

# THE TEXAS ZOO ZOOSLETTER

(361) 573-7681



TEXASZOO.ORG



@THETEXASZOO

## Family Fun Zone!



### Twig Trees

- Assortment of twigs
- Twine
- Hot glue
- Scissors

1. Set out all of your twigs and arrange them from smallest to largest like a tree.
2. Trim twigs to a specific size if needed.
3. Cut a piece of twine to the length of the tree.
4. Run hot glue along the twine and place twigs in the arranged order.
5. Trim any twine if needed.
6. Cut an extra piece of twine to make a loop to hang your tree!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* **National Sticker Day**  
January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- \* **Brew a Potion Day**  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- \* **National Peanut Butter Day**  
January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- \* **National Hot Chocolate Day**  
January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

## Last Month @ The Zoo



### 12/13 – Breakfast with Santa

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, we had a visit from someone special, Santa himself! On December 13<sup>th</sup>, we had a visit from someone special, Santa himself! Guests joined us for our Breakfast with Santa, sponsored by Whataburger, where families enjoyed breakfast, festive crafts, and lots of holiday cheer while visiting with Santa.

### 12/20 – German Christmas Fest

Our German Christmas Fest was a wonderful night of holiday fun at The Texas Zoo! Families enjoyed browsing unique gifts from local vendors, indulging in festive food and sweets, and dancing along to live music from the Chris Rybak Band while celebrating the season together.



### 12/19, 12/26–12/28 – Christmas Lights

The Texas Zoo's Christmas Nights brought holiday magic to the zoo with festive décor and lights, complimentary warm drinks and cookies, and a fun hayride for guests to enjoy. Families joined us for a joyful evening celebrating the season together.

### ALL MONTH – Free Admissions

We partnered with H-E-B through the Tournament of Champions Trust during November and December, providing complimentary zoo admission to guests. This partnership helped make zoo visits more accessible to families and created meaningful opportunities for the community to connect with wildlife.



## Keeper of The Month

Say hello to Shelby! Shelby has been part of The Texas Zoo team since 2022. Her favorite food is Asian cuisine, her favorite color is blue, and in her free time she enjoys reading, crafting, gaming, and going on adventures.

Shelby's animal besties at The Texas Zoo are Bubba, our macaw, and Ozzy. One of her favorite memories goes all the way back to her time as an intern—Ozzy was the very first bird she bonded with. These days, Bubba holds a special place as the only bird who's nice to her... most of the time!



***"Live life to the fullest.  
Not everyone who is a  
wanderer is lost."***

— J.R.R. Tolkien

## A Message From a Guest

For being a small zoo, I was actually surprised and amazed on how many animals were out and about. Coming from San Antonio, exhibits are usually empty or no visible animals. The Texas Zoo had all exhibits open and all animals were active. The open exhibits for clear views, was also a plus in my book. I feel that the zoo could be in favor for an expansion. Would really be neat and worth the drive once again.

## Joke of The Month

**Q:** What is black and white and red all over?

**A:** A sunburnt Zebra!



Bubba – Blue and Gold Macaw

## Animal Spotlight

Meet Bubba, our Blue-and-Gold Macaw! Native to the rainforests of South America, macaws like Bubba are known for their bright blue and yellow feathers and impressive intelligence. These birds are social creatures that use their strong beaks to crack nuts and climb through trees. At The Texas Zoo, Bubba loves interacting with his keepers and practicing his natural behaviors, giving guests a chance to learn about the fascinating world of parrots up close.

***"Wherever there are birds,  
there is hope."***

—Mehmet Murat Ildan

**One FREE Child's Admission**  
**Open Sunday-Saturday**  
(ages 3-12 years)

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A gift from you!



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## Family Fun Zone!

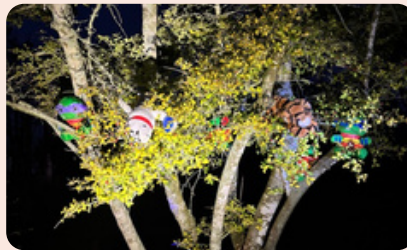


### Cardboard Roll Hearts

- Cardboard Rolls
- A Canvas
- Rubber Bands
- Paint

1. To make the heart, make a crease in the top side of the cardboard roll (this will give you the two bumps that form the top of the heart).
2. Next, squeeze the bottom of the cardboard roll to form the pointy bottom of the heart.
3. When you are satisfied with the shape of your heart, wrap a rubber band around the end of the tube to hold it in place.
4. Flip the cardboard tube around, and repeat the first three steps to create a heart on the other end.
5. Dip one end of the cardboard roll into the paint and stamp hearts all over the canvas.
6. Stamp and overlap the hearts until you have completely filled your canvas!

## Last Month @ The Zoo



### 1/17 – Stuffed Animal Sleepover

While the kids were tucked in at home... Their stuffies were off on an adventure! Here's a peek at the fun our Stuffed Sleepover Crew had overnight. Thank you to all our families who joined our Stuffed Sleepover Adventure! We loved hosting your stuffed friends and capturing their big night!

Can't wait to see you guys next time for our Cozy Critters Stuffed Animal Sleepover!!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>* <b>Eat The Ex</b><br/>February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026</p>  | <p>* <b>Letter From the Heart Card Making</b><br/>February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026</p>                |
| <p>* <b>Teachers Open House</b><br/>February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026</p>                                       | <p>* <b>Love Your Planet Eco-Crafts</b><br/>February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026</p>                      |
| <p>* <b>National Invasive Species Awareness Week</b><br/>Feb 23<sup>rd</sup> – Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026</p> | <p>* <b>Adopt-A-Heart Build Your Own Mini Stuffed Animal</b><br/>February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2026</p> |

Click [HERE](#) to buy tickets!

## Keeper of The Month

Leanne has been a valued member of our zoo family since 2019, serving not only as one of our dedicated keepers but also as our curator. She loves just about every food (except seafood!), and her favorite colors are calming greys and blues to reflect her laid-back personality. Outside of the zoo, you'll find her fishing, playing billiards, or belting out karaoke tunes.

Her animal bestie is Indy, our Indigo Snake, and her favorite memory with him is the very first time she held him. He hilariously got tangled in her hair! 🐍💙



***"Animals are such agreeable friends, they ask no questions, and pass no criticism."***

— George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans)

## A Message From a Guest

I had a wonderful experience at The Texas Zoo! It's a smaller zoo, so you can explore it fairly quickly, but that makes it an even more enjoyable and personal visit. My boyfriend and I took part in the guided tour and the otter encounter, both of which I highly recommend. The guided tour offers an in-depth look at the facility, along with fascinating insights into each animal's history and personality.

From the smallest reptile to the largest zebra, every animal looked healthy, happy, and well cared for. While there is always room for improvement, it's clear that the keepers deeply love and care for these animals, doing the best they can with the resources available. Supporting them through your visit truly helps make a difference.

The otter encounter was definitely the highlight of our experience. We got to feed them a snack and ask plenty of questions. The keepers were incredibly friendly and knowledgeable. While we didn't get to pet the otters (for both their safety and ours), that's exactly how it should be. This is not a petting zoo, and if you're expecting cuddles, you may need to rethink your perspective on interacting with wild animals.

Overall, The Texas Zoo is a great place to visit. As an experienced animal keeper and exotic veterinary technician, I can confidently say the staff's dedication shines through. I highly recommend checking it out and supporting their mission!



Lulu - Lionhead Rabbit

## Animal Spotlight

This month, we're shining the spotlight on Lulu, our adorable Lionhead Rabbit! Lulu has been part of our zoo family since February 2021. Before coming to us, she was a pet, and like many rabbits, her previous owners didn't realize how much time, care, and commitment rabbits truly require. Situations like this are how Lulu found her forever home with us. Lionhead rabbits are known for their fluffy "mane" of fur around their head, just like a tiny lion! They are one of the smaller rabbit breeds, typically weighing only 2.5–3.5 pounds, and are loved for their gentle, curious personalities. Lulu helps us teach guests that rabbits are wonderful companions, but they need proper care, space, and attention to thrive. ♥

One FREE Child's Admission

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3-12 years

Zoo Newsletter  
2026

Memorial Dr.  
Austin, TX 77901

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A gift for you!