



Christmas With a Living Tree



Every Christmas Armenia's highly endangered forests are plundered by illegal loggers who ruthlessly cut thousands of appear in the garbage after Christmas and New Year holidays. Yerevan Zoo has developed a new approach to solve this problem. This year everybody will have the opportunity to decorate the house with an ecological Christmas tree. The trees are not cut but delivered "alive" in a huge pot with enough soil to survive the Christmas season.

From now on, you can buy or rent these important symbols of New Year celebrations and spend holidays under the "live" slogan. Moreover, you can donate conifers, planted in pots, to Yerevan Zoo or plant them next to your house in spring.

The rent cost is 30,000 AMD. In case of purchase, cost will be 40,000 AMD. The delivery is free!

You can visit Yerevan Zoo and chose your Christmas Tree!

The whole revenue of the sold trees will be donated to the animal care of Yerevan Zoo.

For additional information call to 555 209, 098-31-10-32, visit Yerevan Zoo at Myasnikyan St., 20 building, or visit www.sunchild.org.

We wish this symbol of life will fill you environment with the fresh atmosphere of nature.



Yerevan Zoo in 2013



2013 was a year of many successes for Yerevan Zoo. The most important success was that Yerevan Zoo established new collaborations with other zoos as well as with organizations. Yerevan Zoo also became a beneficiary of a partnership between FPWC and WWF Armenia. Basing on a Memorandum of Understanding the two organizations will support breeding projects of rare animals in Yerevan Zoo. The project will focus on species listed in the Armenian Red Book as for example the Armenian Mouflon.

Another important step forward was Ruben Khachatryan's participation in the annual conference of the European Association for Zoo and Aquaria (EAZA). It was already the second year that Yerevan Zoo had the opportunity to participate in the EAZA conference due to the generous support of Artis Royal Zoo Amsterdam. Ruben Khachatryan presented his EAZA colleagues the achievements of 2012-2013 including reports about finished and ongoing constructions in the zoo. During 2013 also many animal-exchange agreements were initiated with different EAZA zoos. In the nearest future the visit of Shai Doron, Director of the Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem, is planned.

For a few days Tobias Dornbusch, who is a leading specialist of European Elephant Group (EEG) visited the Zoo and held a series of training for the care of elephant Grant.

Throughout the entire year many colorful events took place in Yerevan Zoo. On May 1st, during the annual opening ceremony of the Zoo, there were many surprises for the visitors among them the opening of the Yerevan Zoo Bus station near the Yeritasardakan Metro Station. The construction of the bus station was possible due to the kind support of HSBC Bank Armenia. On the same day the new zoo website was launched and the first edition of the Zoo Kid's magazine was published.

After the celebration of Children Day on June 1st the opening of a new Hyena enclosure was another



highlight in 2013. The enclosure encompasses 650 m² and matches the EAZA guidelines for animal welfare. The new Hyena enclosure has been sponsored by Mrs. Astrid Clifford and her family.

In early summer also a new access to the enclosure of the Armenian mouflons has been constructed. Before this transformation the visitors could observe these beautiful animals only from afar – thanks to the reshaping of the space the visitors now are not only able to watch the mouflons but also to enjoy a rest on benches in the shadow of old trees. Next to the benches, the big map of the Zoo was set up, which is a nice and easy usable tool for visitors.

During the entire summer the zoo offered the visitors namely the children a broad range of events among them film screenings followed by public discussions, book presentations, the ice-cream day, fairy tale hours and many others.

In autumn the 6th Pan-Armenian Painting Day and the Animal Carnival took place. In November for the first time the Pumpkin Day-event was organized for schoolchildren. In the same month Lukasz Sulowski, the director of Zamosz Zoo in Poland, visited Yerevan Zoo.

Though the zoo changed its working hours in winter, people are still working actively and a colorful event, the Festival of Decorations took place recently, during which children made Christmas ornaments and decorations.

The Living Tree Project and the Festival of Decorations



Before the Christmas Holidays on December 15th, Yerevan Zoo invited children and their parents to participate in the Festival of Decorations and also they had a great opportunity to choose their Christmas tree. The US Ambassador John Heffern was among guests, who greeted children; "The things which are connected with children and environmental education are very important for us and we constantly try to participate. This snow is already enough to make a festival".

Over 50 children participated in the event and the winner was the group of 20 school after Hayrapet Hayrapetyan, who used their school's constructional waste to make decorations. As a present they have got a certificate of free entrance for one year as well as many souvenirs.



The visitors, who wanted to have a living tree during the Christmas time, had a great opportunity to choose. By the way the living trees aren't only good decorations for your homes but also a great gift for your relatives. The trees are in special cans and can be easily planted outside in spring.

Inspired by the idea of living tree a lot of people came to choose their Christmas trees, among them well known song-writer and journalist Anita Hakhverdian and her sister Nune Hakhverdian: "Today we've bought two trees, because my daughter lives with nature and the most important thing is that trees aren't cut. This is a new culture which solves both environmental and cultural issues.

As a holiday gift from December 15th to January 15th, the entrance of Yerevan Zoo will be free for children under 16. Moreover, from 29th of December to January 3rd the entrance will be free for everyone.

The Animals are Already in Their Winter-houses



Yerevan Zoo started to get prepared for winter from August 2013. During the preparatory process for winter the most important issues and problems of Zoo departments were examined. Today, we can surely tell that there have been many changes. The gas system has been widened and in all enclosures has been put additional heating. The heating system for the Zoo has been implemented since 2011 with the support and investments of Yerevan Municipality and FPWC (Foundation for the Preservation of Wildlife and Cultural Assets).

From December 1st Yerevan Zoo has shifted to winter working hours, accordingly the animals, which are used to warm climate were moved to winter houses. The staff of the zoo day and night is following the temperatures of enclosures.



There are animals, which are staying outside in winter; for example deer, llamas, Armenian mouflons, bezoar goats, African lions, hyena, bears and many others.

It should be noted that the project of enrichment will still continue during the whole winter. This is an ongoing project, which helps to keep animals behavior calm. Moreover, in the frames of the enrichment project foreign professionals are invited continuously.