

Zoo 4 You

THE PHOENIX ZOO CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE APRIL 2008

As our capital campaign plans move forward, we continue to focus on recruitment of the key volunteer leadership and Phase I projects that have already been funded. Although we have raised approximately \$6 million, we still are in the process of raising an additional \$4 million before we announce the public campaign. In this edition of the newsletter, you will read about the plans for the Komodo dragon experience plus the new elephant observation and viewing area. We are also pleased to introduce, Norberto J. Castro, the new Phoenix Zoo President/CEO.

KOMODO DRAGON EXPERIENCE



In the tropical regions of Southeast Asia, an island appears that is very dry and rocky. Much like Arizona, vegetation on Komodo Island is of the semiarid type and the island experiences seasonal monsoons. In designing the new Komodo dragon experience, the Zoo is focusing on the similarity between the Arizona and Komodo Island environments. In doing so, the Komodo exhibit will be a drastic change from the lush, tropical area that guests walk through to get to the exhibit. This change will allow for total fascination the moment the guest walks into the exhibit area.



The entrance into the exhibit will be off the main lake. It will simulate an Indonesian fishing village. Along the shoreline there will be old boats and driftwood. A pathway is made of bamboo, smoothed over for

stroller and wheelchair accessibility, and wide enough for multiple strollers.

- Lower level path may have glass ceilings where the dragon can walk overhead. Glass in the exhibit will be

tilted so the guest can feel a part of the exhibit when leaning in and there will be multiple 'peep' areas near hiding spots so the guests can put their head up close to view the dragon while it is resting. Glass will also be along the pond so the guests can see the dragon while it's in the water.



- Upper level will give the guests a different perspective when looking down into the exhibit.

There will be a pond for the dragon with a water feature that will simulate a flash flood. Scheduled 'floods' will occur throughout the day. This monsoon/flash flood feature will dump a huge splash of water from overhead. The guests can enjoy an occasional splash of water due to the arrangement of the flood path prior to convergence into the pond and the partial glass wall.



Training sessions will occur daily allowing the guests to see the dragon and keeper interact together for the benefit of the guest.

This new and exciting exhibit will be completed in the Spring of 2009 and is made possible by a generous contribution from the Kemper and Ethel Marley Foundation.

NEW ELEPHANT VIEWING



Until now, visitors and guests view our elephants by looking down into the exhibit. Overlooking the elephant exhibit you are able to see the elephants interact with each other, forage for food and splash in the pond. But by looking down its hard to really appreciate how big these Asian elephants really are.



With financial support from the E. Blois Du Bois Foundation, Darlene Hagan, and the Aaron Hagan Senter Memorial, the Zoo is in the process of creating a pathway from the Tropics trail to the reverse side of the Asian elephant exhibit. A section of the wall will be removed which will offer our guests the opportunity to view the elephants from the ground level. Our guests will also see part of the elephant barn. Eventually, the path will curve around behind the elephant barn and continue by the new Orangutan night house that will proceed and rejoin the Tropics Trail.



MEET BERT CASTRO President/CEO The Phoenix Zoo

Bert Castro has been the President of the Phoenix Zoo since February 1, 2008. From 2001 to 2008 he was Executive Director and CEO of the Oklahoma City Zoological Park and

Botanical Garden. Throughout his career he has held positions of increasing responsibility at the San Antonio Zoological Gardens and Aquarium, Zoo Atlanta, the Audubon Zoological Park in New Orleans, and the Tulsa Zoo.

Bert serves as Chairman of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Committee of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA). He has served on the AZA's National Diversity Committee and its Ethics Committee. He is also the immediate past chairman of the Zoo Conservation Outreach Group, a non-profit organization that gives professional guidance and assistance to zoos in Central and South America. Bert has been active in many global conservation efforts, including the conservation and reintroduction of large carnivores in Zimbabwe and the Andean condors in Argentina. He has served on the board of the Oklahoma Museum Association and St. Gregory's University.

Bert holds an Associate's Degree in Natural Science from St. Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Zoology from Oklahoma State University, and a Masters of Science Degree from Friends University in Wichita, Kansas.

Under his direction, the Phoenix Zoo will continue its focus on conservation and preservation of species, increasing its scope both nationally and globally. As President he also will focus on strengthening the Zoo's programs in education and animal exhibition while continuing to grow its reputation as the community's most outstanding destination attraction.

For Additional Information on the Zoo4You Newsletter Topics or about the Zoo's Capital Campaign in general, please contact:

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