

ZooPoints



Connecting with our animals

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Make a splash!

Join the pool of generous donors who are turning aquarium dreams into reality.

When the Pacific Seas Aquarium opens this summer, it will take visitors on an unparalleled journey through our ocean—from Baja Bay, with its scalloped hammerhead sharks, green sea turtles, spotted eagle rays and tropical fish, up the coast to the cold waters of Puget Sound teeming with rockfish, rattfish, jellyfish and octopus.

This state-of-the-art aquarium is funded largely through bonds approved by Tacoma voters in 2014. But there is still room for corporations and individuals to participate in a final fundraising push to help make the Pacific Seas Aquarium a jewel that inspires our community for generations.

The Zoo Society is leading this drive.

"We are fortunate to live in a community that wholeheartedly supports its Zoo and steps forward when there's a need to add new exhibits or make other improvements," said Sue Mauermann, President of The Zoo Society's Board of Directors. "We are delighted to provide

the opportunity for corporations and individuals to contribute to this exciting new aquarium. We know donors will be proud when it opens this summer and they can say to themselves, 'I helped build that!'"

Families and individuals who donate \$1,000 or more will be recognized on a special wall within the aquarium. There is also a place to honor the generosity of companies and organizations, said Zoo Society Executive Director Larry Norvell.

Here's how you can dive into the action:

- Contribute to the Pacific Seas Aquarium at the front gate when you enter the Zoo.
- Donate when you renew your Zoo membership.
- Go to The Zoo Society website at thezoosociety.org.
- Give to the Pacific Seas Aquarium Capital Campaign via check or credit card by calling Laura Badeaux in The Zoo Society office at 253-404-3694.

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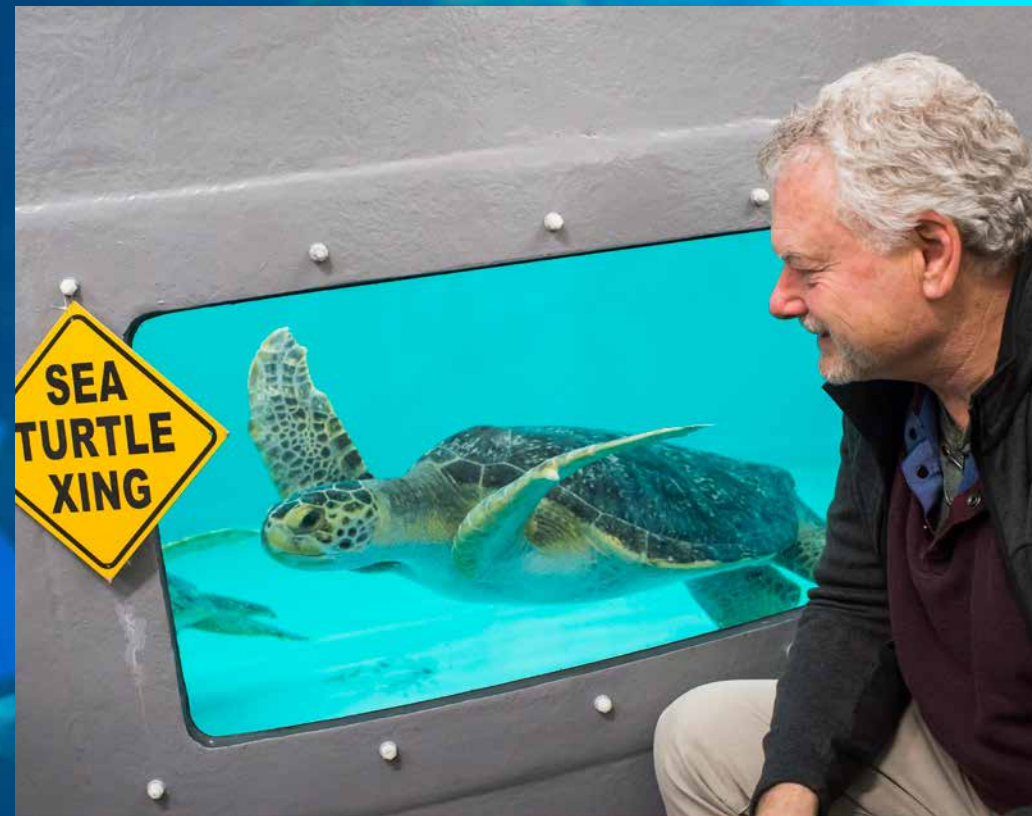
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**Thank You to our
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Meet Neil Allen Aquarium Curator

Education

- Bachelor of Science in Biology, Western Washington University
- Master of Science in Biology, Stanford University

A deep history in marine science

- Exhibit designer
- Life-support system designer
- Research biologist
- Lifelong scuba diver

Aquariums he has helped open

- Monterey Bay Aquarium, Monterey, Calif.
- Colorado's Ocean Journey, Denver, Colo.
- Georgia Aquarium, Atlanta, Ga.
- Sharjah Aquarium, United Arab Emirates

Neil Allen brings a deep knowledge of the ocean—and a “wow” factor—to the Pacific Seas Aquarium

Through eight years of dreaming, through four years of working with contractors, mentoring staff, caring for animals and watching a building slowly rise, Aquarium Curator Neil Allen has kept one vision in sight for the Pacific Seas Aquarium.

"There's nothing like seeing little kids running up to an exhibit, pressing their hands and noses against the glass, looking at the animals inside, and saying, 'Wow,' " says Allen.

He won't even care if they leave smudges on the glass.

That kind of immersive animal connection is exactly the reason the 35,000-square-foot Pacific Seas Aquarium—opening this summer—is being built.

Whether it's green sea turtles gliding through the enormous Baja Bay exhibit, a 30-year-old rockfish in the Northwest Waters or colorful undulating jellyfish, Allen knows something in the new aquarium will touch you.

He also hopes it will inspire you to take action—like avoiding single-use plastic bottles, bags and straws—on behalf of a healthy ocean.

Of course, building an aquarium takes a village. There are the Tacoma voters who approved a bond issue to finance it; the donors; the architects, engineers and contractors; the aquarium staff who care for these stunning animals; and the staff who help guests learn more about our ocean.

Like an artist about to unveil a masterpiece, Allen has fretted over every step, working to deliver a community treasure to replace the 55-year-old North Pacific Aquarium.

"Some things, I think you're just born to do," he says.

For the boy who grew up in Oregon and Washington, camping, hiking and fishing while other kids were playing baseball, a career working with marine animals came naturally.

He landed in Monterey, Calif., while doing graduate work at Stanford University in the 1980s, just in time to get hired and help with opening one of the world's foremost aquariums—feeding his passion "for the ocean, the smell of saltwater, the waves, the docks, the animals, all of it."

Now, after a three-decade career of being recruited around the world for his expertise in exhibit design and aquatic animal care, Allen wants nothing less than to deliver that same awe.

Fingering a color-coded construction schedule, Allen circles back to the "wow" factor. He's certain that these green sea turtles, scalloped hammerhead sharks and hundreds of other sea animals will spark a new generation of ocean conservationists.

"I once saw a small boy watch a butterfly fish swim back and forth for more than five minutes," he said. "He was transfixed. That's the kind of transformative experience we want to deliver."

GET CONNECTED

No electronics needed for these IRL (in real life) animal experiences

Loving animals is in our nature.

So we make it easy to get up close to the action at your Zoo, get a good look at creatures great and small and learn more about animals from A (an aardvark named Tilli) to Z (our zebra shark, Peanut).

Whether you want to admire an aardvark, wiggle with a walrus, feed a goat or see a sloth, here's a guide to some of our favorite encounters. And no electronics are needed—unless you want a selfie.



Touch a stingray

Dip two fingers into the warm salt water and gently touch the Jello-like surface of a stingray. Dozens of the dinner-plate-sized animals dart to and fro in Stingray Cove in the South Pacific Aquarium. Check out their “cousins” in the same exhibit: touchable epaulette and bamboo sharks, with leathery hides. And look for Peanut the zebra shark in the Lagoon!

What do stingrays teach us? Our actions on land affect these animals. Choosing sustainable seafood can help stingrays in the wild, since they are accidentally caught up in some commercial fishing operations. Here at the Zoo we use the Seafood Watch card and phone app to choose our seafood responsibly and create a healthy ocean. Find it at seafoodwatch.org.

How are humans like stingrays? Stingrays bury themselves under the sand when they need a nap—just like we snuggle under a cozy blanket.



Catch sight of Tilli

Tilli the aardvark is a star in our Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater show—but you can see her during the off-season, too. She might show up during a Close Encounter at the Theater, and she also gets exercise walking around the Zoo with the staff biologists who care for her.

What do aardvarks teach us? Aardvarks are not endangered, but their insect diet makes them vulnerable to drought and other habitat changes. At the Zoo, Tilli eats a special Insectivore Chow, but she also loves eating live mealworms!

How are humans like aardvarks? Ever slurp a tasty treat? Aardvarks use their 12-inch-long tongues to get at those hidden termites.



Give grub to a goat

We're not kidding around: Our Nigerian dwarf goats are just about the cutest thing you'll see on four legs at the Zoo. Buy a handful of pellets and feel them lick your fingers as they snarf it up. And feeling their wiry hair is half the fun.

What do goats teach us? Human “kids” connect with goats. And just like humans, goats need food, water, shelter and space—we care for our goats by feeding them pellets, brushing them and giving them a nice yard and covered shelter.

How are humans like goats? We're both animals that hang out in groups and create social structures. And goats love to climb and jump, just like your kids at the playground!

Wiggle like a walrus

Stand at the underwater viewing window in the Rocky Shores area and wiggle a bit. Pretend you're a Pacific walrus as you watch Basilla, Joan, Kulusiq and Dozer swim gracefully around their habitat. And if it's raining out, so much the better. You'll stay dry while these humongous pinnipeds splash in their saltwater home.

What do walruses teach us? They are one of many Arctic and sub-Arctic species showing us the effect climate change has on wildlife. Declining sea ice disrupts walrus breeding seasons and affects the abundance of their prey. But even though we live far from the Arctic we can help walruses by reducing our use of fossil fuels. Try turning off your engine rather than idling for more than 30 seconds—it'll save you gas, too.

How are humans and walruses alike? Walruses are very social, hanging out together by the hundreds.



Take a Siesta

The thought of sleeping all day in a rain forest is quite appealing—and Siesta, our two-toed sloth, does just that. Sloths also have a pretty tasty diet of leaves, berries, twigs and fruit in their South American habitat. The only drawback to all that coolness? They spend most of their lives upside down—definitely a downside for many humans.

Where to see Siesta: Find her rotating in and out of Close Encounters at the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater on warmer days, and look for her special appearances around the Zoo.

What do sloths teach us? Patience. Camouflage is their main defense and they can remain motionless for a long time, making it difficult for predators to spot them in trees.

How are humans and sloths alike? We're both attentive to our babies. A newborn two-toed sloth stays on its mother's chest and belly for about a year, feeding on any leaves it can reach from that position. If separated, the baby's bleating call alerts its mother.



ZOO SUMMER CAMPS

Budding biologists ages 4 through 17 will enjoy learning about animals, habitats, careers and conservation while participating in any one (or more) of our camp-tastic experiences this summer!

Visit pdza.org/camps to register, learn more about camp themes and fees and to find out about All-Day Camp Adventure and extended care options.

Preschoolers (ages 4–5) (mornings)

Spots and Stripes June 19–20, Aug. 9–10
Eye Spy June 21–22, July 5–6
Animal Homes June 19–20, July 26–27
Really Big Zoo July 9–10, Aug. 16–17

Preschoolers (ages 4–5) (afternoons)

Fur, Feathers, Scales, Slime July 5–6, July 19–20
Movin' and Groovin' July 16–17
Down on the Farm Aug. 6–7, Aug. 20–21

Kindergarten graduates (mornings)

Feeding Frenzy July 11–13, Aug. 13–15
Wild Sounds July 16–18, Aug. 6–8
Just Like Me July 23–25, Aug. 20–22

Kindergarten graduates (afternoons)

Zoo Crew June 20–22
Motion Commotion July 16–18
Zoomagination July 18–20, Aug. 8–10

1st/2nd Grade graduates (mornings)

Happenin' Habitats June 25–29, Aug. 13–17
Under the Sea July 9–13, July 23–27
Creature Features July 30–Aug. 3

1st/2nd Grade graduates (afternoons)

Animal Athletes June 25–29
Jungle Journey July 9–13, Aug. 20–24
Who's for Lunch? July 30–Aug. 3, Aug. 13–17

3rd/4th Grade graduates (mornings)

Excellent Ecosystems June 25–29, Aug. 20–24
What's for Dinner? July 16–20

3rd/4th Grade graduates (afternoons)

Animal Grossology June 25–29, July 23–27
Build Your Own Zoo July 9–13, July 30–Aug. 3
Animals Got Talent July 16–20
Animal Historians Aug. 6–10

5th–7th Grade graduates (mornings)

It's All About the Insides July 30–Aug. 3
Wild Photographer July 9–13, Aug. 13–17
Wild Explorers Aug. 6–10

5th–7th Grade graduates (afternoons)

If I Ran the Zoo July 9–13
Jr. Zookeeper July 23–27
Wild Artist Aug. 13–17

Ages 13–17 (mornings)

Wild Researchers July 16–20
Marine Biologist for a Week July 23–27, Aug. 6–10
Keeper for a Week July 30–Aug. 3, Aug. 13–17, Aug. 20–24

Ages 13–17 (afternoons)

Jr. Veterinarian July 16–20, Aug. 13–17
Teen Wild Photographer July 30–Aug. 3

Get Eye-to-Eye with 16 sharks

Imagine climbing down into the warm water of the South Pacific Aquarium, breathing rhythmically in and out through an air hose and immersing yourself in the world of 16 large sharks. You share their space. You learn how they live. And when you climb out of the cage some 30 minutes later, you perhaps see them differently. Sharks are not so much mysterious as they are fascinating predators with a 450-million-year history in the ocean food chain. They're not so much scary as they are threatened by human behavior. Your spot in our Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive program—in which over 10,000 guests have participated for over four years—is waiting for you, with dives scheduled on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Have a blast. Learn about sharks. And take the pledge to help them in the wild. Book now at pdza.org/dive.



April 2–6: Spring Break Superstars

It's a spring break tradition. Spend a few days of your "staycation" watching our Superstar animals receive special treats and enrichments.

Monday, April 2, 2 p.m.

Red wolves play with papier-mâché flowers

Tuesday, April 3, 11 a.m.

Sharks eat rainbow-colored fishcicles

Wednesday, April 4, 1 p.m.

Elephants stomp watermelons

Thursday, April 5, 11:30 a.m.

Polar bears play with ice

Friday, April 6, 12:30 p.m.

Tigers slurp whipped cream



April 27–28: BioBlitz

Join us in counting every living thing in Point Defiance Park in a 24-hour "blitz." Learn how to volunteer at metroparkstacoma.org/bioblitz.



May 12: Half-Price Moms' Day

We honor all moms on the Saturday before Mother's Day. Members of the general public get a deal on admission; all families get to make unforgettable memories. What better way to celebrate Mom than with a family visit to your Zoo?

Pin it!

Here's a calendar of non-stop fun at your Zoo, plus a bonus volunteer event in Point Defiance Park!



May 12–13:

Old favorites return

Budgie Buddies are back for the season! Come see—and feed—these colorful Australian birds.

"Wildest Show in the West" returns for encore

Mosey on down to the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater for a fun-filled show featuring live animals and zookeeper actors with a cast led by Herald the dog, a.k.a. Sheruff Bones.



June 2–3: World Ocean Weekend

Celebrate our ocean and the animals that call it home with fun ocean-themed activities; see marine animals receive special enrichments; and view a giant sand sculpture created in honor of the new Pacific Seas Aquarium.



June 17: Half-Price Dads' Day

No, silly—Dads aren't on sale. But they do get half-off general admission on Father's Day, and it's a great time to bring your brood to visit the Zoo's animal family.



July 28: World Tiger Day

We promise a roaring good time for cats and humans as you watch our endangered Sumatran tigers receive special enrichments. And you'll leave with ideas on how you can help save tigers in the wild.



Sept. 1–3: End of Summer Blast

Summer's coming to a close, but we promise one more wonderful Zoo hurrah with special treats and enrichments for our animals all weekend long.

Connect with us



Wildlife matters: Join the club

For an annual contribution of just \$500, you can help Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium continue its mission for years to come. Your donation supports wildlife conservation, funds new exhibits, and provides educational resources for all ages. Join the Vision Keeper Club and make a difference while enjoying special events and behind-the-scenes opportunities. For more information, go to thezoosociety.org/become-a-vision-keeper.

More fun at the Zoo

Try these Members' Only tips.

Membership has its privileges, and Zoo membership is a bargain. It's a snap to renew—and right before the summer season is a great time to do so. Thinking ahead, if you're seeking the right gift for Mom, Dad or the family grad, a year's worth of visits to the Zoo is a priceless gift of fun and family time.

Here are some tips to get the most out of any membership:

- Bring your current membership card and ID. You'll get checked in quicker—more time for fun at the Zoo.
- Did we mention discounts? Yep. Your membership card gets you discounts on riding the carousel and the camels, and on those wonderful seed sticks for feeding budgies.
- More discounts! Members also get discounts on Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives, camps and other fun activities.
- Zoo-per deals: Your membership card entitles you to a 10 percent discount in the Plaza Gift Shop; discounted tickets for guests; 50 percent off Zoolights tickets; and a 20 percent discount off admission to our sister zoo, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. But you must bring your card to the Zoo to receive the bargains.

Learn more at pdza.org/membership.



**WILD
REWARDS**

Zoo membership has its privileges—and they are about to get even better. Look for our new Wild Rewards program coming soon.

Cute, cuddly, and ready for adoption

Be a Zoo-per hero for conservation. Adopt a species through The Zoo Society. You'll receive a cuddly stuffed version of the species you adopt—from sharks and eagle rays to sea turtles, clouded leopards, polar bears, tigers and more. For a tax-deductible donation of \$60 you can be a Zoo Parent and will receive a stuffed plush animal, certificate of adoption, animal fact sheet and 5-by-7 photo of your animal. Special adoption packages also are available. To learn more, go to thezoosociety.org/adopt.

