

[PRINT THIS](#) · [CLOSE WINDOW](#)

9/29/10



## Noah's Ark hosts gala

**By LaTria Garnigan**[lgarnigan@neighbornewspapers.com](mailto:lgarnigan@neighbornewspapers.com)

Staff / Alicia Lavender

From left, Lydia Hastey of Locust Grove and her daughter, Shayla, 2, pet one of the goats at Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center in Locust Grove.

to, something Ms. Smith said is safe for guests to interact with. Everything at the event is safeguarded, especially for the Flashlight Safari. Ms. Smith added visitors should wear comfortable walking shoes.

A Night at the Ark is the one big fundraiser for the center that takes in rescue animals that have been either confiscated or surrendered. There are a variety of animals housed on the 250-acre property including, a zebra, leopard, lion, tiger, bear, wolves, cougars, monkeys, llamas and ostriches. They also have plenty of farm animals: 90 horses, 200 pigs and 160 goats.

"One of the reasons why we do this [fundraiser] is that the cost to feed the animals is about \$10,000 a month because we have about 1,300 animals here," said Ms. Smith.

Regular hours for the center are Tuesday through Saturday, with habitats open from noon to 3 p.m.

Ms. Smith said they are still collecting items for the silent auction.

Information: (770) 957-0888 or [www.noahs-ark.org](http://www.noahs-ark.org).

Noah's Ark Animal Rehabilitation Center, 712 LG Griffin Road in Locust Grove, will host its third annual fundraising gala "A Night at the Ark" on Oct. 9. It will begin at 6 p.m. and will feature food, a Flashlight Safari, a bonfire, hayrides, kids' activities, a silent auction and animal encounters.

"We're a nonprofit and we rely on donations," said Diane Smith, assistant director. "So this is just to give people an opportunity to come see Noah's Ark firsthand and tour our facility and also make a contribution to what we do here."

Cost for the fundraiser is \$50 for adults and \$25 for children ages 12 and under. There are also special family rates available.

The first fundraiser was more formal, so Ms. Smith said last year they decided to have a more family-friendly event, which turned out well for the center. They decided to continue that tradition this year and maintain the family-friendly atmosphere of the event in the hopes of attracting more attendees.

There will be some animal sponsorship available and an animal encounter where this year they will have a juvenile Lemur that people can get up close