

# Z<sup>PAW</sup>Points



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## Please come and stroll under the sea in an Octopus' Garden at Zoobilee

Zoobilee, The Zoo Society's annual grand gala in support of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, is just over the horizon on July 22. Tickets for the big dinner and auction always go quickly.

For the second year in a row, the Twilight Stroll will expand the number of Zoo supporters who can participate in the evening's festivities. You can eat, drink and dance under the stars from 9 p.m. to midnight—all for just \$75 per person. Guests will enjoy activities in and around the Main Plaza area, at the Carousel and on down to Kids' Zone.

The theme, Octopus' Garden, will feature colorful ocean décor.

This year, the fund-raising spotlight is on the Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund.

"The Zoo has a well-deserved reputation as a conservation leader and a powerful voice for saving wildlife," Zoo Society Executive Director Larry Norvell said.

"Money raised at Zoobilee will play a critical role in continuing that work."



### Zoobilee Twilight Stroll

**What:** An evening of food and fun, featuring live music and dancing, raffle packages, signature bites and desserts from local restaurants, and beverages from local breweries and distilleries.

**Where:** Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium

**When:** July 22, 9 p.m. to midnight

**Who:** Guests ages 21 and over

**Cost:** \$75 per person/reservations required in advance

**Tickets and information:** [www.zoobilee.org](http://www.zoobilee.org)

## Zoo's conservation fund supports important projects at home and abroad



From the jungles of Sumatra and Borneo, to a rocky island in Bristol Bay Alaska, to the sea ice of Hudson Bay, Canada—and to dozens of other points around the world, money donated in Tacoma will promote animal welfare, aid conservation efforts and advance scientific study this year.

The Zoo's Dr. Holly Reed Wildlife Conservation Fund, administered by The Zoo Society, awarded grants totaling \$131,360 to 21 projects for 2016.

Donations from Zoo visitors, community members and other sources provide money for the fund.

Grants will aid anti-poaching and field conservation work in support of wild Sumatran tigers; continue the Zoo's cooperative breeding work with the Clouded Leopard Consortium; support elephant crime-fighting units in Thailand; help fund the tracking of male polar bears in Western Hudson Bay, Canada; and continue support of a crucial walrus sanctuary on Round Island, Alaska. And that's just a sampling of the 21 projects.

"Our grants can have tremendous impact, particularly when we strategically create long-term partnerships with other zoos and wildlife organizations at home and abroad," Zoo General Curator Dr. Karen Goodrowe Beck said.

Learn more at [pdza.org/hollyreedfund](http://pdza.org/hollyreedfund).

When Zoo animals mate, it's not all about the birds and the bees; science plays an increasingly important role in animal births.



When clouded leopard Sang Dao became pregnant early this year, it was the result of careful planning and monitoring, from the introduction to her mate, Tien, to testing to determine the size of her expected litter.

Oh, and it also involved zookeepers picking up poop.

Staff members collected fecal samples and sent them out for hormonal testing. They trained Sang Dao to stand still for ultrasounds. And they watched her every day with critical eyes.

This combination of sophisticated scientific testing, animal training and awareness of each animal's genetic makeup is crucial for the success of Species Survival Plan® (SSP) managed breeding programs, said Zoo General Curator Dr. Karen Goodrowe Beck.

The Zoo participates in some four dozen SSP programs. You can see the entire list at [pdza.org/speciessurvivalplans](http://pdza.org/speciessurvivalplans).

These plans, administered through the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, maintain genetic diversity and grow

the populations of various species by protecting and breeding them.

"SSP breeding recommendations are very choreographed and planned events," Goodrowe Beck said.

Population biologists examine the genetic and demographic characteristics of a species, such as the age of various animals and where they're located, and look at which animals would make good pairs, she explained.

"Some of the planning is through computer algorithms, and some of it is through observations of behaviors. You use all the different resources you have available. It's a cooperative, collective effort," Goodrowe Beck said.

If all goes well, Point Defiance Zoo could one day be home to a tapir calf. Malayan tapir Baku, who arrived in Tacoma last year, is recommended to get a mate from Mexico.

With fewer than 2,000 Malayan tapirs living in the wild, scientists agree that breeding tapirs in zoos is critical to the survival of the species.

## Clouded leopard triplets bring genetic diversity to population of endangered cats

Three more Clouded leopards entered the world on March 30, adding to numbers of these endangered Southeast Asian cats. The two males and one female were named Masala, Coriander (Cori), and Saffron after Zoo visitors and Facebook fans voted on a slate of suggestions from keepers.

This is the first litter for Sang Dao and Tien, both 3.

Point Defiance Zoo is recognized worldwide as a leader in conservation of these beautiful, tree-dwelling cats named for the cloud-like spots on their fur.

"We are especially pleased with the births of these cubs because this pairing brings new genetic vitality to the Species Survival Plan® for Clouded leopards," Zoo General Curator Dr. Karen Goodrowe Beck said.



There are fewer than 100 Clouded leopards in North American zoos. Their numbers in the wild are thought to be low, but it's impossible to get a good count because the cats are so shy and reclusive.

The cubs can be seen during their feeding times. Visit [pdza.org](http://pdza.org) for the schedule.





# WE WATCH WHAT THEY EAT

## Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium's seafood-eating animals are on a strict ocean-friendly diet

Inside the Marine Mammal Food Prep building at Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, a whiteboard lists the feeding schedule for the Zoo's many seafood consumers, from sea otters to polar bears.

There are boxes and bags of capelin, clams and herring - just to name a few varieties - some frozen, some thawing in the refrigerator for the next day's use.

And all of it is ocean-friendly.

The term "ocean-friendly," also sometimes called "sustainable," describes seafood harvested in locations and with methods that cause the least harm to the world's waters and fish populations.

"We are committed to sustainability issues, both by encouraging our visitors to adopt such practices, and by modeling them for our community,"

Zoo Education Curator Karen Povey said. "This helps us send a strong message of conservation action as we encourage our visitors to be environmentally sensitive global citizens."

Ocean-friendly harvesting practices typically avoid overfishing a species and methods such as dredging and trawling. These methods damage the sea floor and waste vast quantities of other fish that end up in the nets but get thrown away because they're not what the fishermen were after. Some species are hunted for their parts: Sharks are killed by the hundreds of millions, many simply for their fins, which will become the main ingredient in shark fin soup. Once their fins are hacked off, the sharks are dumped, rudderless, back into the sea where they will soon die.

Determining which fish are ocean-friendly can be a challenge, because

fish populations and habitats, as well as industry demand and practices, vary over time. Even the question of whether to purchase wild or farmed seafood doesn't result in the same answer for every fish, as some aquaculture operations take a positive approach to the environment.

To help, the Zoo distributes a handy information card to visitors at the shark exhibit, at the Marine Discovery Center and outside the Marine Mammal Food Prep area. Published by the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program, the card categorizes fish as "best choices," "good alternatives," and "species to avoid." Seafood Watch also provides a free app for smart phones, which is helpful for a night out.

When in doubt, buy local seafood whenever possible, said Amy Hale, a Zoo education specialist.

Along with educating visitors, the Zoo embarked on a mission to purchase ocean-friendly seafood nearly a decade ago, said staff biologist Cindy Roberts, who cares for marine mammals in the Rocky Shores/Arctic Tundra area and is responsible for the Zoo's seafood purchasing. That meant informing vendors of the Zoo's interest in fishing practices and packaging. The Zoo solicits bids for roughly 120,000 pounds of seafood its animals consume each year.

As with every purchase, the Zoo is ever watchful of cost. But ensuring ocean-friendly seafood is a top priority, Roberts said. "Sometimes we have to spend a little more money to purchase species that aren't on the 'avoid' list," she said.

Feeding an assortment of species, with their own tastes and dietary needs, requires an organized system of color-coded labels, buckets, and schedules. Sea otters receive helpings of four different fish five times a day, while each penguin gets 9 pounds of herring and capelin—once a day.

For Roberts, it's a labor of love.

"I'm passionate about these animals, and I want to protect them," she said. "It's important for animals here and in the wild. And if we don't protect our oceans, then not only are animals not going to have seafood, but people aren't going to have seafood, either."

### Just how much seafood do they eat?

The Zoo's marine mammals are seafood connoisseurs. Just compare their daily diet to the average person in the United States—who consumes nearly 16 pounds of seafood per year. Here's a look at the diets of some of our Rocky Shores/Arctic Tundra stars.



**Basilla the walrus**

50 pounds daily



**Qilak the harbor seal**

5 pounds daily



**Blizzard the polar bear**

2 pounds daily (fish make up a small part of polar bears' diets)



**Libby the sea otter**

2 pounds daily



**Neah and Matia the California sea lions**

About 18-20 pounds daily

## What's all the barking about?

Frisky California sea lions will be seen this summer at Rocky Shores



California sea lions Neah and Matia (pronounced May-sha) will delight visitors to the Zoo's Rocky Shores area this summer. The two 12-year-old females, each weighing around 180 pounds, will spend time swimming in the main pool, alternating on and off exhibit with walruses Joan and Basilla.

A third California sea lion, a 735-pound male named Chinook, is living behind the scenes until renovation work is completed in Rocky Shores next spring.

None of the Zoo's three newest pinnipeds (marine mammals with front and back flippers) is releasable into the wild. Chinook returned to the Northwest after several years away. He was captured near the Bonneville Dam and relocated in an effort to save stocks of salmon returning up the Columbia River to their spawning grounds.

### Going shopping? Out to dinner? Bring your Seafood Watch Card



Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch program provides a treasure trove of helpful tips for consumers and information about how small actions can pay big rewards to the health of the world's oceans and the animals that live there.

You can download your own Seafood Watch pocket card at [seafoodwatch.org](http://seafoodwatch.org) or download an app on your smart phone. They will help you make smart, ocean-friendly choices about seafood.



# ZOO-SATIONAL CAMPS FOR KIDS

Children will have fun (and, yes, learn a lot, too) during our slate of animal-focused summer camps. See a partial list of offerings below. Get the complete schedule and registration details at [pdza.org/camps](http://pdza.org/camps).

## DAYLONG ADVENTURES

Combine camps to create an all-day, week-long adventure for your child!

### 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!)** and **Oceans of Fun**

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

**July 25-29: Sense-ational Animals**  
and **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**

## HALF-DAY TEEN PROGRAMS

Members \$131; Non-members \$147

#### June 27-July 1:

**Teen Wild Photographer**

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 - 4 p.m.**

#### Storybook Safari (NEW!)

**June 27-28: 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.**  
**Aug. 1-2: 1 - 4 p.m.**

### Kindergarten Graduates

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 - 4 p.m.**

#### Just Like Me (NEW!)

**July 6-8: 1 - 4 p.m.**  
**Aug. 1-3: 1 - 4 p.m.**

#### Super Sharks & Fantastic Fish

**July 11-13: 1 - 4 p.m.**

### 1st and 2nd Grade Graduates

Maximum of 15 kids per session

Weeklong Camps:  
Zoo Members \$121;  
Non-Members \$137

#### Aquatic Amigos (NEW!)

**June 20-24: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**  
**July 25-29: 1 - 4:30 p.m.**

#### Beastly Behaviors (NEW!)

(Turn into all-day adventure camp)

**June 20-24: 1 - 4:30 p.m.**

**Aug. 1-5: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**Aug. 8-12: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

### One-day Camps

Zoo Members \$48; Non-Members \$53

#### Forest Explorers & Beach Combers

**July 5: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

#### Habitat Heroes

**July 8: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

### 3rd and 4th Grade Graduates

Maximum of 15 kids per session

Weeklong Camps: Zoo Members \$121;  
Non-Members \$137

#### Mythological Creatures (NEW!)

(Turn into all-day adventure camp)

**June 20-24: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

**July 25-29: 1 - 4 p.m.**

#### Stayin' Alive (NEW!)

**July 18-22: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

#### Sense-ational Animals

(Turn into all-day adventure camp)

**July 25-29: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

#### Oceans of Fun

(Turn into all-day adventure camp)

**June 20-24: 1 - 4:30 p.m.**

### 4th-6th Grade Graduates

Zoo Members: \$142;  
Non-Members: \$168  
(includes materials fee)

#### Wild Photographer

**Aug. 1-5: 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Note: Students must provide their own digital cameras, memory card(s) and batteries.

# Enjoy the all-new *Summer of Experience*

## ENCOUNTER. TOUCH. FEED. GROOM. GET CLOSE TO NATURE!

Zoo staff have created a fun, interactive summer schedule like never before. It's chock full of more animal close encounters, opportunities to get *In Touch* with the Wild, and other activities to bring you even closer to animals. Pick up a visitor map and watch for special signs for a full list of what's happening at your Zoo.

### What's new every day?

- 10:15 a.m.** Peer at Plankton in the Marine Discovery Center
- 12:00 p.m.** Watch a Seabird Feed at Rocky Shores
- 1:30 p.m.** Touch an animal in the new Animal Encounter Area near the Muskox Exhibit
- 1:30 p.m.** Take part in a Watershed Wonders activity in the Marine Discovery Center
- 4:30 p.m.** Be a Sea Science Superhero in the Marine Discovery Center



### Bugs Alive!

**See bugs up close** and learn about their important role in the ecosystem at Discovery Hut, 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily



### Fun stuff to see and do on different days

#### **Mondays-Fridays, 2:30 p.m.**

Touch an animal at the new Animal Encounter Area near the Discovery Hut

#### **Thursdays-Mondays, 1 p.m.**

Watch a Stingray Feed at Stingray Cove

#### **Tuesdays and Fridays, 1:30 p.m.**

(weather permitting)  
Marvel at Tilli the aardvark digging in her new yard at the Discovery Hut

#### **Mondays, Fridays, Sundays, 2 p.m.**

Learn about jellies during a Jelly Keeper Talk at the North Pacific Aquarium

#### **Saturdays & Sundays, 11 a.m.-Noon**

(Through June 19)

#### **Daily, 11 a.m.-Noon**

(Beginning June 20)

Groom a goat at Kids' Zone



### Things you already love

**Touch sea creatures** at the Marine Discovery Center, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

**Feed a budgie** at Budgie Buddies, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

**Touch a stingray** or small shark at Stingray Cove, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily

**See sharks get their lunch** in the South Pacific Aquarium, 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Saturdays





Connect with us



# MEMBERS' WILD NIGHT

**JUNE 16**  
**6 to 9 p.m.**

Calling all Zoo members! Join us for an exclusive "backstage" pass to the Zoo. Your ID and membership card entitle you to an exciting evening:

- Enjoy special keeper talks
- Enter to win a members' night VIP experience
- Take a behind-the-scenes tour
- Feed a budgie, groom a goat and take a spin on the antique carousel

## 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 Members' Night is a great time to do that.

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

- Don't forget your current Membership Card and ID. You'll get checked in more quickly so you'll have more time for fun at the Zoo.
- Did we mention discounts? Yep. Your Membership Card gets you discounts on carousel and camel rides and budgie seed sticks.
- Shop up a storm: 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 have your card in your possession to receive the bargains.

Learn more at [pdza.org](http://pdza.org)

## Cuddle with Nature's Cuties

### Adopt one animal—or a Zoo full

Want a keepsake from your visit to the Zoo or a chance to learn more about your favorite animal? "Adopt" an animal through The Zoo Society. Each adoption comes with a certificate, photo, fact sheet and stuffed toy. Adoption helps support animal care, conservation, and education efforts at the Zoo.

Visit [pdza.org/adopt-an-animal](http://pdza.org/adopt-an-animal) to complete your adoption online.

