

zoo scape

CONSERVATION ROCKS



Photo by Travis Shinn

Slash and Friends will rock the Beastly Ball.

See pg. 2 ➔

Make It a Date

BEASTLY BALL SPECIAL EDITION!

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. This annual fundraiser also marks the 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 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 honor Wallis Annenberg of the Annenberg Foundation and will also include the presentation of the Tom Mankiewicz Leadership Award, which recognizes entertainment and media 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. This year's recipient is the National Geographic Society. Enjoy fine refreshments, engaging entertainment, and guest appearances by some of our charismatic resident creatures. Individual tickets cost \$1,500 each and ticket packages 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

During our monthlong celebration of the Earth and its rich biodiversity, guests can view the L.A. Zoo through the lens of conservation with the help of a #SAVINGSPECIES guide distributed daily. Weekends feature special presentations and resources spotlighting the Zoo's efforts to protect our planet; an Earth Expo with partners such as the Theodore Payne Foundation, Aquarium of the Pacific, and Bowling for Rhinos; green-themed education stations; and much more. Weekend entertainment includes an all-new, spectacular acrobatic show in honor of our 50th anniversary, *ZooLabration!*, and a Swazzle puppet show inspired by the L.A. Zoo's work to bring the California condor back from the brink of extinction.

April 22 through May 19, with special entertainment and activities on weekends.
10 a.m.–4 p.m.



* SUSTAINABLE WINE+DINNER —SERIES—

You're invited to learn about the Zoo's conservation work while enjoying a seasonally inspired, 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, these intimate evenings include a wine reception with one of our animal residents, conversation 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 winery representative. Prices are \$130 per person for members and \$150 per person for nonmembers. Space is limited, so purchase your tickets in advance at www.lazoo.org/sustainablewinedinners.

Palumbo Wines (Temecula): Birds of a Feather

One of the Palumbo Family Vineyards' many commitments to sustainability is its use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices. This strategy involves creating conditions that promote beneficial microbes, insects, and other organisms to reduce the need for conventional chemical pest and weed control. An important part of IPM is the presence of raptors such as owls and hawks that naturally control rodents that can be vineyard pests. This special dinner experience includes a presentation about raptors from Curator Mike Maxcy—with an appearance by some of our fine, feathered residents.

May 11 (Thursday)

J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines (Paso Robles): The Dry Life

By implementing a wide-ranging water conservation plan, J. Lohr was able to reduce the amount of water needed to produce one gallon of wine from 3.5 gallons in 2003 to 1.1 gallons in 2012. Peninsular pronghorn are also water conservationists. Native to arid desert and semi-desert regions in Baja California, Mexico, they are more compact than their larger cousins found on the Great Plains and obtain much of the moisture they need to survive from the sagebrush, shrubs, grasses, and cacti that they eat. Enjoy a dinner experience and an introduction to the Zoo's peninsular pronghorn courtesy of Curator Josh Sisk.

June 8 (Thursday)



zoo update

by Connie Morgan,
GLAZA President



They say the only constant in the universe is change, so it's only fitting that as we celebrate the Los Angeles Zoo's golden anniversary and reminisce about our many remarkable past achievements, we also look toward the future and the many exciting changes on the horizon.

The Beastly Ball takes place in May this year and will feature longtime Zoo supporter and trustee Slash. It is a special Ball for many reasons, not the least of which is the focus on 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. Conservation is the main goal of modern accredited zoos, and it is a crucial part of our work at the L.A. Zoo. This curator of conservation will be responsible for guiding and directing our efforts to the most pressing issues that we have

Photos by Jamie Pham



1.



2.

1. Pauley Perrette strikes a pose with Jacob.

2. Sarah Michelle Gellar receives a friendly hug from Jacob.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS FROM BETTY

From as early as I can remember, I loved going to the zoo... ANY ZOO! I could sit and watch the animals for hours and never get bored. That's a feeling that has never gone away. And, because I've spent so much time visiting zoos, I have had the privilege of watching them grow and evolve to become leaders in global conservation and protectors of our environment. I'm very proud to continue to be a part of the ongoing evolution at the L.A. Zoo. Let me say a big happy birthday to one of my favorite places in the world, our Los Angeles Zoo.

With love, *Betty White*



Photo by Jamie Pham

animal activities at your Zoo

January 1–
February 28



Photo by Jamie Pham

Births for the first part of the year included a **mountain bongo** (the first in more than 20 years) **peninsular pronghorn** twins, a **lowland paca**, and a **siamang**. Reptile hatchings included two **Meller's chameleons**, a **golden-tailed gecko**, and 14 **knob-tailed geckos**. A clutch of eight **South American bushmasters** hatched, and two **sunburst diving beetles** pupated.

Among the new arrivals at the Zoo were six **chickens** (two each of three different domestic breeds: Plymouth Rock, Rhode Island Red, and Buff Orpington), a **squirrel monkey**, a **spectacled owl**, a male **trumpeter swan** to match with the female for a breeding pair, a **blue-eyed lemur**, three **Caucasus vipers**, and an **ocelot**. Three **California condors** arrived in need of medical attention, and five were returned to the wild for this period.

Many transfers to other zoos took place including four **Burmese star tortoises**, four **Santa Catalina Island rattle-less rattlesnakes**, two **butaans** (**Gray's monitors**), ten **knob-tailed geckos**, a **Nigerian dwarf goat**, two **South American bushmasters**, 180 **splendid tree frogs**, a **western gray kangaroo**, three **Baja blue rock lizards**, four **reindeer**, a **scarlet-chested parrot**, four **Tadjik markhor**, and an **Anatolian shepherd dog**.

mountain bongo





the resources to address. If you've never attended the Beastly Ball, our annual fundraising gala, this is the year to purchase tickets. Your support will help make SCAN possible. For event details or to purchase tickets, contact Special Events Manager Maricela Vazquez at 323/644-4753 or MVazquez@lazoo.org.

The Zoo is also in the process of reimagining itself as we move ahead with the next phase of the master planning process. With input from Zoo staff and volunteers as well as the public, we hope to make the L.A. Zoo an even richer community resource for both greater Los Angeles and the many communities

and ecosystems with which we are connected around the world.

And lastly, the world has been moving toward a more digital existence for some time, and beginning in July, *Zooscape* will be coming to you in a new electronic format that we hope will enable us to bring you timelier and more varied

news about the Zoo on a monthly basis. You will continue to receive *Zoo View*, our member magazine, on a quarterly basis. As we turn a new page, I look forward to connecting with you at the Beastly Ball and in the year to come.



BACKYARD JAM WITH SLASH

Want to see legendary guitarist Slash in concert, but can't make it abroad to catch him on Guns N' Roses' current "Not in This Lifetime..." world tour? You're in luck! The iconic GRAMMY Award winner and longtime GLAZA trustee is headlining this year's Beastly Ball, our largest fundraising event of the year, and it's not too late to purchase tickets! This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see one of the greatest guitar players of all time perform in an intimate setting at the Zoo. Don't miss your chance to share your love of the Zoo with Slash and Friends at the Beastly Ball on May 20. Tickets start at \$1,500. Go to www.lazoo.org/BeastlyBall to purchase tickets or make a gift in his honor. Join us for an unforgettable evening that you don't want to miss! Donations to GLAZA are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

SWAGATAM! (Welcome!)

The name "Madras Crocodile Bank Trust" probably conjures images of vaults full of lizards, and actually, that's not too far from the truth. Established in 1976, the Croc Bank began as a sanctuary for India's rapidly vanishing crocodilians, and over time, it expanded to become a reknowned zoo specializing in a wide range of reptiles. Currently, it is home to 17 crocodilian species, including the Indian gharial, described by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as the most critically endangered crocodilian species in the world. Among the Croc Bank's residents are four Komodo dragons who were hatched at the Los Angeles Zoo, and in April, the Zoo received the return on that investment—four subadult Indian gharials.

The three females and one male are all in the four- to six-foot range in lengths, and, since December, had been staying at New York's Bronx Zoo, which assisted with the complex paperwork necessary for importing the animals from India. To make their transition easier, Bronx Zoo kept them in an indoor holding area until the time was right to transport them to Los Angeles. The gharials' natural habitat in India is consistently warmer year-round than Southern California, which has a cool-winter climate. The gharials will be living outdoors here, and although the pool in their exhibit is heated, Curator of Reptiles and Amphibians Ian Recchio believes they will more comfortably acclimate to their new home now that spring has arrived. These critically endangered crocodilians can reach 12 feet (females) to 20 feet (males) in length, and this particular group has been trained to come on command—though the Zoo's herpetology staff may have to brush up their foreign language skills as the commands the reptiles have learned are all in Hindi.

Though they superficially resemble the tomistomas in the neighboring pool adjacent to the LAIR, Indian gharials belong to

a different genus within the crocodile family. The tomistomas were known as "false gharials" because the two are so similar in appearance. The distinguishing feature of the Indian gharial is a bulbous growth that develops on the snouts of mature males. They resemble a type of earthenware pot known in Hindi as *ghara*. The status of true gharials is much more precarious in the wild. As part of the Zoo's commitment to the conservation of this species, an \$8,000 grant has been made to the Nepal Gharial Project to support their fieldwork with the species.

"They're captive-breeding them and then releasing them into a historic part of their Nepalese range where they're almost extinct," Recchio explains. "They released a few hundred of them, so there's potential for gharials to come back. What's really startling is that this is an animal that has been unchanged for millions of years. We know from fossil evidence that it once had a massive range throughout central and northern India for eons, and now they are almost gone."

In addition to the Zoo's support of field conservation for this species, there is of course the hope that there will be Indian gharial hatchlings at the LAIR in the future. That may be a bit of a wait, however, as these individuals are several years away from reaching sexual maturity.

"Kind of like the situation with the Gray's monitors before we had our breeding success with them, only one Indian gharial egg has been hatched in the Western hemisphere," Recchio says. "That was just last year at St. Augustine Alligator Farm and Zoological Park in Florida, and only a single egg hatched out. About seven zoos have this species, but no one in the U.S. has hatched a clutch, and in India, they are able to do that pretty routinely. No one here has really cracked the code—but it's a mystery that we are totally prepared to solve."



Photo by Ian Recchio

A male Indian gharial with the distinctive bulb on his snout.

CONSERVATION CORNER

Monterey Bay Aquarium Seafood Watch



Being a conservationist means making choices that are not always the most convenient or least expensive. But the effort and the cost are investments in preserving our natural resources for the future. The Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program is best known for developing science-based seafood recommendations that consumers, chefs, and business professionals use to inform their seafood purchasing decisions. The Los Angeles Zoo's in-house catering crew, Taste of the Wild, already followed Seafood Watch guidelines before becoming an official Conservation Partner.

"It makes things a little more expensive, but we're also buying the right selections at the right time of year," comments

Executive Chef Brad Roberston.

"I get monthly e-mail updates from them on what's available and what is preferable. It's harder to stick with these recommendations from a marketing standpoint because people want shrimp, salmon, and tuna—that's the short list. We also use swordfish and Arctic char a lot. People like sea bass, but it's crazy expensive. Other fish are a tough sell: lingcod, lionfish, sablefish. Sardines are very sustainable, but nobody wants to eat them. We feature a lot of trout."

As a Seafood Watch Conservation Partner, Taste of the Wild participates in a bi-annual voluntary audit of its purchasing, which is mostly so that Seafood Watch can monitor what its partners are doing volume-wise and offer suggestions and solutions.

"For an agency like that with such a hardcore message about our impact on marine ecosystems, they are very cool," Robertson observes. "They understand that we're running a business. Some items price themselves out. Or you have customers—especially in the catering world—who want what they want. We try to steer them to better choices, but if their mind is set on a menu selection,

then that's the way we have to go. Seafood Watch understands the restaurant world. They look at what we're buying and offer to help if it's not lining up with where it should be. We may dip into the yellow list occasionally, but the red list is off limits."

Robertson also works with the Monterey Bay Aquarium and spends a fair amount of time collaborating with its Executive Chef Matt Beaudin. "He's very active in spreading the sustainability message, and his stance is, 'sustainability is using your brain.' For instance, the best, most cleanly farmed salmon in the world is coming out of Australia—but then I'm creating carbon emissions to get it to California. That doesn't make sense. You have to take a look outside, see what's being done right, and buy that. If you're stuck with squid and shrimp for two months—then there will be a lot of calamari, ceviche, and cioppino on the menu."

To learn more, stop by the Seafood Watch booth at Wild For the Planet or visit www.SeafoodWatch.org.

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.

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Nurturing wildlife and enriching the human experience



calendar of events

MEMBERS ONLY

Members Appreciation Morning

GLAZA offers three opportunities a year for members at all levels to explore the Zoo before it opens to the public. Reservations are not necessary. Simply bring your membership card and photo ID for entry.

June 11 (Sunday)
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. 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.

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 Zoo has helped make possible.

May 6 (Saturday) and 14 (Sunday)

De-myth-tefying Animal Lore

Learn the truth behind projectile porcupine quills, snake slime, the smell of baby birds. This tour will debunk many perennially popular animal misconceptions.

June 3 (Saturday) and 11 (Sunday)

Monkeying Around

The Zoo is home to a wide range of monkeys—take a closer look these charismatic primates.

July 1 (Saturday) and 9 (Sunday)

ROARING NIGHTS

Summer Safari

ZooLabrate summer with an evening of surf sounds and island riddims to get you into a beach party frame of mind. All ages are welcome to attend this event.

June 23 (Friday)
6–10 p.m.

Country Night (Adults Only)

Back by popular demand! This hoedown features live bands, linedancing demonstrations, and much more. You must be at least 18 years of age to attend this event.

July 21 (Friday)
6–10 p.m.

ATTENTION PARTY ANIMALS!

Host your wildest party at the L.A. Zoo—the perfect place for any special occasion including birthday parties, company picnics, retreats, and client appreciation dinners. For details, visit www.lazoo.org/events.

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.

Happy Bird-day!

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) spotlights bird migration, one of the most significant and spectacular events in the Americas. Since it began in 1993, more than 600 sites from Canada to Argentina observe IMBD. Celebrate with a bird walk at the Zoo, home to a dazzling array of local birds and migratory guests. Learn more at www.birdday.org.

May 13 (Saturday), 8–10 a.m.

Summer Glory Garden Tour

The Zoo is at its floral peak in late spring with colorful flowers, foliage, and even some ripening fruits. Enjoy a garden tour to celebrate the onset of summer.

June 3 (Saturday)
8–10 a.m.

Night Flight Bat Walk

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.

June 3 (Saturday)
6–8 p.m.

MAY–JUNE 2017

zooscape

Member Newsletter of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens

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ZOO LABRATE!

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.

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.

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.

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.

Delving into Deserts

May 27 (Saturday)

ZOO CAMP

Summer Zoo Camp

Children will have the time of their lives discovering the Zoo's amazing animals and engaging in fun, safe activities. Each camp is led by experienced, specially trained adult staff. Registration is now open.

PATCH PROGRAM

This program offers Scout groups the opportunity to earn a special zoo patch while learning about zoos, zoo careers, animals, and conservation. The cost is \$18 per Scout and patches are included in the program fee. One adult leader may attend free with every ten scouts. Each additional adult leader costs \$24. For availability and registration, visit www.lazoo.org, phone 323/644-4702, or e-mail docents@lazoo.org. Attendance is limited to 45 people.

May 6 (Saturday) and 13 (Saturday)

Visit www.lazoo.org for details.

June 19 (Monday) through August 11 (Friday)

9 a.m.–3 p.m.

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

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 2017–2018 school year posts on July 15 at www.lazoo.org/education. For more information or to be placed on the wait list, please e-mail [lazoo.education@lacity.org](mailto:education@lacity.org).



Cancellation Policy: Cancellations received within 14 days of the purchase are eligible to receive a 50 percent refund. Cancellations received after the stated deadline will not be eligible for a refund. Cancellations will be accepted via fax or e-mail (lazoo.reservations@lacity.org) only, and must be received by the stated cancellation deadline. All refund requests must be made by the purchasing party. Refund requests must include the name and date of the event, name of the attendee, and transaction number. We do not offer credit.