-6004. **May 13 (Saturday) 6 p.m.-12 a.m.**



 Volume XL Number 5
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.
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Pickle Group, Graphic Design
Tad Motoyama, Zoo Photographer
Jamie Pham, GLAZA Photo Editor
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calendar of events

MEMBERS ONLY

Breakfast with a Keeper

GLAZA members at the Wildlife Circle and Conservation Circle levels are invited to enjoy a special morning and a delicious breakfast with an animal keeper. After breakfast, you will visit with some of our animal residents and learn how Zoo staff keep them active and healthy by providing enrichment that encourages natural behaviors. Wildlife and Conservation Circle members, watch your mailbox for an invitation with more details. To upgrade your membership support and attend this special event, phone 323/644-4244.

March 25 (Saturday)
8:30–10 a.m.

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.

March 4 (Saturday)
8:30–10 a.m.

Member Tours

New this year! Did you ever wonder how zoos acquire animals? Or why you sometimes don't notice an animal in its exhibit? Or what zoo animals are fed? Special themed tours are now available each month for members only, offered on the first Saturday and second Sunday of each month. Each month will focus on a different aspect of the animals in our collection. Docent-led tours are available to GLAZA members only and are free for everyone eligible on your membership. No confirmations will be mailed.

SPECIAL TOURS

These tours are free to GLAZA members, but space is limited. To register, e-mail docents@lazoo.org or telephone 323/644-4703. 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.

Please make reservations at least two weeks in advance by phoning 323/644-4244. Meet at the waterfall near the entrance to the International Marketplace at 10:30 a.m.

Amazing Adaptations

Did you ever wish you had a third hand to help you carry things? Or yearn to swim without a wetsuit year round? Find out how animals can do these things—and more!

March 4 (Saturday) and 12 (Sunday)

April Fools!

Where did that snow leopard go?

Where did that bird just come from? Animals use their fur, feathers, and scales to disappear—or appear to be something else. This month we take a look at some of nature's tricksters.

April 1 (Saturday) and 9 (Sunday)

Conservation Conversation

The Zoo is a great place to learn about animals, but did you know that zoos also help preserve animals in the wild? Look at some success stories and some ongoing projects that the Los Angeles Zoo has helped make possible.

May 6 (Saturday) and 14 (Sunday)

PEPPA PIG AND P.J. MASKS WEEKEND

Enjoy a meet-and-greet at the L.A. Zoo with popular children's television characters Peppa Pig and P.J. Masks!

Peppa Pig: March 17 (Friday) and 18 (Saturday)

P.J. Masks: March 19 (Sunday)
10 a.m.–4 p.m.

PEPPA PIG MEMBER PREVIEW

GLAZA members at the Contributing Circle levels and higher can enjoy an early Peppa Pig meet-and-greet with costumed characters. To RSVP or upgrade your membership level to attend, please phone 323/644-4244.

Watch your mailbox for a special invitation.

March 18 (Saturday)
8:30–10 a.m.

MARCH–APRIL 2017

ZOOscape

Member Newsletter of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens

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Inside this issue



ZOOLABRATE!

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 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.

Eyes on the Side

March 1 (Wednesday), 3 (Friday), and 4 (Saturday)

I'm All Ears

March 29 (Wednesday), March 31 (Friday), and April 1 (Saturday)

Wiggle Squiggle Zoo

May 3 (Wednesday), 5 (Friday), and 6 (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, and 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.

Exciting Elephants

March 8 (Wednesday), 10 (Friday), and 11 (Saturday)

Go, Go, Gorillas!

April 19 (Wednesday), 21 (Friday), and 22 (Saturday)

Loveable Lemurs

May 10 (Wednesday), 12 (Friday), and 13 (Saturday)

ZOO EXPLORERS

Age 5–6 years

Members: \$30 per child
Nonmembers: \$35 per child
Class Time: 9 a.m.

E-ticket required for class admission.

Come to the Zoo and learn about the world's biomes, from deserts to mountains, grasslands to rainforests. 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.

Great Grasslands

April 8 (Saturday)

Delving into Deserts

May 27 (Saturday)

YOGA IN THE ZOO

Connect with your child through a morning yoga adventure in the Zoo. Visit with those masters of breathing, the seals, discover inspiring poses with flamingos, and enjoy fitness moves with the giant river otters. No yoga experience, no mat—no problem. This class is designed for beginners, and mats will be provided.

March 25 (Saturday), 9 a.m.

SLEEPOVERS

Zoependous 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. For more information or to be placed on the wait list, please contact Sean den Bok at 323/644-4212.

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 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.

ZOO CAMP

Welcome the season with us during spring break! Children ages four through nine will have a blast turning over a new leaf during Spring Zoo Camp. 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/education/zoocamp/. Extended care is available for an additional fee. Registration for the spring session is now open. Summer Zoo Camp registration will open online on March 19 (Sunday).

April 10 (Monday)–14 (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.