



OCTOBER 2007

THE PLATY PRESS

FOR MEMBERS OF THE PLATYPUS SOCIETY

A QUARTER-CENTURY OF SUPPORT

Nora and Don Dreske are the kind of supporters who are invaluable. It's not just that they've supported the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) with thousands of dollars in the 23 years that they have been members. They've also given hundreds of hours of volunteer time dating back more than 24 years and have been involved in leadership roles to help guide the organization. They have been Platypus Society members for 12 years, they chaired the 1999 Zoo Ball, and Nora served on the Associate Board for nine years.

"Couples like Don and Nora, through their seemingly effortless giving of time, talent and treasure, have impacted the Zoo and Zoological Society tremendously," says Dr. Bert Davis, ZSM CEO. "Both Nora and Don are very generous," adds Laura Knollenberg, the ZSM's special events manager. "They have donated their support and time to many of our events. And they've never sought out a lot of recognition. They just wanted to support the organization."

In fact, they have both a patron membership in the Platypus Society and a corporate membership. Their company, Clinicare Corp., operates residential treatment centers for emotionally disturbed children. Besides a Platypus membership, the company support for the ZSM includes sponsoring corporate tables at Zoo Ball, being a hole sponsor for the Miller Brewing Company Birdies and Eagles Golf Tournament (the ZSM's second largest fund-raiser, after Zoo Ball), and purchasing Zoo Ball auction items such as "breakfast with the wolves" for groups of children in their centers.

They also have participated in the golf tournament since it started 18 years ago, and Nora has been on golf planning committees since 2001. "You always get so much out of volunteering," says Nora. "I've met so many wonderful and interesting people through volunteering, people from different walks of life—from Zoo Pride volunteers to Platypus Society members to Zoo Ball participants. And it has been fun."

"Volunteering for the Zoological Society also has given me a chance to express my creativity," she says. "I'm an artist, a painter. I used to work as a graphic artist." She recalls creating numerous decorations for Zoo Balls over the years. "I was actually involved in the first Zoo Ball, more than 24 years ago, before we even became members. That's really how I got involved with the Zoological Society. It was so much fun, and I loved being at the Zoo. I was working full time and I had two small children, and I would rush to the Zoo from work to make decorations. It was great to know that I was supporting something my two daughters loved so much."

The people she volunteered with—such as Eli Guzniczak and the late Liz Little—were terrific to work with, she says. "We'd work hard, but we'd have such good laughs, especially when things didn't go as expected. I had this great idea for centerpieces for Zoo Ball 1999. I wanted a Zen feeling: water, fire and plants. We filled shallow blue bowls with water, and then added floating candles and flowers in bamboo. At one meeting, we put the elements together, and the candles floated under the bamboo and started the whole thing on fire. Everybody had a good laugh, and then right away, instead of dismissing the idea, people started saying: 'Hmm, how can we do

this so it works?' " They ended up gluing fishing lines to the bottom of the bowl and attaching the lines to each candle, so they would not float into the bamboo. "It was labor-intensive, but everyone was willing to do it. Those were the kind of touches that really made Zoo Ball."

The Dreskes' daughters, Heather (a doctor of naturopathy) and Brooke (an art teacher), are in their early 30s now, but the whole family still attends Zoo Ball—"even my 92-year-old father, Robert Kelly," says Nora. (See photo of her and Don at this year's Zoo Ball.) She adds that she never tires of just walking through the Zoo. "It's one of the most beautiful parks in the county, even without the animals." With the animals, well, there's nothing like it.



By Paula Brookmire

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The Platy Press is a newsletter for members of the Platypus Society. The Platypus Society is the highest level, donor-member-recognition group in the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's network of support. Members include about 360 area foundations, businesses and individuals contributing more than \$600,000 annually with in-kind services and support. The Platy Press is published four times a year by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, 1421 N. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53202.

www.zoosociety.org

PLATYPUS MEMBERS

Numerous Platypus Society members mingled with other guests at the Moroccan-themed Zoo Ball 2007, sponsored by American Airlines & American Eagle. The co-chairs (from left in photo below) Richard and Mary Ellen Enea of Greenfield and Laura and Mike Arnow of Fox Point welcomed about 690 guests to the Zoological Society gala on June 23 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Zoo Ball is the largest fund-raiser of the year for the non-profit Zoological Society. Return to Casablanca, the theme of this 24th Zoo Ball, was inspired by the classic movie "Casablanca." Guests were greeted by camels (see photo of Don and Nora Dreske on the cover) and belly dancers on a clear, warm evening. They then proceeded to the "casbah" auction tents to bid on an array of exotic items. Later, guests enjoyed a gourmet dinner; dancing in the late-night venue, sponsored by Field's Jaguar Land Rover Volvo; and entertainment sponsored by Northwestern Mutual Foundation. The event raised nearly \$400,000 for the Zoological Society.



RS CELEBRATE ZOO BALL



Dan Stotmeister donned a fez, a Turkish and Moroccan-style hat, for the Moroccan-themed Zoo Ball. His wife, Patti, wore a magenta gown. They are patron Platypus Society members and members of the Simba Society (honoring those who give planned gifts to the Zoological Society).



Belly dancers Traci Roberts (left) and Jennifer Nolan gave Dr. Sharon Busey and her husband, Dr. Craig Young, a chance to try finger cymbals.



Mike and Eli Guzniczak (former Zoo Ball co-chairs) and John and Tricia Shinnors enjoy the dancers. Tricia is on the Zoological Society's Associate Board of Directors.



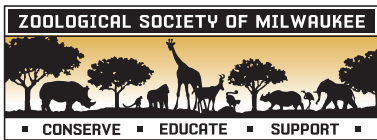
Chris and Beth Schimel got into the spirit of Zoo Ball as she wore a leopard-print top.



Dr. William and Judy Stathas admired an auction item. Judy, who wore a red dress from Morocco that she bought just for Zoo Ball, is on the Zoological Society's Board. She and her husband were Zoo Ball co-chairs in 2004.



Billie and David Smith met belly dancer Traci Roberts. Billie Smith is a member of the Zoological Society's Associate Board of Directors and a patron Platypus Society member.



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Please remember the Zoological Society in your will or estate plan.

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OFFICE OF
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NEW-MEMBER PROFILE

Patron members of the Platypus Society:

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Why we became members of the Platypus Society: We recently relocated to the Milwaukee area from Michigan for Gary's job. As a family we have always been attracted to zoos. To discover that Milwaukee had a terrific Zoo was a nice bonus! We were quickly introduced to the Platypus Society and decided that this was something that we wanted to support and become a part of. We look forward to spending more time at the Zoo now that we are Platypus members and playing an active role in helping to preserve our world's most precious creatures. Our family enjoys the opportunities at the Zoo encompassing all age groups. We enjoy seeing the big cats up close, riding the

camels and watching the fun that the polar bears have in the water. We have found that the morning is a great time to view the wolves, which often are hidden behind the trees. During the summer 2007 special exhibits, we also enjoyed watching the koalas and petting the sting rays and sharks.

Why the Platypus Society is valuable: We fully support the preservation of animals and wildlife, and the Zoological Society's efforts to educate people about the importance of conservation. The Platypus Society is critical in achieving these goals and needs everyone's support.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Oct. 4
Platypus Society Annual Awards Dinner, sponsored by Sattell, Johnson, Appel & Co., S.C.; 6 p.m., Peck Welcome Center at the Zoo

Oct. 18
Simba Society Recognition Dinner, 6 p.m., Peck Welcome Center Theater, Zoo; by invitation

Oct. 19 & 20
Boo at the Zoo, sponsored by Wachovia Securities, 6-9 p.m.*

Oct. 26 & 27
Halloween Trick-or-Treat Spooktacular, sponsored by

U.S. Cellular; Oct. 26, 6-9 p.m.; Oct. 27, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.*

Nov. 10
Zoological Society members' holiday trip to Chicago's Magnificent Mile; call (414) 258-2333 for details

Nov. 10 and Dec. 1
Family Free Days at the Zoo, sponsored by Pick 'n Save and FOX 6

Dec. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 & 16
Breakfast and Lunch with Santa, sponsored by Racine Danish Kringles; to get on the Zoo's mailing list, call (414) 256-5466 after Oct. 1.



Gary and Sherry Sievewright