Workshop Series: Plein-Air Painting

Join artist Jan Ketza for 3 days of Plein-air painting throughout the Zoo. With the sun upon your face, the wind against your skin, and the sounds of nature all around you, you’ll learn her techniques for painting vibrant and colorful landscapes in oil. Works created during the week will be part of TLD’s Plein-Air Painting exhibition.

Please note, painting supplies are NOT provided.

Class size is limited to 10 participants.
Members $245 / Non-members $260

Wednesday, Thursday & Friday, October 23-25, 2019, 8am-4pm

Workshop Series: Potting and Propagation

Spend the morning in our greenhouse getting your hands dirty and learning the specialized techniques that The Living Desert’s propagator, Bob Linstead, uses for propagating and growing beautiful native and desert adapted plants. In the first workshop, you will learn the basics of propagation including sowing seeds and taking cuttings. In the second workshop, you will be potting seedlings and learning about different plant species. February can be cold so dress warmly with a coat, hat, and gloves for these outdoor workshops.

You’ll leave with a new appreciation of gardening as well as a few ‘samples’ you’ve potted up to take home!

Participants must enroll in both classes.
Members $60 / Non-members $80

Sunday, February 2, 2020, 9am-12pm: Introduction to Propagation
Sunday, February 9, 2020, 9am-12pm: Propagation Projects

For more information, and to book your Adventure in Learning, please visit us at LivingDesert.org, or contact us at LDUTrips@LivingDesert.org; (760) 346-5694, ext. 2505.

The Living Desert University
Learn at the Zoo

Tours, Treks, Trips, and Classes

The Living Desert University (LDU) provides opportunities for adults to learn more about our desert biome. We have several outings to the world-renowned Smoke Tree Ranch, as well as themed hikes through our Nature Trails. And for those with a sense of adventure, you can join our Carpool Caravan for a Salton Sea Birding trip in January.

Throughout the year, guests can join zoo staff and volunteers in fun and informative classes taught by The Living Desert’s specialized professionals and expert volunteers.
In partnership with Smoke Tree Ranch, we are pleased to offer this very popular Walk & Luncheon series.

Smoke Tree Ranch is situated on 375 acres in Palm Springs on a gently rising alluvial face landscaped by nature and sheltered by the San Jacinto Mountains. You will discover the historic enclave of homes surrounded by stunning native smoke trees and the natural desert landscape that is adorned with irreplaceable plants and a kaleidoscope of wildflowers (seasonally).

You will join a guide from The Living Desert on a themed walk through this desert gem and experience breathtaking landscapes while enjoying the local flora and fauna. After the morning walk, you will enjoy an amazing lunch in Smoke Tree Ranch’s renowned Ranch House. This is definitely an experience not to be missed!

Bring water and wear comfortable walking clothes.

All Walks & Luncheons run from 9am to 1pm
Member Price $58 / Non-member Price $68

Friday, November 8, 2019:
Bird Walk & Luncheon
Friday, December 13, 2019:
Gardens, Landscapes & Luncheon
Saturday, January 4, 2020:
Geology, Local History & Luncheon
Wednesday, February 12, 2020:
Gardens, Landscapes & Luncheon

Meet at the main Entrance Plaza
Members $15 / Non-members $20

Saturday, December 14, 2019, 9-10:30am:
Geological Awareness
Saturday, January 11, 2020, 9-11am:
Hiking 101 and Tread Lightly Ethics
Saturday, February 15, 2020, 9-11am:
History of the Nature Trails and Wildlife Identification

Trip: Birding at the Salton Sea
Located 226 feet below sea level, the Salton Sea is California’s largest body of water and a temporary home to over 400 species of migrating birds. Join consummate birder, Kurt Leuschner and The Living Desert staff in search of this rich and varied bird life. Tour leaders will bring spotting scopes. Please be prepared to drive your own vehicle and bring your own lunch and water.

Be advised, there is a $5-$7 per vehicle charge for the Salton Sea State Park.

7-8:30am: Leaving and Returning to The Living Desert
Members $35 / Non-members $40

Friday, January 24, 2020
Saturday, February 1, 2020

Classes and Workshops
Join us for these informative and fun classes! Each LDU session includes an in-class lecture followed by an on-grounds walk (weather permitting). Please bring a bottle of water and dress according to the weather, with comfortable walking shoes.

Members $20 / Non-members $30

Our Geological Environment: Learn more about the geologic forces that created the Coachella Valley and continue to influence valley life today.
Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 9am-12pm

Birds 101: Sign-up for one, or both, of these avian adventures! Each session covers bird basics and includes a bird walk (weather permitting). Please note this is not a species identification class
Saturday, December 7, 2019, 9am-12pm: Focus on Biology
Friday, December 13, 2019, 9am-12pm: Focus on Behavior
Friday, March 6, 2020, 9am-12pm: Focus on Biology
Friday, March 20, 2020, 9am-12pm: Focus on Behavior

Australian Adventures: Australia’s deserts are home to many different species including birds, wallabies, reptiles, and unique mammals like the bettong and echidna. Join us and learn about our newest habitat’s animals and plants.
Saturday, January 25, 2020, 9am-12pm

Mammals of The Living Desert: From North American cottontails to African giraffes, learn more about our ‘furry’ friends.
Friday, January 31, 2020, 1-4pm: Focus on Prey / Herbivores
Friday, February 7, 2020, 1-4pm: Focus on Predators / Carnivores
Saturday, March 14, 2020, 9am-12pm: Focus on Prey / Herbivores
Saturday, March 21, 2020, 9am-12pm: Focus on Predators / Carnivores

Plants of The Living Desert: Desert plants have learned how to make the most out of the scarce resources available to them. Come learn more about these drought tolerant wonders.
Wednesday, March 4, 2020, 9am-12pm

Reptiles of The Living Desert: Nothing says ‘desert’ like our scaly residents! Come find out more about these desert survivalists.
Sunday, March 15, 2020, 1-4pm

By visiting The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens and taking part in our education programs, you support our conservation efforts. Thank you!