

Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

April 2001



Coming in May:
Reptiles

The mission of the Zoological Society is to support the Milwaukee County Zoo, to educate people about the importance of wildlife and the environment, and to take part in conserving wildlife and endangered species.

2000-2001 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors	Jill Grootemat Pelisek	Richard A. Gallun
Chris Ament	Thomas R. Perz	Richard D. Gebhardt
Bob Anger	Gina Alberts Peter	Edward A. Grede
Mike Archer	Richard J. Podell	John A. Hazelwood
Jane Austin	Jack Recht	Robert A. Kahlor
John B. Burns	James C. Rowe	Ann McNeer
R. Thomas Dempsey	John Sapp	William G. Moomey
Thomas E. Dyer	Barry Sattell	Philip W. Orth, Jr.
Linda Grunau	Richard Schmidt	Frederick L. Ott
Rheinhold Hugo	William Schmus	Bernard J. Peck
Dr. Leander B. Jennings	John Steiner	Jerry Heiser
Bonnie Joseph	David Strelitz	Kurt W. Bemus, Jr.
Henry Karbinder	John W. Taylor	A.D. Robertson
Karen Peck Katz	Mrs. Robert A. Uihlein, Jr.	Jay Robertson
Kenneth Kerzner	Tom Wamser	Gene Soldatos
Herbert Mahler	Larry Weiss	Richard A. Steinman
Quinn Martin	Jane Wierzba	James A. Taylor
John D. McGourthy, Sr.		Allen W. Williams, Jr.
Jack McKeithan		Paul Wong
James McKenna		William C. Wright
David Molfett		Bernard C. Ziegler III
Sandi Moomey		
Joel Nettesheim		
Jeff Neuenschwander		
Jeff Nowak		

* Chairman of the Board ** Associate Board President *** Zoo Pride President

2000-2001 ASSOCIATE BOARD

Directors	Kat Morrow	Linda Grunau
David Batten	Bunny Raasch-Hooten	Katie Harding
Jim Bedore	Victor Schittone	Lee Walther Kordus
Mike Brophy	Randy Scoville	Quinn Martin
Judy Dorse	Judy Holz Stathas	Richard J. Podell
Nora Drieske	David Strelitz*	Jerry Reiser
Jeré Fabick	Kathleen Toohy	Arlene Remsik
John Fleckenstein	Ray Wilson	Barry Sattell
Eli Guzniczak		Dan Schwabe
Joe Heil		John Steiner
Peter Kordus		Jeff Steren
Joe Kresl		James Szymanski
Liz Little		Jane Wierzba
Kim Magnabosco		

* Associate Board President

2000-2001 ZOO PRIDE BOARD

Directors	Joan Kalinoski	Laura Skoff
Jane Austin*	Kathy Olejnik	Paula Spiering
Carol Bergmann	Terrie Peschman	Karen Stephany
Kay Elsen	Jim Redding	Bob Wierman
Kim Haebig	Mary Pat Schuetz	
Denise Hodkiewicz		

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY MANAGEMENT STAFF

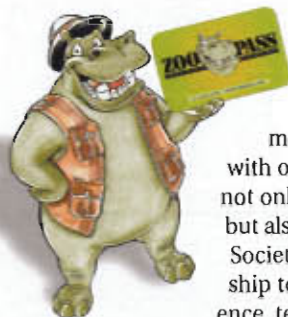
President	Director of Education	Membership Programs/Volunteers
Gilbert K. Boese, Ph.D.	Dawn St. George, Ph.D.	Robin Higgins
Administration/Finance	Marketing/Communications	Special Events
Judy Treinen	Patricia Harrigan Mills	Laura Knollberg
Development		
Joan Rudnitski		

Alive is published quarterly by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226. Subscription by membership only. Call (414) 258-2333 for membership information. <http://www.zoosociety.org>

Editor	Kids Alive Writers
Patricia Harrigan Mills	Education Staff
Contributing Editor	Photographer
Paula Brookmire	Richard Brodzeller
Graphic Designer	Printer
Christian J. Keene	NML Graphics



Thousands of you have asked for it. And here it is! Finally, the Zoological Society is offering a membership that includes free unlimited parking. It's called Zoo Pass Plus. This new level of membership offers all of the benefits of your current membership, plus free parking. If you haven't already seen a piece introducing our Zoo Pass Plus offer, please read the flyer we've enclosed with this magazine for more details. I am especially pleased to have supported this membership upgrade because I know it makes visiting the Zoo more convenient for you. Just show your Zoo Pass Plus card



and ID, then enjoy the Zoo! It also means the Zoological Society has another opportunity to give cash support to the Zoo (the Zoological Society will pay the Zoo every time a Zoo Pass Plus member parks on the Zoo's lots). Of course, with our new Zoo Pass Plus promotion, we hope not only to earn your continued membership, but also to increase membership in the Zoological Society. So, when you upgrade your membership to Zoo Pass Plus and have a positive experience, tell your friends. More members mean more dollars for the Society. And that means more dollars for the Zoo and the animals.

The Zoo and Zoological Society are giving you plenty of reasons to use your Zoo Pass card this summer: Ameritech's Reptiles: Real & Robotic featuring the White Alligator exhibit; Big Cat Encounter, an exciting opportunity to get within three inches of the Zoo's lions and cheetahs (funded by this year's Annual Appeal donors); and Impala Country, funded by the Holz Family Foundation, that summons zoogoers from the main pedestrian path and into the exhibit featuring some of the Zoo's most elegant African animals, impalas, gazelles and cheetahs.

Please continue to read your *Wild Things* newsletters for news of upcoming events. Then, use your Zoo Pass to get free admission to the Zoo...or use your Zoo Pass Plus card and park for free, too!

Gil Boese, Ph.D., President
Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

Alive

VOLUME 21, ISSUE 2



Black-capped chickadee

features

4 Realm of the Reptile

A rare white alligator slithers through a naturalistic bayou habitat in Ameritech's Reptiles: Real & Robotic, this summer's touring exhibit at the Zoo. You'll also see giant robotic reptiles in realistic settings. And you can visit a mini-zoo of live harmless Wisconsin snakes often misidentified as venomous. The exhibit runs May 26 to Sept. 3.

6 7th Annual Animal Art Competition Winners

View a fascinating array of student artwork depicting endangered animals as we display the winners in the Zoological Society's 7th Annual Animal Art Competition, sponsored by the Robert K. and Jayce R. Cope Foundation.

8 Birds & Beyond: Belize & Our Own Backyard

In the Central American country of Belize, where the Zoological Society of Milwaukee has a long history of wildlife education programs, a new program on birds is introducing children not just to avian information but also to technology and research. Learn about the latest developments in our Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras*™ project.

18 Getting Animals From Here to There

How do you get a polar bear from Milwaukee to Cleveland? Rhinos from Zimbabwe to Milwaukee? Discover the story behind animal travels in a profile of Milwaukee County Zoo registrar Karin Schwartz.

20 Bonobo Conservation: The Paths Less Traveled

Taking some unusual routes to conservation of a rare great ape, the Zoological Society has contracted with a church group to distribute 40,000 bonobo story booklets with a focus on conservation, and paid and outfitted guards to stop poachers in the heart of the African Congo. Researchers also trekked through a war-ravaged country to survey the status of the bonobo.

departments

- 2 President's Letter
- 15 Serengeti Circle
- 16 Platypus Society
- 22 What's Gnu

kids alive

11-14 Zoo news, reptile puzzles, crafts

on the cover

Green-crested basilisk lizard
(*Basiliscus plumifrons*) - also on page 13



Bonobos
Photo: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



White alligator
Photo courtesy of Audubon Institute, New Orleans, LA.

Realm of the Reptile

BY FRAN BAUER

Why is it that so many people are afraid of snakes and other reptiles, yet they're fascinated with dinosaurs, those early reptile-like creatures?

To help people develop a fascination rather than fear for our misunderstood reptiles, the Milwaukee County Zoo and Zoological Society of Milwaukee are bringing to the Zoo on



May 26 Ameritech's Reptiles: Real & Robotic. This touring exhibit, which runs through Sept. 3, features a rare live white alligator in a naturalistic bayou setting, a live reptile mini-zoo, and gigantic moving robotic reptiles. Zoological Society members get free admission to this exhibit (normally \$1) during Nights in June, June 11-14,

with their special invitation to this evening event (mailed with your June issue of *Wild Things* newsletter).

"The white alligator is a very special animal," says Dr. Gil Boese, Zoological Society president. "Only 19 white alligators are known to exist. The Audubon Institute in New Orleans agreed to loan us one of its rare white alligators. So we are very pleased to be able to present to our members and to the community a creature with such mystique and magic."

He'll be basking in a specially designed bayou that recreates his natural swamp habitat in Louisiana. The

habitat is being designed and built by ACME Production Services of Milwaukee, which created the delightful rain forest last year that housed live tropical butterflies.

The Audubon Institute in New Orleans might never have known about the existence of white alligators had a bayou fisherman not discovered them tumbling out of a nest. He brought six of the rare babies to the zoo, says Rich Atkinson, curator of the Louisiana Swamp Exhibit, a mini-zoo within the Audubon Institute. Once news spread about the rare discovery, the Louisiana Land and Exploration Co. claimed

the baby alligators because they had been found along the riverbank that the land holding company owned.

LL&E gave the Audubon Institute four of the white alligators but kept the remaining 15 hatchlings, which grew up on its alligator farm. At birth, the hatchlings were only about 9 inches long. Now they are nearly 9 feet long.

LL&E recently sold its lands to Burlington Resources, which has not yet decided what to do with the white alligators.

White alligators are not albinos. Albino alligators – which have red eyes and no pigment in their skin, making it appear transparent – are fairly common, Rich says. White alligators, on the other hand, have a recessive gene, making them almost totally white. The only way zookeepers can tell one of the alligators from another is by the differing patterns of black dots around



Top: Kids are fascinated by a giant bug on a flower, as a lizard zips out its tongue to catch the insect. Bottom: A woman and her son gaze into the mouth of a Nile crocodile to get a better look at how she carries her newborn babies.

Photos courtesy of Kokoro Dinosaurs of California

their necks and faces. In fact, the white alligators are a much stronger breed than albinos, and face only one serious problem. If they bask too long in the sun, they can get sunburned. A female white alligator died of a severe sunburn after a male alligator blocked her from returning to the pond where she had been living.

Reptiles may be coldblooded and scaly, but they are truly remarkable creatures that have learned over millions of years to adapt to their environments in fascinating ways. In this exhibit, you can discover what they share in common with humans, be amazed by their incredible survival stories, and follow the history of reptiles as re-created in lifelike models, photos, illustrations and discovery boxes.

Another major part of the exhibit is giant robotic reptiles in realistic settings created by Japanese craftsmen. These over-size creatures are designed to give viewers a chance to view reptilian features at three times their normal size so you can see at close range some of their special adaptations. The robotic displays feature:

- A Nile crocodile as she gently picks up two of her newborn babies and carries them in her mouth to where they'll be safe in the reeds.

- A Jackson's chameleon, looking more like a dinosaur than a lizard, that blinks its eyes and extends its tongue 1½ times farther than its body length to catch prey with speed and accuracy.

- An alligator snapping turtle, one of the largest species of turtles in the world, that wiggles a wormlike lure on the end of its tongue to try to catch a fish for dinner.

- A western diamond rattlesnake that flicks its tongue and dips its head, as though hoping to nab and swallow its prey.

- A pack of powerful cynognathus predators attacking a kannemeyeria, showing how the now-extinct reptiles once fed on their smaller and weaker prey.

The robotic creatures are very lifelike, and their movements are really an art form, says Ivan Gallardo, a former high school teacher who now markets the exhibit for Kokoro Dinosaurs of Woodland Hills, Calif. "The models are made larger than life and with precise accuracy because we want everyone to be able to see the details that are sometimes lost on smaller models."

Additional robotic displays include larger-than-life models of three snake heads – a rock rattlesnake, Indian cobra and boomslang – that rotate so that you can see their skin on one side and, on the other, a cut-away view of their skeletal



This northern watersnake found in Wisconsin is harmless, but it often is killed because people mistake it for a venomous water moccasin (cottonmouth) not found in Wisconsin.

structure showing the difference between hinged fangs and fixed fangs. Snakes are very misunderstood creatures, says Craig Berg, curator of reptiles at the Milwaukee County Zoo. "Snakes want


to get away from you, not attack. If they were as aggressive as is generally believed, there would be no humans left alive."

The exhibit also will have a live mini-zoo, with a focus on snake conservation. All too often,

people kill a harmless snake, mistaking it for a venomous breed not even found in Wisconsin, Berg says. So the mini-zoo will feature four live snakes to help people identify Wisconsin snakes that pose no threat to humans: the fox snake (often

Snakes are very misunderstood creatures.
Craig Berg, curator of reptiles at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

mistaken for a venomous copperhead), the bull snake (mistaken for a rattler), the northern water snake (mistaken for a water moccasin) and the hognose (mistaken for venomous puff adders). Berg believes people can live peacefully with snakes if they learn which are harmless and also the valuable role snakes play in keeping down the population of rats and other small animals that are pests.

Berg loves to tell the story of the day Milwaukee County Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser was exploring the dunes along the eastern shore of Lake Michigan with his daughter Amy, then in middle school. They came upon a group of very vocal boys poking at a snake with a stick and then jumping back. Without hesitation, Amy reached down and picked up the snake, declaring to the boys: "It's only a hognose." 

An extremely rare white alligator will inhabit a specially created bayou at our Zoo this summer for Ameritech's Reptiles: Real & Robotic.

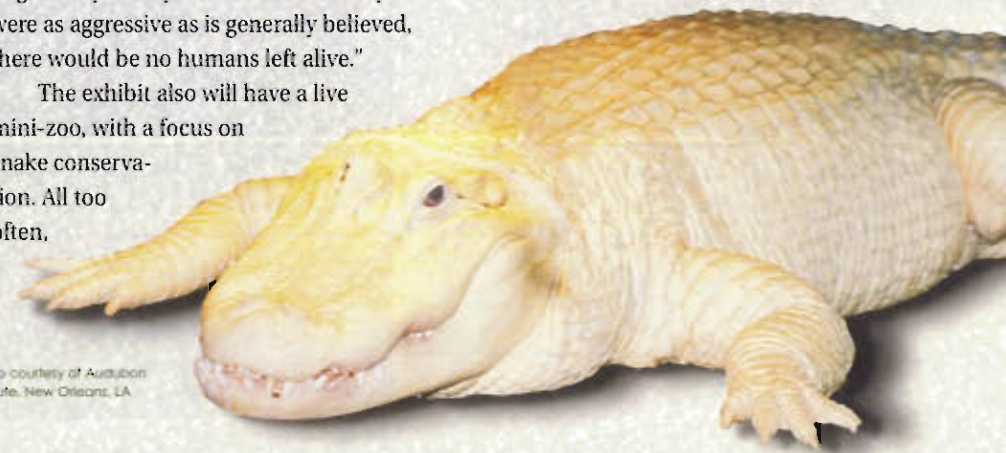
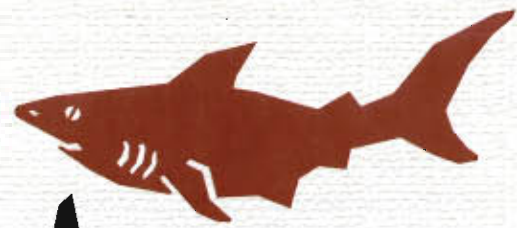


Photo courtesy of Audubon Institute, New Orleans, LA



seventh ANNUAL ANIMAL

PEOPLE'S CHOICE ART COMPETITION

Endangered species drew the attention of shoppers at Wauwatosa's Mayfair Mall, Feb. 19-March 7, when high school and college students displayed their animal art as part of the Zoological Society's Seventh Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition, sponsored by the Robert K. & Joyce R. Cope Foundation. The exhibition, juried by five Milwaukee-area art professionals, had the public vote for their favorite pieces. More than 2,200 people cast ballots. The jury also picked two of its favorites, one two-dimensional piece and one three-dimensional piece. The winners are pictured here. Each of the top six students – three high school, three college – won \$100 and received a Zoological Society membership. Winners of the jurors' choice awards won \$50 each.

Winners of honorable mention, each of whom received \$50 gift certificates to Milwaukee's Artist and Display art-supplies store, are Courtney Ratliff of Milwaukee, from Wisconsin Lutheran College for her mixed-media artwork of a manatee; Paula Washow of Franklin, from Alverno College for her enlarged photograph of a crocodile; Laura Mesirow of Shorewood, from Shorewood High School for her Prismacolor pencil drawing of an Indian python; and Nadia Olker of Wauwatosa, from Divine Savior Holy Angels for her charcoal-and-chalk drawing of a spider monkey.

About the Exhibit

- 178 students entered (21 college, 157 high school)
- 100 artworks were exhibited (8 college, 92 high school)



Jurors' Choice, 3-D
Cheshire Catfish, painted plaster sculpture of a giant catfish, by David McDonough of Shorewood, from Shorewood High School



Jurors' Choice, 2-D
Grizzly Bear, oil painting of a grizzly bear, by Ryan Biddle of Waukesha, from Waukesha West High School



Peoples' Choice (High School)
The Survivor, oil painting of an African elephant, by Andrew Schmittner of Waukesha, from Waukesha South High School

Peoples' Choice (High School)
Another View, pastel of a zebra, by Jessica Nowicki of Germantown, from Grafton High School



Peoples' Choice (College)
Hanging Out, acrylic of a jaguar, by Daniel Kyle of West Bend, from Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design



Peoples' Choice (High School)
"Pride" and Joy, pencil drawing of a tiger cub and mom, by Eddie Platz of Watertown, from Watertown High School



Peoples' Choice (College)
Lazy Eye, mixed media painting of rhinoceroses, by Kari Garon of Waukesha, from UW-Waukesha



Peoples' Choice (College)
Untitled, American Crocodile, by Chris Hofman of Milwaukee, from Milwaukee Area Technical College

Birds and Beyond

Belize and Our Own Backyard

How do you teach children who have never seen a computer to understand it? Have them pretend to be a computer!

In the Central American country of Belize, where the Zoological Society of Milwaukee has a long history of wildlife education programs, a new program on birds is introducing children not just to avian information but also to technology. And the Zoological Society educators are doing so in very creative ways.

A student goes to the blackboard with chalk. He is the "computer." The instructor, with her back to him, says that she will be the computer operator. She will give him directions on how to draw a letter she has in her mind. The letter is an H but the

student doesn't know that. "Draw a vertical line 8 inches long," she says. "Pick up the chalk and place it in the center of the line you drew. Now draw a horizontal line to the right 4 inches long." As she tries to get the student to draw the second vertical line, students begin to see how complicated and exact the teacher's directions must be. "The goal is to understand that if the computer doesn't give you the results you were looking for, it's because of the input, or programming, you gave the computer," says Michelle Jacobi.

Jacobi is one of two Society educators that the Society has sent to Belize twice in the last six months to train a Belizean staff to run the Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin Fronteras™ education program. BWB-ASF, for short, is a multifaceted, five-year, international bird project started in 1997 by the Zoological Society and its partner, the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc.

The project has three components: research, conservation and education (see story on page 10). Education includes talks to the public, bird-banding demonstrations and the biggest

area—a specific curriculum designed for 1,171 students in 12 U.S. schools (11 in Wisconsin and 1 in Michigan) and 45

students in two Belize schools (possibly more next year). The curriculum includes learning not only about birds and conservation but also about computers. For students in Belize, computers are a big draw.

"It was incredible to have the kids' eyes light up when they saw the computer," says Kerry Scanlan, BWB-ASF education coordinator. "For the students from La Democracia School, this was the first time that they had ever touched computers. The kids at Sacred Heart, one of the largest schools in Belize, have computers at their school, but not in their classrooms like we have here."

Using binoculars to identify birds and playing bird songs on a cassette player also delighted the students in Belize. But teaching students how to ID the birds involved such low-tech but effective tools as laminated color pictures of birds and simple field notebooks with illustrations and written descriptions of birds and their parts (tails, beaks, etc.). Belize students could take their notebooks home and practice identifying birds in their neighborhoods (just as the U.S. students have done).

Mario Teul, one of the BWB-ASF Belizean staff, reported on the success of one student: "Jose was able to identify a black-and-white warbler at home and he wrote it down in his book. To prove if he really knew what the bird was, I asked him to

identify the black-and-white warbler we saw at the Tropical Education Center [a BWB-ASF research site] and, indeed, he



American redstart
photo by Stephen J. Long

shouted out the name, much to amazement of his teacher and other students!"

Teul—along with Celso Poot (our Belize education liaison pictured on page 14), Thara Gamero and Stephanie Lipé—are the educators in Belize trained by Scanlan and Jacobi. "I was impressed with how they were able

to take the curriculum and go with it," says Scanlan. "We all worked very well together. And it was very conducive to great teaching. It also was evident in how receptive the kids were. I was thrilled with how eager they were to learn and how knowledgeable they were about birds. For example, when I asked them why birds are important, they were able to give me such reasons as: Birds disperse seeds so

that plants can grow, they help control insects, they're part of the food chain."

The BWB-ASF curriculum—both for U.S. and Belize students—consists of lessons on what makes an animal a bird, what makes a bird a songbird, why birds are important, how and why birds migrate, what makes a good bird habitat, and

what kids can do to foster songbird habitat. Students also collect bird data—and submit it to the BWB-ASF education Web site, where anyone can view it. An important part of the project is linking students in the Midwest and Belize through letters, videotapes, audiotapes and (in the future) computers so that they can compare bird findings as well as information about their lifestyles such as popular

music, fashion and fads.

In Belize, the BWB-ASF program consists of eight Saturdays during the September-June school year spent bird watching and learning technology, plus two visits a month to each school by an educator for a 45-minute to one-hour lesson on avian information. In Wisconsin, where the program is in its third year, Scanlan goes to each classroom four times a year, and each class goes to a research site near its school once a year.

Student excitement with the program is quite evident in Belize. "When we entered the Sacred Heart campus near the town of San Ignacio, there was just a ripple of excitement as the kids looked out the windows," says Jacobi. "We had resources for only 30 students to participate from that school, but many students—and their parents—asked if we would select them to join BWB-ASF. The students listened so earnestly that they were hanging on our words."

continued on page 10



In the Tropical Education Center at the Belize Zoo, where Zoological Society educators such as Michelle Jacobi (right) teach about birds and computers, some students get their first look at a computer.

Students at Sacred Heart School in San Ignacio, Belize, are excited about a slide program on birds presented by educators from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.



Kerry Scanlan, education coordinator for Birds Without Borders, spots an American redstart family.

Magnolia warbler
photo by Stephen J. Long



Scanlan and Jacobi often put in 12- to 15-hour workdays in Belize. It was worth it, says Scanlan. "I felt that this was what I was meant to be doing, teaching them real science, something that's applicable in their daily lives. By learning how sensitive birds are to the health of the environment,

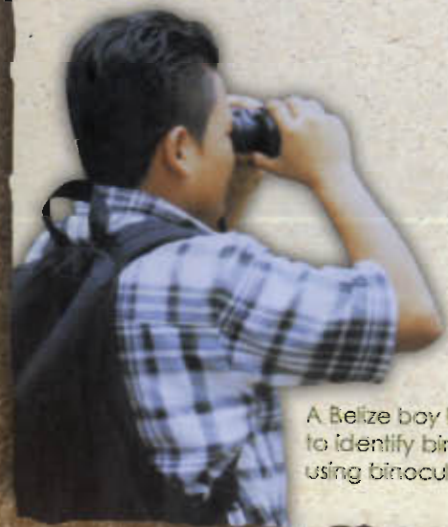
kids get a sense of how their actions can impact the environment. The whole point of this program is to teach today's youth to be stew-

ards of the land tomorrow."

The education component of BWB-ASF has received funding from the Antonia Foundation; Helen Bader Foundation, Inc.; Environmental Protection Agency; Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Wisconsin, Inc.; National Fish & Wildlife Foundation; Norcross Wildlife Foundation; R.D. & Linda Peters Foundation; Jane B. Pettit Foundation; Will Ross Memorial Foundation; Wisconsin Environmental Education Board; and the Zoological Society. 🐾



Downy woodpecker
non-migratory



A Belize boy learns to identify birds using binoculars.

Songbird Success

Saving our songbirds is the ultimate goal of Birds Without Borders—Aves Sin Fronteras™ (BWB-ASF), a research-conservation-education project run by the Zoological Society and its partner, the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. The five-year, Wisconsin-Belize project is now in its fourth year, and the results are coming in. Here are some of the project's achievements, noted by Vicki Piskowski, BWB-ASF's international coordinator:

Education: BWB-ASF educators are teaching students in 14 schools in Wisconsin, Michigan and Belize about birds, conservation and technology (see accompanying story). For the general public, project coordinators have presented 77 talks/slide shows on bird conservation and research. They also have given several bird-bonding demonstrations. The Zoological Society Web site and its publications feature information about BWB-ASF and bird conservation. Newspapers, magazines and TV shows have run stories about our project and the importance of bird conservation.

Conservation: The Zoological Society is working with 50 private landowners in Wisconsin and Belize whose lands are BWB-ASF study sites. These landowners (plus others who have inquired about the project) get research reports each year. At the end of the project, BWB-ASF will provide landowners with a booklet of recommendations, based on research findings, on how to provide bird habitat. For example, the Pewaukee study site of 125 acres has been found to be an important migration stopover site. Researchers studied its food supply and found that insect larvae in oak trees and willows, and fruits on such shrubs as dogwood and viburnum are important foods during migration. So an example of the advice to landowners would be to plant those types of trees and shrubs. The goal is to get more and more private landowners involved in conservation on a personal scale.

Research: More than 17,375 research hours have been devoted to this project. In Wisconsin, 8,117 birds have been banded to study their migration and breeding habits and implement a long-term conservation plan. Another 1,444 birds have been banded in Belize. Researchers observed and collected data from 520 bird nests in Wisconsin and 236 in Belize. Among their findings:

- Tennessee warblers love the Pewaukee study site as a staging area for fall migration. Of 1,987 birds banded in fall 2000 at the Pewaukee site, 885 (44%) were Tennessee warblers. This makes the site one of national importance.
- At the central Wisconsin study site near Rosendale (west of Fond du Lac), researchers studied nests of two grassland songbird species, the bobolink and sedge wren, that have been in decline. The sedge wren was breeding successfully, but the bobolink wasn't. "We took detailed vegetation measurements of nest sites and surrounding areas," says Piskowski, "and are analyzing them to see if they will shed light on why one bird is successful and the other isn't."
- In Belize, the Runaway Creek Nature Preserve (owned by our Foundation for Wildlife Conservation) is a favorite wintering spot for the gray catbird and magnolia warbler, both of which breed at our Wisconsin study sites. These two birds were the most commonly banded migrants of 797 birds banded at Runaway Creek.

Says Piskowski about the overall value of the project: "To me it's a perfect way to have basic research result in some practical recommendations for conservation. We're doing very good, ground-breaking research and, at the same time, providing advice to landowners and developing a trained Belizean staff who can influence conservation in Belize."



Bobolink photo by Stephen J. Lang

Down on the Farm

You can't miss Helga's red-blond shaggy coat. Her big horns and that wonderful puss of a face. You'll find her out in the yard around the horse barn. Born in May 1998 on a farm in Ladysmith, Wis., Helga came to the Zoo last November. Helga has not had a calf, and so she is called a heifer. You'll often see her in the yard with Cookie, the Belted Galloway, who is called a cow because she has had calves.



Helga the heifer



Pokey the porcupine

Watch out for the quills on Pokey, the Zoo's new porcupine. Born last June, he came to the Zoo in August from Minocqua in northern Wisconsin. You'll find him in the petting area of the farm (which opens Memorial Day weekend, May 26). As you can see in the picture, Pokey likes lemons.

Zookeepers love Morty the duck. His name is short for Mortimer. He was found sick and abandoned at the Zoo and hand-raised by zookeepers. "He had no strength in his legs to keep him upright and couldn't stand. We had to help him climb in and out of the pool. This sometimes happens when people get pet ducks and don't feed them the right diet," says Lisa Guglielmi, acting area supervisor of the farm. "We caught it early enough so he recovered. With the proper diet, he can now walk around and get into and out of the pool. He still steps on his own feet and trips himself up, which he shouldn't do. Otherwise, he's OK." Morty is a mixed-breed domestic, not a wild, duck. So he is not meant to be on his own in the wild.



Morty the duck



Maude and Leigh, calves

Two female calves were born at the Zoo last December. A brown Swiss calf named Leigh was born on Dec. 18. "When they're born, they're all white, and they change to tan," says Guglielmi. "When they become an adult, they are totally brown with white paints." A red and white Holstein named Maude was born on Dec. 31. By now, both babies are nearly grown, but you'll find new babies in the heifer barn soon.

Reptile Facts



While reptiles are called coldblooded (ectothermic) animals, they are seldom cold. They seek out heat sources in their surroundings to keep themselves warm, says Craig Berg, aquarium and reptile curator at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Humans are warmblooded. Our body temperature remains the same most of the time because we generate much of our own heat from food and can cool ourselves through sweating. Reptiles have scales. Some have vividly colored skin. Many reptiles lay eggs; others give birth to live young. Here are some reptiles you'll find in the Milwaukee County Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center:

Madagascar day gecko

These bright-green lizards are active by day (diurnal), unlike most geckos, which are active at night (nocturnal). Geckos lay one or two eggs at a time. Geckos have unusual toe pads, which act like Velcro, enabling them to cling to trees or walls. See photo at left.

Green Anaconda

Anacondas, the largest snakes in the world, are in the family of boas and pythons. The Zoo has three anacondas. Joan of Arc weighs 40 pounds, is 10½ feet long and may grow up to 20 feet! The other two, Molly and Gina, are 7 to 8 feet long. They eat rats, six at a feeding, every two weeks. In the wild, they are night hunters and eat fish, frogs, caiman (small alligators), birds and mammals. Anacondas are excellent swimmers and live in or near water in the rain forests of South America. Anacondas don't have external ears but sense their prey through vibration. Heat-sensing pits in their mouth detect an animal's size. Anacondas coil around their prey, suffocate it, then swallow it head first, grasping it with rows of needle-sharp teeth. Flexible expanding ribs allow them to eat large animals, some over 100 pounds.

Reptile Word Scramble

Kids, try to find an animal in each of the mixed-up group of letters below. These are the animals that the letters spell out: boa, iguana, chameleon, crocodile, gecko (above photo), tortoise, lizard, rattlesnake, alligator, turtle

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| gtraliao _____ | rizdal _____ |
| eokgc _____ | tlurte _____ |
| elmeoacnh _____ | aob _____ |
| sktenalaetr _____ | nuaiaq _____ |
| riceoodcl _____ | istooert _____ |

Lizard Quest

Look for this lizard in the Aquatic & Reptile Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo. This reptile is found along the Pacific coasts of Guatemala and Mexico. Its name is derived from the bumpy, beaded look all over its body. It is one of two venomous (poisonous) lizards in the world. Its venom affects the nervous system, but it is not fatal to humans.

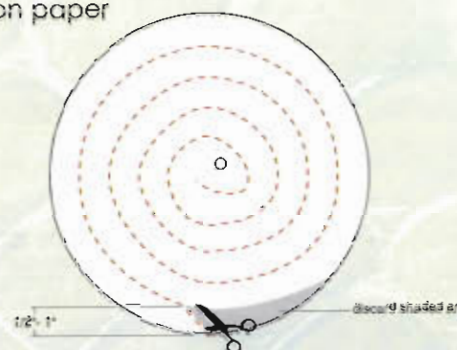
Look for the answer in your July 2001 issue of *Alive*.
Answer to Arctic Quest, Jan. 2001: Snowy owl.

Make a Whirling Snake

Snakes are reptiles. They are coldblooded and have scales. Some reptiles are very colorful. You can make your own colorful snake with materials you have at home! Then you can hang the spiraling snake on a string. Here's how:

Materials Needed:

- 8½- by 11-inch piece of white construction paper
- 8-inch-diameter mixing bowl
- Pencil (for tracing)
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Hole puncher
- Yarn or string
- Newspaper or old magazines
- Glue



Directions:

1. Place construction paper on a flat surface. Turn mixing bowl upside down onto construction paper. Use the pencil to trace around the rim of the bowl to create a circle. Use scissors to cut out the circle shape. Using markers or crayons, color both sides of the circle with whatever mix of colors you like.
2. To make the whirling snake, use the scissors to make a diagonal cut ½ to 1 inch into the circle. Then continue cutting in a spiraling pattern toward the center of the circle (see sketch). You want to create a snake's body that is ½- to 1-inch thick. You may need to trim the snake's body a bit to make a smooth spiral. The center is the snake's head. Lift the head from the center and the snake will dangle. Use the hole puncher to punch a small hole in the snake's head. Loop yarn through the hole so you can hang your whirling snake (see above).
3. To add scales onto the snake's body, cut newspaper or old magazine pages into small squares. Glue the squares onto both sides of the snake to create scales. Allow snake to dry. Hang snake in a special place where it can whirl in the wind.

Dinosaur Look-Alike

Fill in the blanks in this story with words from the list below, and then guess which lizard this could be. You'll find it in the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center, housed with two species of turtles. (Answer is on page 3.)

This green scaly reptile is native to _____. It can _____ itself and hide in green plants. It has a _____ on its head and _____ along its back. Because of this lizard's prehistoric looks, early filmmakers used it in movies to portray _____. This lizard can _____ so fast on its hind legs that for a short distance it actually moves across the surface of the water. It escapes _____ this way, but it also can dive and quickly _____ away.

Word List

- run • predators • crest • dinosaurs
Central America • camouflage • swim • spines



Let's Fly to Belize

Kids,

pretend you're a songbird. Let's fly south 1,675 miles from Wisconsin to the small country of Belize in Central America. Lots of songbirds do this every fall. Then, in spring, they fly back. What would you find in Belize? See if you can answer these questions:

1. Belize is a very warm country. When it's below zero in Wisconsin, it's in the 80s in Belize. And there's lots of rain forest. Since Belize is south of the Tropic of Cancer, what would you call its climate? S _____

2. Flying over the rain forest, you would see monuments and crumbling structures among the trees. What would you call these? R _____ Flying around the structures are some colorful insects called B _____



Celso Poot teaches students in Belize about computers.

3. An Indian population built these great structures hundreds of years ago. Many of their descendants (great-great-great-great-great grandchildren) still live in Belize. What are these Indians called? M _____

4. As you fly inland from the Caribbean Sea, you look down and see the Belize Zoo. Here schoolchildren are visiting the animals. Belize has many endangered animals. What is the name of a wild cat that lives there and is endangered? J _____

5. You see schoolchildren outside the Tropical Education Center learning how to identify birds. Their teacher, Celso Poot, works for the Belize Zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (see photo above and story on page 8). One of the kids is looking at you through a pair of binoculars. What kind of bird are you?

G _____ CAT _____

Kids, now it's time to fly back to Wisconsin. We hope you enjoyed Belize.

ANSWERS

Subtropical. Ruins. Butterflies. Moyo. Juguor (see photo).
 Gray colbird (see photo).
 (photo by Stephen J. Long)



(photo by Stephen J. Long)

Serengeti Circle

The Serengeti Circle is an exclusive group of corporations and foundations that support the Zoo and Zoological Society through sponsoring special events, exhibits/attractions, programs and promotions at the \$2,500 level and above. For more information on sponsorship opportunities at the Zoo, please call Patty Harrigan, (414) 258-2333.

\$50,000-\$99,999

American Airlines
 • Zoo Ball*

Ameritech/SBC Global Network

• Summer Special Exhibit - Reptiles: Real & Robotic featuring the White Alligator

Helen Bader Foundation, Inc.

(over a 3-year period)
 • Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)

The Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation

• General Operations

Mae E. Demmer Charitable Trust

• Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (conservation)

Miller Brewing Co.

• Animal Ambassador Program
 • Rirdies & Eagles Golf Tournament
 • Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion Show
 • Recycled Zoo
 • Zoo a la Carte

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

• Zoo a la Carte*

\$20,000-\$49,999

Firststar Corporation
 • Winter Special Exhibit: Antarctica

Kimberly-Clark Foundation

• Keepers of the Wild

The Ladish Company Foundation

• School Programs

M&I Bank

• Seasonal Zoo Brochures

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

• Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)

Northwestern Mutual Foundation

• Habitat 2001

The Pentair Foundation,

on behalf of Fleck Controls
 • Urban Environmental Outreach Initiative

Jane B. Pettit Foundation

• Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)

Ronald McDonald House Charities of Eastern Wisconsin, Inc.

• Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)

Roundy's Pick'n Save

• Boo at the Zoo*
 • Conservation Weekend*
 • Egg Day*
 • Family Free Days at the Zoo*
 • Father's Day at the Zoo*
 • Kids Nights*
 • March Is Frozen Food Month
 • Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride*
 • Samson Stomp & Romp*
 • Snooze at the Zoo*

• Summer Adventure Camps*
 • Trick or Treat Halloween Spooktacular*
 • Twilight Safari*

St. Francis Bank

• Zoomobile

Tri City National Bank

• Beasley Bowl-A-Thon
 • Behind the Scenes Weekends
 • Feast for the Beasts Pancake Breakfast
 • Kids 'n Critters Club
 • Senior Celebration Support*
 • Sponsor an Animal Program
 • Sunset Zoolaris
 • Zoo'n You Coupon Book*

\$10,000-\$19,999

American Zoo & Aquarium Association (Conservation Endowment Fund)
 • Bonobo Survey in Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

Anonymous

• Student Intern Program

A.O. Smith Foundation

• School Programs

Beneficia Foundation

• Bonobo Survey in Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

Helen Brach Foundation

• Bonobo Species Survival Plan

Conservation, Food & Health Foundation

• Bonobo Survey in Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

Robert K. & Joyce R. Cope Foundation

• Annual Animal Art Competition
 • Belize Outreach Program

DMC Advertising & Direct Marketing

• Zoological Society Membership Support*

Drypers Corp.

• Stroller Rentals

General Mills

• Snooze at the Zoo*
 • Yoplait's Family Free Days at the Zoo

Golden Guernsey Dairy

• Heritage Farm Weekend
 • Pancake Breakfast Support*

Hershey Foods

• Boo at the Zoo*
 • Snooze at the Zoo*
 • Trick or Treat Halloween Spooktacular

Deborah Kern

• Bonobo Survey in Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

Light 97 WLTQ

• Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride*

Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation

• Bonobo Survey in Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

The Quaker Oats Company

• Samson Stomp & Romp
 • Summer Adventure Camps

Sargento Foods Inc.

• Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride

Strong Investments

• Carousel

University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension

• Education Programs

Wisconsin Electric/Wisconsin Gas

• Holiday Night Lights/Winter Wonderland

Wisconsin Environmental Education Board

• Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)

World Wildlife Fund

• Bonobo Survey in Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

\$5,000-\$9,999

Antonia Foundation
 • Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)

Associated Bank

• Animal Ambassador Peer Mentor Program

Aurora Health Care

• Senior Celebration*

Chapman Foundation

• Animal Ambassador Program
 • General Operations

Environmental Protection Agency

• Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)

Excelsior Lodge #175 F. and A.M.

• Animal Ambassador Program

Hawks Nursery

• Winter Wonderland Support*

Richard and Ethel Herzfeld Foundation

• EdZooeducation Workshops

Charles E. & Dorothy Watkins Inbusch Foundation

• Student Intern Program

Jays

• Kids Nights

Kaytee Products Inc.

• Zoo Support Program

Judy Kern

• Bonobo Survey in Salonga National Park, Democratic Republic of Congo

McCormick

• Egg Day

Milwaukee's Pickles

• Snooze at the Zoo

NFL Alumni Association

• Kids Days Off

Northern Trnst Company

• Platypus Society Awards Dinner

Milton and Lillian Peck Foundation

• Animal Ambassador Program

The R.D. and Linda Peters Foundation

• Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)

Reynolds Wrap Aluminum Foil*

• Conservation Weekend

The Jerome & Dorothy Holz Family Foundation

• Scenic Safari Road Rally

Welch's

• Twilight Safari

\$2,500-\$4,999

ANR Pipeline Company
 • Animal Ambassador Program

ACME Corp. Production Services

• Rescued Zoo Support*

Briggs and Stratton Corp. Foundation

• School Programs

The Chinet Company

• Father's Day at the Zoo
 • Pancake Breakfast Support!

CNI Newspapers/This Week Publications

• Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride*

Cooper Power Systems

• Animal Ambassador Program

Fortis Insurance Foundation

• Animal Ambassador Program

Harnischfeger Industries Foundation

• Animal Ambassador Program

Heinemann's Restaurants

• Mother's Day at the Zoo

The Home Depot

• Animal Ambassador Program

Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation

• Animal Ambassador Program

Marshall Field's Project Imagine

• Animal Ambassador Program

Mayfair Mall

• Annual Animal Art Competition*
 • Zoological Society Holiday Gift Promotion*

Maysteel Foundation Ltd.

• Wisconsin Students in Conservation Biology

Milwaukee Foundation's Jolm C. & Harriett Cleaver Fund

• Animal Ambassador Program

PPG Industries Foundation

• Animal Ambassador Program

Racine Danish Krinkles

• Breakfast/Lunch With Santa

Rockwell

• Animal Ambassador Program

Time Warner Cable

• Animal Ambassador Program

Zoological Society Associate Board

• Animal Ambassador Program

* In-Kind Sponsorships

Sponsors and grantors committing dollars and in-kind gifts after February 15, 2001,

will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.



Since 1998, Heinemann's Restaurants has sponsored Mother's Day of the Zoo. Moms get free admission to the Zoo on their special day with coupons available exclusively at Heinemann's Restaurants.



GETTING ANIMALS FROM HERE TO THERE

BY KATHY MANGOLD

What's an African black rhino like you doing in a place like this? If rhinos Brewster or Barley could talk, they might give you an answer that detailed their journey from the savannas of Zimbabwe to the Milwaukee County Zoo, where they have lived for a dozen years. These longtime residents truly could call Milwaukee home – they've adjusted to the climate, raised three offspring and may live the rest of their lives here – but technically, they are and always will remain property of the government of Zimbabwe.

Just because animals live here doesn't always mean they're ours, said Karin Schwartz, the Zoo's registrar and keeper of animal records that track the comings and goings of Brewster, Barley and the Zoo's 2,100 other residents.

"People come to a zoo and think all we do is feed the animals and keep their enclosures clean. They don't realize how scientific and complicated our work is. We see a much bigger picture."

If you visit a museum, it's not unusual to see works of art hanging on the walls that actually belong to another museum or a private collector. It's the same here at the Zoo. Some animals belong to the Zoo while

simple: a shipment of 24 ornate box turtles, on loan from the state's Department of Natural Resources, for example. Other instances are more complex. Years ago, Brewster and Barley were part of a group of 10 rhinos brought to the U.S. in an effort to save their species from extinction. Poachers threatened – and continue to threaten – their survival in the wild; the rhinos had a better chance in U.S. zoos. These rhinos



Zoo registrar Karin Schwartz helped North America/Australia supervisor Daron Graves acquire the koala Taree for our Zoo.

and their offspring are a genetic resource for black rhinoceros conservation.

Like Brewster and Barley, each animal has a story to tell. Schwartz plays a role much like a family genealogist, documenting a family's origins and all their comings and goings. Using information provided by keepers and curators, she keeps a computerized inventory of all animals as well as a diary of their lives: their genealogy,

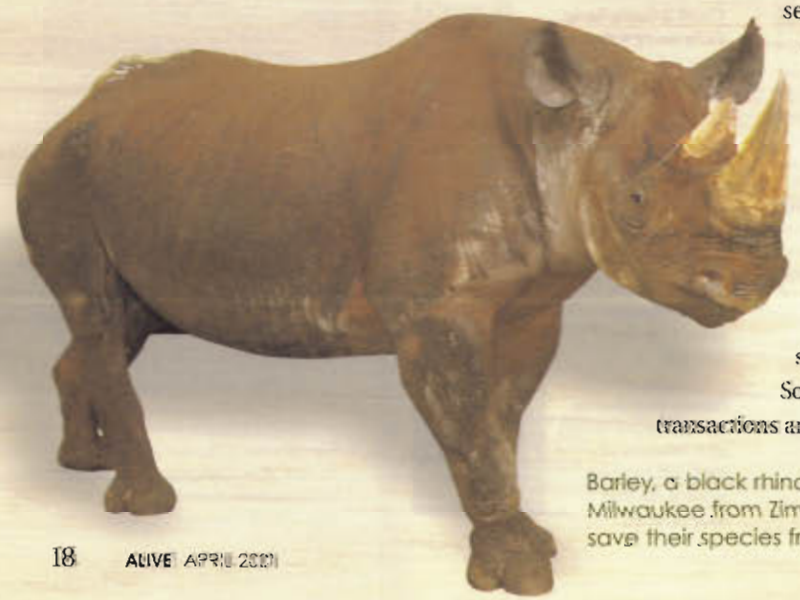
reproductive history, behavioral patterns, medical information and dietary/feeding needs.

This record-keeping work serves many purposes. At our Zoo, it helps track an animal's well-being, which can aid zookeepers in caring for their charges. On a larger scale, these records can help ensure the health of the species. Each month, Schwartz sends the information to the International Species Information System (ISIS), an organization that collects data from 550 zoological institutions worldwide.

The data from ISIS is used by American Zoo & Aquarium Association (AZA)-sponsored Species Survival Plan (SSP) teams to plan the cooperative strategy that manages whole U.S. captive animal populations for long-term survival.

others are on loan (for exhibit or breeding purposes) from other institutions. What makes it more complicated, however, is that the Zoo constantly is acquiring and

sending off animals for the purposes of maintaining collections, breeding and conservation. Last year, 168 animals were acquired, sold or donated. Some of these transactions are relatively



Barley, a black rhino, came to Milwaukee from Zimbabwe to help save their species from extinction.

including breeding recommendations for the managed species.

Here's where Schwartz enters the picture, again. If an SSP calls for an animal to visit or leave our Zoo, it's up to her to make sure the transaction is done according to regulations set forth by the government.

That's easier said than done. Ever try getting a polar bear out of the Zoo? In February Schwartz was in the process of doing just that. The AZA-sponsored Population Management Plan that controls polar bear care decided that Aurora, our Zoo's female polar bear, should be transferred to the Cleveland Zoo. This would make room for a new arrival from Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo that could mate with Zero, our 12-year-old polar bear.

While the curators are involved in the transaction, it's up to Schwartz to fill out the proper paperwork and get the permits. Depending upon the species of the animal, she must clear the move with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and Centers for Disease Control. Polar bear transfers require a letter of authorization from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under Marine Mammal Act regulations.

Even if an animal is not endangered, there still might be regulations placed on how it is to be cared for and shipped. For example, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has classified African meerkats as an "injurious species" because they could upset the ecosystem here if they were to get loose. For the recent transport of three female meerkats to the Capron Park Zoo in Attleboro, MA, our Zoo had to apply for special permits, complete with resumes of the curators and a description of the animals' crates. Incidentally, these transport crates had to have double doors.

For the Zoo to obtain a new animal, the paperwork process can take a few weeks, or it can stretch into months and years. As part of a breeding program with the San Diego Zoo, our Zoo was set to receive two koalas. A female named Taree arrived from San Diego last June. The second one was all set to come, but the government had in the meantime classified



The rascally meerkat is considered an "injurious species" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which requires extensive paperwork to transfer meerkats to other zoos.

koalas as a threatened species. Schwartz had to apply for the proper permits for transfer of a threatened species; the second koala finally is expected to arrive this spring.

Despite an occasional headache, Schwartz said that the Zoo had seen many successes by following the advice of the groups that regulate animal care. Brewster and Barley, for example, have produced three offspring. The genetic makeup of these animals is important: Because their parents were caught in the wild, their offspring can introduce new genes into the population of captive rhinos.

The role Schwartz plays as registrar is a relatively new one in the field; there are fewer than 80 zoo registrars in the country. Yet in this age of collecting data and

CAUTION! ENDANGERED ANIMAL INSIDE

sharing information, the act of keeping detailed and accurate records is vital. On many levels – here at the Zoo, nationally and internationally – Schwartz has been active in shaping the way data are collected and shared; she recently was recognized for her efforts by the Zoo Registrars Association.

Because the job of keeping animal records is relatively new, in 1994 Schwartz and other registrars around the country organized the Zoo Registrars Association (ZRA) training committee to train newcomers to the profession and standardize record-keeping procedures. As committee chair, Schwartz developed records training programs offered at AZA conferences and pioneered the development of AZA's Institutional Records-keeping course. She still co-administers and instructs the course.

Schwartz recently received the ZRA's Marvin Jones Award of Excellence, named after a founding member of ZRA. Because the recipient must receive unanimous approval from the ZRA executive board, only two Marvin Jones awards have been presented since 1994. With Schwartz's leadership, fellow registrars said, the ZRA has been able to focus on training and professional development.

Now Schwartz has expanded her focus internationally. She recently was appointed to the ISIS Science and Technology Advisory Committee as registrar advisor along with an international group of zoo population biologists, species coordinators and worldwide zoo association representatives to assist ISIS in software development and records training for members. In March Schwartz visited the Quito Zoo in Quito, Ecuador, to install record-keeping software and train Zoo staff how to use it. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee is sponsoring the Quito Zoo's membership in ISIS and funded Schwartz's trip.

THIS ↑ END UP

Bonobo Conservation: The Paths Less Traveled

Helping save wildlife can take one down some unusual paths. Consider two scenes last year from Africa's Democratic Republic of Congo, home of the endangered bonobo, one of the four great apes and the only one that lives exclusively in this part of the world.

It's October and a huge ceremony is being held at the International Church of Kinshasa in the capital city of the Congo. The U.S. ambassador is there. The cabinet director of then-Congolese president Laurent Kabila is there. Several important conservation groups are attending. One of the largest religious groups in the Congo, a Protestant church umbrella group called Eglise du Christ au Congo, is honoring a conservation effort led by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and its conservation coordinator, Dr. Gay Reinartz. The church group has agreed to distribute to schools and churches in bonobo areas 40,000 copies of a small conservation booklet. The booklet features a fable about the bonobo and how important it is to protect this animal. As the ceremony's speakers stress that conservation is God's work, one realizes that this is a rare collaboration — yet an extremely effective one, Reinartz believes. The Congolese are fundamentally a religious people. The church has one of the only distribution networks remaining in this war-torn country.

It's November in the heart of the Congo in the Salonga National Park, the only area where bonobos have federal protection, at least in theory. On a river that

is one of the major access routes into the Salonga, Inogwabini Bila-Isia, director of field research in the Congo for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, is overseeing the setup of an anti-poaching river patrol. The Society and its partner, the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., have outfitted 50 guards with uniforms,



Top: Inogwabini Bila-Isia, the Zoological Society's director of field research in the Congo, shows the Society's new office in Kinshasa to a Congolese conservation advocate.

Above: Gay Reinartz, the Zoological Society's conservation coordinator, accepts an honor from a church group in the Congo that will distribute 40,000 copies of a small bonobo-conservation booklet (opposite page, top) produced by the Society.

machetes, tarps, lanterns, rubber boots, backpacks, and two months salary. This is the first time the guards have been paid in many months. It is also the first time that guards have been paid by a conservation organization outside the Congo. The goal is to stop large-scale, commercial poachers from taking protected bonobos and other rare mammals from the park to sell as bush meat.

These scenes represent two very different tactics that are designed to help the bonobo in very practical ways. "We want to slow down the rate at which animals are being killed for bush meat. We want to stop the commercial trade of wild animals by well-armed poachers. This is not a

situation of local people using traditional weapons to hunt for food," says Reinartz, who is national coordinator of the Bonobo Species Survival Plan. She is also instrumental in developing the first worldwide action plan for bonobo conservation, and these projects are part of that plan.

The Milwaukee County Zoo has 13 bonobos, one of the largest captive groups in the world. So it's not surprising that the Zoological Society is directing a significant part of its international efforts in conservation toward the bonobo. For people who question the effectiveness of going into such an unstable country (where the president was assassinated in mid-January) to help the bonobo, Reinartz replies: "If we don't try, the bonobo population may be so depleted in 5 to 10 years that there could be little to save."

The Zoological Society sent a mission into the Salonga in late 1997 to do an initial survey to determine the status of bonobos in the park and plan a large-scale population census. "When the war started eight months later, we had to suspend our field work," says Reinartz. "The war created a more immediate problem: The military occupied prime bonobo territory. Refugees poured into some of these areas that previously had been sparsely populated. There was a proliferation of weapons as well, replacing the traditional means of hunting. Thus, all forms of wildlife were being hunted on a large scale, both to feed refugees and to export meat to urban areas."

So Reinartz and Inogwabini, with the help of the U.S. Agency for International Development, came up with a two-part plan to help with the problem of the war's impact on the bonobo: 1) help pay and outfit guards to stop poachers, and 2) educate the populace not to eat bonobos, which are 98% genetically the same as humans.

During her regular trips to the Congo last year, Reinartz finalized arrangements not only for the bonobo booklet distribution but also for Inogwabini's mission into

the Salonga to set up the crucial anti-poaching checkpoint and to do a second small-scale survey of the status of the bonobo. That survey was completed last December. His team found ample evidence of bonobos but also much evidence of poaching: snares and other traps plus semiautomatic weapons and bush meat confiscated by park guards.

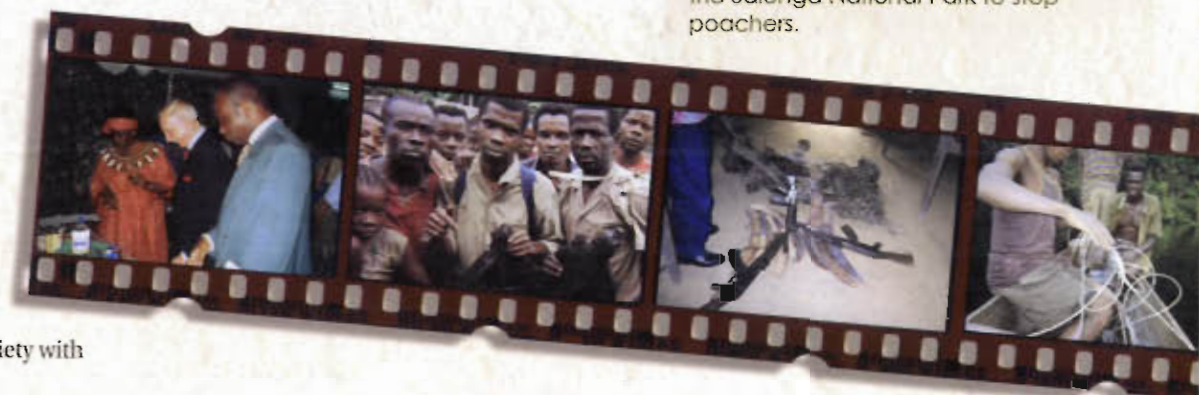
Just getting into the Salonga was an incredible feat. The government denied researchers permission to go into the park for a long time because there was fighting all around the park, explains Reinartz. When they finally got permission, there was the physical problem of getting into the rain-forest interior of a country with almost no transportation infrastructure. The U.S. Embassy helped by arranging transportation via the United Nations. Inogwabini took two park wardens and two researchers from the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature. "The five of them were granted a ride on a UN peacekeeping flight," says Reinartz. "They flew to a city called Boende near the Salonga. From there they walked about 150 km overland to the headquarters of the Salonga's northern sector, at Watshi-Nkengo. Just south of there is where guards established a river barrier (a cable) and anti-poaching checkpoint."

Judy Kern of Viola, Wis., and the Chicago Zoological Society gave the Zoological Society of Milwaukee funds to support the Salonga anti-poaching patrol. Judy's sister, Deb Kern of Milwaukee, donated money to support Inogwabini's mission, "and he is the mind and guts of this whole project," notes Reinartz. The U.S. Agency for International Development gave the Society \$15,000 for educational outreach, which was used to reprint 40,000 copies of the bonobo booklet produced in Kinshasa. (The booklet originally was printed by the Zoological Society with

support from Zoo Pride volunteers and Larry Weiss of Oconomowoc, Wis.). Malcolm Jones of Martha's Vineyard, Mass., gave the Society \$40,000 in the last two years for Congo efforts ranging from the bonobo survey team to the Zoological Society office in Kinshasa, which was opened in August 2000. Laacke & Joys of Milwaukee also donated expedition equipment for the survey team.

More funding is needed, says Reinartz. In addition to maintaining basic operations and continuing anti-poaching efforts, the Zoological Society wants to conduct a longer, more complete survey of bonobos in the Salonga. Reinartz also hopes to expand education efforts in this African country that has few books. "We're in the process of developing another educational piece, on the conservation of tropical forests." It will be in the same comic book format as the bonobo booklet because the illustrations attract more people to the story. "We've also made contacts with the University of Kinshasa to explore strengthening their conservation-biology curriculum and include one of their biologists/faculty members to work on the bonobo project."

She adds: "We must get the support now. We need to maintain our presence in the country, despite the war. If we wait till it is easier, we won't have the trust that we've built with the grass-roots groups and the government." Besides, the bonobos and other wildlife can't wait. 🐾



International Respect

Because of its successful conservation efforts in Africa's Congo, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee has been asked by the United Nations and the Congolese government to receive and manage a large grant (\$106,300 in the first year) to protect the Congo's Salonga National Park. The park is one of five UN World Heritage sites in the Congo. "We have demonstrated our commitment and ability to work in the park," says Gay Reinartz, the Society's conservation coordinator. "Ours is one of the major conservation efforts in this region of the Democratic Republic of Congo." If the Society accepts the grant (which came from funds donated to the UN by CNN founder Ted Turner), says Reinartz, "We would pay the park guards' salaries, obtain basic equipment, and work with the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature to strengthen protection of wildlife in the park."

Photos below (left to right): William Swing (center), U.S. ambassador to the Congo, and staff members from the Congolese Institute for Conservation of Nature, attend a reception for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

Guards paid by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee confiscate monkey skins, guns, and ivory from poachers.

Congolese patrol guards lay a wire barrier across a key river access route into the Salonga National Park to stop poachers.

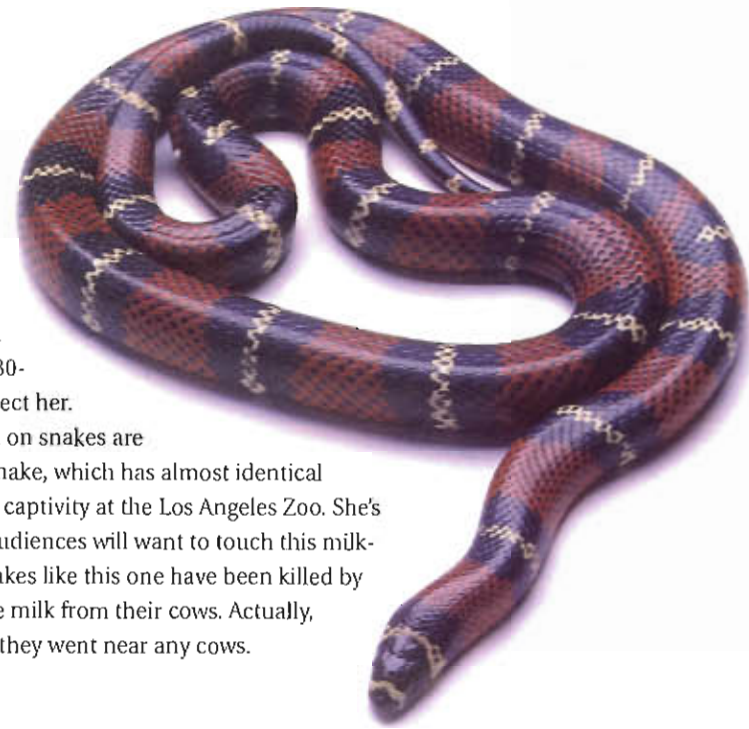
Bonobos at the Milwaukee County Zoo are in a Species Survival Plan. Bonobos in Africa are being hunted and eaten. Photo by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Stuart's Milksnake

Arrived Sept. 26, 2000
Aquatic & Reptile Center

This summer, be sure to meet the Zoo's beautiful new Stuart's milksnake when the Zoo's reptile keepers offer their Animals in Action talks. Craig Berg, aquarium/reptile curator, picked this 30-inch-long snake to show how nature uses mimicry to help protect her.

The raccoons, bears, coyotes and birds of prey that love to feed on snakes are not likely to pounce on this one – fearing she's a deadly coral snake, which has almost identical yellow, red and black bands. This 7-year-old snake was born in captivity at the Los Angeles Zoo. She's gentle, even-tempered and very reluctant to bite. Berg hopes audiences will want to touch this milksnake, to help get over a common fear of snakes. Too often, snakes like this one have been killed by farmers who believed the false tales that these snakes drink the milk from their cows. Actually, these are slow-moving snakes that would be trampled easily if they went near any cows.



Chevrotain

Arrived: October 25, 2000
Small Mammals Building

Mercedes is so tiny she could pass for a miniature poodle. She's actually a 5-year-old miniature deer that won't grow beyond her current height of 16 inches at the head. There's no mistaking that she's a deer. Just look at her large black eyes and shiny black nose. Watch closely and you might even see her tongue flick out for an instant to clean her eyes of any dust or dirt. If she lived in her native habitat in the rain forests and mangroves of Southeast Asia, she would need to clear her eyes of dust as she moved beneath shrubs and undergrowth. When she's chewing her cud, you'll see her distinctive white throat that looks like a necklace with three cream-colored rays extending vertically down her throat, neck and chest. Mercedes grew up as

part of a small herd in the Denver Zoo before coming to the Milwaukee County Zoo.

She's still a bit skittish in the home she now shares here with Chevy (also called Lady), a smaller but much older chevrotain. "We like to name these small hoofed animals after cars," says Schaefer. "Chevy and Mercedes are getting along fine. Mercedes is very, very shy. She's just starting now to come out of her stall for the public."

Ring-Tailed Lemur

Arrived: October 25, 2000
Small Mammals Building

The Zoo's new ring-tailed lemur, Ann (at bottom in photo), had a little trouble introducing herself on her first day on exhibit. Usually, lemurs rub their scent on their tails, then introduce themselves by flicking and waving their tails high above their heads in greeting. But Ann has only half her tail (apparently from some accident in the past). So she had to wait while the Zoo's existing lemur, Gandolph, got used to sharing his exhibit area with her. But Gandolph was lonely. His former lemur companion, Rudy, had grown very old and died last May. It took just a day for Gandolph and Ann to become close friends, grooming one another, eating, sleeping and playing together. Lemurs are gentle creatures that purr like cats or let out a haunting call, says Nina Schaefer, supervisor of the Small Mammals Building. In their native habitat of Madagascar, they would be living in a diverse forest and eating fruits, leaves, flowers and herbs. Here, zookeepers mix up a fruit and vegetable medley for them. You'll recognize the small monkey-like lemurs by the white rings on their tails.



Bali Mynah

Born: December 3, 2000
Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary

It took a last-minute rescue by zookeepers to save the lives of the Zoo's only Bali Mynah chick and its father this winter, bringing to an end a tender love story. Bali Mynahs are so rare that fewer than 20 of these birds still live in a nature preserve on the Indonesian island of Bali, their native home. The birds might be totally extinct had zoos not been able to breed about 1,000 of them through a Species Survival Program (SSP). At the Milwaukee County Zoo, there had been no chicks since the female mynah lost her mate nearly five years ago. Twice she was introduced to new males, only to rebuff them. Then keepers introduced her to a male that had been paired to another female unsuccessfully. The two birds started nesting within weeks and soon hatched two chicks, though only one survived. The hatchlings made international news since Bali mynahs are so rare. All went well till late January, when a zookeeper found the mother mynah dead in the free-flying exhibit that is home to several birds. The killers? Two laughing thrushes. Zookeepers later discovered the thrushes attacking the male mynah and whisked him and the fledgling to safety. The male was

not injured. Shortly after, the laughing thrushes were moved to live with the eclectus parrot, a much larger bird that can defend herself. The mynah fledgling eventually will go to another Zoo to enter the breeding program for captive birds. Kim Smith, curator of birds, will ask the Bali mynah SSP coordinator for a new female for the now-single dad mynah. Meanwhile, in February, a second pair of Bali mynahs was nesting off exhibit, and keepers were hoping for more chicks.



10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226
<http://www.zoosociety.org>

Address Service Requested

**DATED MATERIAL
DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY**

**MOVING?
PLEASE LET US KNOW!**

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 4073

Remember, Members:

Zoological Society members get FREE admission to Ameritech's Reptiles: Real & Robotic during Nights in June and Kids Nights, plus a sneak peak at these new exhibits:

Impala Country

funded by the Holz Family Foundation,
premiering at **Nights In June**
June 11-14

Big Cat Encounter

premiering at **Kids Nights**
sponsored by Jays &
Roundy's Pick'n Save
July 10, 12, 13

