Endangered Species Day at the El Paso Zoo, May 16

The El Paso Zoo is celebrating endangered species and the national effort intended to keep them from being pushed into extinction - the Endangered Species Act. It’s a national day approved by Congress. The Zoo will observe “Endangered Species Day” by focusing on the list of dwindling animals and teaching zoo-goers about the importance of preserving wildlife. Continued on page 2

Our mission is to celebrate the value of animals and natural resources and to create opportunities for people to rediscover their connection to nature.

Volunteer Coordinator’s Corner By Annie Langenfeld

Scott Gilliland gave 25 volunteers a GREAT tour of Africa. It was such fun to stand where the giraffes will be and get the “giraffes” eye view of zoo visitors. We were also shown our very own patio area when we move into our new office. And I’m happy to report that we already have a wrought iron table, 4 chairs with an umbrella, and chair pads to put into that area. Thanks Scott for a wonderful time and tour.

You all are doing so well with our new Stations. As with anything new, there are snags to work out but it is coming along nicely, and with your input and interest the stations are proving to be successful. And many thanks to all of you who helped with Party for the Planet. The grounds were packed, the vendors were thrilled, and the visitors had a chance to learn so much about our planet. Mother Earth gave us a perfect day!

Most of our days from now thru May are very busy with school field trips so fulfilling your assignments is most important. When you receive your schedule for May look it over carefully. Here are the dates we will help the Education Specialists with programs on the zoo grounds. Two on May 1, one on plus an off grounds the 7th, two on 13 May 2, two on the 5th, one on 6, one on 7th, one on 13, one on 14, 15, two on 16. And there may be more. So eat your Wheaties and drink your power drink to prepare for all this.

New guidelines for showing furs, skulls, etc will be given to you very soon. On both our stations and biofact presentations we want all of us to give the same information in a Continued on page 4
Endangered Species Day
Continued from page 1

What can you do to celebrate? Plan a trip to the El Paso Zoo, read a book about endangered species to a child or Take Action by signing your signature to save a species in the Paraje (Noon to 4pm) or visit the Take Action section on our website: www.elpasozoo.org/action.htm. You can also support local Zoo conservation projects such as creating nests for burrowing owls by donating to the El Paso Zoo Society (532-8156). Sign the National Wildlife Foundation’s Endangered Species Pledge. It’s online at the web address: http://www.nwf.org

*See & Learn about the endangered species that live at the El Paso Zoo including the Amur leopard, Bali mynah, Sumatran orangutan, Malayan tiger and Mexican wolf. The Zoo recently updated a list of other endangered species that live at the Zoo on its website at http://www.elpasozoo.org/animal_fullList.htm

*Take a picture of an endangered species at the Zoo and send copies of it to your family and friends along with information on we can help save it from extinction. For more information contact the Education Curator at lobellorl@elpasotexas.gov or call 915-521-1881.

*Send a donation to the El Paso Zoo Conservation Fund in support of endangered species and other important conservation projects here in El Paso and around the world. Please mail your Conservation Fund contribution to: The El Paso Zoological Society, P.O Box 10179, El Paso, TX 79995-0180

El Paso Zoo Society Gala
“Africa in El Paso”- May 17

Our Zoo Society Gala "Africa in El Paso" is coming up Saturday, May 17th at 6:30pm at the El Paso Country Club. Honorary Chair Gary Hedrick and the El Paso Zoological Society present this beautiful event to raise funds for Zoological Society programs. The El Paso Zoological Society has held a gala each year since 1995. We'd love to see everyone out in their best leopard or zebra print African attire (cocktail attire). Advance reservations are necessary by May 11th. $1,000 for a table of 10 or $100 per person. Please call the El Paso Zoological Society at 915-532-8156 for information.

WHAT: “Africa in El Paso” El Paso Zoological Society Gala

WHEN: May 17th, 2008 (Saturday)

TIME: 6:30pm

WHERE: El Paso Country Club: 5000 Country Club Place
Volunteer of the Month
Meet Helen Stark

Helen was born on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois where she grew up. She was an only child and a “spoiled brat” (her words). She has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 8 great grandchildren. She originally moved to El Paso because her daughter, Sharon, lived here.

She is our “SNOW BIRD” since she spends 6 months in El Paso, and 6 months in Chicago. She enjoys the fall. Can’t tolerate hot weather. 80 degrees is high enough, and she loves snow.

She will soon be returning to Chicago in May and as we all know Anne Langenfield will miss her immensely and look forward to her return.

Helen is a retired nurse. Since she loves zoos and her daughter was living here, she became a volunteer for the El Paso Zoo and has been doing so going into her 6th year. She has 4,000 hours to date. She even volunteers on her days off. I am not sure even Helen knows exactly what she does at the zoo, but among other things, here are a just a few: keeps an updated record of all volunteers; gopher; all filing; and helps out on the grounds doing anything that might be needed. This, of course, is ‘in addition’ to whatever Anne needs her to do. No wonder Anne will miss her.

Her favorite part of volunteering is talking to the public about all of the animals at the zoo. Her favorite animals are the wolves, elephants, and sea lions.

Helen says the funniest thing was when Henry, the orangutan covers up with his burlap bag. And the nicest thing was meeting a real Indian who was visiting the zoo with his grandson. Her hobbies are photography and travel.

Her advice to the new volunteers is to enjoy what you are doing and make it fun.

Monthly Meetings

All volunteers, whether you come occasionally to work on the grounds, work in the Ed trailer or do stations, etc. are invited to attend our monthly volunteer meetings. It is a good opportunity to meet other volunteers, learn new things about the zoo, take part in a fun quiz, or celebrate birthdays. So mark your calendars for the second Monday of each month. We meet at 3:30pm in the Paraje.

May Spring Flowers
Birthday Wishes to the following:

1---Diane Daunt
3---Tara Hardin
10---Jeanette Surface
13---Susan Alvarez
17---Jim Henson
25---Crystal Gallegos
27---Marya Stinchcomb
28---Sal Quintanilla
**Upcoming Training Opportunities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 10</td>
<td>9am to noon</td>
<td>Introduction to the Asian Animals at the zoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>9am to noon</td>
<td>Animal Handling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>9am to noon</td>
<td>Introduction to the Americas Animals at the zoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 9</td>
<td>9am to noon</td>
<td>Behind the Scenes Tour</td>
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The first hour will be for first time trainees and then the last two hours a different topic every month. Seasoned volunteers are encouraged to come to brush up on the subjects being given. This would be a good opportunity for you to refresh your memory in these areas. For the newer volunteers, you should attend each month so you can receive the full range of training. Call our office or send us an email to sign up – 915-351-5340 or langenfeldar@elpasotexas.gov

**Education Animal Update**

The Education staff is working with two new European ferrets on an almost daily basis helping them get accustomed to being handled before they are used for animal encounter programs.

Our new bull snake is now ready for programs. It is a beautiful snake. Qualified volunteers are encouraged to take a moment to handle it. Make sure you inform the Volunteer Coordinator whenever you come to the Zoo to handle our animals.

**Bull Snake, *Pituophis catenifer sayi***

- **Also known as:** Pine Snake or Gopher Snake.
- **Distribution:** Central and Western North America; north to Alberta, Canada and south to Chihuahua, Mexico.
- **Habitat:** Prefers sandy soil; desert, prairie, brush land, farmland, woodlands, and forests
- **Diet:** Small mammals, nesting birds, smaller snakes.
- **Length:** Can grow to over 6 feet long.
- **Reproduction:** Bull snakes mate in the spring and will lay up to 20 soft-shelled eggs which require about 70 days of incubation; they are born fully developed, able to eat small mice, and require no parental assistance.
- **Longevity:** Up to 25 years
- **General Description:** Non-venomous; color may vary with shades of cream, yellow, green and brown; they have large, dark spots along their backs, and smaller dark spots on their sides; cold-blooded (environment controls their body temperature)
- **Behavior:** Bull snakes kill their prey by constriction; Diurnal (active during the day) except during the hottest days of the summer in the desert – then they may alter their activity to be nocturnal; hibernate in the winter; males defending their territory or competing for mates may “dance” in combat for up to an hour; may share a burrow with other snakes or take a mammal’s burrow once conquered.
consistent fashion and present the same message.

These new guidelines will help us all to make our presentations more interesting and informative.

Hopefully we will be able to start handling the new ferrets. When we get the word I’ll e-mail you so you can set up times to come in and work with them. They are feisty and full of life right now and do like to nip fingers, lightly!

Attention to all you budding journalists. I need someone to take over writing up the volunteer of the month. Elaine has done such a fine job but wants to move on to do more of her photography. It really doesn’t take up too much time and as Elaine has said, “it is such fun to talk to the volunteers and find out more about them.” So, please, rush to the phone right now to let me know that this is a job you have dreamed of having.

Our next Saturday training is May 10 from 10 am to 12pm. It will be an introduction to the Asian Animals of our Zoo. So please join us. Right now I have quite a list of people who want to become volunteers and should be here the 10th.

We send best wishes to Ashley Stern on her move to Seattle area this next week. She and Aaron are moving courtesy of the Army. She was a terrific volunteer and we really appreciated her commitment to our program. Just think, she’ll be moving to all that rain and green stuff. I’m almost jealous.

We have a new sheet on how to handle the Animal Encounters. Please stop by the office to pick up a copy. It is entitled “WHAT AM I? Really great info and facts in it. We will be doing the Animal Encounters on weekends and special events starting at 11:15 am.

Helen will be leaving May 9th for the summer and Derrill is leaving May 8 for his fabulous 3 week tour of zoos and Wild Life Parks. I MAY survive!!

Another of our snow birds is going back to St. Louis for the summer. We always enjoy having Mary Etta Skinner join us in the winter months. See you when it’s cooler, Mary Etta!

Education Trailer Wish List
Call 351-5350 or write langenfeldar@elpasotexas.gov for more information.

PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE NEWSPAPERS, ETC. OUT BY THE TICKET OFFICE. FOR THE TIME BEING THEY NEED TO BE PUT IN THE GREY CONTAINER OUTSIDE OF ADMIN.

1. Newspapers, without all the colored ad inserts
2. Pesticide free closed pinecones (birds love to pull them open for the seeds)
3. Towels, hand towels, wash cloths, sheets, pillow cases
4. Vegetable dyed wooden toys for the birds, also old phone books
5. Carry cages in good condition
6. Empty soda boxes or small cardboard boxes that candy or other smaller items come in. Little animals like to use them for hiding and the big birds like to tear the bigger ones apart.
7. If you have some office furniture in good condition or a small table and chairs or comfortable chairs you want to donate we can use these items in our new office when we get ready to move in.

El Paso Zoo Event Calendar

May 17 6:30pm (El Paso Country Club) Safari Nights Zoological Society Gala (After Hours Event)
We’re throwing the El Paso Zoo’s biggest Society party of the year! Since 1995, the Safari Nights gala has been a major Society fundraiser and a chance to break out the leopard print tuxedo. Doesn’t everybody have one? Call 532-8156 for all the stylish details.
May 17 (Saturday)  Armed Forces Day  
HALF PRICE DAY
We salute those who serve with half price admission for ALL our El Paso Zoo visitors on this day.

June, July, August Zoo Camp
It’s our El Paso Zoo Society’s summer camp right here at the Zoo. With fabulous fun themes, kids learn about our animals, tour behind the scenes at the Zoo, enjoy craft-making and playing games. Each child gets a themed T-shirt. Hurry to sign up – classes fill quickly. Click on our El Paso Zoo Society link for more information or call 532-8156 for more information.

July 5 (Saturday)  Military, Fire, & Law Day  
HALF PRICE DAY
See a Helicopter, Fire truck and more! We invite our friends from the Fire, Police and Sheriff’s Department and other law agencies along with soldiers from Fort Bliss to display all the big equipment they use in their jobs everyday. You’ll get to meet them and see what they do up-close! All visitors pay half price in honor of the people who save, serve, and protect. Live music, too!

July 25 (Friday Night)  Zoo Society Member's Appreciation Party (After Hours Event)
Zoo Members are the stars as the Zoo Society throws a big Zoorific bash to thank you for being a part of our Zoo family. Don’t miss out on the fun - You can even join the night of the event! Call (915) 532-8156 for all the details.

August 2-3 (Saturday & Sunday)  Frogfest: Year of the Frog
Rib bit, Rib bit, Rib bit! This Leap Year, our El Paso Zoo is jumping in to join froggy friends like Kermit™ and other Association of Zoos and Aquarium zoos nationwide to celebrate frogs and bring awareness of man-made problems for all amphibians. (Our favorite froggy friend Kermit is even starring in some TV ads spreading awareness about “The Year of the Frog”). So, hop on down to the El Paso Zoo to find out how you can help frogs. Rib bit!

September 27 & 28 (Saturday & Sunday)  7th Annual Elephant Festival
Festival is the word – as we highlight our favorite pachyderms in a celebration of elephants worldwide. R.S.V.P. for the Ele-Fantastic Breakfast and bring the kids for the Ele-Fun Produce Hunt! You’ll have BIG fun!

October 25-26 (Saturday & Sunday) BOO AT THE ZOO
Pumpkin Bowling, Kiddie Mazes, Lots of Candy at Treat Stations Sponsored by Local Businesses & Costumes Galore! You just have to be a part of the largest outdoor safe trick-or-treat event in El Paso! It’s merry not scary - kooky not spooky! Watch the different animals eat or play with pumpkins! Your children will go away with a full bag of candy and a smile on their faces – you’ll leave with great photos for the scrapbook and warm memories of your adorable little ones.

Get Ready for Frog Fest 08
Red-spotted toads are fairly common in El Paso. Photo courtesy Robert Shantz.

Learn about Frogs and Toads of Texas. Texas Parks and Wildlife has a very informative webpage at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/learning/texas_nature_trackers/amphibian_watch/amphibian_species/
Thanks for your help in making our Zoo a place that is:

Rich in discovery opportunity.

Where we inspire people to take tangible conservation actions.

Where we encourage people to support the Zoo and its programs.

Where we reach people with our core messages.

New bird ID graphics will soon be installed in the Americas Aviary.
Speak Up for Southwest Wolves!

Southwest wolves remain one of the most endangered animals in the U.S. But recovery efforts have yet to ensure a lasting future of these animals that play an important role in the culture and the wilderness of the Southwest.

Teachers and Zoo Guests
Thank you for visiting our SIGHT station. We hope that you not only help us celebrate the value of animals but that you also help us save the Mexican wolf by TAKING ACTION. Sign the petition to Ben Tuggle, Southwest Regional Director for the Fish & Wildlife Service supporting sensible, science-based wolf management that ensures the “lobo” will survive—and thrive—in the wild of the Southwest by visiting the website: www.savewolves.org and select Southwest Wolves and proceed by clicking on Take Action.

For more information contact:
Rick LoBello, Education Curator, at www.elpasozoo.org