

Zoo

Story courtesy L.A. Zoo; Photos by Tad Motoyama, Zoo

A Dazzling New Rainforest

Zoo opens new \$18.8 million exhibit.



Giant river otters.



An otter sliding to happiness.



Baird's tapir.

The Rainforest of the Americas, which opened in April, is the newest exhibit at the Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens. The 2.2-acre, \$18.8 million exhibit features rare and endangered species of mammals, reptiles, fish and amphibians within exhibit spaces that exemplify their natural habitat in the rainforest biosphere. The Rainforest of the America's theme, "Everything Has a Home," is incorporated within the exhibit's design that takes visitors on a walking tour through areas that showcase some of the inhabitants of the rain forests of Mexico, Central and South America.

This newest Zoo exhibit represents a three-year collaborative effort between Zoo curators and staff, architects and landscapers to create a tropical rainforest experience. Through various bilingual educational signage, visitors learn about the immediate need to sustain this rapidly disappearing biosphere. This latest exhibit is the culmination of a 15-year Master Plan effort to modernize the Zoo.

Among the more than 20 species that visitors will be able to see in the Rainforest of the America's exhibit are several endangered species, including giant river otters, blue-billed curassow (less than 250 left on the planet), Central American tapirs and cotton-top tamarins. Other vulnerable animals on exhibit include uakari — the Los Angeles Zoo is the only zoo in North America to have these rare Peruvian monkeys on exhibit — harpy eagles, one of the largest eagle species in the world, and keel-billed toucans.

More information on the new exhibit can be found at www.lazoo.org/rainforest

The Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens is in Griffith Park at the junction of the Ventura (134) and Golden State (5) freeways. Admission is \$18 for adults and \$13 for children ages 2 to 12. The Zoo is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For information, call (323) 644-4200 or visit the L.A. Zoo Website at www.lazoo.org.



A giant river otter.



Female and male howler monkeys.



Cotton-top tamarins.



A toucan.



Part of the entertainment.



From left: Steven Johnson, Refuge Field Instructor, 27 years of City service, Club Member; Robert Sosa, Supervisor, West LA, 24 years, Club Member; and guests Mary Montoya and Debbie Angulo.



From left: Art Gardea, guest, with Enrique Meza, Refuse Collection Truck Operator II, 6 years of City service, Club Member.



From left: Keith McCoy, guest; Janet Davis, Sr. Detention Officer, 29 years of City service; and Sterling Davis, RCTO, 9 years, Club Member.

Public Works

Story by Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor; Photos by Jackie Causillas and Isaac Burciaga

West LA Yard Horses Around

West LA Sanitation Yard hosts annual picnic at Santa Anita Park.

The West LA Sanitation Stoner Yard employees gathered April 19 at the Santa Anita Race Track for their annual picnic. Attendees enjoyed betting on the horses and cheering on the exciting thoroughbred races under the warm sun. An all-day lunch buffet was provided, consisting of roasted chicken, hot dogs, barbecue sliders, pasta salad, green salad, vegetable medley, picnic potatoes, rolls and fruit as well as cookies for dessert.

Thanks to all Stoner Yard employees and Jonelle Gardea for inviting us and allowing us to participate in the event.



Robert Watson, RCTO, 24 years of City service, Club Member, with Diane Watson, guest.



Rhonda Wright, RCTO, 9 years of City service, Club Member; and Lester Moore, RCTO, 29 years, Club Member.



Vanassa and Bonaventure Butts, RCTO, 34 years of City service, Club Member.



Jonelle Gardea, Supervisor, 19 years of City service, Club Member, with her husband, Art.



From left: James Adams, RCTO, 30 years of City service, Club Member; and Big Train, RCTO, 36 years.



From left: Jackie Causillas, Club Counselor; and Jordan Price, Instrument Mechanic, 20 years of City service, Club Member, Club Rep.



The attendees had fun.

THIS MONTH AT THE

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium

A REC AND PARKS FACILITY

Salt Marsh Open House

Saturday, June 21
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Join CMA educators to learn about the Salinas de San Pedro wetlands habitat at Cabrillo Beach by using binoculars and microscopes to observe live animals. Visitors can view the birds of the marsh, learn about native plants and observe the changes in the tides.

Free and open to all!
Parking: \$2

Support the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium!

Consider joining the Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (310) 548-7410
www.cabrillmarineaquarium.org/support.asp



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