

# NATURE

**El Paso Zoo** — 4001 E. Paisano. Zoo summer entrance hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Zoo admission is \$10 for ages 13 to 61; \$7.50 for ages 62 and older and active duty military (including spouse) with ID; \$6 ages 3 to 12; and free for ages 2 and under. Zoo members admitted free. Information: 532-8156, 521-1850 or [elpasozoo.org](http://elpasozoo.org).

A Year of the Bat Kickoff Celebration is 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, **Jan. 28**, with a bathhouse building workshop at 11 a.m. Cost: \$10 (\$9 members). Register at [elpasozoo.org/adventure](http://elpasozoo.org/adventure).

Daily activities for Year of the Bat in 2012 include bat games, arts and crafts, bat enrichment programs and more.

Other upcoming events (call or visit [elpasozoo.org/adventure](http://elpasozoo.org/adventure) to register):

- Friday, **Feb. 10**: I Love Animals Sleepover
- Saturday, **Feb. 11**: Valentine's Night Prowl
- Friday, **March 9**: Spring Fever Sleepover
- March **12-16**: Spring Break Camp.
- March **19-23**: Spring Break Workshops (10 a.m. and 2 p.m.)

The El Paso Zoo is a 35-acre home to 228 species of animals. About 420 mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds, 106 fish and 294 invertebrates live in a variety of natural habitat exhibits including a Reptile House, South American Pavilion, Americas Aviary, Cisneros Paraje, Birds of Prey Exhibit, Forest Atrium, Asian Grasslands and an Elephant Complex, and the recently added Kalahari Research Station energy exhibit.

Daily encounters include California Sea Lion Training and Meet the Keeper presentations at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Asian Elephant Training Encounters scheduled daily. Information: [elpasozoo.org/takeaction](http://elpasozoo.org/takeaction).

**Science Cafe** — Larry and Jaime Ceballos, owners of Buzzbee Honey Co. in Fabens, will discuss "What Would Happen If Bees Disappeared?" for the monthly casual science discussion event 10:30 a.m. to noon Saturday, **Jan. 28**, at the Tech2O Water Resources Learning Center; 10751 Montana. Admission is free. RSVP needed as space is limited. Information: 621-2000 or [tech2o.org](http://tech2o.org).

Science Cafe, hosted by Sigma Xi and El Paso Water Utilities, is part the Public Understanding of Science Program, which allows scientists, engineers and specialists to discuss their work in casual settings.

**SeedShare** — The annual seed-sharing event is noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, **Feb. 4**, in the Community Room at Mountain View Market, 1300 El Paseo in Las Cruces. Bring seeds to share or take seeds home for a garden, as well as meet local growers, promote biodiversity, and talk with other gardeners. Participants may also bring a potluck dish to share. Admission is free. Information: Jon Simmons, (575) 640-4288 or [jonsimmons@hotmail.com](mailto:jonsimmons@hotmail.com).

**First Friday film screenings** — Southwest Environmental Center, 275 N. Main in Las Cruces, hosts free screenings of environmental-themed films with popcorn and juice for the whole family at 7:30 p.m. the first Friday of the month. Admission is free, but space is limited. Call for schedule. Information: (575) 522-5552 or [wildmesquite.org](http://wildmesquite.org).

The **Feb. 3** screening is "Call of Life: Facing the Mass Extinction." The film explores the current crisis in both nature and human nature

and how the decision people choose to make — or fail to make — will affect the habitability of Earth for millions of years to come.

**Introduction to Wildlife Tracking** — Southwest Environmental Center hosts a free wildlife tracking workshop 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, **Feb. 11**, at Mesilla Valley Bosque State Park. Participants will cover natural history elements of each species to gain an appreciation of how wildlife move and live on the landscape. Class includes a short introduction on how to properly photograph wildlife tracks with a field hike after lunch. Participants should bring a notebook and pencil/pen, digital camera (if able), hiking gear, water, lunch and snacks. Wear weather-appropriate clothes and comfortable hiking shoes. Track identification cards available for \$6 and tracking rulers for \$5. Information: (575) 522-5552, [skypuma2011@wildblue.net](mailto:skypuma2011@wildblue.net) or [wildmesquite.org](http://wildmesquite.org).

**Rails-to-Trails** — The New Mexico Rails-to-Trails Association will host its annual meeting at 7 p.m. Friday, **Feb. 17**, in the atrium of the First National Bank, 414 E. Tenth, in Alamogordo. Doors open at 6 p.m. with displays and refreshments. Featured presentation by David Townsend, PhD "Alamogordo As A Planned Railroad Community." The public is welcome. Information: (575) 682-3040.

Rails-to-Trails annual membership is \$10 individuals, \$15 families and \$20 businesses/organizations. Mail checks to NM Rails-to-Trails, P.O. Box 44, Cloudcroft, N.M. 88317.

**El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society** — The society's annual awards dinner is Saturday, **Feb. 18**, at Jaxon's Restaurant, 1135 Airway. This year's Conservation Award will go to local conservation advocate Jim Tolbert. Tolbert spearheaded the petition drive to save the Transmountain Scenic Corridor, and promotes environmental causes and outdoor activities on his blog [elpasonaturally.com](http://elpasonaturally.com). Meritorious Service Award goes to society board member and Field Trip Coordinator Mark Perkins. Cost: \$20 per person. Advance reservations required; Janet Perkins, 637-5269 or [jnt-perk@elp.rr.com](mailto:jnt-perk@elp.rr.com).

The society hosts field trips to various birding sites in the region. Non-members and guests welcome on all field trips. Information: Mark Perkins, 637-3521 or [mperkins@elp.rr.com](mailto:mperkins@elp.rr.com).

A Field trip to Mesilla Valley Bosque and Leasburg State Parks departs via carpool at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, **Feb. 12**, from the Dairy Queen/Shell parking lot at I-10 and Transmountain Road. Possible sightings include wintering passerines and waterfowl. Park admission fee; \$5 per car (good for both parks).

**Poppies celebration exhibitors** — The Franklin Mountains Wilderness Coalition is taking registration **through Feb. 24** for vendors and exhibitors for the 6th annual Poppies Preservation Celebration Event. All artwork must be original and hand-made. No additional items may be sold. All works must be family-friendly. Vendor fee is \$35; \$25 for nonprofits not selling anything. Volunteers for the event also needed. Information: 541-4481 or [MCAD@elpasotexas.gov](mailto:MCAD@elpasotexas.gov). Applications available online at [elpasoartsandculture.org](http://elpasoartsandculture.org).

Please see Page 38



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## El Paso Artists Studio Tour



All El Paso Artists are invited to open their studios to the public in this 5th annual event. To learn more and get an entry form, call Corrine at 833-0636 or email [casgallery@elp.rr.com](mailto:casgallery@elp.rr.com) or visit [www.pleinairpaintersofelpaso.com](http://www.pleinairpaintersofelpaso.com)

Sponsored by the Plein-Air Painters of El Paso and El Paso Scene

The April 14-15 tour includes studios in the Upper Valley, Westside and Downtown. The April 21-22 tour includes studios in the Eastside, Northeast and Mission Valley. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. **Deadline to enter is March 1, 2012.**

Information & Entry Forms available at [www.PleinAirPaintersOfElPaso.com](http://www.PleinAirPaintersOfElPaso.com)

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