# LEOH Trip

## Bayou Wildlife Zoo

November 12, 2026

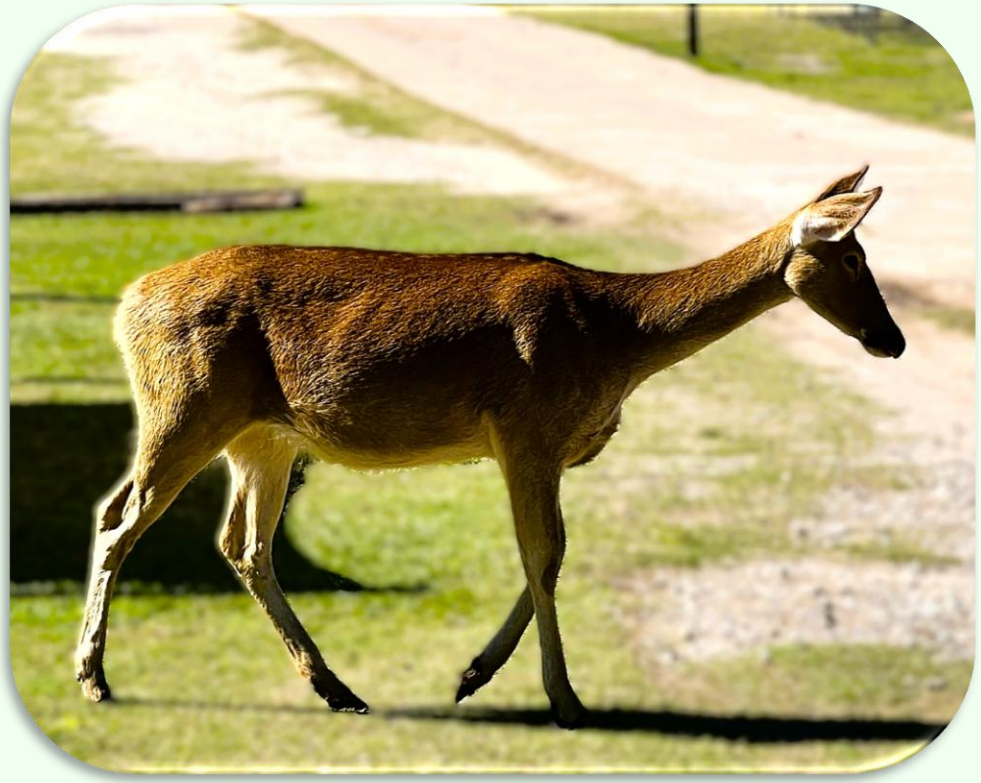


The zoo is located at 5050 FM 517 Road in Alvin.
It was founded by Clint Wolston, who operated it at first as a private animal reserve.

It began with 86 acres of natural habitat and about 170 animals and a wide variety of bird species, as it transitioned to an open-air tram experience for visitors.

Ready to retire, he eventually sold it to Dana Lewis and family in early 2020.
As luck would have it, the pandemic coincided, and delayed opening until that June.

Currently, the property is home to over 60 species of wildlife,
with a total of more than 500 animals and birds.



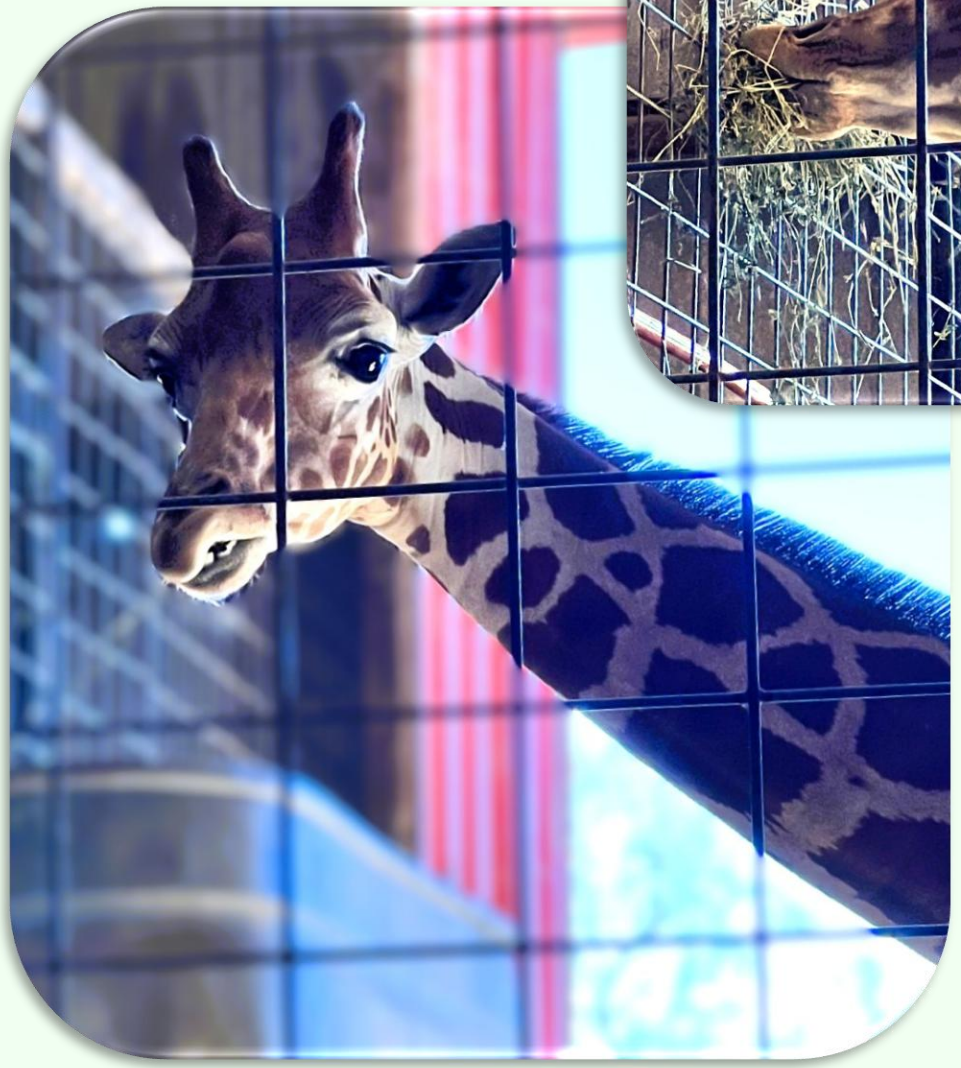
Upon arrival, we were greeted by what seemed to be the zoo's welcoming committee – a very tame deer and very curious (or perhaps hungry) birds.



Grackle
an example of one of its several species



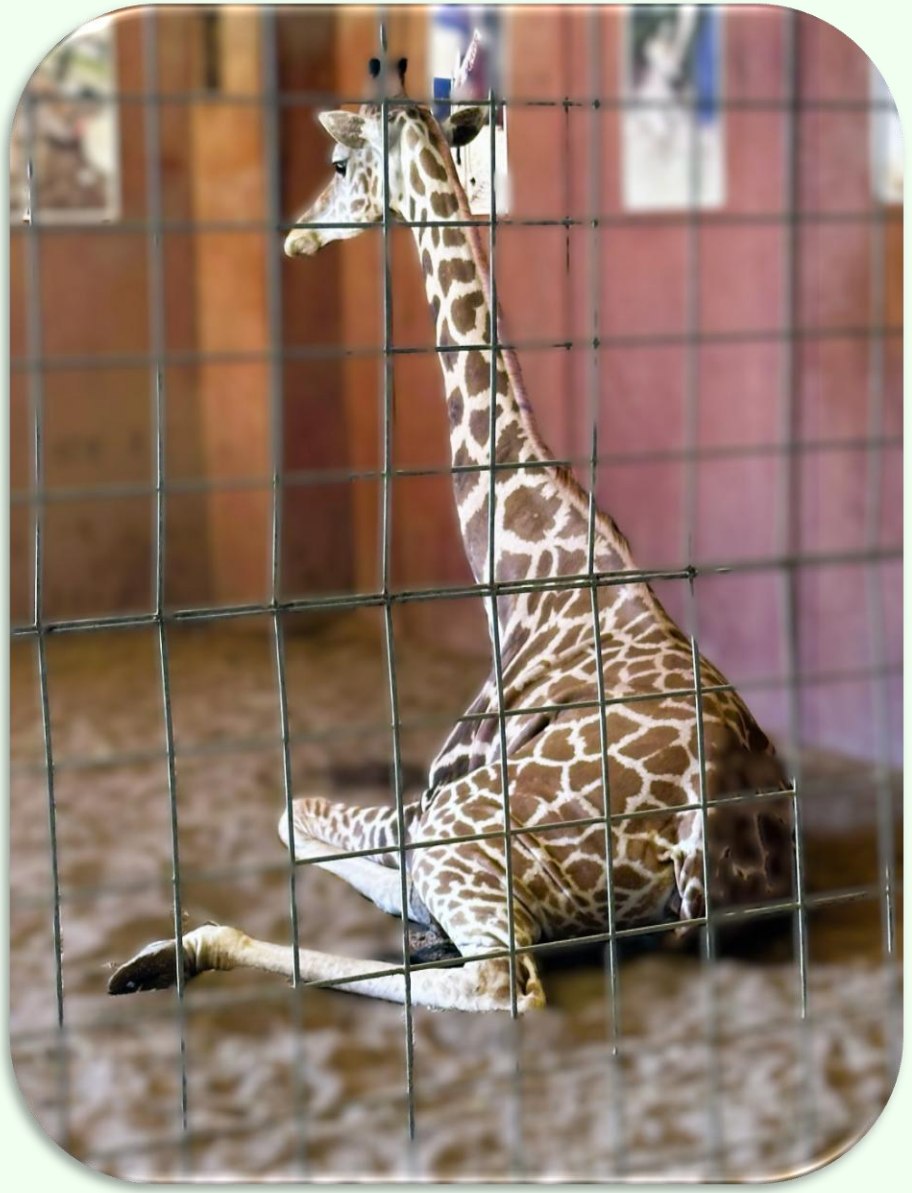
Egyptian Goose





Our first stop was the barn, to enjoy a close encounter with a couple of giraffes. One was enjoying a snack, while the other relaxed.

Yes, a few of us briefly worried that the giraffe had a broken leg (not true)!

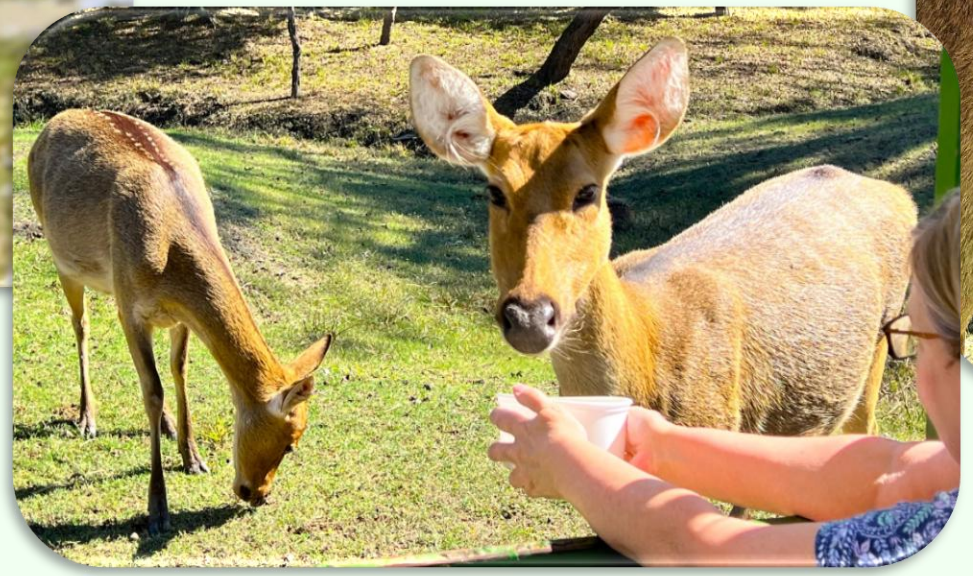





Our trams and guides
awaited us!
We were each issued
a bucket of food, such as
the one the guide is holding.










We made frequent stops along the way and immediately learned that these animals are bold beggars (and no doubt well-fed)!  They also have a very high cuteness factor.

To add to the tram experience, the driver warned us of a couple of upcoming somewhat steep dips in the trail. He suggested we raise our arms in the air as the tram made its descent down the dips. Of course we complied (a tame imitation of a roller coaster for seniors).







This ostrich took boldness
to a new level, using its long neck
to its advantage!
We were told to put the feed bucket
on the floor when it was empty
or when we chose to stop
feeding for awhile.
The ostrich would not take no
for an answer.  The deer is happy
to be its accomplice.





While the pot-bellied pig ran as fast as his legs
could carry him to get a snack from us,
the bison maintained his dignified pose,
away from the excitement.


What’s going on? Why aren’t they feeding us?!


OK, show’s over. Practice your cuteness for the next tram.









It was afternoon nap time in the shade for some of the deer, as the bull with impressive horns stood watch. The fenced-in alligator enjoyed the sun near a small pond, while a heron kept its distance on the other side.

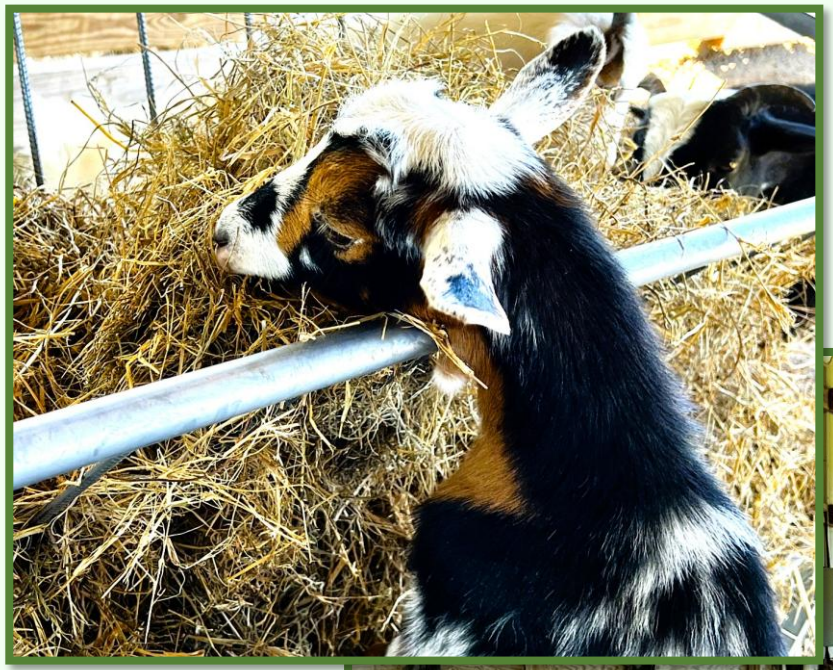



Following the tram ride, everyone made their way back toward the barn and other exhibits. That meant passing near the fenced area and some tortoises.



African spurred tortoise

A petting area!
Oh my goodness!
Who can resist
these cute
pygmy goats?!

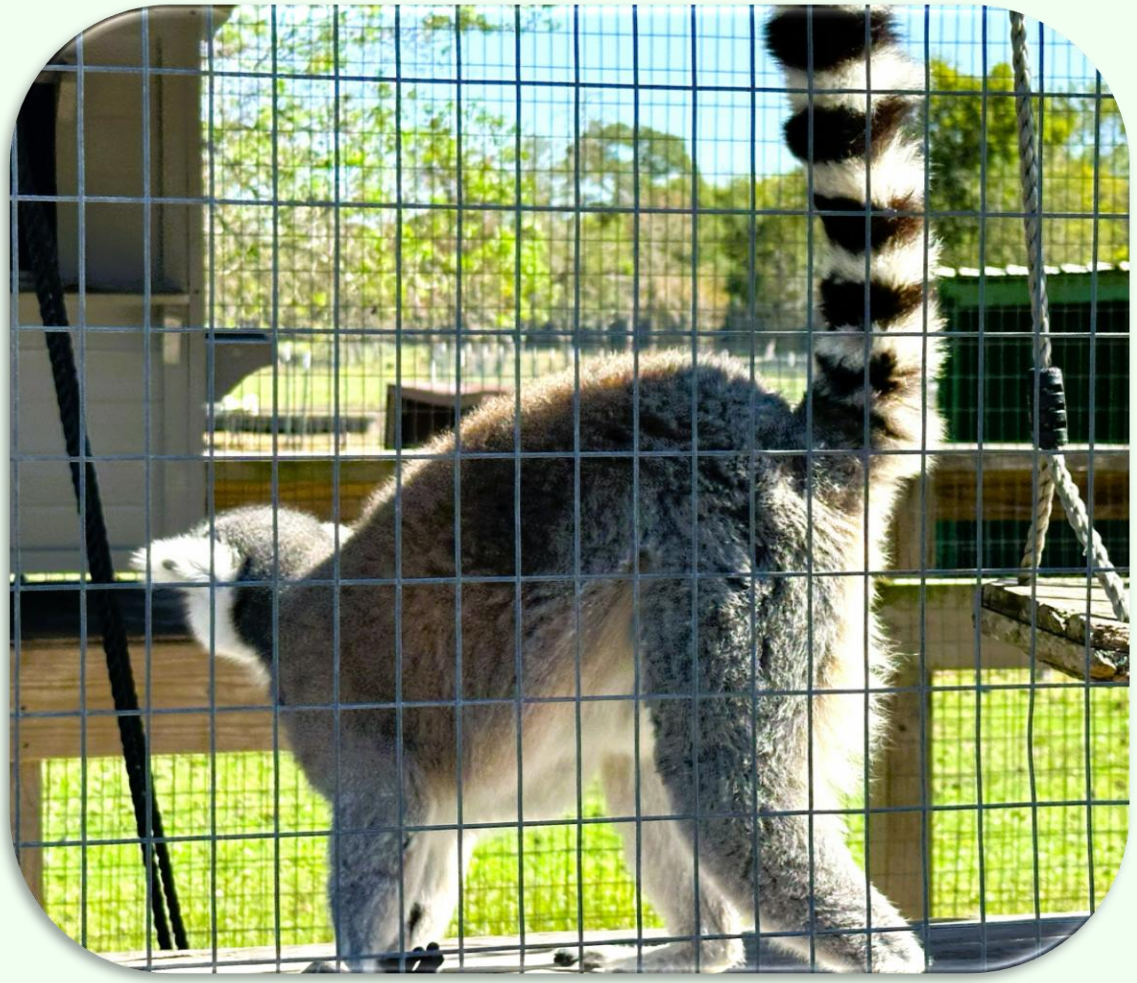






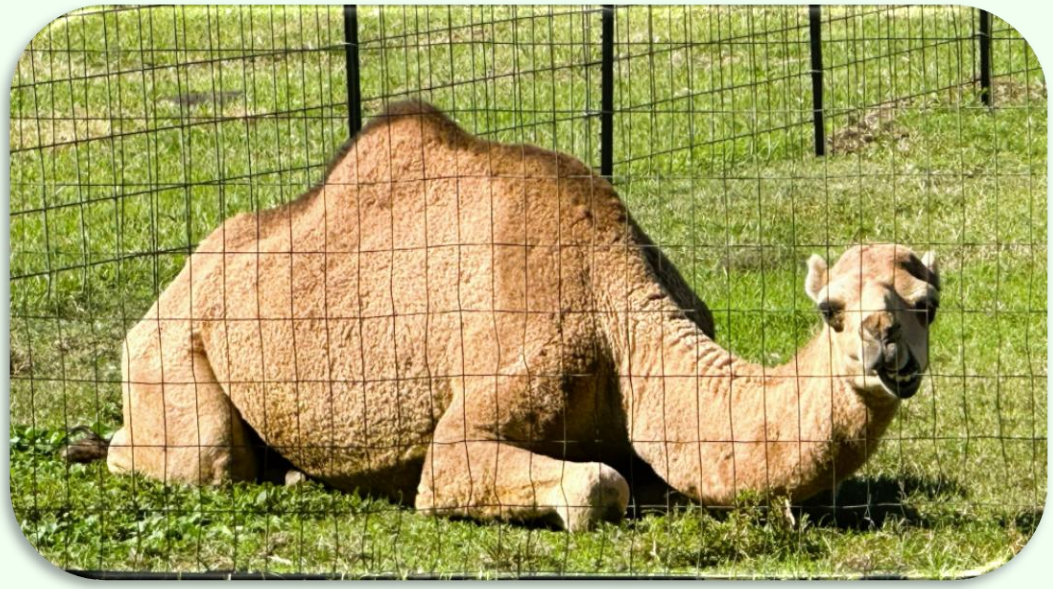






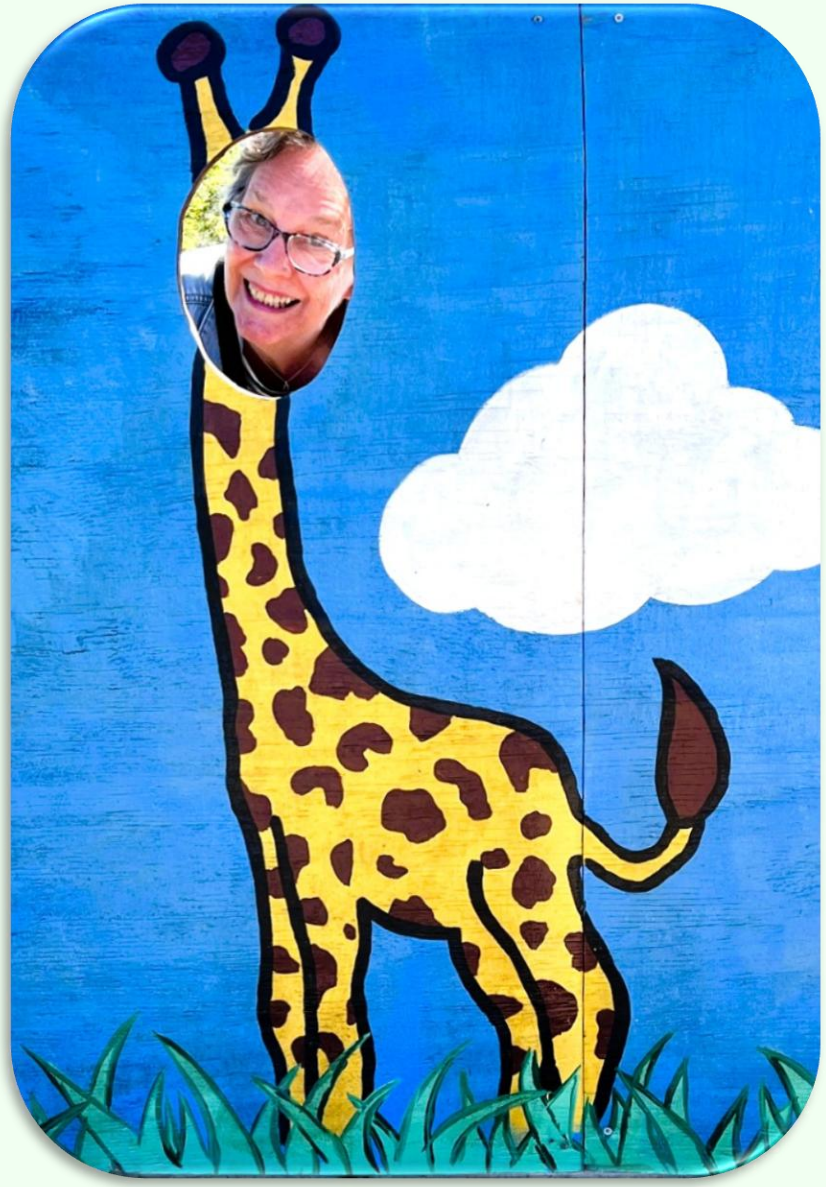
We returned to the barnyard area,
which resembled more of a traditional zoo.

Above, we encountered a bat-eared fox,
and to the right, a coatimundi.
The coatimundi, related to the raccoon,
is a threatened species.





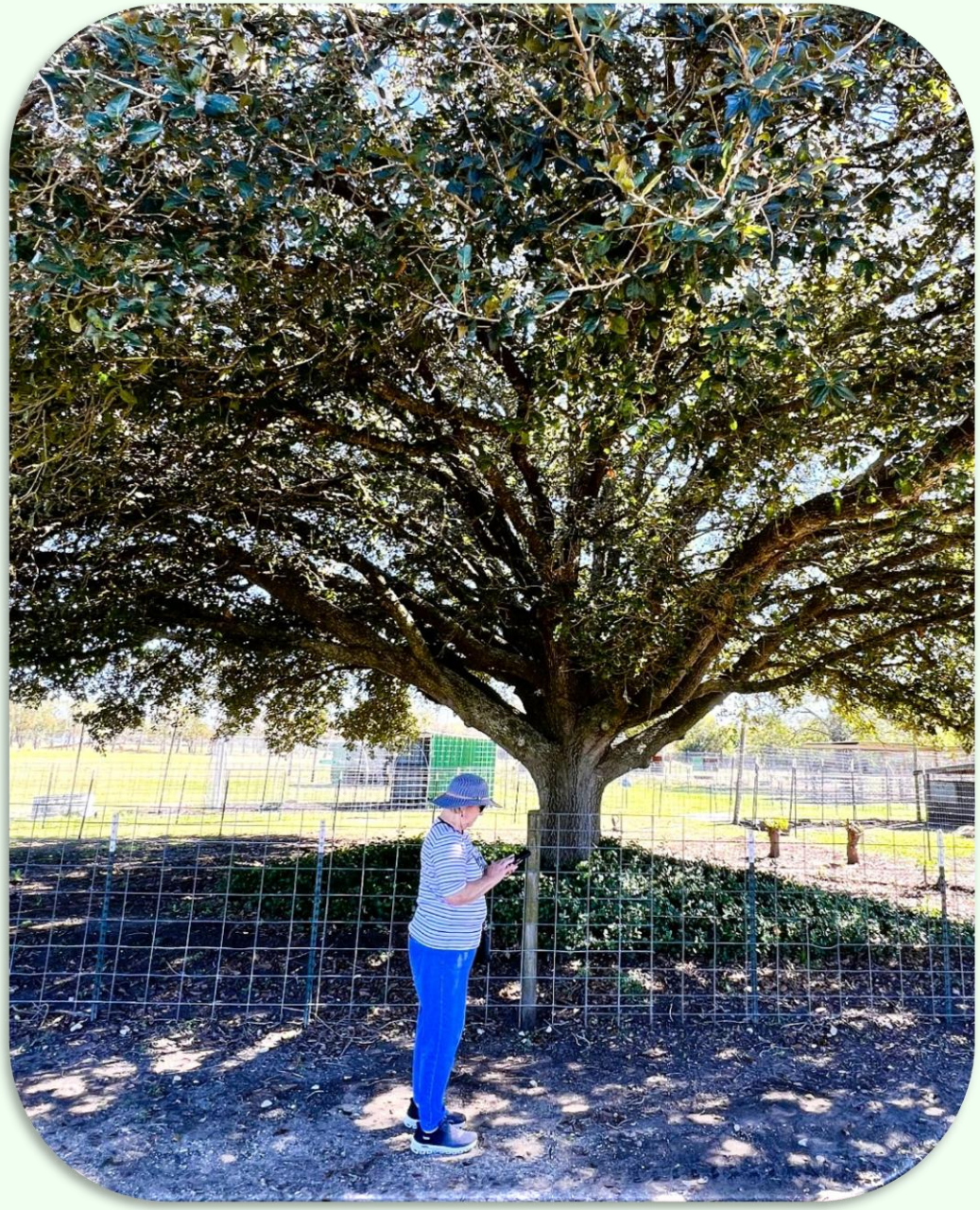







We enjoyed a stop in the General Store.  A Feed Store is nearby.
Back outside, exotic creatures were spotted!







You could also enjoy walking along a tree-shaded path.

The trees were alive with very noisy grackles.
They blended in perfectly, so were hard to see.
Finally, one was spotted for a photo op!




Last stop before home:  an enjoyable lunch at the **Adriatic Café** in League City.
The Italian café is family-owned and operated by Albanian immigrants Ekrem Hyseni and Alban Bulliqi.
Ekrem first learned Italian cooking in Venice, Italy, while Alban worked in the U.S. in the pizza industry.



To learn more about the zoo and enjoy more photos, click on **bayouwildlifezoo.com**.

*Thank you, fellow LEOH member **Mark Polhemus**, for your additional photo contributions*!

# Future Adventures



**Thursday, December 3:** *Holiday Lunch at Escalante's Meyerland*
*An unwrapped child's gift serves as admission fee – benefiting Toys for Tots*



**Tuesday, January 12:** *Phoenicia Specialty Foods*
*Enjoy browsing and lunching at this Mediterranean and international gourmet specialty store*

*Full details follow closer to trip dates*

# Signing Up for a Trip

Trip Coordinator Ann Fairchild may be contacted at **fairann@sbcglobal.net** or **281-686-1325**.
She will publish complete trip details, with the opportunity to sign up, closer to the trip date.
If the traveler quota is full, you may ask to be put on a waiting list.