

ZooPoints



ZOOLIGHTS

Nov 23 – Jan 6



How to be Ocean-Friendly

- Skip the plastic straw
- Eat at ocean-friendly restaurants
- Refuse single-use bags and bottles
- Choose sustainable seafood
- Help clean up a beach

Ocean-loving Zoo, Ocean-Friendly Restaurants

A partnership between your Zoo and several other conservation organizations is paying dividends on behalf of the sea.

More than a dozen local restaurants are now officially Ocean-Friendly, meaning they are actively working on business practices to reduce plastic use, reuse tableware, recycle, serve sustainable seafood and more, through the Surfrider Foundation's Ocean-Friendly Restaurants campaign.

The Zoo and Pierce Conservation District are partnering with Surfrider to encourage local restaurants to join in this national effort.



"So far, we have signed up 18 restaurants, with more to come," said Zoo Conservation Engagement Manager Karen Povey. "It's exciting to see how Tacoma restaurateurs really care about the ocean, and are helping customers protect it too."

At The Swiss Restaurant & Pub, employees already were recycling, composting food scraps and not using plastic bags or Styrofoam, said owner Jack McQuade. "It seemed a good idea to take it to the next level."

The biggest change was moving away from plastic straws, but once staff got into the habit of serving paper straws only on request, they found customers were really supportive, he added.

"We've all heard about the plastic trash, seen the photos of sea turtles," McQuade said. "We all need to help."

Find a list of local Ocean-Friendly Restaurants at pdza.org/ocean-friendly-restaurants, and a complete national list at surfrider.org

A small action like skipping a straw can mean big things for sea animals

Zoo Youth Volunteers say, "Skip the Straw."

Since spring, they've been asking local business owners to pledge to go straw-free.

"For most people, a straw is a superfluous, single-use piece of plastic that's easy to give up," said Suzanne Akerman, a Zoo staff biologist who's helping drive the straw-free campaign. "So it's a good place to start to think about our plastic consumption."

Akerman and the youth volunteers ask businesses to pledge to serve straws only on request—paper, if possible. The aim is to keep as much plastic as possible out of the waste stream where it can get into the ocean and harm sea animals.

The reaction from businesses has been positive.

The campaign also has shown our youth volunteers that they can help make a difference. About two dozen of them joined in a "Skip the Straw" flash-mob dance set to Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off" in July. The resulting video is available at: pdza.org/straw-free

"I loved being a part of this, because it helped me improve my own conservation efforts and inspired me to speak out against plastic straw use in front of my peers," said youth volunteer Grace Doleshel.

To find out more, visit pdza.org/straw-free



JOIN US!
GO
PLASTIC-FREE
TO SAVE
OUR SEA.

Hungry hammerheads, rays and sea turtles get feedings twice a day up top at Baja Bay

Zoological Aide Jordan Jirik lies flat on her stomach, extending a large black sign below the waterline of Baja Bay's 280,000-gallon habitat. Below her, five hungry spotted eagle rays swim eagerly up to the sign, which has a big white X emblazoned on it. It's their feeding-station target. And when it appears in the water, they know food will soon follow.

It's lunch time in the Pacific Seas Aquarium, and the hammerhead sharks, eagle rays and sea turtles are practically pulling out their napkins. Visitors often look up around 2 p.m. to catch the afternoon feeding.

Much flapping of pectoral fins ensues as Jirik hand feeds the rays a banquet of clam tongue and squid. They swim swiftly up in turn, pulling their heads and mouths close to the surface to eagerly snatch food—then swim off.

Staff Biologists Tyler Rankin and Melissa Bishop, meanwhile, hold 5-foot poles into the rippling water, each equipped with a bulbous red target and carrying a piece of herring in a jaw-like clamp. Their goal: attract a specific hammerhead shark to its individual feeding station.

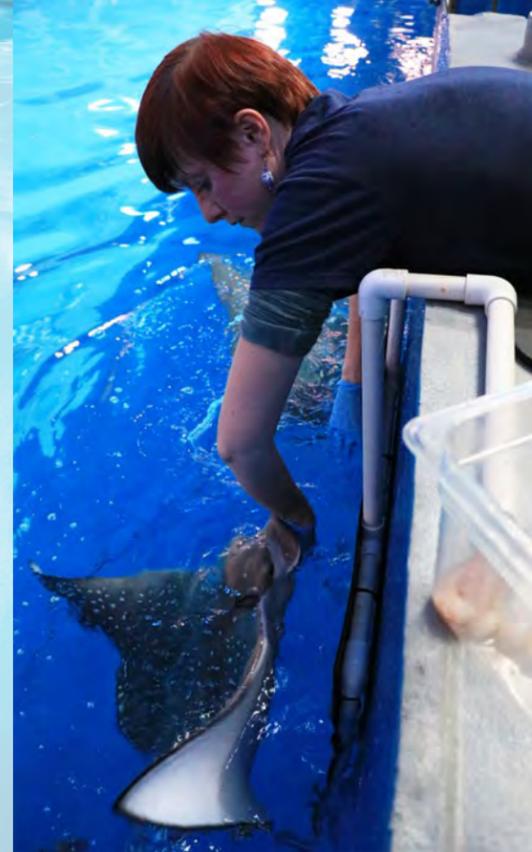
Each shark gets between 15 and 30 pieces of seafood per day from a menu of herring, smelt, squid, salmon and mackerel. Together, the five rays receive 3-to-3.5 pounds of shrimp, clam tongue, squid or whole clams daily.

Sea turtles Sunny and Azul receive a rotating feast of romaine lettuce, red and green bell peppers, endive, cucumber, spinach, collard greens and broccoli. Each gets about 1 pound of produce per feeding.

The twice-a-day feedings are time-consuming. Each takes an hour and requires four staff members. That's 56 staff hours of feeding time per week—not including time-intensive food preparation.

Unlike the large adult sharks in the South Pacific Aquarium, which are fed twice a week, the high-metabolism, growing juvenile animals in the Pacific Seas Aquarium require food frequently.

"There is a lot of work that goes into each feed," Senior Staff Biologist Marc Duncan says. "But it's part of the attention we pay to the care of every animal. And it's fulfilling to watch these animals thrive and grow."



Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive at 5

An enviable mix of conservation and fun



Sometimes, a passion to save a species begins with putting on a dry suit, immersing yourself in the underwater world of the South Pacific Aquarium and watching sharks swim by.

That's the goal behind our Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive. In just five years, more than 15,500 wide-eyed divers have seen these astonishingly beautiful animals up close and learned about the urgent need to conserve them in the wild. More than 70 million sharks—some 8,000 an hour—are killed each year for their fins, as bycatch in nets, and through overfishing.

The thrill-of-a-lifetime Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives are offered Thursdays through Sundays. Member cost is just \$60. Reserve at pdza.org/discover/shark-dives

"Listening to our guests express intense feelings of connection with our sharks after their dives is amazing," said Dive Safety Officer Gavin Wuttken.

Since the dives began, The Zoo Society's Dr. Holly Reed Conservation Fund has designated \$82,315 for shark research and conservation programs along the Pacific Rim. Wuttken and Staff Biologist Heidi Wilken participated in a shark-tagging research program off the coast of Mexico.

So splash in for an Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive. Have fun. And help save sharks. Get information about shark conservation at pdza.org/care/shark-finning

A glow-rious tradition

More than 700,000 dazzling Zoolights to light up the holidays

Zoolights turns 30 this year and instead of candles on a cake, the beloved Tacoma tradition is celebrating by adding more than 50,000 lights to its displays.

That means more than 700,000 colorful, energy-efficient LEDs will come aglow when the switch is flipped on Nov. 23. Zoolights runs from 5 to 9 p.m. Nov. 23-Jan. 6 (with a one-night closure on Dec. 24). Member tickets are just \$6 each online at pdza.org/zoolights or at the gate.

So dive into a lighted wonderland of sea-themed creatures, including a 3D sea turtle, hammerhead sharks and eagle rays, along with dozens of other animal displays. And some much-loved iconic landmarks.

Zoo Operations Supervisor Scott Clarke promises delightful scenes around every corner.

It's all very different from those early years in the 1980s. Clarke helped build his first Zoolights in 1989, the festival's second year. The Pacific Seas Aquarium, Kids' Zone, Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater and Asian Forest Sanctuary weren't yet built.

And although there were just 55,000 lights then, visitors were dazzled.

Those old-technology incandescent lights involved a tangle of extension cords and a lot of daily maintenance: "Our staff were changing out strands and repairing lights every morning," Clarke remembers.



Fast-forward to 2018 and Clarke has a team of 15 working from September onward on the biggest Zoolights ever. Plus, there are new outdoor "canvases": The Pacific Seas Aquarium and picnic pavilion just opposite. New displays will join longtime favorites like the Flame Tree, Mount Rainier, the Narrows Bridges and the giant Pacific octopus that sprawls 23 feet across.



Although the Pacific Seas Aquarium will be closed at night during Zoolights, members can enjoy it during regular zoo hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. And visitors still can warm up during Zoolights with 16 sharks in the steamy South Pacific Aquarium, or see who's awake in the Asia day room—a tiger? A siamang?

And you might even spot some of the vintage plywood figurines from those first few Zoolights: deer, elephants—and Clarke's personal creation, penguins.

"They hired me in 1989 to build the real penguin habitat," Clarke remembers. "So I made some Zoolights penguins too."



Zoolights

When: Nov. 23 – Jan. 6

Times: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. nightly

One night closure: Dec. 24

Holiday openings: Dec. 25, Jan. 1

Get the best Zoolights experience with these handy tips for Members

- Buy your tickets online in advance at pdza.org/zoolights
- Come on a weekday or a weekend early in the season
- Enjoy a day at the Zoo, then stay for Zoolights



Presented by

Fred Meyer

With support from

TacoTime



Kindergarten Camps

- Jan. 2: Rumble in the Jungle
- Jan. 3: Just Like Me
- Jan. 4: Ocean Commotion



1st-2nd Grade Camps

- Jan. 2: Under the Sea
- Jan. 3: Tropical Adventures
- Jan. 4: Friends with Fur



3rd-5th Grade Camps

- Jan. 2: What's for Dinner?
- Jan. 3: Ocean Explorers
- Jan. 4: Tropical Getaway



Winter break, winter fun at Zoo camps

Give your kids a special day at the Zoo while you enjoy some “me” time this holiday season. Our talented instructors will engage campers in hands-on activities, exhibit exploration and some up-close and personal animal encounters. Get all the details at pdza.org/camps. Reserve at reserve@pdza.org

Dates: Jan. 2, 3 and 4, 2019

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Each camp runs for one day.)

Admission: Members, \$65 per camp day; Non-members, \$75 per camp day

Save: Book two or more camps and receive a 10 percent discount



New at your Zoo

Meet Terra the Southern tamandua and Nutmeg the North American beaver

Terra

Terra moseyed up a log, her long tail wrapping around it for balance. She sniffed and explored her way higher and higher up the wood. Then, without fuss, she came back, almost upside-down.

“She loves to climb,” Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater Staff Biologist Jessie Sutherland said as Terra enjoyed some time in the exercise yard.

Terra recently arrived to join Gonzo, another Southern tamandua, who’s already a star at the theater. They are a species of anteater from South America. There are hopes of a baby tamandua in the Zoo’s future. Gonzo and Terra are part of the Species Survival Plan® for southern tamanduas.



Nutmeg

North American beaver Nutmeg recently joined the Point Defiance Zoo family, coming from our sister zoo, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

She is a companion for Walnut. They are aptly named: nuts are one of a beaver’s favorite treats.

Both are ambassador animals at Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater. Look for them during Close Encounters or out taking a stroll around the Zoo.

Nutmeg and Walnut are companions, but not a breeding pair.

They get along swimmingly—just what you might expect from animals that are as at home in the water as they are on land.

“Beavers are really social creatures, living together with multiple generations in the wild. So we’re really happy Nutmeg is here,” said Staff Biologist Adrienne Umpstead.



Gonzo

Two new opossums

Sister opossums Opal and Pearl also have joined the Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater family. Look for more information about them on our Facebook page and website at pdza.org

Metro Parks Tacoma

Board of Commissioners

Andrea Smith, President
Aaron Pointer, Clerk
Jessie K. Baines, Jr.
Erik Hanberg
Tim Reid

Metro Parks Tacoma

Executive Director

Shon Sylvia

Director of Zoological & Environmental Education

Alan Varsik

The Zoo Society

Board of Directors

Sue Mauermann, President
Community Volunteer

Heather Parkinson-Firestone,
Vice President
Northwest DataDesigns, Inc.

David Smith, Secretary
Joint Base Lewis-McChord

Michael Gintz, Treasurer
Brantley Janson Yost & Ellison

Jeanne Archie
Community Volunteer

Pamela Baade
Holland America Line

Dr. Bonnie Becker, PhD
*University of Washington
Tacoma*

Kim Burkes
*Union Avenue Compounding
Pharmacy*

Susan Caulkins
Davies Pearson, P.C.

Stan Chapin
Community Volunteer

Larry Dahl
Community Volunteer

Cathy Early
MultiCare Health System

Ruth Erwin-Svoboda
*Steilacoom Historical School
District*

John Guadnola
Gordon Thomas Honeywell LLP

Mike McGuire
The Boeing Company

Cameron Moorehead
Columbia Bank

Lisa Peterman
TOTE Maritime Alaska

Dr. Josiah Peñalver, MD
Seattle Children’s Hospital

Matthew Schemp
Weyerhaeuser

Megan Schenck
Tacoma Power

Jeff Steed
Community Volunteer

Dr. Ric Torgerson, DVM
*Washington State
Department of Agriculture*

Dr. Ugo Uwaoma, MD
MultiCare Health System

Karen Veitenhans
Community Volunteer

Nick Wright
Wells Fargo

Thank You to our Community Partners:



PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TACOMA, WA
PERMIT NO. 702

Connect with us



Wrap up a gift of seeing, doing, helping

A membership to Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium; an Eye-to-Eye Shark Dive; an animal “adoption,” or a trip to Zoolights make wonderful holiday gifts that also make memories and protect wildlife. Get details at pdza.org/gifts

Wildlife watching abounds

A membership brings an entire year of opportunities to explore the new Pacific Seas Aquarium and see the rest of the Zoo. Plus, you get easy entry at the front gate, discounts and special events. Combo Memberships also come with unlimited visits for a year to Northwest Trek Wildlife Park.

Zoolights tickets

Give family and friends a dazzling holiday treat with tickets to Zoolights. Add even more value with a Day/Night Combo Pass. Buy Zoolights tickets online at pdza.org; combo passes are sold at the Front Gate.

Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives

Immerse family and friends in an unforgettable experience with more than a dozen massive sharks. It's the adventure—and learning experience—of a lifetime. Dives are for ages 8 and up. Cost is \$60 per member. Book at pdza.org/dive

Gift cards

Want to let recipients choose their favorite Zoo adventure? Gift cards may be used for memberships, Eye-to-Eye Shark Dives, carousel and camel rides, and Budgie Buddies seed sticks. pdza.org/gifts

Be visionary: Become a Vision Keeper

—or gift a Vision Keeper membership to someone who loves animals and conservation. Your donation of \$500 or more helps The Zoo Society support wildlife conservation, fund new exhibits, and provide educational resources. Vision Keepers are year-round Zoo members and enjoy special experiences. thezoosociety.org



Brrrrrr! Cuddle up with Arctic friends this winter

Become an adoptive animal parent with a special “zoo-pack” of Arctic Tundra animals—just in time for cuddling—or giving. For just \$100 (plus \$5 shipping) you'll receive a large stuffed polar bear and Arctic fox, along with photos and fact sheets. It's a \$20 savings over the regular adoption price. To get yours, go to thezoosociety.org or call 253-404-3694.



Member benefits will soon get even better

Look for details coming soon about our new Wild Rewards program. You'll love the new perks that will come with your membership.