

ZooTales

SPRING/SUMMER
2022

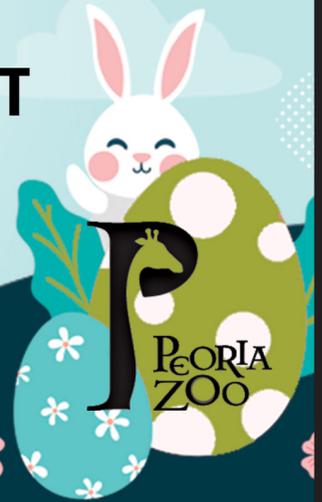


Mission: Create connections that inspire an appreciation for and encourage actions to conserve the natural world.

A Hopping Good Time

PEORIA ZOO EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 9
10 AM - 12 PM



VISIT PEORIAZOO.ORG TO VIEW HUNT TIMES & MEMBER/NON-MEMBER PRICING. PLEASE NOTE. ALL VISITORS TO PEORIA ZOO, INCLUDING MEMBERS, ARE SUBJECT TO THE SPECIAL EVENT FEE IF ENTERING BEFORE NOON.



Conservation Days

Throughout the year, we hope you join us in celebrating these special conservation days at Peoria Zoo. Each day we will dive into the realm of certain species and highlight worldwide conservation efforts. Enjoy self-guided activities where you'll learn about some of your favorite animals and how to help. Interpretations or Keeper Chats may take place depending on the different animal and topics.

BAT APPRECIATION DAY
April 17

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY
May 20

WORLD GIRAFFE DAY
June 21

EARTH DAY
April 22

WORLD TURTLE DAY
May 23

WORLD SNAKE DAY
July 16

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Cover Photo: Hognosed snake
Pictured here: Arthur, male lion

PEORIA ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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Melissa Moore, Curator of Animals
Julie Brunton, Educator
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Elly, Justine, Alyssa B., Bailey, Michael,
Laura, Nikki, Allison, Corwin, Tina, Jill

Maintenance Staff:

Victor, Malone

Gift Shop Staff:

Alissa, Keyara, Madelyn, Julie, Emily,
Laura, Maliyah, Jayden

ZooTales Design: Jennifer Swanson



Peoria Zoo is owned and operated by
Peoria Park District.

PZS is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated
to raising funds for Peoria Zoo.

Letters from our

By Brenda O’Russa, Development Director, Peoria Zoological Society

Zoos are a necessary component of today’s society. Zoos bring people together and educate them on the importance of animal conservation. They conduct breeding programs to preserve biodiversity, and they reintroduce endangered or extinct species back into the wild. According to the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, member zoos have donated over \$1.1 billion to conservation efforts between 2016 and 2020. To be able to help with these conservation programs, zoos require a significant amount of funding. When you became a Peoria Zoo member, a portion of membership fees went directly toward the care of our animals and conservation efforts. Thank you!

You can also help support us by making a donation to our Mission Fund. This spring, we are having our annual Mission Fund appeal, and we hope you will consider donating to this worthy cause. When you give, you allow Peoria Zoological Society to help with capital projects and ongoing improvements to Peoria Zoo. These projects include our newly updated Zambezi River Lodge kitchen as well as enhanced path lighting. More projects are planned for 2022, so stay tuned. When you donate at least \$25 to our Mission Fund, your name will be entered into a competition to win your own personal parking spot at Peoria Zoo in 2023 that allows you easy access right outside our main entrance, The Barton Pavilion. The more you donate, the more times your name will be entered! Go to peoriazoo.org/donate to give today.

I hope you have all heard the news, but if not, *Zootini* is back! Your favorite adults-only fundraiser will be held at Peoria Zoo on Thursday, May 12. Enjoy a variety of martinis from Peoria’s local restaurants, heavy appetizers from Cracked Pepper Catering, and music by Dexter O’Neal and the Funk Yard while strolling around *Africa!* after-hours. Tickets are on sale now, so buy yours before they sell out!

Mark your calendars for our annual *Zoo Brew & Wine, Too!* This event will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2022, and since we are moving the event to a warmer month, we are re-imagining it to include an outside component. Guests can sample a variety of beer and fine wine while enjoying live music during a beautiful fall evening. That same weekend, we will also be hosting our annual online auction, *UpROARious*, and bringing back the Membership Swap you have enjoyed in years past. It is going to be a whirlwind of a few days, and we hope you will join in all of the fun!

As always, please contact our office with any questions you may have. We appreciate your support!

leadership...

By Yvonne Strode, Director, Peoria Zoo

Those of a certain age will remember the old commercial where a little girl proudly exclaims, "and I helped!" after shaking chicken in a bag. I say the same thing (in my head) when I am able to help the keepers complete their daily routines.

I no longer know how to safely operate all the levers and doors to shift animals, many of the diets look the same to me and in some cases I can't even tell the individual animals apart from one another. So what good am I? I can do dishes! I can get the job done if they are big or little, plastic or metal, green or brown.

In my defense, the Zoo goes through a lot of dishes each day and there are special rules that apply. I know the red dishes are used for meat and need to be kept separate from the others. I know the "special use" dishes that can't go into the communal cabinet for fear of them disappearing. I know how to neatly stack them on the drying racks so they are ready to be put away by the end of the day.

During the snow storms in February, I got dishpan hands while the keepers were out shoveling to just get to their animals. While they checked every furnace, heat lamp and thermostat reading, I turned up the box heater blowing on the sink.

At the end of the day, I even found that I still remembered how to sweep and mop the kitchen floor. The keepers left with a feeling of real accomplishment and I did help.



Top: Keeper Kenny making a snow angel.
Right: Keeper Elly shoveling a path to Aussie.



PEORIA ZOO — INFORMATION —

General Phone:
(309) 686-3365

Website:
www.peoriazoo.org

E-Mail:
info@peoriazoo.org

Membership Office:
(309) 681-3500
pzs@peoriaparks.org

Zoo Hours:
Daily 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(Last Admission at 4:30 p.m.)

Concession Hours:
March 26 - Mid April & October
Weekends, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Mid April - Mid September
Daily, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Giraffe Feeding:
Daily, Memorial Day - Labor Day
Weekends, September

12 p.m. - 1 p.m. & 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Cost: \$5/person

Australia Walk-About & Aviary:
Weekends, May & October
Daily, Memorial Day - Labor Day

Walk-About: 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Aviary: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Aviary Feed Stick: \$1/feed stick

All times and costs are subject to change and are weather dependent.

ASSOCIATION OF ZOOS & AQUARIUMS

Peoria Zoo has been an accredited member of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) since 1976. Look for the AZA logo whenever you visit a zoo or aquarium as your assurance that you are supporting a facility dedicated to providing excellent care for animals, a great experience for you, and a better future for all living things.

With its more than 200 accredited members, AZA is a leader in global wildlife conservation, and your link to helping animals in their native habitats. For more information, visit www.aza.org.

Cover Story

NATIVE SPECIES

By Yvonne Strode, Director, Peoria Zoo

Peoria Zoo exhibits only a few species native to Illinois, i.e., hognose snake, spotted turtle and alligator snapping turtle. However, several other species call the Zoo home.

Early each spring, the grounds are teeming with squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits and groundhogs. While fox squirrels are more common, visitors can also see the smaller gray squirrel running in the underbrush. Many children seem to enjoy watching these animals as much as, if not more than, the animals in the Zoo's collection.

Several bird species also find the Zoo attractive for living and/or nesting. Cardinals are plentiful and males can often be heard staking out their territories in the spring and early summer. Robins, starlings and sparrows are common and observant visitors can also see hummingbirds and goldfinches. Bald eagles have even been seen briefly visiting the Zoo and at least one pair of great horned owls are residents. A staff member who is also an avid birder reports seeing at least 25 different species on grounds.



PEORIA ZOO
CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

THIS CERTIFIES THAT

HAS ADOPTED THE
GIRAFFE

ADOPT
— AN —
ANIMAL

ANIMAL FACT SHEET - GIRAFFE

SCIENTIFIC NAME: GIRAFFA CAMELopardalis RETICULATA

A CLOSER LOOK:

- 1. Giraffes have the longest necks of any land animal and can reach up to 20 feet to eat leaves from the tops of trees.
- 2. Giraffes are the tallest animals on land and can weigh up to 4,000 pounds.
- 3. Giraffes are the only animals that can see over their own heads.
- 4. Giraffes are the only animals that can see over their own heads.

INTERESTING FACTS:

SEXES:

PEORIA ZOO

CHECK OUT OUR ANIMAL ADOPTION LEVELS AT [PEORIAZOO.ORG/ADOPT](https://www.peoriazoo.org/adopt)



The water moat at the rhinoceros habitat provides temporary respite for a few mallards every year during spring migration. It also provides a home for numerous frogs that provide a chorus of their calls during mating season.

On your next visit, make sure you look and listen for the Zoo's other animals—those that call Illinois home and enrich our lives every day.



HOGNOSE SNAKE

When threatened, a hognose snake flattens the skin on its neck giving it a hooded appearance. It then takes a huge breath, inflating its body dramatically, and releases the air with a loud hissing noise.

Occasionally, if the snake is not left alone, it will go into convulsion-like motions, turning over on its back, thrashing its head from side to side, and pretending to die.



SPOTTED TURTLE

Also called the polka-dot turtle, it has yellow spots on the head, neck, legs, and upper shell or carapace. The main body of turtles are black.

Male turtles have dark pigment on the hard portions of both jaws; females have yellowish coloration on their jaws.

It has the ability to breathe through the skin when underwater.



ALLIGATOR SNAPPING TURTLE

These turtles can be identified by their three large, pronounced ridges running from the front to the back of their very large shells. They have a snout that is pointed and their eyes are on the sides of their heads instead of the top like the common snapping turtle.

They have a worm shaped "lure" attached to the top of their tongue that is used to attract prey.

Member News

MEMBERSHIP OFFICE: (309) 681-3500 OR PZS@PEORIAPARKS.ORG



AZA RECIPROCAL LIST

Did you know that you could use your Peoria Zoo membership for free or discounted admission to over 150 other Zoos and Aquariums?

The list is mailed out with your cards, or you can find it on PeoriaZoo.org.



MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Save the date for our annual member appreciation event on June 5, 2022!

Look for an invitation in your e-mail. Not currently getting our member invites? Contact us at the membership office!



ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES

What happens if you lose your card? When is the next member event? Learn about these and more when you visit our member page of our website here:

Check it out today:
[peoriazoo.org/
member-resources/](http://peoriazoo.org/member-resources/)

MEMBERSHIP SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2022

WEEKEND

Members: Enjoy a weekend of free general admission* to all four of these Peoria-area attractions when you present your membership card and photo ID during the weekend of September 16-18, 2022.

* Charges may apply for additional experiences.

Save the Date

UPCOMING EVENTS AT PEORIA ZOO.

ALL LISTED ARE DROP-IN EVENTS FROM 11 AM - 4PM AND FREE WITH YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

APRIL 30

POKÉMON DAY

A new event starring Pikachu, Bulbasaur, Charmander, and Squirtle. Come find all of the Pokéstops at the Zoo, while visiting our Pokémon friends. Battle, Trade, Collect them all here on this day.

MAY 28

PARTY FOR THE PLANET

From recycling to skipping the straw, explore simple ways you can help make the planet a better place. We will have animal encounters, activities, and earth-friendly treats our animals will receive throughout the day. Fun on the Run inflatables will be in Glen Oak Park leading to the Peoria PlayHouse for a fun activity.

JUNE 11 & 12

FAIRYTALE LAND WEEKEND

Come explore the Zoo dressed as your favorite fairyland person/creature. Meet princesses and princes as well as villains and other creatures.

See parrots and "dragons" up close, do a themed scavenger hunt throughout the Zoo for fun prizes, play games, and so much more.

JUNE 20 - 24

POLLINATORS WEEK

Celebrate bees and butterflies and all the other animals that help flowers bloom. Come learn about all the ways you can help pollinators thrive in your own backyard. There will be different activities, crafts, and critter chats throughout the week.

SPECIAL ADMISSION DAYS

MAY 8

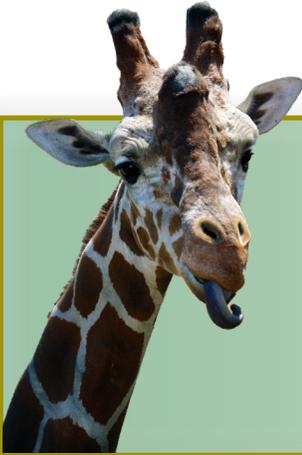
MOTHERS & MUFFINS

All moms will get free admission with a paying child. Stop by the concession stand to get a free muffin!

JUNE 19

FATHERS & FLOATS

All dads will get free admission with a paying child. Stop by the concession stand to get a free float!



CHECK OUT OUR Conservation Days ON THE INSIDE COVER

Container Classes *from our friends at the Garden...*

MAY 6 | 5:30 - 7:30 PM

EVENING CONTAINER GARDEN CLASS

Enjoy a glass of wine while creating your very own container garden for mom... or even better with mom. It's a gift that keeps on growing and is perfect for a porch, patio, or deck. We will provide all the plants & supplies. Beer and wine will be available for purchase and participants must be 21 years or older to sign-up.

\$25/person

MAY 7 | 11, 1, 2 OR 3

AFTERNOON CONTAINER GARDEN CLASS

Create a container garden with mom... or for mom! It's a gift that keeps on growing and is perfect for a porch, patio, or deck. This is a hands-on class and you register in advance for any 1-hour time-slot (11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 3:00). All plants and materials are included.

\$25/person

Conservation Connection

SAFE FOR SONGBIRDS

By Melissa Moore, Curator of Animals, Peoria Zoo

When you think of zoos, you think of large, exotic mammals like tigers, lions, or rhinos. You probably also know that zoos like ours work to conserve many of these species and their habitats. But did you know we also work to protect the songbirds living here in the United States, those right in your own backyard?



Peoria Zoo is now a partner in the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' (AZA) North American Songbird SAFE (Saving Animals from Extinction). AZA's SAFE programs are important conservation frameworks that combine the power of zoo visitors with the resources and expertise of accredited zoos to save endangered and vulnerable species.

There are more than 1,100 different species of songbirds in the United States alone. From sparrows to warblers, and swallows to woodpeckers, their diversity and their songs enhance our world. We reap direct benefits from their presence through their pollination of plants, gobbling up insects, eating and spreading seeds, and just from their beauty outside our windows.

Why are our native songbirds considered vulnerable? Recent research has shown that songbirds' total populations have declined by as much as 3 billion individuals since 1970. The effect is varied across species and habitats, but the number is staggering.

When you come to Peoria Zoo later this year, you will be able to learn more about our native birds and how you can help us save them for the future!

The good news is that there are very simple actions that each of us can take that will actually make a difference for the birds in your backyard.

1. Make your windows safer for birds
2. Keep pet cats indoors
3. Reduce lawn size and plant bird-friendly plants
4. Avoid using pesticides
5. Drink Bird Friendly® Coffee
6. Watch birds and share what you observe through citizen science apps
7. Speak out against native songbird trafficking

Photo credit: Tom Sakiyama for both bird photographs.



Animal Birthday Feature

RING-TAILED LEMUR

By Paul Wenzel, Keeper, Peoria Zoo

Peoria Zoo's ring-tailed lemurs were both born in April; Aiden on the 26th in 2003 and Donovan on the 15th in 2004. Although the species has a median life expectancy of 16.7 years in managed care, both have surpassed this age and continue to thrive.

Both lemurs came to Peoria in 2005 and Donovan is Aiden's nephew. The easiest way for visitors to tell them apart is looking for the small bumps on Donovan's face. Although these cysts give him an angry look, he has an easy-going personality. If you look closely, you can see that Aiden's white face mask forms an "A" between his eyes in a reverse widow's peak.

Although Aiden is the dominant animal, both enjoy being close and spending time grooming each other. Sitting in their ½-barrel swing is a favorite activity and both relish getting fresh cut leaves and branches. Donovan will often ignore his regular diet when this browse is provided.

Did you know that ring-tailed lemurs:

- Live in groups of 5-50 with the females being dominant.
- Spend more than a third of their time on the ground, more than any other lemur species.
- Like to sunbathe in the mornings to warm themselves up.
- Use their tails for balance, communication, and group cohesion. By holding their tails erect for other members to see, they ensure that all troop members are in sight and stay together. When sleeping, they curl their tail over their backs and tuck their nose between their hind legs.
- Have scent glands on their wrists and chests that they use to mark their foraging routes. When faced with an aggressive encounter, they will wave their scent-covered tail in the direction of a rival, and the one with the strongest smell wins!

There are over 100 species of lemurs and they are only native to the island of Madagascar. The Red Data List records that 98% of all lemur species are now threatened with extinction and 33 species are listed as Critically Endangered, one listing away from extinction in the wild.



Top: Donovan; Right: Aiden

To send a birthday gift to Donovan or Aiden, or to learn more about our Giving Tree and Amazon WishList, visit peoriazoo.org/donate/

Animal Welfare

WATER

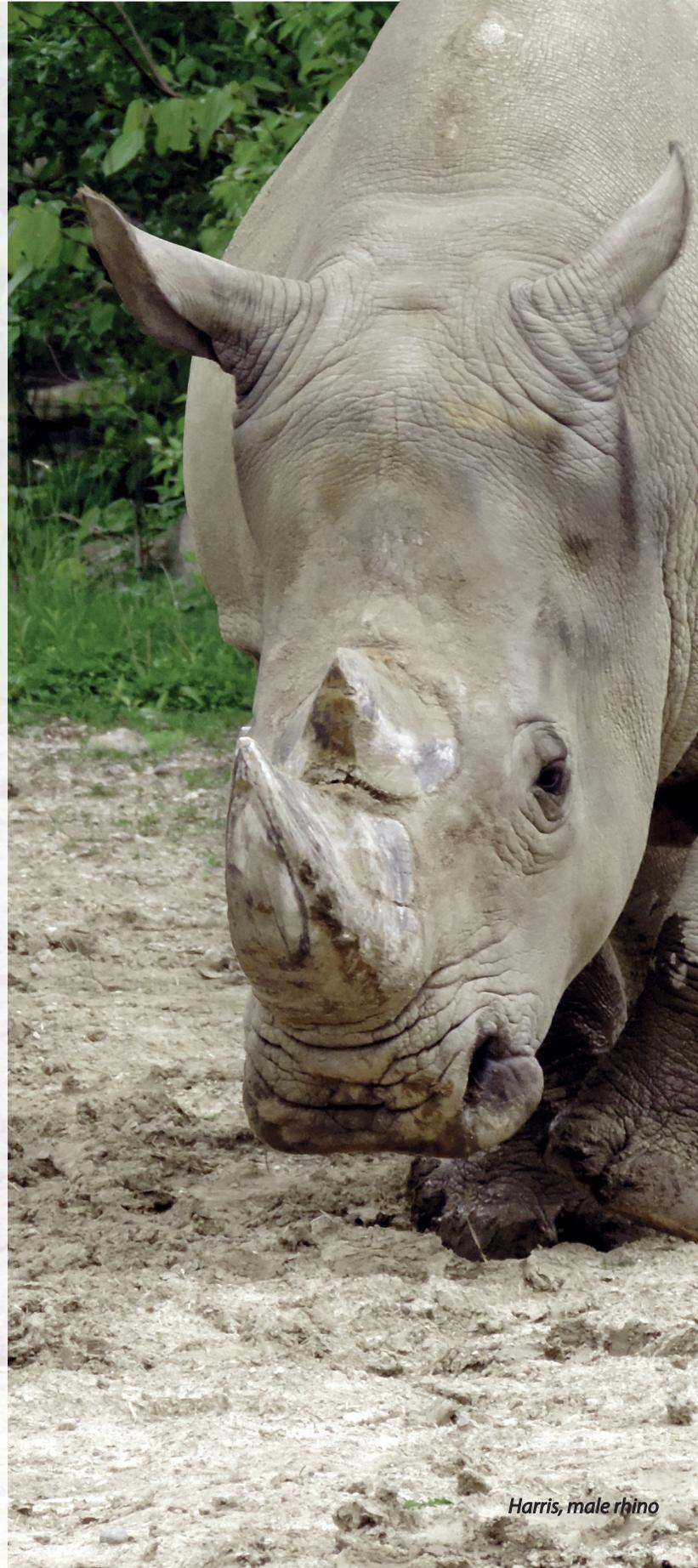
By Yvonne Stode, Director, Peoria Zoo

Making sure all of the animals have access to clean water for drinking is one of the zookeepers' fundamental tasks. Although it may sound simple, several factors have to be taken into consideration and many of these change over time.

The size and natural history of the species helps determine the size and placement of the watering device. Large animals usually require more water so bigger and/or automatically refilling devices are needed. Keepers may need to temporarily change the size when a baby is born to prevent drowning. Arboreal, or tree dwelling, animals often find the ground to be a dangerous place so providing their water above the exhibit floor allows them to drink in comfort. Some species get most if not all the water they require from their diet so it is important to prepare and store their food to preserve as much moisture as possible.

Knowing the individual animals can also be essential in providing this vital element of animal care. Upon arrival, the rhinoceros at Peoria Zoo had the habit of defecating in their water troughs. Because the design worked well for such a large and strong species, keepers tried to change the behavior rather than the waterer. With advice from colleagues, keepers strategically placed some feces from Harris in Leo's stall far away from the water trough and vice versa. Wanting to cover the scent of their rival, both rhinos quickly stopped defecating in their water.

The seasons can also require changes in the way water is provided. Water is just as necessary in the winter so heated waterers are provided. If this is not possible, the animals have access to the water in their heated off-exhibit areas. During the heat of the summer, keepers check water supplies several times each day to refill and refresh as needed.



Harris, male rhino

Animal Birthdays

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR CURIOUS CATS, REMARKABLE REPTILES AND ALL THAT CALL PEORIA ZOO HOME.

APRIL 3

Tecalli, zebra

APRIL 15

*Donovan,
ring-tailed Lemur*

APRIL 16

Mazey, colobus monkey

APRIL 23

Bert, takin

APRIL 24

*Sultana,
red river hog*

MAY 3

*Dixie,
Thomson's gazelle*

MAY 11

Duster, emu

MAY 16

*Malfoy,
wrinkled hornbill*

MAY 20

Mac, kookaburra

MAY 29

Victoria, black swan

JUNE 9

*Molly, Laughing
kookaburra*

JUNE 24

Nikita, Amur tiger

JULY 1

*Mogo, red-necked
wallaby*

JULY 15

*Taji,
Reticulated giraffe*



Bert, takin

Give the gift of **Enrichment**



Did you know that we have a curated selection of gifts picked out to enrich the lives of the animals and enhance the guest experience? Select an item from our online Amazon WishList or our Giving Tree at the Zoo and have it delivered right here to the Zoo!

Your generous gift will be used as a "BEEP item" in our Behavioral Enrichment and Enhancement Program.

Kids' Page

TIME FOR AN ADVENTURE IN GLEN OAK PARK! Use the map below to identify the types of trees listed on the other side. You can look at the shape and color of the leaf or the size of the tree to help!



Crabapple



Sugar Maple



Flowering Pear



Catalpa



Poplar



Japanese zelkova



White Oak



Buckeye



Dogwood



Hackberry



Basswood



Japanese Maple



White Pine



Redbud



Sumac



Magnolia



2320 N. Prospect Road
Peoria, IL 61603-2193

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Peoria Zoological Society is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to supporting and realizing the vision for the Peoria Zoo.

Zootini

Thursday, May 12 • Peoria Zoo



A variety of martinis (shaken, not stirred) are served by local bartenders at an after-hours event in Africa! Taste our signature martinis and walk the boardwalk with friends for a wonderful spring evening event. Included with the ticket are appetizers, desserts, drink tickets and live entertainment!

Regular Tickets: \$100 each • After May 1st: \$115 each
VIP Martini Sampling Ticket: \$150 each



Add on a high-top table and/or reserved parking!

