

NEWS RELEASE



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EAT, PREY, LOVE: ANIMALS LET THEMSELVES GO!

NORFOLK, Va. – The Virginia Zoo will host a special date night program 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, 2014.

Did you know some moth species sneak up on larger animals and poke them in the eye so the moth can drink their tears? Eat, Prey, Love is a unique opportunity for adults to learn about animals and some of their odd eating habits in an honest and humorous forum. The evening includes wine, appetizers, a Zoo tour and a presentation on animal feeding behavior by Tidewater Community College biology professor Lisa Behm.

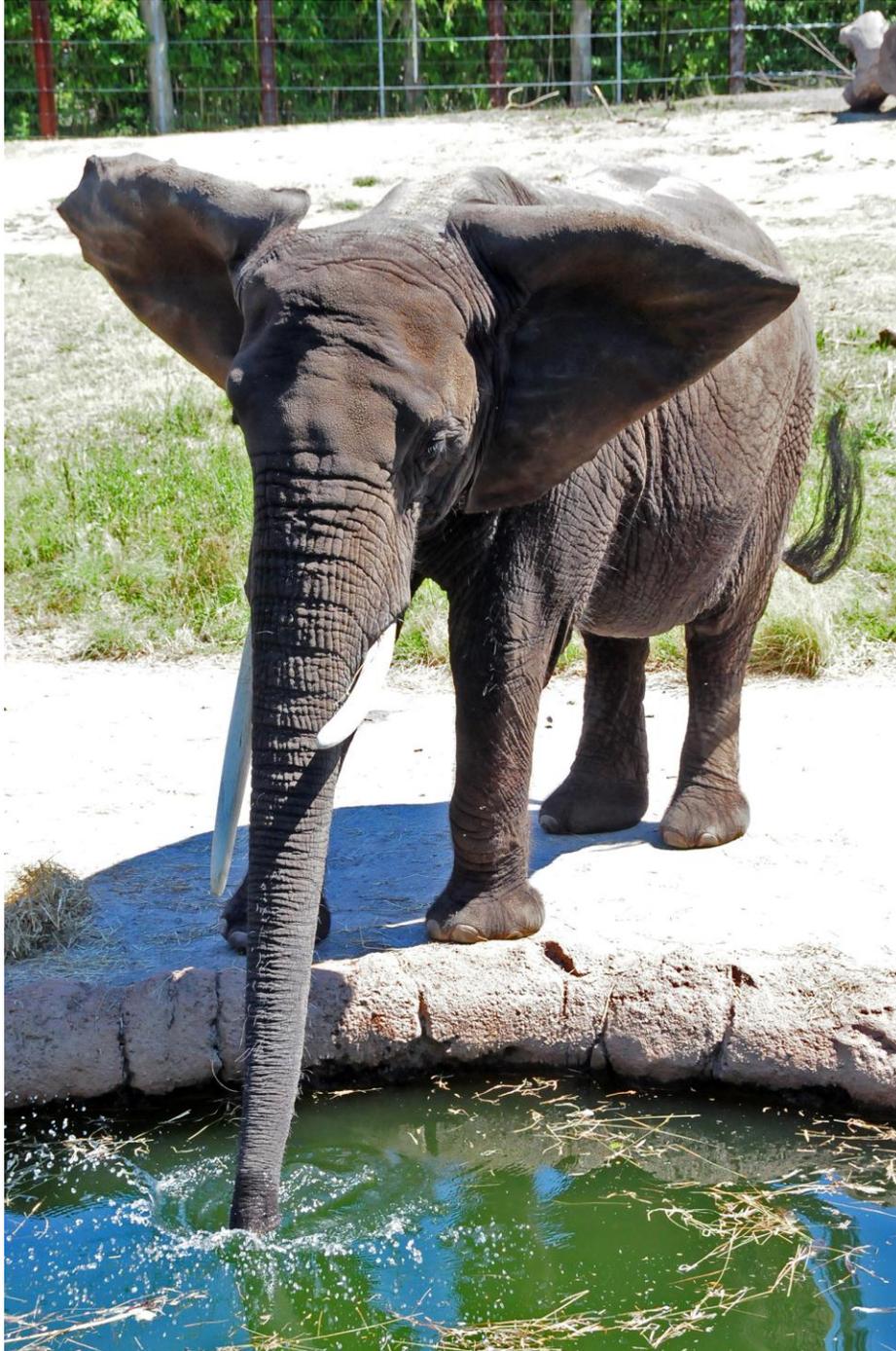
“This is a fun event where couples can enjoy some wine and a bite to eat while learning about some of the wild ways that animals eat,” said Greg Bockheim, the Zoo’s executive director.

Holding a master’s degree in Biology from Old Dominion University, Behm is a former zookeeper and animal registrar at the Virginia Zoo, where part of her duties included assisting the Zoo’s veterinarian. She began teaching evenings at TCC while working at the Zoo, becoming a full-time biology faculty member in 2003.

Space for the event is limited and preregistration is required. Ages 21 and up only. Cost per pair is \$45 for Zoo members and \$55 for nonmembers. Check-in begins promptly at 3 p.m. For more information or to register, please visit www.virginiazoo.org or call 757-441-2374, ext. 253.

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Cita, an African elephant at the Virginia Zoo, sucks water into her trunk July 6, 2014. Elephants do not drink through their trunk like a straw, but rather fill the trunk with water then squirt the water into their mouth. One species of moth, *Mabra Elephantophila*, drinks elephant tears. Other moths feed on tears as well, usually from large hoofed animals, and some purposely irritate the eye into producing tears, which they then drink. Learn about other species' unique ways of getting their favorite snack at Eat, Prey, Love, a special date night program at the Zoo 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, 2014. (Virginia Zoo photo by Winfield Danielson.)

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