



MYZOO

FOR MEMBERS OF WOODLAND PARK ZOO • FALL 2016



**A SLOW AND STEADY COMEBACK:
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF
PROTECTING NATIVE TURTLES**

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



WE ARE ALL KEEPERS

How is it that animals have such intense effects on our emotions? What drives our connection to them? Researchers say that over millennia we've become hardwired for biophilia—a love of animals and the natural world.

Recently I experienced a stirring moment of this emotional affiliation. While taking a colleague from the Wildlife Conservation Society on a WPZ tour, we happened upon our three Malayan tiger brothers in Banyan Wilds. A tangle of orange and black, they were consumed in play with a tree trunk. Suddenly, one tiger wrenched it away with his giant mandible and leapt into the water. As my colleague and I filled up with admiration, and families and children got closer in awe, the keepers cheered the tigers on—they've been working hard to help these felines thrive in their new home, to be big cats in all their cat glory.

Having been a keeper myself, I know it's a huge job. I also know that our keeper staff know the animals in their care better than you or I know our pets. Their devotion, compassion and knowledge are unparalleled. That's why they often participate in species research and conservation projects in the wild. In June, WPZ led its first multi-zoo delegation of keepers into Peninsular Malaysia's ancient forest where they helped deploy camera traps to collect wildlife data and combat illegal tiger poaching.

As members and supporters, you know that saving species and landscapes requires complex, often dogged problem solving. Here, I want to stress a simple but profound point: *we are all keepers*.

We're keepers when we renew our memberships, sign up for a zoo program, donate, or watch a live stream to stay connected. We're keepers when we make our local landscapes more wildlife friendly, as we have been for a quarter century of native turtle recovery and now with our Otter Spotter citizen science project. As I write, we celebrate National Zoo Keeper Week, honoring our shared passion to protect the animals and habitats we all deeply care for.

This team's determined spirit inspired me to join WPZ. I feel privileged to have you as our partners in helping this admired institution achieve even greater impact.

Alejandro Grajal, PhD
President and CEO

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Like a cozy blanket, fall has wrapped itself around the zoo. It's the season of golden sunlit afternoons, soothing chai and crunchy leaves underfoot. Some say autumn is the very best time to visit; the animals are more active in cooler temperatures and summer crowds have dispersed. It's time to celebrate our roots with a look at some of our most iconic Northwest natives—river otters of the Duwamish, Western pond turtles in the south Sound and our favorite wolf pack. We are eager to show off some zoo-inspired artwork and share a Q & A with new President and CEO Alejandro Grajal. With endless opportunities for great photography, bountiful fall foliage, and a host of festive events—Brew at the Zoo, Pumpkin Bash and WildLights—mark your calendars for a beautiful autumn visit.



Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren, WPZ

ON THE COVER

A true Northwest ambassador, this Western pond turtle is one of many that will be released into ponds in south Puget Sound. Now large enough to avoid the mouths of predators such as invasive bullfrogs, this turtle has a big role to play.



Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren, WPZ

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OUR MISSION

WOODLAND PARK ZOO SAVES ANIMALS AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGH CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGING EXPERIENCES, INSPIRING PEOPLE TO LEARN, CARE AND ACT.

ZOO HOURS

MAY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30

9:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 1 – APRIL 30

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

FIND US ON



@woodlandparkzoo

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ON THE

NORTHERN

Stepping into the Northern Trail, you are welcomed to a subarctic forest—tall, dark conifers flank the rugged path—then, as if by magic, your eyes meet the gaze of a wolf. There are many such moments found in the exhibit’s award-winning design. Evoking the habitat of Alaska’s tundra and taiga regions, the Northern Trail delivers the feeling of wild, untouched nature. The hard work it takes to pull off such an exhibit is hidden; but a very passionate, dedicated crew of keepers is at the heart of this seemingly effortless experience.

Four zookeepers make up the dynamo team that cares for the 10 species that call the Northern Trail home. The keepers all have a special area of expertise, but they take turns working with every species, ensuring that everyone can assess the welfare and needs of each individual. From weighing blueberries for a bear’s breakfast to putting fresh straw in the wolves’ den, the hard work behind the scenes is what makes this corner of the zoo such a gem. Here’s a look at just one day on the Northern Trail shadowing lead keeper Amy Brandt and keeper Allison Barr.



NITRAIL



GRIZZLY BREAKFASTS AND PORCUPINE PICNICS

Keepers begin their day on the northwest side of the slope where Albert waits patiently for his morning browse. The young, male mountain goat spends the night in a quiet, shaded barn. While keeper Allison scatters the browse, she is also doing a visual health check on Albert; multitasking is a recurring theme.

Lilly the arctic fox is adjacent to Albert. Lilly gets what looks like kibble as well as moist meat and poultry for breakfast. She is shy, but also curious.

Next, the grizzly bears greet us. Keema and Denali stand up on their hind legs and make sure we know they are really big, tall bears who are hungry. I tell them I think they are going to eat soon, and Allison agrees.

Giving the bears their breakfast is complicated. Like all animals at the zoo, the bear's nutrition is an exact science. The kitchen consists of food scales and a fridge full of fresh blueberries, carrots, yams, celery, salmon, trout, apples, and a freezer stocked with a smorgasbord of meats and even more berries. In the kitchen, I help Allison measure out what I guess must be their monthly rations, but no, this is only for the next two days. Bears eat a lot, especially during the fall.

While the bears receive their breakfast inside, we clean their yard. There is no shortage of bear poop. After Allison gives the ok that their yard is up to snuff and we are safely back inside, she opens the doors to let Keema and Denali outside. Keema heads out first to claim his favorite spot near the cave. Once Denali follows, we spray down their inside dens and sweep. Cleaning is also a recurring theme.

Now that the bears are full and ready to start their day, we head into the behind-the-scenes station at otters where they splash excitedly as we hose down their beds. Everything is soaked and slippery. Good shoes are key.

Otters have super-fast metabolisms and like fish for breakfast, lunch and dinner. The otters get fish one at a time from their keeper. Keepers maintain this routine for a few reasons: to ensure the otters are actually getting enough to eat and to establish a trusting bond with the animals. Appetite is one of the easiest ways to tell if an animal is doing well. The otters are doing great. We sweep their inside dens and do another visual check of the exhibit. Have any branches or litter fallen into the exhibit? Is the water flow correct? Everything checks out.





Don't forget to feed the trout that live in the stream!

We then head to the elk barn. The barn looks to be in pristine condition, but Amy instructs me to start sweeping. Keeping up with these large animals is key.

On to the wolf yard where we scoop poop, clean their den and place fresh straw inside to keep it cozy. The wolves are quite timid, but curious. We set out a meat snack for them.

After we feed the wolves and elk it's time to feed the otters, again. Then we feed the porcupines, including the baby; they get a bunch of biscuits and fresh, organic roses, which they love. A porcupine picnic is hard to beat. We clean there too, more hosing down and watering and sweeping.

Then we stop by the great gray owls and snowy owl to deliver mice.

As we head back into the office we pass the grizzly bears which means it's time for another biscuit feeding. I think I count 1,000 biscuits eaten by Keema, but it's probably closer to 20. The bears are very good at eating and then making a face as if to say they've never had a single biscuit. This reminds me of some dogs I have known. The bears also like grapes and eat them one at a time from my hand; they are amazingly gentle (although I feed them through the mesh wall of their indoor enclosure). I think when this day is done I will have spent the majority of it feeding the bears, but there is so much more to do.

To be a keeper on Northern Trail you must be energetic and strong. You need patience and the ability to adapt to situations quickly.

After all of the feeding and cleaning and watching, it's time to go back to the office where keepers make notes for tomorrow. It's the end of the day, but we find Allison at the otters again, feeding them a few more fish. Allison and Amy take me down to the lower level of the otter exhibit where the female otter Valkyrie peeks out from her nest of upcycled car

wash strips and behind-the-scenes hammock. She is flirting with us and running all around, so fast, so agile. She runs the length of the building and then dashes back to dive into her pool, swirling around and popping out again at high speed. I could watch her for hours; these are the moments the keepers work for.

To be a keeper on the Northern Trail you must be energetic and strong. You need patience and the ability to adapt to situations quickly. You need to be detail oriented and able to cope when things don't go the way you'd like. Most of all you have to be compassionate and caring; and the right pair of shoes makes a world of difference.



Kirsten Pisto, Editor

Photos by Dennis Dow and Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren, WPZ

UPCOMING EVENTS

AT WOODLAND PARK ZOO

ZOOFARI:

Member Appreciation Evening **SEPTEMBER 13**

***BREW AT THE ZOO** **OCTOBER 6**

PUMPKIN BASH

presented by Delta Dental of Washington **OCTOBER 29-30**

VETERANS DAY DISCOUNT **NOVEMBER 11**

TURKEY TOSS **NOVEMBER 19**

*WILDLIGHTS

presented by Sound Credit Union **NOVEMBER 25,**
Closed December 24-25 **OPEN THROUGH JANUARY 1**

WINTER CELEBRATION

ENRICHMENT **DECEMBER 10-12, 17-19**

ZOO CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY **DECEMBER 25**

**Indicates a separately ticketed event. All other events are free with regular zoo admission or membership.*



BREW AT THE ZOO

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6

Join us for the sixth annual Brew at the Zoo beer-tasting event. Sample imports, domestics, microbrews and even ciders from over 40 different breweries.

Get tickets at zoo.org/brew



Ages 21+ only.

PUMPKIN BASH

OCTOBER 29-30

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



**PUMPKINS FOR ANIMALS!
TRICK-OR-TREATING!
FEATURING BOOMAZIUM!**

*FREE with zoo admission or membership.
Visit zoo.org for more information.*



*Kids in costume
get in FREE with
a paid adult.*



WILDLIGHTS

presented by Sound Credit Union

SEE THE ZOO BRIGHTER THAN EVER!

NOVEMBER 25 - JANUARY 1
5:30 - 8:30 P.M. NIGHTLY

*Free parking in zoo lots on WildLights event nights.
Closed December 24 & 25*

WWW.ZOO.ORG/WILDLIGHTS

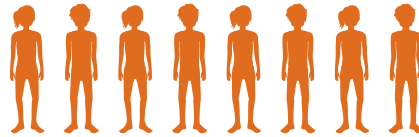
GO Z N L WEST NORTH N

The Pacific Northwest, fondly dubbed PNW, stretches from the snowy peaks of the Rocky Mountains to the salty beaches of the Pacific Coast. In between lay temperate forests, rain forests, grasslands and desert shrublands—all of which host a variety of creatures that call the Northwest home.

We live in a Pacific Rim bioregion with a national and global reputation for its scenic beauty and relative wildness. Surrounded by waterways, forests and mountains, we connect with nature all around us. Those connections run deep, as our everyday choices have an impact.

Woodland Park Zoo's Living Northwest conservation program focuses on native species restoration, habitat protection, wildlife education and human-wildlife conflict mitigation across the Pacific Northwest. These strategies improve the health of our wildlife populations, the health of our ecosystems, and the health of our communities.

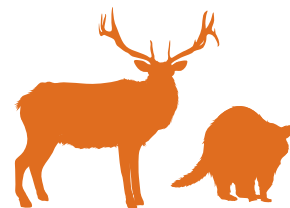
Here are just a few things your zoo is doing to ensure a healthy, species-rich Pacific Northwest.



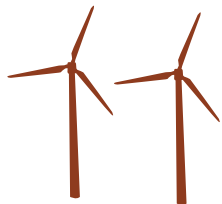
**1,078 STUDENTS
PARTICIPATED**

in *Coexisting With Carnivores* during the 2012-2016 school years. Bears, cougars and wolves, oh my!

10



Focal species observed in the Washington Urban–Wildland Carnivore Project include cougars, black bears, bobcats, coyotes, raccoons, red fox, opossum, deer, elk and domestic cats. The study is exploring ways to promote coexistence among humans and carnivores in King County.



265 research hours

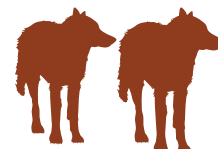
zookeepers have logged at wind turbine sites in Oregon. Their field role is to observe nesting hawks and record any interaction a raptor has with a wind turbine.

50,000 PEOPLE attended Bear Affair:

Living Northwest Conservation Day

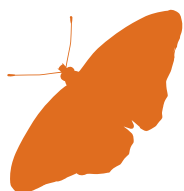
over the last 12 years to learn how to hike, camp and BBQ safely while coexisting with NW wildlife.

80



YEARS GRAY WOLVES WERE ABSENT

from Washington state. Woodland Park Zoo supports the natural recolonization of wolves and teaches solutions to coexistence. As of June 2016, there are 19 confirmed wolf packs and 90 wolves.



15 YEARS

the zoo has been part of the Oregon silverspot butterfly recovery plan, and releasing this endangered NW native.

80 COMMUNITY MEMBERS

committed their backyard as a research site for remote camera studies that track how carnivores use habitat from urban to wildland areas.



566% increase of endangered Western pond turtles living in Washington

today after 25 years of recovery efforts. Tiny hatchlings are reared at the zoo each year until large enough to avoid predation, then released into protected wetlands to recover populations.

1996 was the year of the last confirmed sighting

of a grizzly bear in the U.S. Cascades. Federal agencies are exploring recovery options. WPZ supports efforts that use sound science and community input.



SENTINELS OF THE DUWAMISH RIVER

From the wildlands of the Cascade Mountains to the industry of Seattle's waterfront, the Green-Duwamish River carves a path through some of Washington's rawest natural sights to its heaviest hub of manufacturing.

As the river passes through the pristine to the polluted before spilling out into Elliott Bay, there's one witness to it all worth a closer look: the North American river otter.

Found along much of the 85 mile river route, the little studied North American river otter may serve as a telling indicator of the health of this critical waterway. Otters populate the full gradient of diverse habitats along the river including the final 5 miles known as the Lower Duwamish Waterway, a federal Superfund cleanup site troubled by a long history of industrial pollution. Woodland Park Zoo Field Conservation Associate Michelle Wainstein, PhD, is studying otter population trends and behaviors, and analyzing the toxic levels in their scat to understand how levels of polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and other contaminants change along the river. The empirical data can ultimately help shape targeted conservation strategies as large-scale river cleanup efforts continue.

By Rebecca Whitham, Staff Writer

Green-Duwamish
River Watershed





Lisa Parsons



Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren WPZ



Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren WPZ



Camera Trap, Michelle Wainstein

In search of otters from the lush Green River Gorge (top left) to the Lower Duwamish (top right), researcher Michelle Wainstein follows tracks (bottom left) and sets up remote cameras (bottom right) for closer observation.



Leo Shaw

BECOME AN OTTER SPOTTER

.....
WE NEED YOUR EYES

If you observe a river otter in Washington, please report your sightings to help us capture data on otter range and behavior.

Submit your sightings at zoo.org/otterspotter

CONSERVATION FOR EVERYBODY

Alejandro Grajal began an exciting new chapter at Woodland Park Zoo on May 16 as president and CEO. To the helm he brings deep and global expertise in conservation science, environmental education and animal welfare advocacy. A strong voice for the power of zoos, he believes they are essential to help humanity develop a new relationship with nature. We explore what brought him to the Pacific Northwest via Venezuela, Florida, New York and Chicago, and his vision for Woodland Park Zoo. He is also an accomplished nature artist. See an example of his work, Laughing Gull, on page 14.

Anagoria



Alejandro Grajal has a big goal: to make “conservation for everybody.” As our new president and CEO, he’s convinced that Woodland Park Zoo is the best place to achieve it.

BW: *You started your career as a biologist in the field. How did your trajectory turn to leadership roles in zoos?*

AG: I’m a water man—I love anything in the water. I graduated with a degree in marine biology, working on coral reefs. You know I thought I was going to be the next Jacques Cousteau! But he already had his job, so I went to work at a research station in the Llanos of Venezuela (the expansive plains and watershed of the Orinoco River) where I worked with the Smithsonian Institution.

It was a time of huge effervescence in the field of conservation biology, especially conservation and development. That was my emphasis at the University of Florida where I did my doctorate and published in *Science* and *American Naturalist*. People like Michael Soulé, founder of the Society for Conservation Biology, and Russ Mittermier, who was just starting up the nonprofit Conservation International, inspired me. I realized a hybrid role—research and applying knowledge in the real world—was what I really wanted to do. Fortunately, straight out of graduate school I was hired by the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York as the director of Latin American and Caribbean programs and I dove into a zoo career.

Diving into a Zoo Career: Sometimes called the “Serengeti of South America,” the extraordinary terrestrial and aquatic wildlife of the Venezuelan Llanos (the Orinoco River floodplains) was the perfect springboard for Alejandro to launch a career in conservation.

BW: *What has working in zoos taught you?*

AG: It has taught me that if you really want to change society’s opinions and behaviors, and how we treat the planet, you need to understand human motivation. We are all inextricably part of the same fabric

of life. Conservation ultimately is about people and the choices we make. How do we get people excited about possibilities? So, I had to integrate the social science side of conservation with the biological side, and of course the organizational and policy sides. After 25 years, I now see that my leadership role is more of an untier of knots. Maybe it doesn’t sound very sexy, but it’s exciting to me because possibilities are like puzzles, and I love solving puzzles.

BW: *You were most recently senior vice president for conservation, education and training at Chicago Zoological Society/Brookfield Zoo, one of the largest zoos in the U.S. What attracted you to WPZ and the Pacific Northwest?*

AG: I’ve been watching the evolution of zoos for a long time. Like many others, I’ve always admired WPZ’s reputation in the industry as a leader and innovator. It pushed us to design naturalistic landscapes for animals, to pay attention to social groupings, play,

psychological health, and using research and science to drive innovation in animal well-being. Today good zoos take these things for granted, but WPZ began setting these standards decades ago. That’s part of why it has such loyal members and donors and so many repeat visitors. There’s an amazing team running WPZ, expert and passionate, and the zoo community is discerning and demanding. All that really appeals to me.

Then there’s the attraction of the Pacific Northwest itself. There’s this mix of love of nature and conservation ethic, social and technological innovation, and people willing to invest in what they really care about. All this can be leveraged to create a future where everybody’s interests matter, including those of other species, even the entire planet. I’m on fire for that.

And right in the middle of it all is WPZ. We’ll find the best balance of high-tech and hands-on. We’ll turn 1.3 million people a year into social innovators and partners in real-time conservation. We’ll grow peoples’ capacity as agents of change. We’ll do it better with more diverse segments of our society involved, because only with multiple perspectives can we see clearly. We’ll make conservation for everybody. That will define the 21st century zoo.

BW: *What excites you most as a zoo leader?*

AG: A good zoo is a powerful place and instrument for conservation. Close connections with animals are what set zoos and aquariums apart—nothing inspires caring like the poignancy and power of thriving animals. So, it won’t surprise you that at WPZ I see myself as the head of a great conservation organization.

What really excites me on a day to day basis is: How do ordinary people engage in conservation? Why or why not? What information or experiences are the most effective motivators? These are important questions that social science is working on, and they’re crucial to the future of our planet.

And we at zoos are at the leading edge of this! The 180 million people a year that North American zoos and aquariums attract are a fascinating universe of the how and why of conservation choices. Our research with these audiences has major implications for sharing the influences that work, whether it’s our friends and neighbors that influence us, larger social norms, or the existence of consumer incentives or barriers, just to name a few.

For example, we’ve learned that once we get beyond our reptilian brain—existing chiefly to reproduce, eat, be free from harm or pain—we then access the next layer, the biggest motivator of human behavior: our emotions. They drive our choices way more than rational information. Zoos have a special power because they foster emotional connections between people and animals and remove barriers to taking action. WPZ is pushing this further by studying how empathy, in particular, moves people to help wildlife. What can be more exciting than that?

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Bettina Woodford, PhD, Staff Writer



Otters, prismacolor marker, watercolor, and micro pen by Johnny Mendoza, member Follow him on Instagram @_etch_



Laughing Gull, ballpoint pen by Alejandro Grajal, WPZ



Visayan warty pigs, digital sketch by Kirsten Pisto, WPZ

DRAWING FROM NATURE

The practice of drawing and painting from nature is a tradition that dates back to the beginning of human creativity. In Indonesia, a 35,400-year-old cave drawing depicts babirusa pigs and in the limestone caves of France, hundreds of animal paintings—some of which are over 35,000 years old—offer sketches of lions, bears, panthers, hyenas, horses, mammoths and even rhinoceroses.

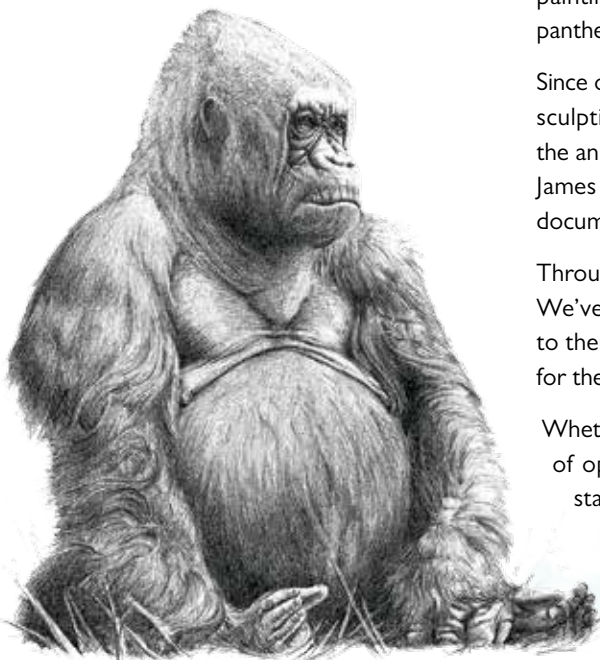
Since our prehistoric ancestors first put charcoal to rock, artists have been drawing, painting, sculpting and photographing animals. As people refined scientific discovery, the study of the animal world was supplemented with what we now call natural science illustration. John James Audubon, Beatrix Potter and John Muir each relied on their observational skills to document the natural world.

Throughout time artists have been fascinated with depicting the creatures around them. We've drawn animals to trace migration for hunting, to express our spiritual connection to them, to record new species, to study their behavior, to enhance education, to plead for their preservation and at last to depict the wonder and awe we feel in their presence.

Whether you are a novice or a practiced artist, Woodland Park Zoo offers hundreds of opportunities to polish your skills. Many visitors, members, volunteers and staff can be found sketching in quiet corners of the zoo's 92 acres.

Good luck sketching and remember to share your drawings with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! #woodlandparkzoo

By Kirsten Pisto, Editor



Nina the gorilla, pencil by Elizabeth Smith, volunteer. See more at rowntreestudio.com



“I am a natural science illustrator, and I wanted to depict the male Temminck’s tragopan with and without his mating display. I’ve included the sketches I made while at the zoo that were the first step in creating the final piece.”
Jess Landers, member



Tragopan temminckii, watercolor and colored pencil by Jess Landers, member.
Follow her on Instagram @jess_landers or visit jesslanders.com



Found object series, watercolor by Jenny Pramuk, WPZ
Follow her on Facebook: Seattle Urban Naturalist



Buck, ballpoint by Misty Fried, WPZ



Red panda, pencil by Joshua Pettitt, WPZ



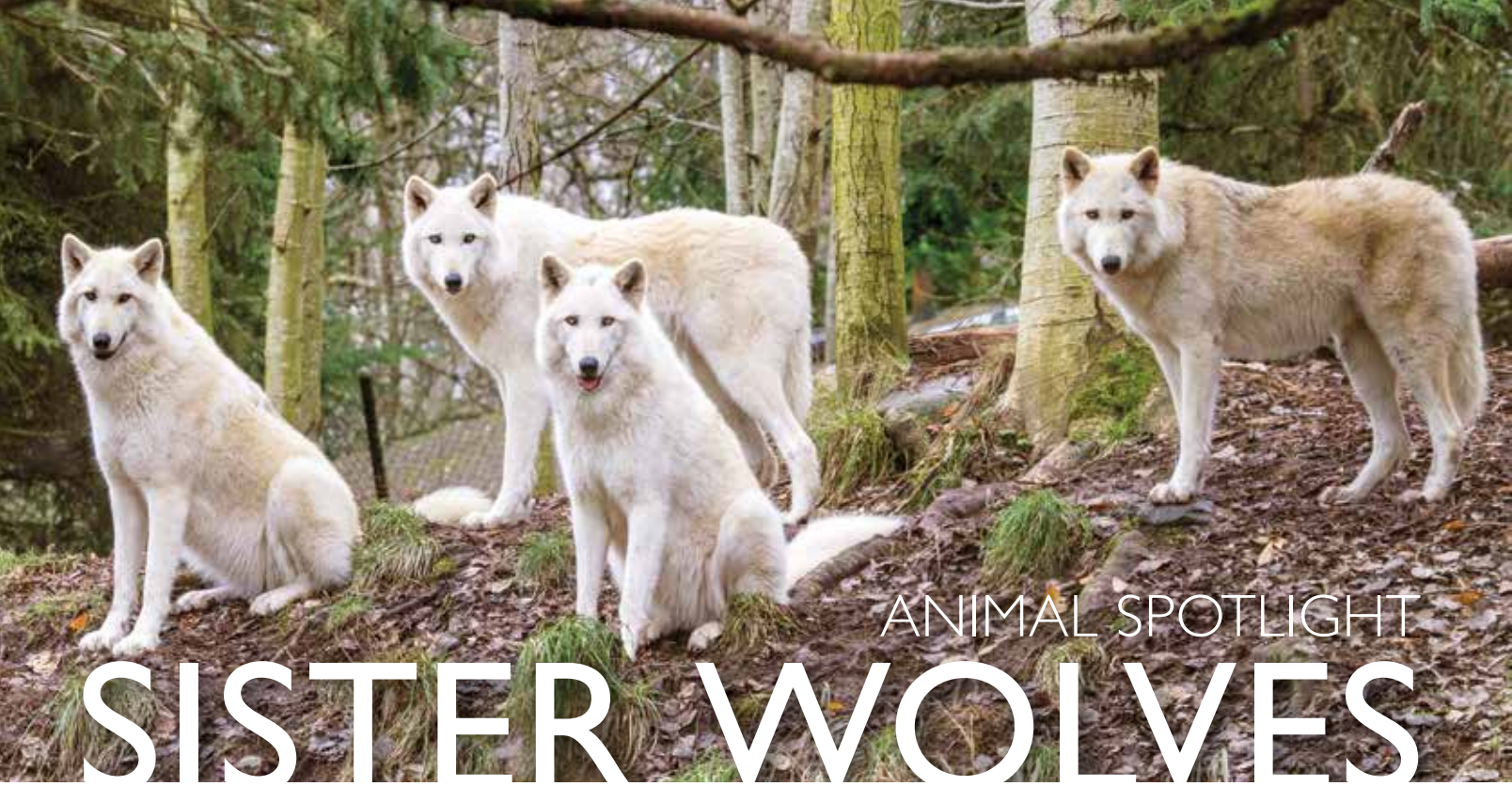
Sketches from the Tropical Rain Forest, pencil by Sarah Crumb, WPZ. Follow her on Instagram @captain_phantasmic



Flamingos, oil pastel by Kristin Folger, member







ANIMAL SPOTLIGHT

SISTER WOLVES



Deep in the heart of Woodland Park Zoo at the Northern Trail, four sisters, gray wolf sisters to be exact, inhabit the high tundra that overlooks the award-winning forested exhibit. The four canids were born on April 27, 2010, at New York State Zoo and arrived at Woodland Park Zoo in September 2010. Their majestic appearance and playful behavior have been delighting visitors ever since.

Wolves keep in touch by howling. This type of communication among wolves has several meanings. A howl may serve as a warning to other packs to stay away from their territory or to call the pack together after a hunt is over. Sometimes wolves howl just for the pleasure of it, and to reinforce ties between members of the pack.

The zoo's gray wolves can be viewed from a number of locations at the zoo's Northern Trail exhibit. They can be heard occasionally howling in the early morning and late afternoon and sometimes when sirens go by the zoo, but not in response to visitors. The best way to observe them is to stand quietly and watch the natural behaviors of a wolf pack. Visitors can spot the wolves in the foreground and elk in the background, demonstrating a predator-prey relationship. The elk add daily enrichment for the wolves and even venture down to the fence line and stand nose to nose with the girls.

The sister wolves are conservation ambassadors representing the complex and volatile story of the return of the wolf to Washington state and the challenges their

endangered cousins in the wild face. Given the rising political pressures and conflict between wolves and people in the Northwest and Northern Rockies, it's important for people of all ages to connect with wolves at the zoo and learn about the challenges these predators face in the wild, the unwarranted fears and their contribution to our ecosystems.

Alissa Wolken, Staff Writer

*Photos by Dennis Dow and Ryan Hawk, WPZ.
Top photo, left to right: Kaya, Shila, Aponi and Doba.*

Despite the name, gray wolves can be all white like our sisters or sport gray, brown or black colorations.



GET TO KNOW THE PACK

AGE: 6 years old | **WEIGHT:** range from 80 to 100 pounds

Doba (*Doh-ba*)

As the “alpha” of the group, Doba is the most comfortable around people and new enrichment items. She is often visible front and center of the exhibit, where she can keep track of the other wolves. If you see a wolf gathering bones or toys that is likely to be Doba!

Shila (*Shy-la*)

Shila is wary of people in her space. She spends most of her time lying a bit distant from the pack or in the far north end of the exhibit along the perimeter. Shila is usually hesitant to feed with the pack, but will wait until the others are finished eating then forage for the leftovers.

Aponi (*Uh pawnie*)

Aponi and Kaya are in the middle of the pack and at different times will take on the “beta” position. Aponi has a very playful disposition and frequently will be seen jumping up and down with her crooked tail held high. She is the most food motivated and will frequently steal food from her sisters.

Kaya (*Kie yah*)

Kaya acts a bit more wary around keeper staff. She is the easiest to recognize by her facial features that resemble a German shepherd.



Ryan Hawk, WPZ



Woodland Park Zoo has been home to wolves for more than 50 years. Since 1976, 24 wolves have been born here!

A SLOW AND STEADY COMEBACK

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF PROTECTING NATIVE TURTLES



Washington is home to only two native freshwater turtles, the painted turtle and one you are much less likely to see—the endangered Western pond turtle.

Once common from Baja California to Puget Sound, Western pond turtles lost ground to invasive predators, disease and habitat loss. Their condition became so dire that by 1990 only about 150 Western pond turtles remained in Washington as wetlands quickly disappeared.

To bring Western pond turtles back from the brink of extinction, Woodland Park Zoo is giving these turtles a head start during the first, most vulnerable months of their lives. For 25 years, turtles have been raised here at Woodland Park Zoo, and released into protected Washington wetlands to recover the population.

Each year, state biologists collect eggs from protected sites and volunteers deliver them to Woodland Park Zoo. The turtles hatch and are cared for by zookeepers until they grow big enough to avoid the mouths of predators such as invasive bullfrogs. Then they are returned to wild, protected sites.

The effort is paying off. Working with government and conservation partners, the recovery project has saved Washington's last two wild Western pond turtle populations, established four new populations, and head started and released more than 2,000 turtles in 25 years. By tracking them over the years, biologists believe more than 1,000 of those have survived and continue to thrive in addition to a number of wild hatchlings.

Pond turtles can live up to 50 years. It takes a long investment to see populations recover and thrive, even as new threats emerge. But if turtles have taught us anything, slow and steady wins the race.

We don't know what the next 25 years hold for the species, but Woodland Park Zoo is fighting to ensure there are turtles released today that will be part of that future.

SMALL IN SIZE, BIG IN IMPACT

It may seem that the survival of a small, seemingly insignificant species like the Western pond turtle is less important compared to the hundreds of other species fighting off extinction; but, as Woodland Park Zoo Curator Jenny Pramuk explains, the survival of every species matters when it comes to erasing extinction. "For the turtle or any culturally undervalued species (which in



“It is part of our biological heritage. The turtle is symbolically important to many indigenous tribes who inhabit this region.”
Jenny Pramuk, Curator

Western cultures broadly applies to all ectotherms), I like to use the metaphor of Paul and Anne Ehrlich who likened an ecosystem to the wing of an airplane. With the loss of one rivet, the plane will be fine and no one is the wiser; however, with each successive rivet lost in the plane's structure, the plane becomes increasingly more likely to crash. So, you might not notice if the turtle goes extinct, but with the extinction of each successive species, ecosystem collapse becomes more inevitable."

Western pond turtles require wetlands to live. Wetlands are vital to the environment because they help to filter impurities and toxins from our local waters. The turtles hold an important role in this delicate ecosystem, serving as a predator keeping invertebrate populations in check and as prey for other animals such as birds, muskrats, raccoons and other carnivores. Biologists see the turtle as a potent indicator of ecosystem health which is intrinsically linked with human health. Restoring the population of the Western pond turtle will help the ecosystem return to its natural state, which inevitably impacts human health.

POND TURTLES NEED WETLANDS, AND WETLANDS NEED POND TURTLES

These turtles eat algae and keep insects in check, which keep wetlands healthy. Wetlands keep us healthy by acting like the kidney of the environment. They cleanse the system and control water flow and flooding.

Puget Sound has a wet reputation, but in reality wetlands are fast disappearing as human communities expand. If we think of the Western pond turtle as a sentinel for the health of Washington's wetlands, then their recovery becomes a beacon of hope for the entire natural system.

EMERGING THREATS

Ulcerative shell disease, seen by biologists at all sites in Washington, causes lesions on the turtle's shell and can lead to mortality and fewer offspring. WPZ works with project partners, employing science-based methods to help identify the cause of this disease and develop appropriate treatments. State-of-the-art technologies such as computerized tomography (CT) scans and microbiome sequencing are being used by our state and zoo veterinarians to pinpoint the cause of this troubling disease. WPZ is also supporting research by Washington State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

TAKE ACTION TODAY!

You can help the effort to save endangered species like the Western pond turtle. Reduce pollutants to native habitat by eliminating chemical pesticides from your gardening practices. Pesticides get into water, which runs away from your garden and flows into surrounding water systems, bringing contaminants into wildlife habitat. To learn more about how you can help, visit www.zoo.org/conservation.

Alissa Wolken, Staff Writer

Photos by Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren, Kirsten Pisto and Ryan Hawk, WPZ

"The release of the [head started] turtles really is a symbol of hope; a hope that we can correct the damage that we've done to this species. All of our projects, whether it's tigers, frogs, turtles, or butterflies, take time and commitment and long-term investment; but with that kind of investment and participation we can turn the tide on these species and create a living landscape for all."

Fred Koontz, Vice President of Field Conservation



VOLUNTEER GIVING TAKES MANY FORMS



Dennis Dow, WPZ



Jeremy Dwyer-Lindgren, WPZ

Visit the zoo and you are likely to run into one of our 750+ volunteers. They may be zoo ambassadors or docents and they give thousands of hours each year to ensure your visit is as informative and special as can be. Recently, a very generous bequest gift from a retired docent highlighted just how passionate and giving our volunteers are. I asked several volunteers to share why they've included the zoo in their estate plans. Their comments mirror what many of you feel about our zoo.

Naturally, all of our volunteers are passionate about wildlife and wildlife conservation, as are our keepers, educators, and all of us who work at the zoo. One volunteer shared that "I have never met more dedicated, caring, loving and wonderful people in my lifetime." Those experiences led her to include the zoo in her estate plans by indicating the zoo as a recipient in one of her IRAs.

Many volunteers have a favorite animal and direct their bequest gift to the care and upkeep of those specific areas of the zoo. In one case, the decision to do so came from concern after witnessing sloth bears used as "dancing bears" and begging for

alms during a trip abroad. Our volunteers become a very passionate group as they learn about the vast and varied plight of wildlife throughout the world.

Most legacy donors plan to benefit multiple charitable groups, but they often list the zoo as their major interest. Being a volunteer gives them a better understanding of how important zoos are in educating guests about the importance of conservation. It reinforces the love for zoos that evolved from their childhoods; going to the hometown zoo was an immensely enriching and special experience. They are especially thankful for the zoo's international leadership role in pioneering the creation of naturalistic exhibits which allow wildlife to express their naturalistic behaviors.

If you want to help ensure that future generations benefit from the wonder that is Woodland Park Zoo, contact Sarah Valentine at 206.548.2624 or sarah.valentine@zoo.org to learn more about how best to remember our zoo in your estate plans.

Anne Knapp, Planned Giving

The *WORLD* is a book,
and those who do not
TRAVEL, read
only a page.



Explore the Galapagos with the Tip Top Fleet, including luxury marine Catamaran Tip Top II, first class yachts Tip Top III and Tip Top IV, or diving ship Nortada.

Follow in the footsteps of Darwin, explore the legendary islands and see amazing animals under the guidance of an experienced naturalist. It's the trip of a lifetime.



Mention Woodland Park Zoo and 15% of your cruise fees will be donated to support the zoo's world-wide conservation work.

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Photo courtesy of Roxanne Sanders

INSPIRED TO LEARN

As a first grader new to Seattle, Roxanne Sanders found herself at Woodland Park Zoo's summer camp with a little encouragement from her parents and the idea that it might be a great place to make some friends.

Roxanne made more than friends. She began an adventure that would shape a lifelong love of animal conservation. That summer she was introduced to the grizzly bears, a jaguar and a very special gorilla. Her curiosity for the natural world and inclination to keep exploring cemented her love for the zoo and she found herself back at zoo camp year after year.

"The instructors taught you lessons about the animals, where they came from, how they live," Roxanne says. "We got to see what the animals were doing and how they reacted to different stimuli."

Zoo camps became part of Roxanne's life. She attended Zooper Day Camp and Zoo U, then became a counselor in training, and now, as a high school student, she's working as a camp assistant.

"Throughout elementary school, I knew I wanted to work with animals," Roxanne said. "When I started thinking about college a

few years ago, my parents were pushing me into medical jobs, but that wasn't what I was interested in. I decided to go with what I wanted to do—zoology."

"Next year I'll be studying zoology and conservation biology in college. I am hoping to be in Africa a few years after college as well. I want to go to different countries and actively help the animals and their environment. Lab research is helpful; it gives us information and successful ways to complete certain procedures. But in the field, I will get a lot of in-your-face inspiration. That motivates me more than writing on paper ever could. That's what I like about the zoo. They don't just give you books about animals, you actually get to see them, and observe how they behave. You get to build relationships with these animals that really stick with you."

Roxanne's experiences at the zoo have inspired a passionate career. "I really empathize with animals. They haven't done anything to compromise their planet. We cut down forests, we emit harmful gasses. They are suffering from what we have done. Being a zoologist gives a voice to the voiceless. I want to share stories from other countries since people here might not know much about what is going on throughout the world," explains Roxanne.

"There are millions of doctors out there, but how many field conservationists and zoologists are out there? It's not your beliefs, it's your actions that make a difference. I really want to do something about that."

By Jessie Maxwell, Education



Woodland Park Zoo **HOWLS IN APPRECIATION!**

JUNGLE PARTY 40TH ANNIVERSARY

CALL OF THE WILD

THE GREAT NORTHWEST



On Friday, July 15, more than \$1.46 million was raised at Woodland Park Zoo's premier fundraiser, Jungle Party! These funds help underwrite your zoo's world-class animal care, education programs for people of all ages, and conservation collaborations in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.

Each year, Jungle Party attracts nearly 1,000 generous civic and philanthropic leaders from the Puget Sound region. This summer, Michael Katz, U.S. Bank Puget Sound Market President and Stephanie Lucero Katz chaired the event. Their leadership and enthusiasm helped make Seattle's wildest fundraiser a roaring success, providing important philanthropic support that ensures our ability to continue offering exciting and educational wildlife experiences for our entire community.

**GRIZZLY BEAR
CO-TITLE
SPONSORS**

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Brown Bear Car Wash
US Bank

**GRAY WOLF
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**SILVERSPOT
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**PREMIER AIRLINE
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SPONSOR**

Cisco

**DINNER WINE
SPONSOR**

For a Song Wines

We extend our wildest thanks to all of our friends and supporters who helped make Jungle Party a night to remember!

EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASSES

Designed for parents/caregivers to attend with their children.

See our website for class descriptions.

WALKIN' AND ROLLIN'

Ages: Birth–18 months

Time: 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Fee: \$100/6-week session each adult/child pair

9326: Thursdays, Sept 8–Oct 13

TINY TYKE TIME

Ages: 18–36 months

Time: 9:00–10:30 a.m.

Fee: \$100/6-week session each adult/child pair

9316: Wednesdays, Sept 7–Oct 12

ZOO SPROUTS

Ages: 3–5 years

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Fee: \$25 each adult/child pair, \$10/ additional child 3-5 years

3356: Sept 13, Plucky Penguins

3366: Sept 27, Terrific Tails

3416: Oct 11, Big Brown Bears

3426: Oct 19, Exploring the Evergreens

3436: Oct 25, Spooky Spiders

3446: Oct 27, Farm and Foliage

3456: Nov 2, Zoo Vets

3466: Nov 3, Hungry, Hungry Hippos

SENIOR PROGRAMS

SENIOR CLASSES

Each class generally includes an educational presentation and an activity before heading on grounds for a short zoo tour.

See our website for class descriptions at www.zoo.org/education/adult

Time: 10:00–11:30 a.m.

Fee: \$20

5336: Sep 7, Chilean Flamingos

5416: Oct 5, Grazers of Africa

5426: Nov 2, Snow Leopards – Ghosts of the Mountains

5436: Dec 7, Trip to the Taiga

SENIOR ZOO WALKERS

For individuals 55 and older, please see our website for information at www.zoo.org/education/adult

SCOUT CLASSES

Each class is designed to meet scout award requirements for Girl Scout Brownies, Girl Scout Juniors or Cub Scouts. One adult for every 6 scouts is required and included in the registration fee.

See our website for more information at www.zoo.org/scoutclasses

Age: 5–12 years

Time: 10:00 a.m. – noon

Fee: \$18/scout, \$10/additional adult

1416: Oct 15, Bugs

(Girl Scout Brownies Badge)

NEW 1426: Oct 22, Fur, Feathers and Ferns

(Cub Scout Bear Requirement)

1436: Nov 12, Animal Habitats

(Girl Scout Juniors Badge)

BUG CLUB

Ages: 5–12 years

Time: 10:00 a.m.– noon, Oct 23, Nov 20 and Dec 18

Fee: \$55 per quarter plus a one-time \$12 materials fee for new members

PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

Bring your young learners to the zoo for a fun-filled class including a guessing game with animal specimens and a short tour! Programs are 45 minutes to one hour long and available to kindergartens, preschools, daycare centers and other groups of 10-18 children and one adult for every four children. Offered Sept.-April each year, please call for availability.

Fee: \$10.25 per person, includes admission

WHO AM I?

- African Savanna
- Tropical Rain Forest
- Family Farm

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Kids will enjoy a fun-filled evening with zoo staff inside Zoomazium or the African Village/ Education Center while you enjoy a night out on the town. Supervised activities include games, an educational film, a live animal encounter, plus pizza for dinner!

Ages: 4–11 years

Time: 5:30–10:00 p.m.

Fee: \$30/child, \$22 each additional sibling

1326: Saturday, Aug 27 – African Village

4336: Friday, Sept 16 – Zoomazium

4416: Saturday, Oct 15 – Zoomazium

1416: Saturday, Oct 29 – African Village

4426: Saturday, Nov 5 – Zoomazium

ZOO OVERNIGHT AND EVENING ADVENTURES

Reserve your 2017 Zoo Adventure Now!

All Zoo Adventures include a pizza dinner and an exclusive after hours look at the zoo! Overnight Adventures also include a light breakfast. Zoo Adventures are offered March through mid-November. Program runs rain or shine so come prepared for any weather.

Ages: 7 years and up

Time: Overnight Adventures run 6:30 p.m.–9:30 a.m.

Evening Adventures run 6:30–10:00 p.m.

Fee: Prices range from \$38-58/person, depending on program selected.

For more information and to register, visit www.zoo.org/overnights. Questions? Email classes@zoo.org

ADVENTURES FOR YOUR GROUP OF 22 OR MORE:

- A Zookeeper's Life for Me!
- Stealthy Science: Research After Dark
- Living Wild!

SCOUTS FOR ADVENTURE

All fall scout Zoo Adventures will be held in Zoomazium.

Sep 9: Girl Scouts, Stealthy Science: Research After Dark

Sep 17: Girl Scouts, A Zookeeper's Life for Me!

Sep 30: Girl Scouts, Living Wild!

Oct 1: Cub Scouts, Stealthy Science: Research After Dark

Oct 14: Girl Scouts, A Zookeeper's Life for Me!

SCHOOL YEAR CAMPS

These camps coincide with select days off of school for several local school districts. PM Extended Day is available for all full-day sessions.

ANIMAL SUPERHEROS

(1-Day Camp)

Everyone can be a superhero for animals! Together we'll use our new found powers to find out what kids like us can do to help the animals and plants we love.

Ages: 5–9 years
Fee: \$85

6416: Oct 14, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

IT'S RAINING CATS AND DOGS

(3-Day Camp)

Ever noticed how many different species of cats and dogs we have at the zoo? They seem to be everywhere! Join us as we learn about some of the numerous wild cat and dog species in the world. We will even talk about that domesticated cat or dog you might have at home!

Half-Day Session:

Ages: 4–6 years
Fee: \$135

6426: Nov 21–23, 9:00 a.m.–noon

Full-Day Session:

Ages: 5–9 years
Fee: \$215

6436: Nov 21–23, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

WORLD TRAVELERS

(5-Day Camp)

Travel the world without ever leaving Seattle and explore the plants, animals and cultures of a new place each day. Through crafts and activities we'll learn how animals and plants have special adaptations to match their habitats. Pack your bags for this awesome week at zoo camp!

Half-Day Session:

Ages: 4–6 years
Fee: \$180

6446: Dec 19–23, 9:00 a.m.–noon

Full-Day Session:

Ages: 5–9 years
Fee: \$295

6456: Dec 19–23, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

NATURE EXPERIMENTS

(1-Day Camp)

Animal scientists do experiments all the time. Become a scientist as you conduct your own experiments to learn about nocturnal animals, tracking, vegetation and more.

Ages: 5–9 years
Fee: \$100

6117: Feb 1, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

WORLD WIDE WEBS

(4-Day Camp)

We're all connected in this world! Discover how living and non-living things are intertwined within ecosystems.

Half-Day Session:

Ages: 4–6 years
Fee: \$165

6466: Dec 27–30, 9:00 a.m.–noon

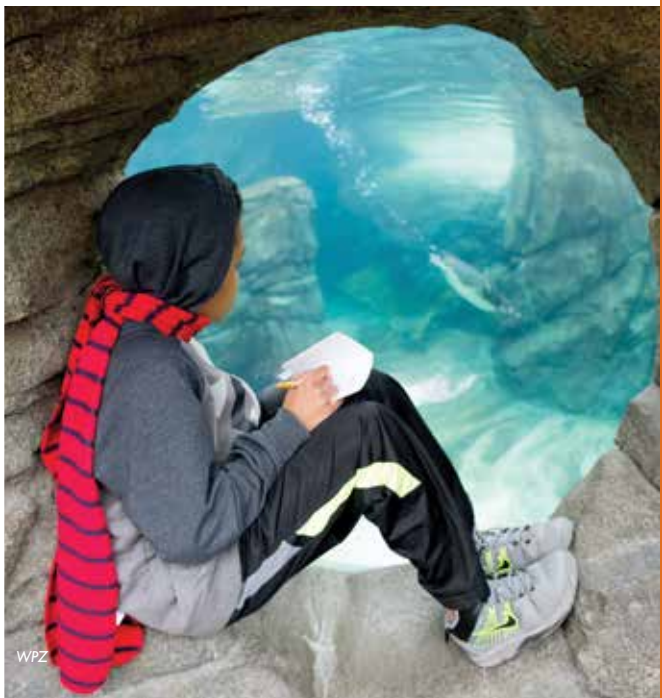
Full-Day Session:

Ages: 5–9 years
Fee: \$265

6476: Dec 27–30, 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

SPRING CAMPS

Visit our website at www.zoo.org/school_year_camps and read future publications for details.



A Forest Feast

Bears need to eat lots of calories during the fall season to put on enough weight to stay healthy through their winter hibernation. Grizzlies eat anything they can find including berries, roots, insects and grubs as well as salmon and other fish. Their diet depends on what foods are around each season.



Add up the food points for each bear every time its path crosses a meal. Write the total food points above each bear's name.



POINT VALUES:

- = 1
- = 4
- = 2
- = 8

BONUS:

When bears hibernate, their heart rate slows from 40 beats per minute to _____ beats per minute. This majorly deep snooze allows the grizzlies to save precious energy. Solve the bonus problem above by replacing the bear's name with their food points.

Benxi - Beatrix = _____ = X Bronx - X = _____ = the answer!

ANSWERS: Benxi are 36 food points, he is the winner. Beatrix are 25 food points. Bronx only are 19 food points.
BONUS: 8 heartbeats per minute; 36-25 = 11 and 19-11 = 8.

North American river otters have large teeth with especially sharp canines. Their large molars (back teeth) are used for crushing hard objects like clam shells and crab claws.



Adult river otters have 36 teeth!
Their powerful jaws can crush bones.

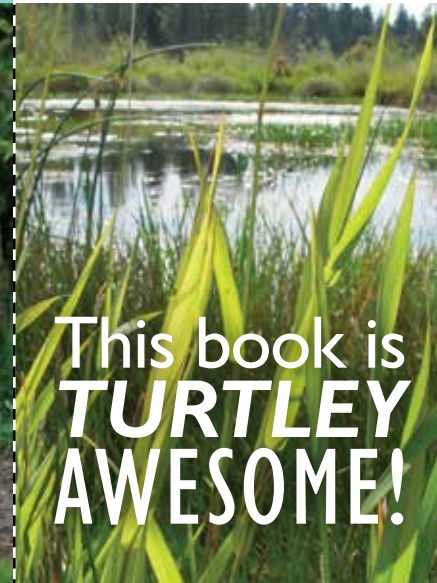
Cut around the dotted lines to create your own bookmark.



Wolves use body language to communicate. In addition to howling and scent marking, wolves have a wide range of body language to let their pack know what's up. They rely on their posture, facial expression, ear and tail positioning, and more to communicate. They have a different move for play, aggression, submission and even ambivalence. If you've ever been to the dog park, you might have seen this behavior in Fido too.



WOLF WISE



This book is **TURTLEY AWESOME!**

MY ZOO KIDS

Ages 3-5



For 25 years Woodland Park Zoo has been helping endangered Western pond turtles grow big enough to escape the mouths of predators. When they are released back into the wild the turtles have a head start on survival!

MY NAME: _____

FAVORITE ANIMAL: _____

FAVORITE BOOK: _____

FAVORITE COLOR: _____

BABY ANIMAL HIDE AND SEEK

Baby animals are sometimes hard to find. They stay hidden in dens and nests where they are safe. Use these baby animals to play hide and seek with a twist. On his or her turn, the seeker will pick an animal and the hiders must move and make sounds like that animal. Switch animals on the next turn. **Good luck!**

Where would a baby turtle like to hide?
What about a gosling or a porcupette?

Flowerback box turtle (hatchling)



Emperor goose (gosling)



North American porcupine (porcupette)



MAKE A NATURE JOURNAL

Keeping a journal is a good way to remember all the wonderful things you've seen in nature!

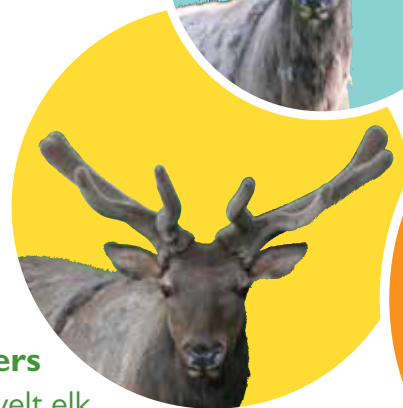
1. Collect small items from the ground (leaves, sticks or small rocks)
2. Decorate with your words or art (leaf rubbings or drawings)
3. Remember to write down the location and date on each page



ROOSEVELT ELK inhabit Pacific coastal rain forests of the Olympic mountains, as well as the western slopes of the Cascade Mountains. Roosevelt elk are the **largest** of North American elk, with a **powerful** physique that enables them to swim, break through deep snow and climb into high elevations.

Meet Goodwyn →

Here you can see our male (**bull**) elk, Goodwyn, and watch the **growth** of his magnificent antlers over a 5 month period.



The antlers of a bull elk grow during spring and summer, underneath a fuzzy covering known as **velvet**. In late summer the velvet dries and falls off to reveal bonelike fully grown antlers. Elk **shed** their antlers in February and then new antlers begin to grow.



The **antlers** of Roosevelt elk are thick and have vertical points, with a distinctive three-point tip. Their antlers average 4 feet in **length!**

ANTLER ANTIQCS

Draw your own!

Use the space provided to fill in and draw your own elk antlers.



ZOO PARENT

RED PANDA ADOPTION SPECIAL

Have you met the newest member of our red panda family? Adopt Carson, our 2-year-old male and resident heart-stealer, and receive a plush animal, adoption certificate and more. Best of all, your support will fund the daily care and feeding of all the zoo inhabitants.

YOUR ADOPTION PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Red panda plush
- Personalized adoption certificate
- Animal fact sheet
- Color photo of animal
- ZooParent window decal
- Online recognition for one year

Or, upgrade your adoption to the \$100 level and get two one-time use admission passes and your name on the ZooParent recognition sign on grounds for a full year, starting March 2017!

Visit Carson in the Temperate Forest (look for his uniquely pale face and lighter coat), and then go online at zoo.org/zooparentspecial to adopt him today!

Special available through October 31, 2016.

\$69
Actual plush may vary.



\$5 from every ZooParent adoption directly supports the zoo's conservation efforts in the Pacific Northwest and around the world.