

Z Points



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Thank you to our Community Partner:



WHO'S WHO IN THE WILD WONDERS EXERCISE YARD

Clouded leopards Banyan and Orchid might be on the prowl, climbing and jumping from limb to limb. Southern ground hornbill Ruby could be stretching her wings. North American beavers Walnut and Hazelnut could be spotted diving and splashing in the pool.

Weather permitting, you might see different Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater animals getting a bit of exercise, showing off their agility or receiving some training in the Exercise Yard just outside the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater.

Every day is different at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Take a stroll down to the Exercise Yard to seek who might be at play on any given day.



CONSERVATION CORNER

Helping the environment can save you money

Our partners at Tacoma Public Utilities and the City of Tacoma Environmental Services have some great reminders for 2016 on ways to save energy, water and money – and help the environment.

Simple steps to savings

- Estimate your energy and water use at www.MyTPU.org/calculate.
- Upgrade lighting with LEDs or CFLs; look for the Energy Star label on products.
- Weatherize your home; save up to 50% on heating and installation costs.
- Install a ductless heat pump; reduce heating costs by up to 50%.
- Unplug appliances when not using them.
- Use smart power strips with electronic equipment.
- Install new, efficient showerheads.
- Find and fix water leaks from faucets, pipes and toilets.

Celebrate Thea Foss Waterway Cleanup

Ten years ago, the City of Tacoma completed a monumental cleanup on the Thea Foss Waterway. Thanks to this effort, we can live, work, paddle and play on a clean waterway. To celebrate this milestone, the City of Tacoma's Environmental Services Department and its community partners are planning activities throughout the year to raise awareness about ongoing efforts to protect area waters. Learn more about events like Pier Peer, the 9th Annual South Sound Sustainability Expo, Bike Month and the 24th annual Tacoma Maritime Fest at cityoftacoma.org.



Zoo's Citizen Science programs get huge boost from Zoobilee

Ordinary people can get involved in remarkable research

On a clear, warm day, a group of children, teens, and adults fan out with clipboards along Owen Beach, scouring the rocks, the pilings, and the shallow water for clinging and crawling creatures.

They are observant. They are happy. And they are learning more about the world around them while also making a crucial contribution to the living body of scientific data.

These are Citizen Scientists, and they have gathered on this particular day for Explore the Shore, one of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium's four programs designed to involve ordinary people in extraordinary research efforts.

Over the last four years - from Commencement Bay to Mount Rainier - more than 3,500 people have joined in the Zoo's Citizen Science mission to link local residents with nature and contribute to wildlife research.

"These programs get people outside and connect them to wild places and wild animals," said Craig Standridge, the Zoo's coordinator for public programs and visitor studies. "And at the same time, they're also doing something to help wildlife."

Now, courtesy of \$65,000 in donations by generous patrons at The Zoo Society's Zoobilee last summer, these programs will be accessible to more people in 2016. Some of the funds paid for the Zoo's purchase of a 10-passenger van to take volunteers to wildlife research sites. The remainder will pay for equipment and staff time.

The Zoo's Citizen Science effort began in 2011 with a 24-hour "Bio Blitz"—an event that brought together multiple agencies and scores of volunteers to learn about, count, and track every living thing at Point Defiance Park. The event was so successful that Zoo staff met with the state Department of Fish & Wildlife to brainstorm future programs that would assist research and engage the community.

The result was a steadily growing list of programs that allow people to get involved for a day or for a few hours every month. They can sit to observe and record nature in some spots; wade into water at others; or climb strenuous trails in pursuit of animal information at still other sites.

For some projects, volunteers attend training sessions in advance to learn about observing the animals and collecting data. These volunteers can then track species in places, and at a level of detail, that the Fish and Wildlife Department's limited staff might be unable to reach.

The Zoo continues to look for ways to expand Citizen Science, Standridge said, and likely will focus on sites within Tacoma "to inspire a lot more conservation, knowledge, appreciation and action for the benefit of the local wild area and animals."

HERE'S HOW TO BE A CITIZEN SCIENTIST

Pre-registration is required for all programs except Explore the Shore. E-mail zachary.hawn@pdza.org or call 253-404-3690 for more information or to register. All programs are free.

EXPLORE THE SHORE:

A low-tide walk along Owen Beach reveals an array of marine life for volunteers to record for Washington's NatureMapping database. This event is for ages 5 and older. Check pdza.org/citizen-science for dates and times.

SPOT THE SWALLOWS:

Learn about feeding and nesting habits of purple martins at sites along Ruston Way and Titlow Beach. Attend the workshop from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 3, then complete monthly surveys from April to August.

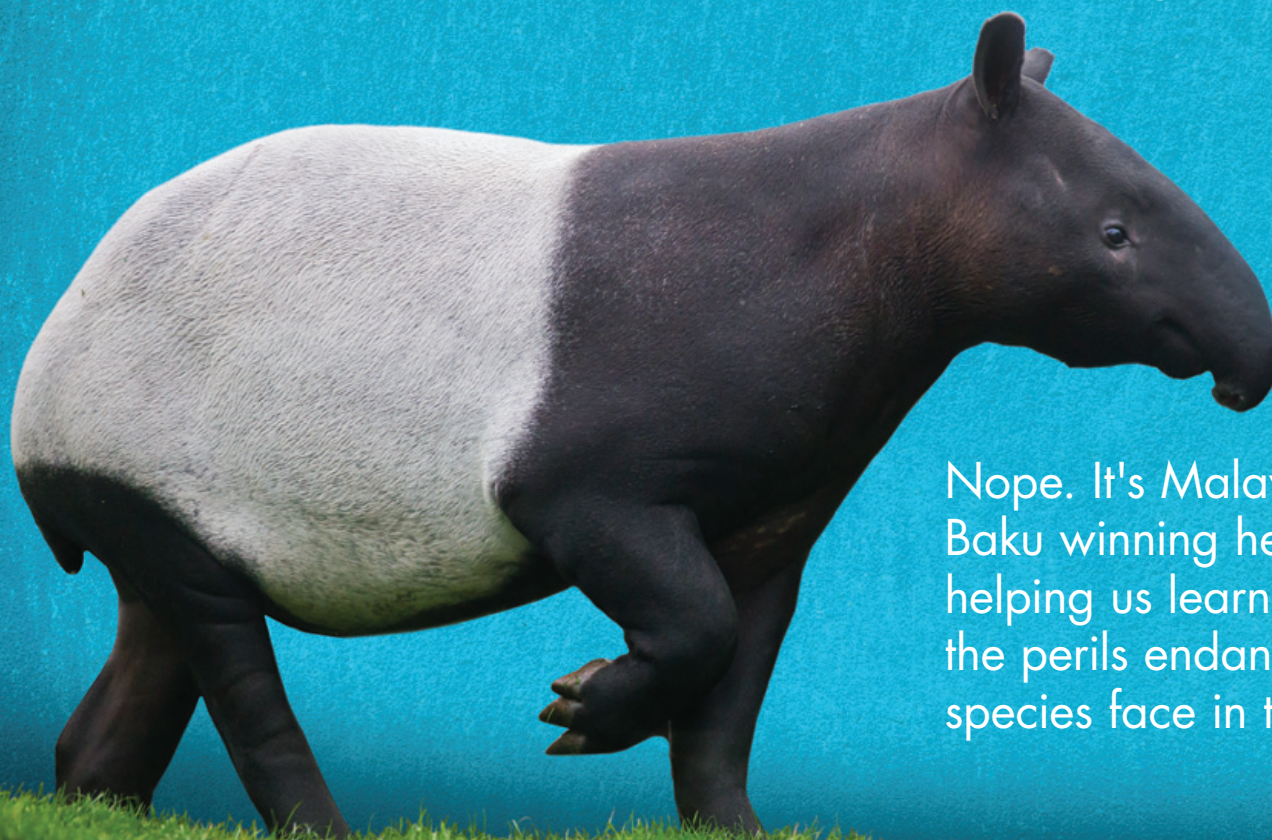
MONITOR THE MARSH:

Venture into local wetlands to spot amphibian egg masses—key indicators of environmental health. This family-friendly event is available for ages 8 and older. All gear is provided. Each outing runs from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Feb. 20, March 19, and April 16. Location to be determined. Attend one or all!

PEAKING FOR PIKAS:

Visit the Cascade mountains to search for this furry, squeaky, alpine-dwelling mammal. You must attend the training session from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. April 30 before completing at least one pika survey.

Is it a pig? A miniature horse? A cookie-colored animal with a big nose?



Nope. It's Malayan tapir Baku winning hearts and helping us learn about the perils endangered species face in the wild.

He is only 3 feet tall, but he weighs around 600 pounds. You might think he looks like a strange pig. Or a cross between an animal cracker and a certain black-and-white cookie might come to mind.

But Baku the Malayan tapir actually is a member of a species related to horses and rhinoceroses.

And those who've seen him in his new home at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium know him as an often squealing ball of energy.

It's hard to miss Baku amid the green, leafy surroundings of the Asian Forest Sanctuary. His markings—black in the front and back, and white in the middle—give him natural camouflage in the moonlight but help visitors spot him during the day. Perhaps more noticeable is his flexible, trunk-like nose, which, in the wild, is used to grasp food on the ground and in the trees.

After his public debut last fall, Baku has been busy exploring the habitats of the Asian Forest Sanctuary and learning behavior cues from his keepers. Tapirs are typically elusive, yet fast, agile hill climbers that often make whistling or squealing sounds to communicate.

"Baku has quite the personality," said Christy Webster, a staff biologist in the Asian Forest Sanctuary. "He's a unique individual that's really fun to work with."

Natives of Southern Burma, the Malay Peninsula, Southeast Thailand and Sumatra, tapirs are endangered due to hunting and habitat loss, generally from the deforestation wrought by palm oil plantations. It's estimated that fewer than 2,000 tapirs remain in the wild.

Baku is currently the only one of his species at the Zoo. But plans are for a female tapir to eventually join him as a mate through the Species Survival

Plan®, Zoo General Curator Dr. Karen Goodrowe Beck said.

"He is an outstanding ambassador for his counterparts in the wild," she added. "We are fortunate that our visitors have an opportunity to see and appreciate this unique animal up close."

The Zoo is involved in more than 30 Species Survival Plans for endangered birds, fish, reptiles, and mammals, including the Clouded leopard, Sumatran tiger, and Red wolf. These plans, administered through the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, aim to maintain genetic diversity of endangered animals and grow their populations by protecting and breeding them.

Want to learn more about Species Survival Plans?

Look for the logo near specific animal exhibits at the Zoo, or visit pdza.org/species-survival-plans

Enjoy that chocolate – but check out its origin

Palm oil is used in thousands of food, personal-care and household products, but its production can have devastating effects on wildlife in faraway lands.

The Malayan tapir and other animals of Southeast Asia thrive in lush, biodiverse forests. But their habitat is dwindling, due to oil palm plantations that strip the land of its fertile soil and varied plant life.

Palm oil is the most widely used vegetable oil on Earth, according to the World Wide Fund for Nature, and the demand continues to rise.

It's likely in the chocolate you savor. The cereal that gets you moving in the morning. Even the shampoo that leaves your hair shiny and smelling awesome.

Many baked, processed or packaged foods contain palm oil, as do common household and personal-care products like detergent, bath soap, even candles.

Harvested from the fruit of the oil palm tree, the product is important to the economies of Indonesia and Malaysia. But the deforestation wrought by the palm oil industry has pushed native animals to smaller pockets of rain forest, endangering the long-term survival of species like the tapir, the Clouded leopard, the Sumatran tiger, the siamang and the White-cheeked gibbon.

Reducing the impact on wildlife is a conservation priority for Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, which launched the Paws for the Cause initiative in 2014. This campaign calls on consumers to contact companies that use palm oil in their products and advocate for their use of palm oil derived only from a type of farming that protects forests and animal habitat. The international Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil sets standards for responsible palm oil harvesting, and many companies already have begun altering their practices.

Strong encouragement from consumers can lead to these changes, said Karen Povey, the Zoo's Education Curator.

Over the summer, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium joined with Oregon Zoo, the Union for Concerned Scientists and other organizations to urge Starbucks to use only "deforestation-free" palm oil in its many products that contain that ingredient. On Global Tiger Day in July, Zoo members and other consumers posted deforestation-free messages on social media.

The campaign reached millions of Twitter and Facebook accounts. In addition, more than 200,000 people signed petitions. Starbucks has pledged to use RSPO-certified palm oil and to adopt net-zero deforestation practices. Advocates continue to monitor the situation.

"Consumer goods companies in the United States are responding to concern from our communities," Povey said. "There's power in numbers."

"We are working toward a global solution to stop the destruction of the only habitat in which many endangered species can survive," Povey said. We want our visitors at Point Defiance Zoo to know there are actions they can take to help the wild counterparts of the Sumatran tigers and Clouded leopards, the tapir and the siamangs and White-cheeked gibbons that they are fortunate enough to see here at the Zoo."



You can help

Paws for the Cause encourages Zoo visitors to urge companies to use deforestation-free palm oil, thus lessening the impact on wildlife habitat.

Visit pdza.org/pawsforthecause to:

- Find information on products that contain palm oil
- Find links to "Score Cards" from the Union for Concerned Scientists and the World Wide Fund for Nature that rank companies for their use of sustainable palm oil
- Learn how to contact companies to ask them to use deforestation-free palm oil

When consumers reach out to manufacturers and retailers, those companies can commit to deforestation-free palm oil and demand better practices from their suppliers, or find other sources, said Zoo Education Curator Karen Povey.

"People don't realize it's very powerful when consumers talk directly to a company," she added. "If someone has a favorite product that they know has palm oil in it, send the company an e-mail to urge them to protect wildlife."

For more information, contact pawsforthecause@pdza.org



A sample of products that contain palm oil.

CAMP-TASTIC SUMMER OF 2016

Exclusive Zoo Member registration is now open for camp sessions that provide a lifetime of memories, plus tons of summer fun. See a partial list below. Get complete details and registration materials at pdza.org/camps.

ALL-DAY ADVENTURES

A weeklong voyage of discovery for your child combines two camps each day for twice the learning—and twice the fun!

1st & 2nd Grade Graduates

Members \$231; Non-members \$263

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

June 20-24: Aquatic Amigos (NEW!) and Beastly Behaviors (NEW!)

June 27-July 1: Animal Athletes and Cats & Dogs

July 11-15: Jungle Journey and Where in the World?

July 25-29: Where in the World and Aquatic Amigos (NEW!)

Aug. 8-12: Beastly Behaviors and Animal Athletes

3rd & 4th Grade Graduates

Members \$231; Non-members \$263

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

June 20-24: Mythological Creatures (NEW!) & Oceans of Fun

July 18-22: Stayin' Alive (NEW!) & Build Your Own Zoo

July 25-29: Sense-ational Animals & Mythological Creatures (NEW!)

4th & 6th Grade Graduates

Members \$274; Non-members \$326

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Aug. 15-19: Wild Photographer & Wild Artist

All-Day Adventures continued...

5th & 6th Grade Graduates

Members \$231; Non-members \$263

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

July 18-22: Junior Zookeeper & Zombie Rangers

Aug. 8-15: Junior Vet Tech (NEW!) & Junior Zookeeper

Teen

Members \$252; Non-members \$284

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Aug. 8-12: Marine Biologist for a Week & Zoo Forensic Files

HALF-DAY TEEN PROGRAMS

Members \$131; Non-members \$147

Aug. 8-12: Zoo Forensic Files
1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

July 25-29; Aug. 1-5;
Aug. 15-19
Keeper for a Week
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

July 18-22; Aug. 8-12
Marine Biologist for a Week
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Teen Wild Photographer
June 27-July 1:

Members: \$142; Non-members: \$168
(includes materials fee)
9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

MINI CAMPS

Pre-K

Maximum of 12 kids per session

Members \$42; Non-members \$47

P.B. & Jellies (NEW!)

June 30-July 1: 9 a.m. - Noon

July 14-15: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Storybook Safari (NEW!)

June 27-28: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Aug. 1-2: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Kindergarten

Maximum of 12 kids per session

Members \$58; Non-members \$63

Nocturnal Neighbors (NEW!)

June 27-29: 9 a.m. - Noon

Aug. 3-5: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Just Like Me (NEW!)

July 6-8: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Aug. 1-3: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

1st and 2nd Grade Graduates

Maximum of 15 kids per session

Members \$48; Non-members \$53

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Forest Explorers & Beach Combers: July 5

'Round the Rocky Shore: July 6

Habitat Heroes: July 8

3rd and 4th Grade Graduates

Maximum of 15 kids per session

Members \$48; Non-members \$53

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Forest Explorers & Beach Combers: July 5

5th and 6th Grade Graduates

Maximum 15 kids per session

Members \$48; Non-members \$53

Time: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Forest Explorers & Beach Combers: July 5

EXTENDED CARE

\$10 per hour per day per child

Early drop-off and late pick-up options are available for all days of camp, with pre-registration and at least one business day of notice. Children enrolled in extended care must be attending appropriate camp sessions; those in morning extended care must be attending morning camp on that day and those in afternoon extended care must be attending afternoon camp on that day.



FEBRUARY 13-14 LOVE AT THE ZOO

Love is in the air! Learn how and why animals find a partner, for a season or forever. Visit the Zoo this Valentine's Day weekend and enjoy stories and information from staff biologists.



FEBRUARY 28-29 LEAPIN' LEMURS!

It's Leap Year, and what better way to celebrate the bonus Leap Day in February than watching our resident Ring-tailed lemurs, Black and white ruffed lemurs, and Black lemurs receive special enrichment treats.

MARCH 19-20 OCEAN COMMOTION

There will be a lot to "sea" and do during an interactive celebration of the oceans' inhabitants and their habitats. Touch a stingray or a small shark. Try your hand at special games. See sea creatures receive special treats and learn what you can do to help the world's oceans.



LEAP INTO 2016

WITH A LATE WINTER AND SPRING BURSTING WITH FUN



APRIL 4-8 SPRING BREAK SUPERSTARS

Meet a new animal every day this week! The Zoo turns the spotlight on Red wolves, sharks, Asian elephants, tapirs and Polar bears for special activities throughout Spring Break.



APRIL 16-17 PARTY FOR THE PLANET

Honor Earth Day with activities for animals and people alike. Come to the Zoo for some tips on sustainable, planet-friendly living, while Zoo residents dine on special treats and play games.

APRIL 30-MAY 1 BUDGIES GRAND OPENING FOR SUMMER SEASON

Those colorful Australian birds are back! So pick up a seed stick and greet them with a treat in their aviary.



MAY 7 HALF PRICE MOMS' DAY

Begin Mother's Day Weekend with a trip to the Zoo, where every mom receives half-price admission. A few animal mothers will get special recognition, too.



Connect with us



Keeping the Vision Alive

Become a Vision Keeper today with an annual gift of \$500 or more. This donation will help fund educational programs, new major exhibits and conservation projects that help save endangered species, such as Red wolves, in the wild.

Learn more at thezoosociety.org, or contact Lawrence Norvell at 253-404-3663 or email him at lnorvell@thezoosociety.org. Your gift will keep the vision of a sustainable world alive!



Happy Re-New Year!



The beginning of 2016 is a great time to renew your Zoo membership or purchase one as a gift for family or friends. This can be a birthday gift, an anniversary gift—or better than chocolate for Valentine's Day! Members play a vital role in the Zoo's conservation mission, supporting programs that help make our world a better place. Plus, you receive unlimited Zoo visits for a year; discounts on camps, special programs and on Zoolights tickets; and discounts at Northwest Trek Wildlife Park. Plus, admission to a very special Members' Night on June 16. Learn more at pdza.org/membership.

Adopt a trio of aquatic animals for triple the fun

Celebrate the world's oceans and make a conservation difference today. For a limited time, you can adopt three species through The Zoo Society for just \$99.

The Aquatic Fun adoption package available through March 31 includes:

- Three 6-inch plush animals: blue-spotted maskray, blacktip reef shark and Pacific octopus
- 5x7 photo of each species
- Fact sheet on each species
- Donor sticker

Your donation helps fund conservation and education programs at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

The plush animals must be mailed to the same address. For more information, or to order, contact Laura Badeaux at 253.404.3694 or via email at lbadeaux@thezoosociety.org

The Zoo Society
POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

