Conservation Pub Talk Series

Join us for conservation-themed talks presented by wildlife science professionals. General admission and VIP tickets are available.

ZooTalks

New at the Zoo

Colobus Baby is First Since 2006

For the first time in 12 years, a colobus monkey was born at the Oregon Zoo in June – the first baby for mother, Violet, and the fifth for her mate, Kiku.

“Colobus monkeys make wonderful parents,” said Colleen Reed, a keeper who cares for the zoo's primates. “The adults work together to raise the babies. In addition to Violet and Kiku, Makari, our other adult female, is showing a lot of interest in the baby as well.”

Colobus monkeys practice a style of collective rearing known as “alloparenting.” As the baby grows, the adults will take turns caring for it, ensuring plenty of attention for the new arrival.

“Conspiracy” Uncovered; Lemurs Arrive

A rumored conspiracy at the Oregon Zoo was confirmed in June, as five lemurs arrived to take their place in the zoo’s Africa area.

The lemurs – highly social animals that live in large family groups known as conspiracies – include two black-and-white ruffed and three ring-tailed members of the species.

Among the world’s most endangered mammals, the new arrivals reflect the Oregon Zoo’s commitment to conservation, and came here on the recommendation of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan, which helps accredited zoos create genetically diverse, self-sustaining populations to guarantee the long-term future of animals.

Elephant Family Welcomes Samson

Samson, a 20-year-old, 6,000-pound Asian elephant, has successfully integrated into the Oregon Zoo’s popular pachyderm population. Chendra, the smallest of the zoo’s female elephants and beloved for her easygoing manner, was the first to welcome Samson, followed by the rest of the herd.

Samson arrived in the spring from the ABQ BioPark Zoo in Albuquerque, N.M. to welcome Samson, the zoo’s female elephants and beloved for her easygoing manner, was the first to welcome Samson, followed by the rest of the herd.

Elephant Family Welcomes Samson

Samson, a 20-year-old, 6,000-pound Asian elephant, has successfully integrated into the Oregon Zoo’s popular pachyderm population. Chendra, the smallest of the zoo’s female elephants and beloved for her easygoing manner, was the first to welcome Samson, followed by the rest of the herd. Samson arrived in the spring from the ABQ BioPark Zoo in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Oregon Zoo, recognized worldwide for its Asian elephant program, is also committed to helping elephants in their native range countries, which continue to be threatened by habitat loss, human conflict and disease. To this end, the Oregon Zoo Foundation has created a $1 million Asian elephant endowment fund to support conservation efforts.

Wildlife Worth Defending

Palm oil might not seem like the biggest threat to one of our planet’s most intelligent and expressive creatures, but it’s squarely at the heart of crucial efforts to save orangutans in the rainforests of Borneo.

As the clearing of forests for palm oil production continues, orangutans are being forced from their shrinking habitat and can become easy targets for poachers. The situation is so dire that in 2016, the Bornean orangutan’s conservation status was changed from endangered to critically endangered.

The Oregon Zoo has joined the effort to save these animals from extinction. Primate keepers Cydney Sines and Colleen Reed recently traveled to Southeast Asia to assist the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) in caring for displaced, injured and orphaned orangutans rescued from the wild.

Elephant Family Welcomes Samson

Samson, a 20-year-old, 6,000-pound Asian elephant, has successfully integrated into the Oregon Zoo’s popular pachyderm population. Chendra, the smallest of the zoo’s female elephants and beloved for her easygoing manner, was the first to welcome Samson, followed by the rest of the herd. Samson arrived in the spring from the ABQ BioPark Zoo in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Oregon Zoo, recognized worldwide for its Asian elephant program, is also committed to helping elephants in their native range countries, which continue to be threatened by habitat loss, human conflict and disease. To this end, the Oregon Zoo Foundation has created a $1 million Asian elephant endowment fund to support conservation efforts.

Wildlife Worth Defending

Palm oil might not seem like the biggest threat to one of our planet’s most intelligent and expressive creatures, but it’s squarely at the heart of crucial efforts to save orangutans in the rainforests of Borneo.

As the clearing of forests for palm oil production continues, orangutans are being forced from their shrinking habitat and can become easy targets for poachers. The situation is so dire that in 2016, the Bornean orangutan’s conservation status was changed from endangered to critically endangered.

The Oregon Zoo has joined the effort to save these animals from extinction. Primate keepers Cydney Sines and Colleen Reed recently traveled to Southeast Asia to assist the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) in caring for displaced, injured and orphaned orangutans rescued from the wild.

Elephant Family Welcomes Samson

Samson, a 20-year-old, 6,000-pound Asian elephant, has successfully integrated into the Oregon Zoo’s popular pachyderm population. Chendra, the smallest of the zoo’s female elephants and beloved for her easygoing manner, was the first to welcome Samson, followed by the rest of the herd. Samson arrived in the spring from the ABQ BioPark Zoo in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Oregon Zoo, recognized worldwide for its Asian elephant program, is also committed to helping elephants in their native range countries, which continue to be threatened by habitat loss, human conflict and disease. To this end, the Oregon Zoo Foundation has created a $1 million Asian elephant endowment fund to support conservation efforts.

Wildlife Worth Defending

Palm oil might not seem like the biggest threat to one of our planet’s most intelligent and expressive creatures, but it’s squarely at the heart of crucial efforts to save orangutans in the rainforests of Borneo.

As the clearing of forests for palm oil production continues, orangutans are being forced from their shrinking habitat and can become easy targets for poachers. The situation is so dire that in 2016, the Bornean orangutan’s conservation status was changed from endangered to critically endangered.

The Oregon Zoo has joined the effort to save these animals from extinction. Primate keepers Cydney Sines and Colleen Reed recently traveled to Southeast Asia to assist the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) in caring for displaced, injured and orphaned orangutans rescued from the wild.
Today we’re transforming the heart of the zoo with bulldozers and excavators,” said Fitzgerald confirmed at the demolition event. “But the real heart of the zoo is the way we care for the animals, our commitment and role in conserving species facing extinction and the connection we make with visitors and with our community every day so that together, we can create a better future for wildlife.”

“At Banfield, we’re passionate about helping pets,” said Dr. Carla Lerum, a Banfield veterinarian. “The Family Farm Catio offers its feline residents the safe environment and outdoor enrichment they need to thrive — and is an excellent example of our ongoing partnership with the zoo to promote responsible pet ownership.”

Presented by Banfield Pet Hospital

Walls Come Down! A Lens into Zoo’s Dynamic Future

The newsletter you’re holding in your hand, or viewing online, is the brand new look of ZooTracks, completely revamped just for you — our dedicated legion of Oregon Zoo members, donors, volunteers and supporters.

In a recent survey, many of you told us what interested you most at the zoo, and we listened! The future issues of ZooTracks will feature fascinating stories about the zoo’s animals, about crucial progress being made in efforts to conserve and save species from extinction, and about new ways people of all ages are engaging in the many things our zoo has to offer.

These are exciting times at the zoo. On October 16th, the final wall of the old polar bear enclosure came down at a “demolition party,” signaling the zoo’s massive 10-year reconstruction effort is entering the homestretch. At the project’s core, three all-new habitats — Polar Passage, Primate Forest and Rhino Habitat — will open to the public by 2020.

The habitats are also key components of the zoo’s ambitious and inspiring Heart of the Oregon Zoo campaign, which was unveiled at the celebration by Oregon Zoo Foundation executive director Julie Fitzgerald. The campaign will invest in new habitats for polar bears, chimpanzees and black rhinos. The foundation is also raising funds for vital education programs, conservation projects here and around the world, and innovations in animal care and welfare.

“The campaign will reach farther than we ever have before,” said Fitzgerald. “The gifts we receive help fund priorities at the Oregon Zoo such as important advancements to animal habitats, and much more. Our members and donors also help to fund equipment, research and education to advance animal care and welfare, program support for our award-winning condor conservation program and bus fees for underfunded schools to allow zoo field trips that would not otherwise be possible.”

Oregon Zoo encourages people to look for sustainably produced palm oil.

Animal Encounters

Critter Club

Critter Club

Animal Encounters

A gift of membership is something the whole family can enjoy — a full year of free admission plus other great benefits! Membership gift certificates can now be purchased online for instant email delivery. The deadline for Christmas delivery by U.S. mail is Dec. 14.

Critter Club membership offers our youngest learners an opportunity to cultivate blocks like empathy and creativity that form the foundation of tomorrow’s conservation leaders.

“We signed up for Critter Club because wonderfully, our 4-year-old daughter is fascinated by anything creepy-crawly,” said Mark Shaprio, whose daughter Eve attended a recent class. “I loved how the class integrated education about insects with art activities, exploration, story time and free play. In addition to a short walk with magnifying glass taking in the nature that exists all around us, she loved sitting on the floor and watching as the zoo staff brought out tiny wonderful critters, one after the other. It was an all-encompassing critter encounter.”

“After all, what kid doesn’t love a hissing cockroach?” oregonzoo.org/critter-club

Give a Year of Wonder

Crews and bulldozers knocked down the old polar bear habitat to create a new polar habitat. After all, what kid doesn’t love a hissing cockroach?”

Oregon Zoo Partners Bring Catio to Life

A catio (cat + patio) allows loving owners of indoor cats to keep their pets safely at home while experiencing the benefits of the outside world at the same time.

For those looking to make this concept a reality, an indoor catio is now on display thanks to the Oregon Zoo Foundation, the zoo’s charitable branch.

“I am so proud of the Oregon Zoo’s work to support conservation projects in the Northwest and around the world,” Said Oregon Zoo Foundation Board chair Raimund Grube. “Never before have these efforts to save threatened species been more critical.”

Oregon Zoo encourages people to look for sustainably produced palm oil.

Oregon Zoo encourages people to look for sustainably produced palm oil.
Emphasizing the value of increasing awareness of the link between palm oil and deforestation, the Oregon Zoo encourages people to look for sustainably produced palm oil.

“It’s so critical that we help orangutans in Borneo, and Colleen and Cydney’s work there gets right to the heart of our mission,” said Dr. Don Moore, zoo director. “Through the generosity of donors to the Oregon Zoo Foundation, we’re funding efforts to save endangered orangutans, elephants and other wildlife, while also helping groups like the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation provide better lives for the animals in their care.”

Visitors about Reid and Sine’s recent trip and other zoo-supported Borneo efforts can be seen at bit.ly/2ndChances.

I am so proud of the Oregon Zoo’s work to support conservation projects in the Northwest and around the world,” said Oregon Zoo Foundation Board chair Raimund Grube. “Never before have these efforts to save threatened species like the orangutans of Borneo been more critical.”

Walls Come Down! A Lens into Zoo’s Dynamic Future

The newsletter you’re holding in your hands, or viewing on your screen, is the brand new look of ZooTracks, completely revamped just for you – our dedicated legion of Oregon Zoo members, donors, volunteers and supporters.

In a recent survey, many of you told us what interested you most at the zoo, and we listened! The future issues of ZooTracks will feature fascinating stories about the zoo’s animals, about crucial progress being made in efforts to conserve and save species from extinction, and about new ways people of all ages are engaging in the many things our zoo has to offer.

These are exciting times at the zoo. On October 16th, the final wall of the old polar bear enclosure came down at a “demolition party,” signaling the zoo’s massive 10-year “demolition party,” signaling a new chapter in the zoo’s history. On October 16th, the final wall of the old polar bear enclosure came down at a “demolition party,” signaling the zoo’s massive 10-year “demolition party,” signaling a new chapter in the zoo’s history.

The habitats are also key components of the zoo’s ambitious and inspiring Heart of the Oregon Zoo campaign, which was unveiled at the celebration by Oregon Zoo Foundation executive director Jule Fitzgerald. The campaign will invest in new habitats for polar bears, chimpanzees and black rhinos. The foundation is also raising funds for vital education programs, conservation projects here and around the world, and innovations in animal care and welfare.

“Our campaign will reach farther than we ever have before,” said Fitzgerald. “The gifts we receive help fund priorities at the Oregon Zoo such as important enhancements to animal habitats, and much more. Our members and donors also help us to fund equipment, research and education to advance animal care and welfare, program support for our award-winning condor conservation program and bus fees for underfunded schools to allow zoo field trips that would not otherwise be possible.”

Today we’re transforming the heart of the zoo with bulldozers and excavators,” Fitzgerald confirmed at the demolition event. “But the real heart of the zoo is the way we care for the animals, our commitment and role in conserving species facing extinction and the connection we make with visitors and with our community every day so that together, we can create a better future for wildlife.”

Through imaginative play, movement, storytelling and live animal interactions, Critter Club offers our youngest learners an opportunity to cultivate building blocks of empathy and creativity that form the foundation of tomorrow’s conservation leaders.

“We signed up for Critter Club because wonderfully, our 4-year-old daughter is fascinated by anything creepy-crawly,” said Mark Shapiro, whose daughter Eve attended a recent class. “I loved how the class integrated educational content about insects with art activities, exploration, story-time and free play. In addition to a short walk with magnifying glass taking in the nature that exists all around us, she loved sitting on the floor and watching as the zoo staff brought out tiny wonderful critters, one after the other. It was an all-encapsulating critter encounter.”

“After all, what kid doesn’t love a hissing cockroach?” oregonzoo.org/critter-club

Animal Encounters

Treat yourself or another animal lover in your life to a unique experience – go behind the scenes and help feed and interact with our elephants, penguins, macaques and more on an Animal Encounter Tour! Proceeds from these experiences help fund our conservation work at home and around the world. Advanced registration is required. Please call 503-220-2781 for more information.

Give a Year of Wonder

A gift of membership is something the whole family can enjoy – a full year of free admission plus other great benefits!

Membership gift certificates can now be purchased online for instant email delivery. The deadline for Christmas delivery by U.S. mail is Dec. 14.

oregonzoo.org/membership

Critter Club

A key part of the Oregon Zoo’s mission is to inspire community members of all ages to respect animals and take action on behalf of the natural world. This commitment often begins in early childhood, and that’s where one of the zoo’s newest programs, Critter Club, comes in.

Zoo Partners Bring Catio to Life

A catio (cat + patio) allows loving owners of indoor cats to keep their pets safely at home while experiencing the benefits of the outside world at the same time.

For those looking to make this concept a reality, an example is now on display thanks to the Oregon Zoo and signature partner Banfield Pet Hospital, who have teamed up to create the Family Farm Catio onsite at the zoo. A third partner, the Project, selects catio for the Catio, which are available for adoption after a little settling-in time.

Resembling the porch of a house, the Catio is furnished with comfortable chairs and cushions—well-known favorites of domestic cats—and enclosed by a mesh screen, which provides the cats with access to the outside world while protecting them from it as well.

“The Catio represents a couple of things that are real at the heart of the Oregon Zoo’s mission, as well as our work with Banfield and the Project,” said Brianne Zanella, a keeper at the zoo’s Family Farm. “One is animal welfare, and the other is education.”

Today we’re transforming the heart of the zoo with bulldozers and excavators,” Fitzgerald confirmed at the demolition event. “But the real heart of the zoo is the way we care for the animals, our commitment and role in conserving species facing extinction and the connection we make with visitors and with our community every day so that together, we can create a better future for wildlife.”

At Banfield, we’re passionate about helping pets,” said Dr. Carla Lerum, a Banfield veterinarian. “The Family Farm Catio offers its feline residents the safe environment and outdoor enrichment they need to thrive — and is an excellent example of our ongoing partnership with the zoo to promote responsible pet ownership.”

Presented by Banfield Pet Hospital

"Through the generosity of donors to the Oregon Zoo Foundation, we’re funding efforts to save endangered orangutans, elephants and other wildlife, while also helping groups like the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation provide better lives for the animals in their care."
Experience ZooLights

ZooLights
Nov. 21 - Jan. 5
Enjoy a dazzling display of more than a million and a half lights. Kids can ride the carousel, and Santa will be available for photos through Dec. 23. Join us for photo ops, special warm drinks and live music.

VIP Experience
5 to 8 p.m.
• Friday, Dec. 14
• Saturday, Dec. 15
• Sunday, Dec. 16
• Friday, Dec. 21
• Saturday, Dec. 22
• Sunday, Dec. 23

Tickets include valet parking, expedited entrance, a buffet, cash bar, s'mores at the fire pit (weather permitting). Tickets include valet parking, expedited entrance, a buffet, cash bar, s'mores at the fire pit (weather permitting).

Conservation Pub Talk Series

Join us for conservation-themed talks presented by wildlife science professionals. General admission and VIP tickets are available.

ZooTracks
It’s all about your Oregon Zoo

New at the Zoo

Colobus Baby is First Since 2006
For the first time in 12 years, a colobus monkey was born at the Oregon Zoo in June - the first baby for mother, Violet, and the fifth for her mate, Kiku.

“Colobus monkeys make wonderful parents,” said Colleen Reed, a keeper who cares for the zoo’s primates. "The adults work together to raise the babies. In addition to Violet and Kiku, Makari, our other adult female, is showing a lot of interest in the baby as well."

Colobus monkeys practice a style of collective rearing known as “alloparenting.” As the baby grows, the adults will take turns caring for it, ensuring plenty of attention for the new arrival.

Elephant Family Welcomes Samson
Samson, a 20-year-old, 6,000-pound Asian elephant, has successfully integrated into the Oregon Zoo’s popular pachyderm population. Chendra, the smallest of the zoo’s female elephants and beloved for her easygoing manner, was the first to welcome Samson, followed by the rest of the herd. Samson arrived in the zoo’s female elephants and beloved for her easygoing manner, was the first to welcome Samson, followed by the rest of the herd. Samson arrived in the zoo’s popular pachyderm population.

Wildlife Worth Defending

Palm oil might not seem like the biggest threat to one of our planet’s most intelligent and expressive creatures, but it’s squarely at the heart of crucial efforts to save orangutans in the rainforests of Borneo.

As the clearing of forests for palm oil production continues, orangutans are being forced from their shrinking habitat and can become easy targets for poachers. The situation is so dire that in 2016, the Bornean orangutan’s conservation status was changed from endangered to critically endangered.

The Oregon Zoo has joined the effort to save these animals from extinction. Poachers keepers Cydrey Sines and Colleen Reed recently traveled to Southeast Asia to assist the Oregonian Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) in caring for displaced, injured and orphaned orangutans rescued from the wild.

Funded by an Oregon Zoo Foundation grant as part of the zoo’s commitment to global conservation, their work with the BOSF focused on baby orangutans whose mothers have been killed by poachers. The orphans’ rehabilitation, called “forest school,” teaches them how to find food, climb, build nests and identify predators.

When ready, the animals are transported to a protected forest and released, then closely monitored by staff to ensure they are thriving. The BOSF has returned approximately 250 orangutans to the wild in the past two years alone.

“The thing that affected me the most was seeing the difference one person can make in changing and bettering the world around them, whether it’s with the care of an individual animal or starting an organization that changes the landscape and attitudes of the area around them,” said Sines.
Emphasizing the value of increasing awareness of the link between palm oil and deforestation, the Oregon Zoo encourages people to look for sustainably produced palm oil. “It’s so critical that we help orangutans in Borneo, and Colleen and Cydney’s work there gets right to the heart of our mission,” said Dr. Don Moore, zoo director.

“Through the generosity of donors to the Oregon Zoo Foundation, we’re funding efforts to save endangered orangutans, elephants and other wildlife, while also helping groups like the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation provide better lives for the animals in their care.”

Videos about Reid and Sines’ recent trip and other zoo-supported Borneo efforts can be seen at bit.ly/ZooChances.

“I am so proud of the Oregon Zoo’s work to support conservation projects in the Northwest and around the world,” said Oregon Zoo Foundation Board chair Raimund Grube. “Never before have these efforts to save threatened species like the orangutans of Borneo been more critical.”

Today we’re transforming the heart of the zoo with bulldozers and excavators,” Fitzgerald confirmed at the demolition event. “But the real heart of the zoo is the way we care for the animals, our commitment and role in conserving species facing extinction and the connection we make with visitors and with our community every day so that together, we can create a better future for wildlife.”

“The habitats are also key components of the zoo’s ambitious and inspiring Heart of the Oregon Zoo campaign, which was unveiled at the celebration by Oregon Zoo Foundation executive director Julie Fitzgerald. The campaign will invest in new habitats for polar bears, chimpanzees and black rhinos. The foundation is also raising funds for vital education programs, conservation projects here and around the world, and innovations in animal care and welfare.”

“Our campaign will reach further than we ever have before,” said Fitzgerald. “The gifts we receive help fund priorities at the Oregon Zoo such as important animal habitats, and much more. Our members and donors also help to fund equipment, research and education to advance animal care and welfare, program support for our award-winning condor conservation program and bus fees for underfunded schools to allow zoo field trips that would not otherwise be possible.”
ZooTalks Nov. 21 – Jan. 5

Enjoy a dazzling display of more than a million and a half lights. Kids can ride the carousel, and Santa will be available for photos through Dec. 23. Join us for photo ops, special warm drinks and live music.

Experience ZooLights

Join us for conservation-themed talks presented by wildlife science professionals. General admission and VIP tickets are available.

Zoo Tracks

Wildlife Worth Defending

Palm oil might not seem like the biggest threat to one of our planet’s most intelligent and expressive creatures, but it’s squandering all the heart of crucial efforts to save orangutans in the rainforests of Borneo.

As the clearing of forests for palm oil production continues, orangutans are being forced from their shrinking habitat and can become easy targets for poachers. The situation is so dire that in 2016, the Bornean orangutan’s conservation status was changed from endangered to critically endangered.

The Oregon Zoo has joined the effort to save these animals from extinction. Primate keepers Cydney Sines and Colleen Reed recently traveled to Southeast Asia to assist the BOSF. At a protected forest and released, then closely monitored by staff to ensure they are thriving.

Funded by an Oregon Zoo Foundation grant as part of the zoo’s commitment to global conservation, their work with the BOSF focused on baby orangutans whose mothers have been killed by poachers. The orphans’ rehabilitation, called “forest school,” teaches them how to find food, climb, build nests and identify predators.

Elephant Baby Welcomes Samson

Samson, a 20-year-old, 6,000-pound Asian elephant, has successfully integrated into the Oregon Zoo’s popular pachyderm population. Chendra, the smallest of the zoo’s female elephants and beloved for her easygoing manner, was the first to welcome Samson. Following the arrival of the herd, Samson arrived in the spring from the ABQ BioPark Zoo in Albuquerque, N.M.

The Oregon Zoo, recognized worldwide for its Asian elephant program, is also committed to helping elephants in their native range countries, which continue to be threatened by habitat loss, human conflict and disease. To this end, the Oregon Zoo Foundation has created a $1 million Asian elephant endowment fund to support conservation efforts.

“Conspiracy” Uncovered; Lemurs Arrive

A rumored conspiracy at the Oregon Zoo was confirmed in June, as five lemurs arrived to take their place in the zoo’s Africa area.

The lemurs - highly social animals that live in large family groups known as conspiracies - include two black-and-white ruffed lemurs and three ring-tailed members of the species.

Among the world’s most endangered mammals, the new arrivals reflect the Oregon Zoo’s commitment to conservation, and came here on the recommendation of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums’ Species Survival Plan, which helps accredited zoos create genetically diverse, self-sustaining populations to guarantee the long-term future of animals.