There’s a new sheriff in Triple R Town, and he’s enforcing the recycling code.

Pull on your boots, grab your hat and prepare for a thigh-slapping, mouth-gaping all-new live animal show that will amaze and inspire you at Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater.

Clark the king vulture will fly straight into your heart as he soars overhead. Be amazed by leaping clouded leopards Orchid and Banyan. Giggle at a flock of stampeding chickens with musical names like Bach and Beethoven. Marvel at Gonzo, a Southern tamandua, an interesting anteater with an impossibly long tongue.

All these and more than a dozen other cast members star in a Wild West-themed show scripted so visitors can learn more about these animals, yearn for experiences in the outdoors, and be motivated to help the environment.

Grand Opening Weekend is May 27-29. The show takes place in the Town of Triple R, where the watchwords are Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

And there’s a new lawman in town. His name is “Sheruff” Bones (aka Herald the dog), and he presides over a show that highlights rappelling, mountain biking, snowshoeing, bird watching, picnicking and other activities you can do in your own backyard.

Clark, who as a vulture is the king of recycling, also helps tell the story.

When Sheruff Bones comes riding in on a hot air balloon at show’s end, visitors will know quite a bit about making sustainable choices like using rechargeable batteries and reusable water bottles, shopping bags, and lunch containers.

The show is presented with support from Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital.

“We think visitors will leave with smiles on their faces, a new appreciation for animals and a renewed dedication to taking action to conserve the earth’s resources,” said Maureen O’Keefe, senior staff biologist at Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater.

Brew Night at the Zoo
Get a taste of summer on May 18—and see Washed Ashore at night

It's time to toast the Washed Ashore exhibit and the wonderful marine animals at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. Sip handcrafted beer from local breweries and munch on goodies provided by Lancer Catering during Brew Night at the Zoo from 6:30 to 9 p.m. May 18.

Visitors can view 10 outdoor Washed Ashore sculptures in a whole new light, as they will be illuminated for the festivities. Plus, the aquariums will be open for viewing sharks, stingrays, jellies and other sea animals.

Brew Night is hosted by The Zoo Society, with proceeds going to help the organization fulfill its mission of supporting Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

Tickets are $60 per person in advance, and $75 after April 30. Details/tickets at thezoosociety.org or call 253-404-3651.

Imagine Yourself as a Wildlife Superhero

Become a Vision Keeper with an annual gift of $500 or more. Your donation supports animal care, education and conservation programs at your Zoo. Get details at thezoosociety.org, or contact Lawrence Norvell at 253-404-3663.
Come see where walruses, sea lions and harbor seals swim, splash and play. Peer at puffins and common murres. Get a whole new window—well, make that windows!—on the world of marine mammals and shore birds.

Thanks to a bond issue approved by Tacoma voters in 2014, Rocky Shores will have a fresh, new look. Slated to open within the next month, the renovated exhibit area will allow visitors to:

• **Gain new perspectives** on California sea lions and harbor seals on land and in the water through large viewing windows, and watch keeper talks from elevated seating as the animals haul out of the water.

• **Get crystal clear underwater views** of our walruses, sea lions, harbor seals, sea otters and puffins through new windows.

• **Enjoy easier access** to Arctic Tundra with a new stroller and wheelchair friendly pathway from the seal and sea lion pool area.

• **Learn more about marine animals** through updated graphics with information about the species you will see as well as the individual animals that live at Rocky Shores.

• **See how you measure up** to walruses, sea lions and harbor seals at a life-sized, hand-painted mural depicting these mammals. Study a second mural showing the sea otters’ role in a kelp forest.

• **Be inspired to protect the ocean** and the amazing creatures that call it home.

Getting face-to-face with a massive walrus through a viewing window, watching a sea otter groom herself, seeing a torpedo-shaped harbor seal zoom through the water or hearing the throaty barking of a California sea lion are among the amazing experiences at Rocky Shores, said Conservation Engagement Manager Karen Povey.

“Now, we’ve put a sharpened focus on what these animals can teach us and how our actions impact the ocean and shore we share with them,” she added. “We want visitors to know more about the quality of life our Zoo provides for the animals that live here, as well about conservation actions we all can take to help their counterparts in the wild.”
Check out Chompers the Shark and his grim plastic grin. Look closely at Priscilla the Parrotfish. She’s colorful, engaging, mesmerizing art. You may just want to stare at her and soak in her beauty. Perhaps dream of the lovely coral reefs and subtropical reefs she calls home.

But underneath that beauty is a very ugly truth. Priscilla is made of plastic pollution. Look closely and you’ll spot faded cigarette lighters, plastic toys, bottle caps, buoys, fishing lures, toothbrushes, a bowling pin, even a plastic corn on the cob.

The same is true—with different variations of objects—with Steve the Weedy Sea Dragon, Chompers the Shark, Lidia the Seal, Gertrude the Penguin, and five other larger-than-life sea creatures created from plastic pollution washed up on some 300 miles of Oregon beaches.

Gertrude, for example, will tower over arriving guests at the Zoo’s Entry Plaza. She’s more than 8 feet tall, 8 feet wide and weighs in at 1,500 pounds. A standing Blue Sea Jelly to be placed outside North Pacific Aquarium is 12 feet tall, 2 feet wide and weighs—literally—a ton.

Ten sculptures from the highly acclaimed Washed Ashore Project will be on exhibit at the Zoo beginning on Earth Day, April 22, through Oct. 16. They are the creations of Bandon, Ore., artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi, who grew up in Olympia and taught art to students of all ages in the Vancouver and Portland area for three decades.

After retirement, she turned her love of the sea and her ability to create stunning works of art into the Washed Ashore Project, a non-profit community art organization that utilizes a handful of staff and an army of volunteers to transform tons of trash from the Pacific ocean into stunning artworks with a sobering message: Plastic garbage is overwhelming the ocean, and we must take steps to combat the growing pollution.

To date, she and her team have created nearly 70 sea creatures made of plastic pollution. They’ve been shown at zoos and other venues across the nation and featured on PBS’ NewsHour.

“We invite you to look closely,” Zoo Deputy Director John Houck said. “Come back again and again and bring your friends. Be entertained. But also be informed. These sculptures speak to the enormous problem of plastics in our ocean. And to the steps we all must take to combat this growing problem.”

Artist Angela Haseltine Pozzi

Zoo members get an early peek at Washed Ashore

What: Zoo members’ early look at Washed Ashore.

When: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. on Earth Day, April 22.

Join our Conservation Engagement Team for these daily activities during Opening Weekend of the Washed Ashore exhibit, April 22-23.

• Get your creativity flowing by designing a recycled art piece
• Make it rain and find out how trash travels through watersheds
• Leave your mark by taking our “I refuse single-use plastics” pledge
• Put your detective hat on to discover how plastic breaks down in the ocean
• Explore more hands-on activities in our Marine Discovery Center
Zoo goes plastic-free to save our sea

We’re excited to announce that we’ve gone plastic-free at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium. We no longer offer plastic bags in our gift shop and have eliminated the sale of water, soda and juice in single-use plastic bottles in our dining facilities. Gift shop purchases now are put into paper bags and drinks come in compostable cups.

“Our ocean is becoming increasingly polluted with plastic trash,” said Zoo Deputy Director John Houck. “Sea otters, seals, sea birds and other animals can eat and become entangled in this plastic trash. As a conservation organization dedicated to protecting wildlife, we need to ‘walk the talk’ and eliminate the use of single-use plastics wherever we can.”

Plastics are choking our ocean—and harming animals

Eight million metric tons of plastic end up in the ocean, rivers and streams each year, scientists say.

So how does it get there? It falls off of cargo ships. It’s carelessly tossed aside near waterways. And it overwhelms the waste stream and lands in the ocean, lakes and rivers instead of landfills.

But I recycle, doesn’t that help? Well yes, and no, scientists say.

There’s no guarantee that the water bottle you toss in a recycling bin won’t be mishandled along the way. Only about 14 percent of plastic packaging gets collected for recycling, and many plastics are recyclable only once, according to research presented in December at a symposium held at Monterey Bay Aquarium.

“If nothing is done, researchers predict there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean by 2050,” the aquarium says.

What can you do?

• Bring your own containers for coffee, water and other beverages.

• Take along reusable bags and containers for shopping, traveling or meal-times.

• Buy products with a minimum of plastic packaging.

• When ordering beverages, ask your server to skip the straw.

• Encourage your friends and family members to join you.

“Solving the problem of plastic waste in the ocean begins with each of us,” said Karen Povey, the Zoo’s Conservation Engagement Manager. “Even seemingly small actions can have a big impact. We can all go plastic-free to save our sea.”
SEE! LEARN! ZOO! A camp-tastic Summer of 2017

Adventure awaits budding scientists and conservationists from pre-schoolers through teenagers at a wide array of summer camps. See the entire list 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 and 2nd Grade Graduates
Members $243; Non-members $275
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
June 26-30: Wacky Wildlife NEW! and Under the Sea NEW!
July 17-21: Beastly Builders NEW! and All Around the Zoo
July 31-Aug. 4: Wacky Wildlife NEW! and Motion Commotion

3rd and 4th Grade Graduates
Members $243; Non-members $275
June 26-30: Animal Outlaws and It’s All about the Insides NEW!
July 24-28: Treasure Hunters and Build Your Own Zoo
July 31-Aug. 4: It’s All About the Insides NEW! and Animals Got Talent

4th-6th Grade Graduates
Members, $288; Non-members, $335
Aug. 21-25: Wild Photographer and Wild Artist

5th - 7th Grade Graduates
Members $243; Non-members $275
July 24-28: If I Ran the Zoo and Junior Zookeeper
Aug. 21-25: If I Ran the Zoo and Junior Vet Tech

Teen
Members $265; Non-members $300
Aug. 14-18: Marine Biologist for a Week and Teen Wild Photographer

HALF-DAY CAMPS
3rd and 4th Grade Graduates
Members $125; Non-members $140
Animal Outlaws
June 26-30: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
4th – 6th Grade Graduates
Members $150; Non-members $175
Wild Photographer
Aug. 7-11: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Aug. 21-25: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
5th-7th Grade Graduates
Members $125; Non-members $140
Junior Vet Tech
July 31-Aug. 4: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Aug. 21-25: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
If I Ran the Zoo
July 24-28: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Aug. 21-25: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Ages 13-17
Members $150; Non-members $175
Teen Wild Researcher
July 10-14: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Teen Wild Photographer
Aug. 14-18: 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

MINI CAMPS
Ages 4 and 5
Members $45, Non-members $50
Growing up, Up, UP NEW!
July 13-14: 9 a.m. - Noon
Aug. 7-8: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Kindergarten Graduates
Members $60; Non-members $65
Creature Kitchen NEW!
July 5-7: 9 a.m. - Noon
Aug. 7-9: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Zoomagination Squad NEW!
July 10-12: 9 a.m. - Noon
Aug. 16-18: 9 a.m. - Noon

EXTENDED CARE
$10 per hour per day per child. Early drop-off and late pick-up options are available for all camp days with pre-registration and require notice of at least one business day. Children enrolled in morning extended care must be attending morning camp sessions on that day; those enrolled in the late pick-up program must be attending afternoon camps.

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Thank you to our Community Partners:

Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital & Health Center Foundation

BECU

Thank you to our Community Partners:
Discover! Connect! Conserve! Care!

Mark your calendar for a spring and summer of nonstop family fun highlighting remarkable animals and celebrating conservation in action. Details at pdza.org.

APRIL 22-23
Celebrate Earth Day
See Art to Save the Sea
Catch the grand opening of our summer exhibit—Washed Ashore, an eye-popping display of 10 larger-than-life sculptures created from plastic pollution that arrives in waves along the ocean’s shores.

JUNE 3-4
Ocean Commotion
Touch a stingray, build a reef, act like a sea star, jam with jellies and immerse yourself in ocean life. See our animals enjoy enrichments and gain a new depth of appreciation for the sea.

JUNE 15
Members’ Wild Night
Membership has its privileges—and this is one of the best. Come one, come all for an evening of animal-watching, camel-riding, carousel-spinning experiences created especially to thank you for supporting your Zoo’s work to conserve wildlife and wild places.

JULY 1-2
Sharks!
Dive into a weekend jam-packed with shark-themed activities. Watch 16 sharks gliding through the South Pacific Aquarium. Feel the rough skins of small sharks in Stingray Cove. And learn why sharks are crucial to maintaining a healthy ocean.

JULY 15-16
Wild Cat Weekend
See clouded leopards use their awesome climbing skills, watch tigers devour special treats and learn about endangered cats in the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater show. Enjoy feline-themed activities, then put your paws to work for the wild cat conservation cause.

MAY 6-7
Budgie Buddies are back!
Spring is in the air—and budgies are on the wing. Those colorful Australian budgerigars, or budgies, are back for another season of eating seeds from sticks you hold in your hands.

MAY 27-29
Wild, Wild, Wild Wonders!
Sit back and enjoy the premier of an all-new, Western-themed live animal show featuring a cast of colorful critters inhabiting the fascinating Town of Triple R, where a city slicker from Wasteville learns it pays to reduce, reuse and recycle.

AUG. 12-13
Primate Party
Celebrate the 50th birthday of siamang Cho Cho during an event dedicated to siamangs, white-cheeked gibbons and lemurs.

SEPT. 2-4
End of Summer Blast
Look! It’s you! All over the zoo! Roaming from this corner to that as you celebrate Labor Day Weekend with animals that you love. Three days of fun are on the menu.
Zoobilee

CAST AWAY

18 MAY 2017
Brew Night

28 JULY 2017
Gala & Auction

Presented by:
The Zoo Society
POINT DEFIANCE ZOO & AQUARIUM

thezoosociety.org

Design by: Sandy Roberts Design