



Z^{oo}Points

**Yuna's pregnant!
And we're watching
her baby grow**

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An ultrasound on a pregnant tapir? It's all in a day's work for keepers and veterinarians who provide exceptional care

Telena Welsh hands a banana to Yuna the pregnant Malayan tapir, then picks up a 19-inch-long bamboo back scratcher and gently begins to massage the animal's back.

Yuna loves these "scratching sessions," which occur in the tapir's behind-the-scenes bedroom about once a week. They help relax her and facilitate medical procedures such as pregnancy ultrasounds and foot care, said Welsh, Senior Staff Biologist in the Zoo's Asian Forest Sanctuary.

In this case, Associate Veterinarian Dr. Kadie Anderson waits for Yuna to relax and lie down, then puts a lubricating gel on the 776-pound tapir's lower abdomen, pulls out an ultrasound transducer probe and gently glides it over her skin, searching for images of the growing fetus. Meanwhile, a staff biologist provides Yuna with a hands-on massage.

Soon, a grainy image shows on a black-and-white screen. A layperson might not know what they're seeing, but Dr. Anderson does. She observes what she declares to be healthy movement and heartbeat.

Yuna, who mated with the Zoo's other Malayan tapir, Baku, last year, is due to deliver in the next few months. When born after a 13-month pregnancy, the newborn calf will look a bit like a brown-and-white watermelon with spots and stubby legs.



"Watching over the pregnancy of an endangered Malayan tapir is just one of the many ways in which the Zoo's experienced staff of keepers, veterinarians and veterinary technicians care for more than 14,400 animals in 527 species that live at the Zoo," said General Curator Dr. Karen Goodrowe Beck.



Coming Soon!

Mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish and invertebrates all receive the same high standard of careful observation and daily attention from animal-care teams, said Head Veterinarian Dr. Karen Wolf.

That means physicals, necessary vaccinations and medications, and comprehensive care of health issues, minor and major, she added. The veterinary staff employs state-of-the-art treatments like laser therapy for some animal ailments. And inventive solutions like specially made booties for a penguin with foot problems.

And, of course, overseeing the first Malayan tapir pregnancy in the Zoo's 114-year-history.

Yuna didn't need any changes to her already healthy, balanced diet of various fruits, vegetables, specially formulated grain, hay and browse, (no prenatal vitamins needed!), Anderson said. But she is receiving once-a-month ultrasounds.

"We're excited," Welsh said. "Pregnancies in Malayan tapirs are relatively rare in zoos. We're delighted that Baku and Yuna are expecting."



Conservation Engagement staff member Craig Standridge attaches a camera to a tree as part of the Grit City Carnivore Project.

Grit City Carnivore Project aims to help people, wildlife live together in harmony

Coyotes are the talk of the town. People spot them emerging from gulches and wandering through neighborhoods. Residents worry about their cats and other small pets.

Metro Parks Tacoma leaders are concerned over emboldened raccoons in Point Defiance Park, begging for illegal gifts of food from motorists, cyclists, walkers and runners. Community members worry about the little masked "bandits" raiding garbage cans.

Enter the Grit City Carnivore Project, a collaborative effort between your Zoo, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park and the Schell Lab at the University of Washington Tacoma to better understand how carnivores like coyotes and raccoons live alongside people in the South Sound.

Below: A camera trap captured this photo of a coyote in North Tacoma.



The project employs 40 motion-sensitive camera stations from Tacoma to Eatonville. They gather data on wildlife locations to help researchers learn more about how wildlife uses resources and survives in our urban and suburban neighborhoods.

Anyone can participate: scientists, community members—and you!

"We want to learn more about our local wildlife and how to live in harmony with it—and we want you to join us," said Zoo Conservation Engagement Manager Karen Povey.

Just record coyote, raccoon and other animal sightings using the iNaturalist app on your mobile device.

The Grit City project, in its pilot stage, is part of a nationwide effort, Povey said.

"As natural wildlife habitat shrinks due to development and more animals are forced into urban landscapes, we want to tell their stories and foster cities in which people and wildlife live in harmony," Povey said.

Learn more at pdza.org/gritcitycarnivore

Solar panels harness the sun to create energy for the Zoo

We've always been a conservation organization. Now your Zoo is an even greater "shining" example of that mission.

You might even say we've "rays'd" our game. As in harnessing the sun's rays.

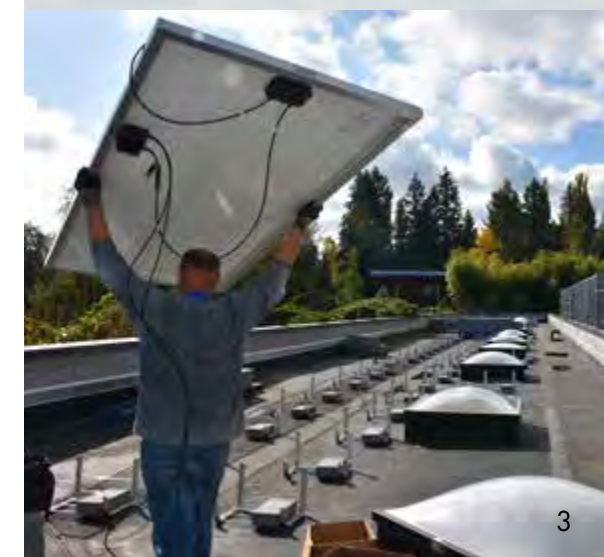
A team of industry experts recently installed dozens of 78-inch-by-39-inch solar panels on the roof of the Asian Forest Sanctuary building. Now, those 71 panels are silently drawing energy from the sky.

The project, made possible with funding support from Tacoma Power's Evergreen Options program customers, will create some 26,000 kilowatt hours of renewable energy annually, said Zoo Operations Manager Fred Ramey.

That's enough power to supply a home with electricity for a year. Or the environment-saving equivalent of taking 99 cars off the Tacoma-Seattle commute annually.

Thanks to the Tacoma Power grant, the solar array cost the Zoo less than \$40,000, a figure that eventually will be recouped in lower power costs, Ramey said.

"Plus we can celebrate the incalculable value of materially contributing to the Zoo's conservation and consumer-education messages."



SHELL-ABRATE THE PACIFIC SEAS AQUARIUM

If you thought you saw it all last September, you haven't seen everything yet!

Wow.

Wow. And WOW! In just six months, the Pacific Seas Aquarium has transformed from spectacular to astonishing.

Thousands of Pacific herring school in a mesmerizing stream. Ratfish and starry flounder swim serenely in Northwest Waters.

Moorish idols and convict tangs add color to Baja Bay, joining red soldierfish among hammerhead sharks, spotted eagle rays and green sea turtles.

Bright orange Chilean sea nettles and spotted lagoon jellyfish delight visitors in the Jelly Gallery. And changing colors play over the free-standing Jelly Globe, giving guests a new perspective every few seconds.

Everywhere you look in the Pacific Seas Aquarium, there's something new to see. Since it opened last September, the state-of-the-art aquarium has grown and grown and grown some more in the variety and number of sea creatures in its many habitats.

"We've been adding animals nearly nonstop since we opened on Sept. 7," said Aquarium Curator Neil Allen. "The Pacific Seas Aquarium is a living, breathing exhibit space, and we are constantly enhancing our exhibits. Even if you think you've seen everything, you probably have not. Come back and take another peek. We think you'll like what you see."

aquarist diving in Northwest Waters



schooling Pacific herring

From April 1–30, Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium is inviting Zoo members and the entire Tacoma-area community to celebrate this wondrous house of spectacular sea animals with a month-long string of special activities, exhibits, speakers and artists.

"We're excited to celebrate the Pacific Seas Aquarium in a big way with our community," said Aaron Pointer, President of the Metro Parks Tacoma Board of Commissioners. "We are grateful to the voters of Tacoma, who made its construction possible with their passage of the 2014 Parks & Zoo Bond. And we are thankful for the fund-raising efforts of The Zoo Society and the many corporate and individual donors who stepped forward to help make this a truly remarkable community treasure."



moon jelly globe

Seize the Days! Join us for a month-long celebration in April

What: Special activities such as animal feeds and dives to watch; hands-on activities; artists' performances; an Ocean Voices Speakers Series and more.

When: April 1–30. Find the full schedule at pdza.org/aquarium-celebration

Where: At the Pacific Seas Aquarium and various locations in the community.

Presented by

MaryBridge Children's
MultiCare

Thank you to our Pacific Seas Aquarium exhibit partners

- The Gary Milgard Family Foundations
- M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
- Ben B. Cheney Foundation
- Mary Bridge Children's/MultiCare
- De Falco Family Foundation
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- Port of Tacoma

green sea turtle and tropical fish in Baja Bay



make a pledge to help the ocean



Pacific sea nettles



scalloped hammerhead shark



Buddy the California sheephead



Tidal Touch Zone

Summer adventures await Zoo campers

Register your child now for a summer of wondrous experiences

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

Visit pdza.org/camps to register and learn more about all of these camps and additional sessions not listed below. ★ = NEW!



Preschool graduates (ages 4–5)

Mornings (9 am–12 pm)
Buggin' Out ★ July 15–16, July 29–30, Aug. 12–13
Animal Homes June 27–28, Aug. 1–2, Aug. 15–16
Tidepool Boogie ★ Aug. 8–9, Aug. 22–23

Afternoons (1–4 pm)
Animal ABCs ★ June 18–19, July 15–16, Aug. 5–6
Fluffy Friends ★ June 24–25, July 29–30, Aug. 12–13
Super Sea Stars ★ July 11–12, July 18–19, Aug. 8–9, Aug. 15–16

Kindergarten graduates

Mornings (9 am–12 pm)
Feeding Frenzy June 19–21, July 10–12, July 24–26
Just Like Me June 26–28, Aug. 7–9
Things with Wings ★ July 31–Aug. 2, Aug. 21–23

Afternoons (1–4 pm)
Fur, Feathers, Scales, and Slime ★ June 24–26, July 29–31, Aug. 12–14
Ocean Commotion ★ July 8–10, July 22–24, Aug. 19–21
Zoomagination July 15–17, Aug. 5–7

1st/2nd grade graduates

Mornings (9 am–12:30 pm)
Creature Features June 24–28, Aug. 5–9, Aug. 19–23
Wacky Wildlife ★ July 8–12, July 22–26

Afternoons (1–4:30 pm)
Beastly Behaviors ★ June 24–28, July 29–Aug. 2, Aug. 19–23
Born to be Wild ★ July 15–19, Aug. 5–9
Animal Athletes July 8–12, July 22–26, Aug. 12–16

All Day Camp (9 am–4:30 pm)
Happenin' Habitats July 1–3

3rd/4th grade graduates

Mornings (9 am–12:30 pm)
What's for Dinner? June 24–28
Excellent Ecosystems July 15–19, July 29–Aug. 2, Aug. 12–16
Investigating Invertebrates ★ July 22–26

Afternoons (1–4:30 pm)
Animal Grossology June 24–28, July 29–Aug. 2
Caring for Creatures ★ July 8–12, Aug. 12–16

5th–7th grade graduates

Mornings (9 am–12:30 pm)
Wild Science ★ July 8–12, Aug. 5–9
Wild Photographer July 15–19, Aug. 12–16

Afternoons (1–4:30 pm)
If I Ran the Zoo July 15–19, Aug. 5–9
Wild Artist Aug. 12–16

All Day Camp (9am–4:30 pm)
Ocean Explorers July 1–3

8th–11th grade graduates

Mornings (9 am–12:30 pm)
Keeper for a Week June 24–28, Aug. 5–9, Aug. 19–23
Teen Wild Photographer July 8–12, July 22–26

Afternoons (1–4:30 pm)
Jr. Veterinarian July 15–19, Aug. 5–9
Wild Researcher June 24–28, July 29–Aug. 2
Teen Wild Artist ★ July 22–26

Zooper-tastic events from May–September



Budgie Buddies and Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater show return May 4–5

They're back! Our colorful Australian birds are back for the season—come see and feed them. Then mosey on down to Wild Wonders Outdoor Theater for Opening Weekend of the fast-paced, laugh-out-loud, inspiring live animal show.



World Ocean Weekend June 1–2

Dive in to explore the magic of ocean life. Watch marine animals experience special enrichment treats and discover how you can help the ocean and its glorious creatures.



Sharks & Rays! July 13–14

Sharks, sharks, and more sharks! We celebrate the beauty, mystery and perils of sharks and their cartilaginous cousins with a weekend of activities and enrichments. Come see the hammerheads and spotted eagle rays in the Pacific Seas Aquarium, then be awed by 16 beautiful sharks in the South Pacific Aquarium.



World Tiger Weekend July 27–28

It will be tiger-riffic fun. Come and celebrate our streak of endangered Sumatran tigers. (Yep, that's what you call a group of tigers.) Watch them enjoy enrichments each day, meet keepers and learn how to help us protect tigers in the wild.



End of Summer Blast Aug. 31–Sept. 2

Join animals around the Zoo in an all-weekend celebration jam-packed with cool activities—literally! Watch our animals play with icy treats and summery enrichments, and have a blast before summer vacation ends.



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Thank You to our Mission Partners



Thank you to our Community Partners



Connect with us



Go Wild at Members' Night on June 18

Carve this date into your calendar, or maybe stamp a paw print on it!

Members' Wild Night is set for 6 to 9 p.m. on June 18.

It's one of our best perks for members.

The entire Zoo will be open for your after-hours exploration and inspiration. Be wowed in the Pacific Seas Aquarium. Feel the spikiness of a sea urchin in the Tidal Touch Zone. Feed a budgie. Ride a camel. Take a spin on the carousel. Enjoy special keeper chats, behind-the-scenes tours and other activities.

It's a Zoo member must-do, so check the date on your Membership Card and renew before June so you won't miss out. Go to pdza.org/membership or call 253-404-3635.

Get rewarded
for your
membership!

WILD
REWARDS

Wild Rewards program coming soon

Wild Rewards, a new loyalty program exclusively for members of Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium, is scheduled to launch later this year. Look for details coming to your email inbox and on our website.

It's easy, fun and free. Best of all, it's not about stuff, it's about experiences to enjoy with your family. Like up-close encounters with animals, special events and much more.

Members will earn points by signing up for Wild Rewards; visiting the Zoo and our sister zoo, Northwest Trek Wildlife Park; buying food, beverages and merchandise; renewing your membership; following us on social media; learning about or participating in conservation actions; and more.

We'll track your points when you show your membership card or enter an activity online. You'll be able to redeem them for one-of-a-kind experiences at the Zoo or Northwest Trek.

So stay alert for an eblast announcement—and get ready to have some Wild Rewards fun!



Mark your calendar: Have fun and do good!

Events help The Zoo Society support your Zoo.

May 7: Connect! Inspire! Act! The Zoo Society Luncheon

Join us at the Foss Waterway Seaport; Lunch is free, donations voluntary.

July 19: Summer VIP Experience & Long Table Dinner

A festive way to celebrate PDZA! Members: \$200 per ticket

Oct. 18: Zoo BOOze & Bites

Tickets at \$75 each go on sale Aug. 1.

Get all the details at thezoosociety.org

The Zoo Society