

# ZOOscape

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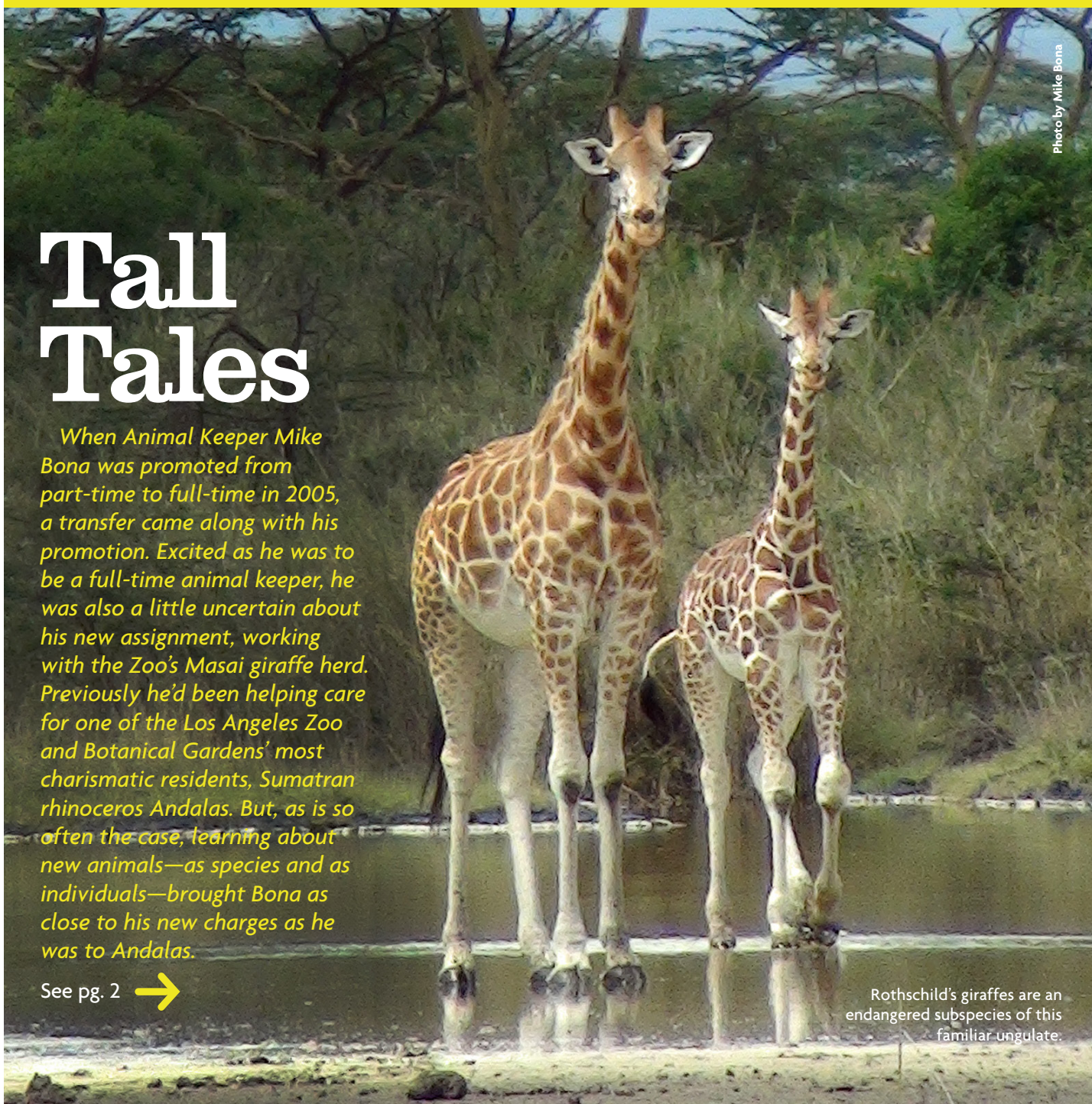


Photo by Mike Bona

## Tall Tales

*When Animal Keeper Mike Bona was promoted from part-time to full-time in 2005, a transfer came along with his promotion. Excited as he was to be a full-time animal keeper, he was also a little uncertain about his new assignment, working with the Zoo's Masai giraffe herd. Previously he'd been helping care for one of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens' most charismatic residents, Sumatran rhinoceros Andalas. But, as is so often the case, learning about new animals—as species and as individuals—brought Bona as close to his new charges as he was to Andalas.*

See pg. 2 →

Rothschild's giraffes are an endangered subspecies of this familiar ungulate.



### Sesame Street Live Weekend

Have your photo taken with Grover and Cookie Monster when they stop by the Zoo for *Sesame Street Live* Weekend! Enjoy fun activities throughout the Zoo and purchase discounted tickets on area performances of *Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes* at Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, Nokia Theatre, L.A. LIVE, and the Terrace Theater in Long Beach. Just use the code LAZOO online at Ticketmaster.com to receive \$3 off each ticket. Not valid on Sunny Seats, Gold Circle, Opening Night, or previously purchased tickets. No double discounts. This event is free to GLAZA members and with paid Zoo admission.

**May 7 (Saturday) and 8 (Sunday)**  
11 a.m.-3 p.m.



### MEMBERS ONLY

#### Breakfast with Sesame Street Live! Upper Level Member Preview

GLAZA members in our Donor Club at the Contributor (\$250), Wildlife Associate (\$500), and Conservation Circle (\$1,000) levels are invited to join in the fun at this early morning event. Meet Grover and Cookie Monster, and enjoy a delicious continental breakfast. For more information please phone 323/644-4751.

**May 7 (Saturday)**  
8:30-10 a.m.

TM/© 2010 Sesame Workshop. All Rights Reserved. Photographs courtesy of VEE Corporation



### Make It a Date

#### Bowling for Rhinos

What does bowling have to do with rhinos? For 20 years, zookeepers across the nation have organized annual bowl-a-thons to raise critical funding for rhinoceros conservation. To date, Bowling for Rhinos has generated more than \$3 million with all the proceeds directly supporting efforts in Africa and Asia to save the ecosystems that are home to rhinos and many other species. Last year, more than 300 people attended the Los Angeles event and helped raise \$30,000. This year, the Los Angeles chapter of the American Association of Zoo Keepers hopes to have an even more successful night of bowling at Jewel City Bowl in Glendale. Festivities will include a silent auction, opportunity drawings, food, costumes—and of course bowling. Even if you don't bowl, you're more than welcome to horn in on the fun! Learn how to get involved by contacting Jim Haigwood (jimhaigwood@me.com) or leave a message with your name and phone number at 323/644-6004.

**May 14 (Saturday)**  
6-10 p.m.



LOS ANGELES

## zoo update by Connie Morgan GLAZA President



AS I WRITE, I have just received news that 46 (!) high school students have enrolled in GLAZA's student volunteer program and attended their first class this past weekend. By the time you read this column, they will be close to graduating from the program.

I am in awe of these young people. Freshmen and sophomores in high

school, they are reserving a considerable chunk of their free time to devote themselves to community service at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. Two classes enter our program each year—one in fall, the other in spring. The students come from all walks of life, from every type of high school, including our North Hollywood Zoo

magnet school, and from across our region to be here—every Sunday at 9 a.m., for four hours, for 13 weeks. Whew! Having a couple of teenagers of my own, I know that even today when college acceptance seems almost to demand corporate CEO experience by the age of 17, this is an extraordinary commitment of time and energy and a strong

## animal activities at your Zoo

March 1-31

March births included **peninsular pronghorn** twins, a **tufted deer** fawn, a **three-banded armadillo**, a **bighorn sheep**, and two **tammar wallabies**. Wallabies, like all marsupials, are tiny and only partly developed at birth and complete their development inside the mother's pouch.

Arrivals included a female **emperor tamarin**, a male **yellow-footed rock wallaby**, two female **hoolock gibbons**, and a pair of **Armenian vipers**.

Three female **genetuk** were transferred to Phoenix Zoo, two **yellow-footed rock wallabies** went to San Antonio Zoo, a **yellow-backed duiker** went to San Diego Zoo, and a **Tadjik markhor** went to Safari Enterprises. Two more **Komodo dragon** babies have gone to a new home at Clyde Peeling's Reptiland in Allenwood, Pennsylvania—which means more room for the clutch that's due to hatch later this year.

three-banded armadillo



Photo by Jamie Pham

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 \$49, Couple \$70, Family \$89, Family Deluxe \$149, Contributor \$250, Wildlife Associate \$500, Conservation Circle \$1,000, Zooscape subscription only: \$8/year. 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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## Tall Tales

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"I've never requested to work with any specific type of animal," Bona says. "I find something amazing about every animal I work with, but the Sumatran rhino was awesome, and at first I felt like, 'Hey—they're taking me away from my rhino!' But it wasn't long before I realized how amazing these giraffes are, and now I wouldn't want to leave them."

Bona did leave them—but only temporarily—last November when he traveled to Africa for two weeks. There he worked on the Rothschild's Giraffe Project on the Soysambu Conservancy in Kenya, near Lake Nakuru. The opportunity was made possible thanks to the Sloan Animal Keeper Advanced Studies Fund. The goal of the Sloan Fund is to enable the Zoo's animal care staff to broaden their understanding of the species they work with and to build connections between zoo professionals and conservationists working out in the field.

Although the World Conservation Union (IUCN) designates giraffes as a species of "least concern," there are nine subspecies of giraffe, two of which, the Rothschild's and the West African, are endangered, with only 640 and 200, respectively, remaining in the wild. The data gathered from fieldwork is critical in trying to understand the connections between the different subspecies of giraffe, and in devising strategies for protecting them.

"No research has ever been conducted on the Rothschild's giraffe, so the Project I contributed to has been established to provide the first-ever scientific survey of its behavior, ecology, and social structure," Bona explains. "The Project is also working collaboratively with Kenya Wildlife Service and others to develop a suitable conservation strategy for the Rothschild's giraffe in East Africa."

The Zoo focuses on Masai giraffes, but the various subspecies have few behavioral distinctions, and all the giraffes currently living in Association of Zoos and

Aquariums (AZA) institutions have been born and raised in zoo settings. Out in the field, Bona was able to observe large groups of giraffes in the wild and witness social behaviors that don't occur in the small herd at the Zoo.

"Part of what the researchers in the Project do is to go through the conservancy searching for giraffes to see how the groups migrate from day to day, looking for patterns," he says. "So you would go out and find a certain group of giraffes, and identify the individuals, and then the next day you'd find half of those animals with a different group. It was really interesting to see how they interacted with each other and moved from group to group. At the Zoo we only have four giraffes so they are a single group."

Fieldwork such as this provides invaluable "back stories" for the species that keepers work with in zoo settings, offering insights about behavior and physical adaptations that keepers are able to share. Equally important, the experiences are also inspiring.

"It made me feel more passionate about conservation," Bona says of his African sojourn. "I'm even more eager to explain to people that these animals, which are so familiar in zoos, are dwindling in the wild. It's amazing to see them here in the Zoo, but they also really need to be out there in the wild. I feel more motivated to explain the problems they are facing and why we need to help them."

Nothing quite has the same educational impact as personal experience, and Bona's enthusiasm, shared with colleagues and the public, is vital to furthering the Zoo's conservation mission.

"In the beginning my perspective was 'Giraffes: They're cool. They're tall. They're from Africa,'" laughs Bona. "But between my work here and my experiences in the field, I not only know more about them, but I have a greater appreciation for them. Knowledge is power."



Animal Keeper Mike Bona found that fieldwork enhanced his understanding of giraffes and inspired him to share his knowledge with more people.

Photo by Amy Roberts/Brookfield Zoo

demonstration of focus.

And this is only the beginning. The abbreviated course in taxonomy and ecology teaches the students about the different adaptations plants and animals have evolved to live successfully in their environments. Upon graduation, they are invited formally to join the volunteer program—participating in

all of our major special events, serving as ambassadors at popular exhibits throughout the Zoo, guiding visitors through congested areas, providing information about our collection, and helping audience members at the World of Birds Show. They are serious and excited about their work, and by filling so many niches, members of the

Student Volunteer program are quickly evolving to become an even stronger asset to the volunteer program and the Zoo.

So, hats off to this generation of young people! While today we are enriched by their service to the Zoo, I am certain they will make very important contributions to solving

some of the major ecological issues before us as a society. And on a lighter (more musical note), the Moss Family Conservation Carousel will soon be completed, so get ready to take a whimsical break from your Zoo visit—or volunteer duties—and enjoy this magical new attraction.



## Fruit at the Zoo

HAVE YOU EVER strolled around the Zoo and felt a bit peckish? In the mood for something vegetarian and unprocessed? How about a handpicked apple or guava? Ever tasted fresh mulberry fruit or a homegrown banana? Here at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens we grow all sorts of food plants to supplement our resident animals' daily diets. Some of the food (acacia leaves for instance) isn't meant for people, but we do grow "people food" such as bananas, mostly for the leaves, and mulberry, also for the leaves as well as the bark. But with the harvest of leaves we also get the fruit. And if you are here at the right time (and you happen to be a Zoo gardener), you can enjoy nature's bounty.

Mulberry trees throughout the Zoo provide a regular supply of fresh leaves. But in mid-spring the fruit starts to mature, and if you have a long enough reach you can harvest the delicate, wonderfully sweet black gems. Another browse plant that keepers cut for the animals is wild plum. I've never seen the fruit at the market, but that might change if people discover how uniquely tasty it is. About the size of a large thumb and dark purple in color, it has a large seed in the middle, but the delectable flesh is juicy and flavorful. Fresh bananas are amazing, but did you know there are many varieties? We grow one called "Ice Cream" and the fruits are little bundles of tasty bliss—sweeter, subtler in flavor, and much smaller than those found in the supermarket.

This isn't to suggest that you walk around eating any unusual fruits and berries that you come across. Unless you know your plants, you might wind up with reservations for the emergency room. I am familiar with the various edibles in the Zoo landscape, so it's been interesting to see that a hot new topic in gardening is edible landscaping. Not content with rigid farm

rows and traditional raised vegetable beds, gardeners are now realizing the ornamental aspects of many food plants and incorporating them into home landscaping. Tuck some basil in with roses, or plant a groundcover of rosemary or thyme and you can reap the rewards of your harvest—and save money, too. Imagine how much you would save growing your own lemons—or limes, or blackberries, or grapes.

The list of fruit plants at the Zoo includes pomegranate, fig, loquat, cherimoya, dates, kumquat, passion fruit, cactus fruit, and currant. A few others aren't really fruits but are still edible, nutritious, and yummy. The pads of the prickly pear cactus are boiled and eaten as a vegetable, pine nuts (pignoli) are an essential ingredient in pesto and many other dishes, and poi is made from taro roots that are boiled and pounded into a thick starchy paste. Acorns were also ground and cooked into a mush or paste by many indigenous people. Shall I go on? I very easily could—there are still herbs and seasonings, teas and other drinks—but I think I will save it for the next issue.

There are so many plants used for food, and to flavor food, which are found here at the Zoo. But I'm sure that you can also find them in your own neighborhood and in your own backyard. Why not join the new Victory Garden movement and plant them in your front yard? You and your family will benefit from the fresh food grown by your own hands, save your wallet from the increasing pinch at the grocery store and maybe even increase your own pride at harvesting the fruits of your labor and working the soil the way people did just a generation before us. And if you happen have a bounty of tomatoes, or a few extra peaches, make sure that some of them make their way over to me. I love fresh fruit eaten whole and out of hand.  
—Andrew Lyell, Senior Gardener



Photo by Sandy Masuo

2



Photo by Sandy Masuo

3

- 1 Both the pads and the fruit (or tunas) of prickly pear cactus are edible.
- 2 Banana plants are as valuable as landscaping features as they are for their delicious fruit.
- 3 Mulberries are rarely sold fresh because they are very delicate and highly perishable.
- 4 Wild plums, native to southern Africa, are not related to true plums, and have an entirely different taste.



1



Photo by Marina Rybka / Top Tropicals.com

4



### thank you

The following individuals, corporations, and foundations graciously contributed to the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens in March. The Association gratefully acknowledges their generous gifts and pledges.

#### \$25,000-\$49,999

Ted Samuels and Lori Winters Samuels

#### \$10,000-\$24,999

Russell Brown  
Don and Lorraine Freeberg Foundation  
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Mark A. Pedowitz and Carolyn Martin  
Feliciano Serrano  
Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Urquhart

Denotes/includes Safari Club new or renewed gift.

### Special Notice

In order to prepare for this year's Beastly Ball, the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens will close early on Saturday, June 18. Ticket sales will end at 3 p.m., and the Zoo will close its gates at 4 p.m. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope to see you at the Ball!

# calendar of events

## MEMBERS ONLY

**Member Appreciation Morning**  
Early morning is the ideal time to see many of the Zoo's residents at their best, and GLAZA members can now enjoy early mornings more often! The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens offers four opportunities a year for our members at all levels to explore the Zoo before it opens to the public. RSVP for our second Member Appreciation Morning of 2011 by phoning 323/644-4770.

**May 21 (Saturday)**  
8:30-10 a.m.

### Botanical Tour

The approach of summer is the peak floral season in the Zoo gardens. Join us on a garden tour to enjoy flowering trees and shrubs from around the world. This tour is free to GLAZA members, but reservations are required. To reserve your space, please phone 323/622-8114 or e-mail docents@lazoo.org (including "Botanical Tour" in subject line) with the following information: your name, membership number, members in your party, ages of attending children, and your phone number.

**June 4 (Saturday)**  
9-11 a.m.

### For the Birds

GLAZA members are invited to join docents for a morning Bird Walk on Zoo grounds. This event is free to GLAZA members, but reservations are required and space is limited. For reservations, phone 323/622-8114 or e-mail docents@lazoo.org (including "Bird Walk" in the subject line) with the following information: your name, membership number, members in your party, ages of attending children, and your phone number.

**May 14 (Saturday)**  
8-10 a.m.

### Member Tours

Enjoy a tour of the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens led by one of our knowledgeable docents. Tours are available to GLAZA members only, and are free for everyone eligible on your membership. No confirmations will be mailed. For further information or to make reservations, please phone 323/644-4244.

**May 14 (Saturday)**

**May 15 (Sunday)**

**May 22 (Sunday)**

**May 28 (Saturday)**

**June 4 (Saturday)**

**June 5 (Sunday)**

**June 25 (Saturday)**

**June 26 (Sunday)**

(All tours take place at 10:30 a.m. Please meet at the waterfall near the entrance to the International Marketplace.)

## Ed-zoo-cational Adventures Preregistration and prepayment are required for all education programs

### TODDLER TOTES

**Age 2, with an adult (limit one)**  
**Members: \$10 per child/adult pair**  
**Nonmembers: \$13 per child/adult pair**  
**Class times: 9:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.**  
**Confirmation letter required for class admission.**

These playful 45-minute classes include circle time, story time, hands-on learning, and a special guided walking tour of the Zoo. (Strollers are not provided by the Zoo, but are strongly recommended.)

### Wonderful Whiskers

Whiskers are a wonderful adaptation for many animals. "Feel" your way on over to the Zoo to explore the many ways animals use whiskers!

**May 4 (Wednesday), May 5 (Thursday),  
May 6 (Friday), and May 7 (Saturday)**

### CRITTERS 'N' KIDS

**Ages 3 to 4, with an adult (limit one)**  
**Members: \$18 per child/adult pair**  
**Nonmembers: \$23 per child/adult pair**  
**Class time: 10 a.m.**  
**Confirmation letter required for class admission.**

These hour-long interactive programs include a variety of fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities such as stories, games, and crafts, plus adventures on Zoo grounds. (Strollers are not provided.)

### Lofty Lions

Come join our pride as we explore a lion's world. We will be snarling, purring, hissing, and meowing as we stalk around the Zoo learning about this king-sized cat and what it takes to be a part of its family.

**May 11 (Wednesday), May 12 (Thursday),  
May 13 (Friday), and May 14 (Saturday)**

### PATCH PROGRAM

The Zoo World Patch Program offers Junior Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts the opportunity to earn a special zoo patch and spend the day learning about zoos, zoo careers, animals, and conservation. The cost is \$10 per Scout, and patches are included in the program fee. One adult leader may attend free with every 10 scouts. For more information or to register online visit [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org). To make reservations, please phone 323/644-4211, ext. 0. Attendance is limited to 45 people. Registration for this program begins two months prior to the program date. Please check our website, [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org), for availability.

**May 14 (Saturday)**

**May 21 (Saturday)**

**June 11 (Saturday)**

**10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

### SLEEPOVERS

#### Creature Camp-Out

Have you ever wondered what happens at the Zoo when the last guest leaves? Your adventure begins with a special guided tour of the Zoo's hundreds of animals that leads to base camp, where your tent awaits you. Enjoy a night of interactive family adventures complete with a sweet treat and beastly bedtime stories. Wake up to a lion's roar and hooting chimps, enjoy a continental breakfast, guided walk, and special animal encounter. Take your memories home with a souvenir Creature Camp-Out T-shirt. This fun-filled adventure is sure to be a hit. Creature Camp-Out begins at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 10:00 a.m. the next day. Registration for this program begins two months prior to the program date. Please note that dinner is not included as a part of this program. For information or to register, please phone 323/644-4211. This event is designed for children ages five and up. Cost to attend is \$65 each (adults and children) for GLAZA members and \$85 each (adults and children) for nonmembers.

**July 16-17**

**July 23-24**

**August 6-7**

**September 10-11**

### Zoopendous Nights at the Los Angeles Zoo

Bring your group or troop to the Zoo for an all-night indoor, interactive experience. Tour the Zoo after dark, enjoy a pizza/salad feast, participate in hands-on animal activities, and fall asleep to the sound of beastly bedtime stories. Wake to the bark of seals and a continental breakfast while interacting with some of the Zoo's animal ambassadors. Scout groups will have opportunities to work on activities relating to accredited scout badges during their Zoopendous Night experience. This event is designed for children ages seven through 12. Registration fees are \$45 for adults and children. Current dates are sold out. Reservations can be made for the 2011-2012 school year starting August 1. Contact Coral Barreiro at 323/644-4709 for assistance, and visit [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org) to see a schedule of availability.



### Summer ZooCamp

Join us for Summer ZooCamp at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens! Each day brings new discoveries as youngsters go ape over the Zoo's hundreds of amazing animals. Through fun, safe, engaging activities, your campers will trail blaze through the week. Each camp is led by specially trained, experienced staff. This adventure is one that your child will never forget. Please visit [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org) for more information. Registration fee for the weeklong session is \$300 for nonmembers, \$240 for GLAZA members.

**July 4 (Monday) through August 26 (Friday)**

**9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

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

### Beastly Ball

You're invited to a very special evening of fine refreshments, engaging entertainment, and guest appearances by some of our charismatic resident creatures. Individual tickets cost \$1,000 each, and table reservations are available starting at \$7,500. For more information, contact Maricela Vazquez at 323/644-4753. For a complete listing of participating restaurants and entertainers, visit [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org).

**June 18 (Saturday)**

**6 p.m.**

Safari Club patrons are invited to ALL Donor Club and Member events, in addition to their exclusive Safari Club benefits.

**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).

## ED-ZOO-CATIONAL ADVENTURES

Registration Policy: Registration for Ed-zoo-cational Adventures begins one month prior to the event date. Please check our website, [www.lazoo.org](http://www.lazoo.org), for class availability. For more information please phone 323/644-4211.

### Registration Procedures

1. Registration must be submitted at least one week before the date of the class.
2. Fill out the registration form. Registration is done by mail or fax 323/644-4299 only.
3. Payment must accompany registration.

Telephone registrations are not accepted. Detach this form and mail payment to:

Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens, Attn: Reservations Office, 5333 Zoo Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027-1498 **Please do not send by both fax and mail.**

Send confirmation to (adult's name)	GLAZA member?	Member #
Street	City/State	Zip
Home Phone	Work Phone	Fax

Accommodations for students requiring special assistance are available by advance request.

Program Title	1st Choice (inc. time)	Alternate	Participant	DOB (if child)	Fee

Payment Form:  MC  Visa  cash  check

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Make check or money order payable to:

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Department of the Zoo

Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check Number \_\_\_\_\_

Print Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

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Returned check fee: In the event that your check is returned for insufficient or uncollected funds, we may electronically debit your account for the principal amount on the check. We may also generate a draft or electronically debit your account for the service fee amount due as allowed by law. Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1719 you may be subject to a \$25 fee for each returned check.