

Alive



INSIDE:
Bird Breeding Success
Future Zoo & Past, Too

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.

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President's Letter

We all know that we need to work harder and longer these days to be successful. That's a consequence of the economy, the re-focusing of our attention on terrorism, and additional charitable projects in the United States and worldwide. Within this challenging fund-raising environment, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee has much to be proud of, including these successes just in the last year:

- Our Annual Appeal, with a generous kickoff gift from the Carl and Ruth Gosewehr family, helped build the Milwaukee County Zoo's impressive new Macaque Island facility and remodel the monkeys' island. A covered deck over the facility already was put to use during our summer camps by educators who had children observing monkeys as scientists would. (See observation tips on page 13.)
- We helped bring two fascinating special exhibits to the Zoo: SBC's Dinosaur Island in the summer and Firstar's Cats! Wild to Mild last winter. The Zoological Society's involvement included recruiting sponsor support (\$95,000) and contributing operational dollars (\$385,000), as well as providing an educational program to school-children visiting the winter exhibit.
- We joined the Zoo in breaking ground for a new Animal Health Center in June and will be breaking ground for a new Zoological Society conservation education center in spring. (See story on page 4.)
- Our board of directors has been raising money quietly for the Zoological Society's part of a major capital campaign for the Zoo, a joint venture with Milwaukee County. We've acquired lead gifts of up to \$3 million, including one for the building to house our education programs. The building will be named the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center.
- Our staff, interns and Zoo Pride volunteers have made significant contributions to the Zoo - from our artists providing a professional image through improved signage, banners, and publications to a dedicated education team that put on one of our largest summer camp seasons ever, serving more than 6,800 participants.
- Our Zoological Society members have been very supportive, from sponsoring Zoo animals such as grizzly bear cubs to contributing to our Annual Appeal.

By collectively working together we have made it through some tough times and shown that we can meet today's challenges. We need your continued support. You'll be getting a request for the new Annual Appeal, to help build the Animal Health Center. And we'll need help with other parts of the capital campaign. We're counting on you! Thanks.

Gil Boese

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

Alive

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Features

4 The Changing Face of the Zoo

Dreams came true at the Milwaukee County Zoo as two new buildings go up: the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center and the Animal Health Center. Learn why they're both needed.

8 Breeding Success With Birds

The Zoo has had distinguished success breeding birds in captivity, particularly endangered and threatened species. Hear tales of success with Bali mynors, Humboldt penguins, marabou storks, spangled colingos, and sun bitterns.

16 Careers Camp: Jobs at the Zoo

Children interview Zoo staff and learn about lesser-known zoo careers in a new 2002 summer camp called "You in the Zoo: Careers."

18 A Hunt for History

Finally, the Zoo's history is getting a little respect. Find out for yourself when the first elephant arrived here and the first polar bear was born.



For the first time, the Zoological Society is offering two pewter holiday ornaments: a camel mom and baby, and a badger, the Wisconsin state animal. Designed by Port Washington artist Andy Schumann, the ornaments (which can be worn as pendants) cost \$14 each and raise funds for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. To order, use the form inserted into this Alive.



On the cover: This composite photo is of a mole spangled colinga (left) and his female mate. Story on page 8.

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 President's Letter
- 7 Conservation Chronicles
- 10 Society Page
- 15 Serengeti Circle
- 20 Platypus Society
- 22 What's Gnu

KIDS ALIVE

11-14 Zoo animals, puzzles and activities, on exchange between Belize and Wisconsin

Left: At a Zoological Society summer camp, children learn to observe monkeys as scientists do (page 13).

The Changing Face of the Zoo

Two dreams are coming true at the Milwaukee County Zoo in the next year. A hospital and an education center will be built as part of a capital campaign that is swinging into high gear. The campaign is a joint project of the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County.

For years the Zoological Society's extremely popular summer camps have overflowed the three-classroom building on the Zoo grounds, with many camps being held in rented trailers that were cramped and often noisy (see photos). So it has been a dream of the Society to erect a larger, more conveniently located building for its year-round workshops and camps. Thanks to a major gift from the Bernard and Miriam Peck Foundation, the Society and Zoo will break ground soon for a new conservation education center.

The Society will finance nearly 100% of the \$3.3 million building, and it will be named the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center.

The Zoo and Society broke ground for the new hospital – to be called the Animal Health Center – in June with hopes that it will be completed by the end of next summer. For years Zoo staff have dreamed of having a facility built specifically as a hospital, rather than the cramped quarters they have now in a bunker-style building converted into a hospital. More space and better facilities are needed to keep up with increased standards for animal care and to meet government regulations. (See story on page 6.) The Zoological Society's role in the \$4,150,000 project (not including new medical equipment) is to build the visitors' education area and to manage the building's construction to make sure it stays within the design and the budget.

The education and animal-care centers are just two of 11 projects that are part of a multiyear capital campaign that will cost \$29,628,500. The Society's commitment is \$14.8 million. Three projects already have been completed: a new Japanese macaque monkey facility and remodeled island; the Holz Family Impala Country remodeled impala and bongo exhibits; and a Zoo

restaurant next to Lake Evinrude. Still on the drawing board are renovation of the Feline Building, redesign of the Stackner Heritage Farm for children, renovation of the African large-animal exhibits (hippos, elephants, giraffes), a modernized and easier-to-access vehicular entrance to the Zoo, an atrium orientation center, and a remodeled Peck Welcome Center Theater.

"We have completed the quiet phase of the Zoological Society's portion of the capital campaign," says Society president Dr. Gil Boese. "All of our board members are involved, and we have acquired lead gifts of up to \$3 million. We are very pleased that we can help improve the quality of the Zoo experience and improve environments for the animals."

The new conservation education center will be on the edge of the Zoo's center parking lot so it will be easy for parents to drop off children at workshops or camps. The current education center is in Stackner Heritage Farm, a several-minute walk from the parking lot and not accessible by car. Given that we had 6,800 participants in 350 sessions of our 2002 summer camps, the new accessibility will be appreciated.

Trailers used for the Zoological Society summer camps (above) do not have as much room inside as classrooms in the proposed conservation education center (right, tentative design).



The new two-story building will be 300 feet long, contain more than 25,000 square feet and be located between the parking lot and the Zoo's railroad tracks. For safety, an earthen berm and a fence will separate the tracks from the building's "back yard." The building's style will be "contemporary rustic," built with timber, cracked fieldstone, brick and aluminum. It will include a light-filled central atrium.

Eight classrooms – six on the ground floor and two on the upper level – will allow the Zoological Society to hold all its summer camps within the building and meet increasing demand for expansion. Children in 2002 summer camps held in trailers looked forward to camps in the new building. "The classrooms would have running water to wash your hands and be closer to bathrooms," said Ellen Byler, 12, of Waukesha. Added Katie Bartelt, 10, of Hubertus: "An education center would give us more room to sit and learn."

Thousands of children also attend the Society's academic-year workshops, signing up either as individuals or with their school classes. Some workshops provide science programs to complement a school's

curriculum; some introduce children as young as age 2 and 3 to the world of animal science; and almost all include a Zoo tour. The new building will allow for added workshops, more computer workstations, and even more emphasis on conservation and animal science.

The Society's current Sensory Safari program, designed to introduce conservation topics to people with disabilities, has been growing. "We are seeing larger numbers of children attending Sensory Safari because schools have had to cut back on their special-education programs," says Boese. To meet this need, the Society has designed one classroom to be a natural history lab that will accommodate people with disabilities.

Dr. Dawn St. George, the Society's education director, says that for more than 20 years the Society has been educating children about the value of wildlife and the environment. "When you reach children early with the message of conservation, they are more likely to develop a lifelong connection to the natural world."

Continued on next page



Better Health Care

A year from now Dr. Roberta Wallace expects to be treating her animal patients in a new building that was designed just for animal health care. That will be a big change from the current hospital, which lacks a sterile surgery room, lacks space to house large primates that need to be in quarantine, and lacks equipment to handle large animals such as gorillas. Converted from an animal-holding facility, the current 7,500-square-foot building can't even accommodate adequately all the staff much less animal patients.

The new 16,000-square-foot facility will have specialized wards for the animals, says Wallace. "Now we can't always separate new-to-the-Zoo healthy animals that come in for routine quarantine from sick animals because we don't have enough ward space. The new building will have a cold room for animals such as penguins, a warm room for reptiles and other animals that need warmth, stalls with pools for waterfowl, eight stalls for hooved stock (instead of the two we have now), and a separate quarantine facility for primates that should be housed in isolation. Primates imported from outside the United States have to be isolated in quarantine for at least 30 days to monitor for diseases. Right now some other Zoo has to take our primates for the quarantine period."

The new Animal Health Center is being built at the north end of the Zoo behind the aviary. The Zoological Society is in charge of creating a 1,000-square-foot, visitor-education area that explains what the veterinarians, Zoo



In 2001 then-student Andrea Sabon (front) worked with Dr. Roberta Wallace (center) and intern Devon Huring to anesthetize a king vulture for an exam.

dentist, eye specialists, technicians and other workers do. Visitors can look through viewing windows into the animal-treatment room and surgery.

When the facility is completed by the end of next summer, Wallace, who is the Zoo's senior veterinarian, will coordinate the moving of staff and equipment to the new building. Meanwhile, Wallace is excited about the improved care the animals will receive. The new facility will be worthy of the top-class reputation that the Milwaukee County Zoo has.



Help Build a Hospital

You can help construct the Zoo's new Animal Health Center. Please contribute to the Zoological Society's Annual Appeal, which is raising money for the center. Call us anytime with a credit card to contribute: (414) 258-2333. Ask us about benefits for donors of \$100 or more.

Panama Bats

Imagine looking for bats at night 8,000 feet up in a cloud forest in Panama. That's what Angela Aarhus did for six months, at least nine nights a month, often from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. During the day she taught schoolchildren in a rural village on the edge of the forest.

Thanks to a nearly \$2,000 grant from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and some other funding, Aarhus was able to buy equipment to conduct a study on Panama bats at high elevations. She designed the study and asked for grants during the first year of a two-year stint teaching for the U.S. Peace Corps in the Central American Republic of Panama.



Below left: Angela Aarhus weighs a bat while Panamanian student Delbys Fonseca records data.

Left: Fonseca holds up a great fruit-eating bat (*Artibeus lituratus*).

"As in many countries, most people in Panama are scared of bats. Most think that all bats drink blood and carry rabies," says Aarhus. She taught people in a small farming village in the western province of Chiriqui that the bats in La Amistad (Friendship) International Park near their village control insects, disperse seeds, pollinate plants and are a "key-stone species" important to the forest's survival. "People were surprised by the fact that of all the bats I caught, not one was a vampire bat."

What she did find was that one resident nectar-drinking bat, Geoffroy's hairy-legged bat, was important to the survival of one species of flower because that bat was that flower's main pollinator. The flower, however, was also important to the bat because the bat reproduced only when the flower was present.

Her goal was to gather basic data that had never been collected on the diversity and habitat requirements of highland bats in Panama. This data, combined with information from studies of Panama bats at lower elevations, will be used to educate Panamanians about the value of bats. It also may help improve park management aimed at conserving bats.

From May through November 2001, she captured and banded 1,050 bats representing 15 species. Her results will be combined with those of Ph.D. student Rafael Samudio of Panama (doing research for the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute), who helped Aarhus design her study and allowed her to work under his research permit. The future of bat conservation in Central American countries,

especially at middle and high elevations, may rely on data they collected, she says.

Aarhus got local villagers involved in her study. She hired a student to go with her at night to put up large mist nets to capture bats. Village women who at first were afraid of bats lost their fear after seeing Aarhus handle them. Then they offered to help her. These women formed part of a local eco-tourism group that cooked for tourists visiting the beautiful cloud forest and waterfalls of La Amistad. "They talked to tourists about the value of bats. The eco-tourism group also helped me teach environmental education in the school," says Aarhus. "So this was an opportunity to teach townspeople plus kids in school, as well as the tourists."

Aarhus' research was her master's thesis at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, where she graduated last May with a master's degree in natural resource management. A native of Orange, Calif., Aarhus, 26, was in the Masters International Program, co-sponsored by the Peace Corps and the university. She credits Eric Anderson, a professor of wildlife ecology at Stevens Point, with providing her guidance and logistical support while she was in Panama.

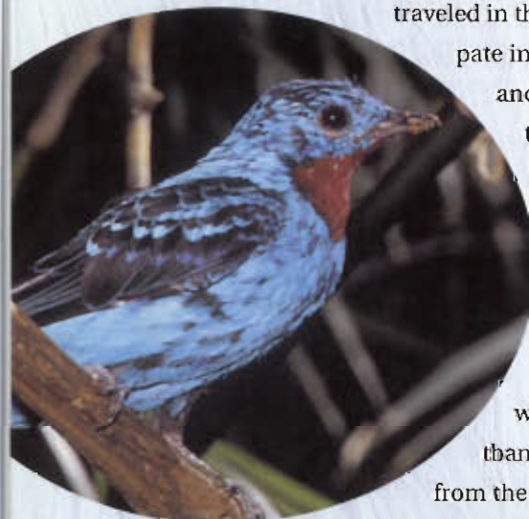


Breeding Success...

The Bali mynah, one of the rarest birds on Earth, is thriving at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Zoo's Bali mynahs have produced four chicks since December 2000. Our Zoo also is the first in North America to breed and fledge a spangled cotinga, a beautiful rain-forest bird native to South America. There are fewer than 20 spangled cotingas in North American zoos.

Eggs and chicks – you'd think birds would have an easy time producing them. Yet breeding can be difficult, especially in captivity. When a bird species is endangered, any individual bird's success at breeding can become a matter of worldwide concern, at least among bird experts. So the Milwaukee County Zoo's success in breeding birds has made headlines.

"The main reason for our success," says bird curator Kim Smith, "is the dedication of the keeper staff. These talented professionals work very hard doing research, problem-solving and developing ways to set up successful breeding environments for the birds. One staff member is involved with the cotinga specialist group with the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. Another staff member conducts a bird-banding study on Zoo grounds on migratory songbirds. Our staff has traveled in the Midwest to participate in piping plover research and as far away as Chile to do research on Humboldt penguins (projects partly supported by the Zoological Society)."



When the aviary was remodeled in 1992, thanks to an endowment from the Herb & Nada Mahler Family, it was well-designed for the birds, says Smith. "The exhibits are very conducive to breeding: They're large and have lots of plants. We also can capture birds easily for health inspections without causing a lot of trauma because we have trap areas built into the exhibits."

Above: Male spangled cotinga
Top right: Bali mynah



Here are some of the success stories:

Bali mynahs

"There are over 500 Bali mynahs in the captive population, but there are fewer than 20 in the wild, if there are any at all," says Smith. Getting captive birds to breed is crucial to the survival of this species. When a female Bali mynah at the Zoo rejected two males in a row, zookeepers worried about introducing her to a third, especially since he had killed another female mynah. Yet the third male worked like a charm. They hatched their first chicks in December 2000, which made international news. Then, tragedy. In January 2001 the female was killed by two large thrushes in the same exhibit. Then, good news. In February 2001, the Zoo's other pair of Bali mynahs hatched three chicks, and all survived. The male that lost his mate is waiting to be matched up with another female so that the Zoo again can have two breeding pairs.

Spangled cotingas

The breeding pair were first introduced in 1998. They were both wild-caught in Surinam, South America. They fledged two chicks in May 2001, and another one in spring 2002. "We kept a female offspring from last year," says Smith. "We're hoping to pair her with another captive male. While spangled cotingas are relatively common in the wild, we're using them as a model to develop conservation techniques for others in that family of birds that are endangered. We tried to duplicate breeding conditions in the wild, with lots of plant cover and tree branches that

...with Birds

are at least 24 feet high. They typically nest at least 20 feet up in the rain-forest canopy. We also added a shower curtain there to block her view of us. That's where she's nested three times in a row."

Sun bitterns

The Zoo's female sun bittern delighted zookeepers in 2001 when, at age 18 (quite old for this bird), she gave birth



for the first time. Smith had played matchmaker. The female bird had been at the St. Louis Zoo paired to a male she apparently hated, says Smith. Our Zoo had a male that was very attentive but had not been able to produce a chick with our Zoo's female. So Smith persuaded the person who coordinates sun bittern breeding to send the St. Louis female to breed with our 10-year-old male. Voila! They had their first chick in March 2001 and a second chick in spring 2002. The second chick unfortunately later had an accident, injuring the tendons in its legs, and did not survive. "Chicks have accidents," says Smith. "It doesn't reflect on the mom's breeding success. She's the most valuable bird in the entire U.S. captive population

because she's from Europe, she has never bred before and her offspring will increase the genetic diversity of our population."

Marabou storks



Winona and Gomez, the Zoo's marabou stork pair, have been great at mating but not always the most successful at raising young. So zookeepers gave them some help. This pair had one chick

hatch on Feb. 14 and then clutched another three eggs in March. Two eggs were put in incubators, and one was left with the parents but died about 15 days later. In candling the incubating eggs (holding them in front of a light to check the chick inside), keepers noticed that one of the chicks inside was turned the wrong way, so that it could not get air from the egg's air sac during the hatching process. Before the chick could die, Smith carefully broke open the shell. The chick lived and is now doing well. Its name? Wrong Way. The chick born on Valentine's Day was named Valentina and has gone to the Indianapolis Zoo to breed with a male.

From left: Sun bittern, young marabou stork, Humboldt penguin chick

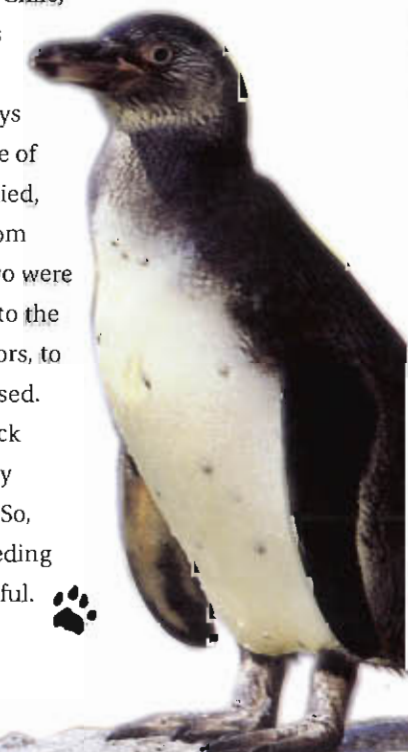
Humboldt penguins

"We're one of the most successful zoos at breeding Humboldt penguins," says Smith. The habitats of these birds, off the coasts of Chile and Peru, are threatened. "A Humboldt penguin will feed a

family of eight. So it's hard to protect them in Peru because there are starving families." Two penguin eggs hatched here in May and another three in July. The first two eggs were taken from their parents and given to a gray-banded pair to foster

because that pair had proved to be great parents and yet were over-represented in the gene pool and not allowed to breed. All the chicks went into the outdoor Taylor Family Penguin Exhibit. Despite the adults' breeding and fostering success, the chicks ran into a killer heat wave of 90-degree summer days.

"When these penguins nest off the coast of Chile, it never gets over 50 degrees," says Smith. Three of the chicks died, probably from the heat. Two were transferred to the cooler indoors, to be hand-raised. One was back on exhibit by September. So, overall, breeding was successful.





Support from Small Business

This is part of a series of stories on how people help the Zoo through the Zoological Society

One of the ways small food businesses support the Zoological Society is by setting up a food booth at the Zoo for the Society's membership events. Another way is to become members of the Platypus Society by increasing their financial support to the Zoological Society. Two Milwaukee-area businesses have done both. Palermo's Pizza and V. Richards both are Platypus Society members and both also sold food from booths during the Zoological Society's Kids Nights on July 9, 11 and 12. Palermo's also had a booth at Nights in June, June 12-14. Here's a look at each of these companies:

Platypus Pizza?

The Giacomo Fallucca family of Palermo's™ Pizza, has been a member of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee on and off since 1987. According to Laurie Fallucca, director of marketing, they became a Platypus Society member last year because they "like supporting local organizations." As for being a vendor at the Zoo for the Society, Giacomo (Jack) Fallucca, president, says: "The setting is really fun, with the animals and the members and their families. We're always busy, but it is still a relaxed, low-stress environment." Palermo's has food booths at many area festivals and events, employing area teenagers as staff. Fallucca says that he and his staff especially enjoy the fun, family-oriented crowd at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Palermo's also donated pizzas for the Zoological Society's bowling fund-raiser last winter.



Nick Fallucca of Palermo's serves a supreme pizza as Laura Doll (left) and Sarah Kehoe prepare to slice and serve.

Gourmet Touch

V. Richards' association with the Zoological Society goes back more than 15 years through the involvement of Liz Little, who is currently on the Society's Associate Board, and her father, Vince Little. In June Little and her sister sold V. Richards to Nehring's Sendik's, but the gourmet food store continued its association with the Society. V. Richards has donated items to Zoo Balls, been a Platypus Society member since 1993 and sponsored a fund-raiser wine tasting for the Society, in 1997. Catering & Cuisine by V. Richards had a food booth at the Zoo for the first time at Kids Nights this year. Victoria Syslack, co-director of catering, was pleased to make available some "upscale" foods to Society members, foods such as bruschetta, gourmet cheese and crackers, and chicken-cashew salad. Syslack says she enjoyed the opportunity to support the Zoological Society and the Zoo "while having a good time in a beautiful environment."



Patty Soldan of Catering & Cuisine by V. Richards shows a sampler of foods they offered during Kids Nights.

Kids Alive

www.zoosociety.org

Champion Mom

"Laura the bonobo is an outstanding mom," says bonobo zookeeper Barbara Bell. That's important because bonobos are endangered great apes that are disappearing from the wild. The Milwaukee County Zoo and other zoos are trying to breed more bonobos so they will not become extinct. Laura, age 35 (shown at right with her second baby), had her third baby on Aug. 23. Laura already is mom to Murph, 12; Zanga Mokila, 3½; and Makanza, now 8, whom she adopted when he was a baby. Sometimes she also looks after Zuri, 4. With the new baby, she may end up having five "kids" around her. That's often how you can recognize Laura in the bonobo exhibit at the Zoo: the mom with all the young ones. More facts about Laura:

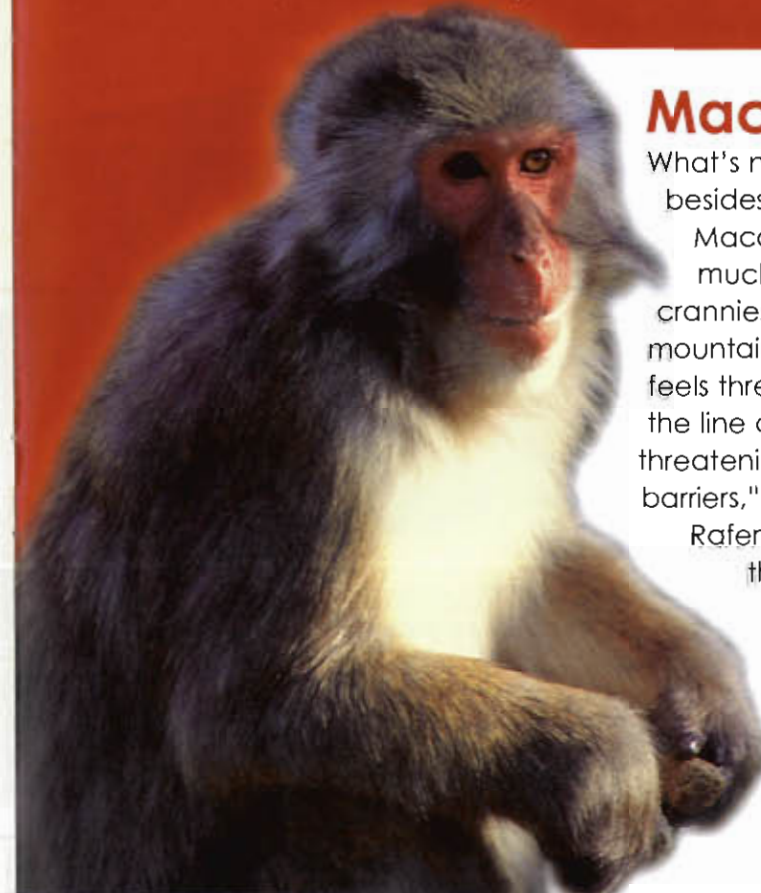
- She likes to get ultrasound exams. An ultrasound machine shows the baby inside her abdomen.
- Bonobos gestate (grow inside their moms) from 35 to 40 weeks.
- In the wild, bonobos live only in one area: Africa's Congo River area.



Macaque Island

What's new about Monkey Island besides the name change to Macaque Island? The mountain is much taller, has more nooks and crannies and has two waterfalls. "The mountain is set up so that if an animal feels threatened, he can get out of the line of sight of the monkey that is threatening him. They're called sight barriers," says primate curator Jan Rafert. "The inside of the building is

the same way: There are always places to go, to get out of the way." Each room has two monkey doors. Zoo visitors cannot see the monkeys when they go inside, but on the upper part of the building there's a large new covered deck where you can watch the monkeys on the island (see page 13). These monkeys like the cold. So they stay out all winter.



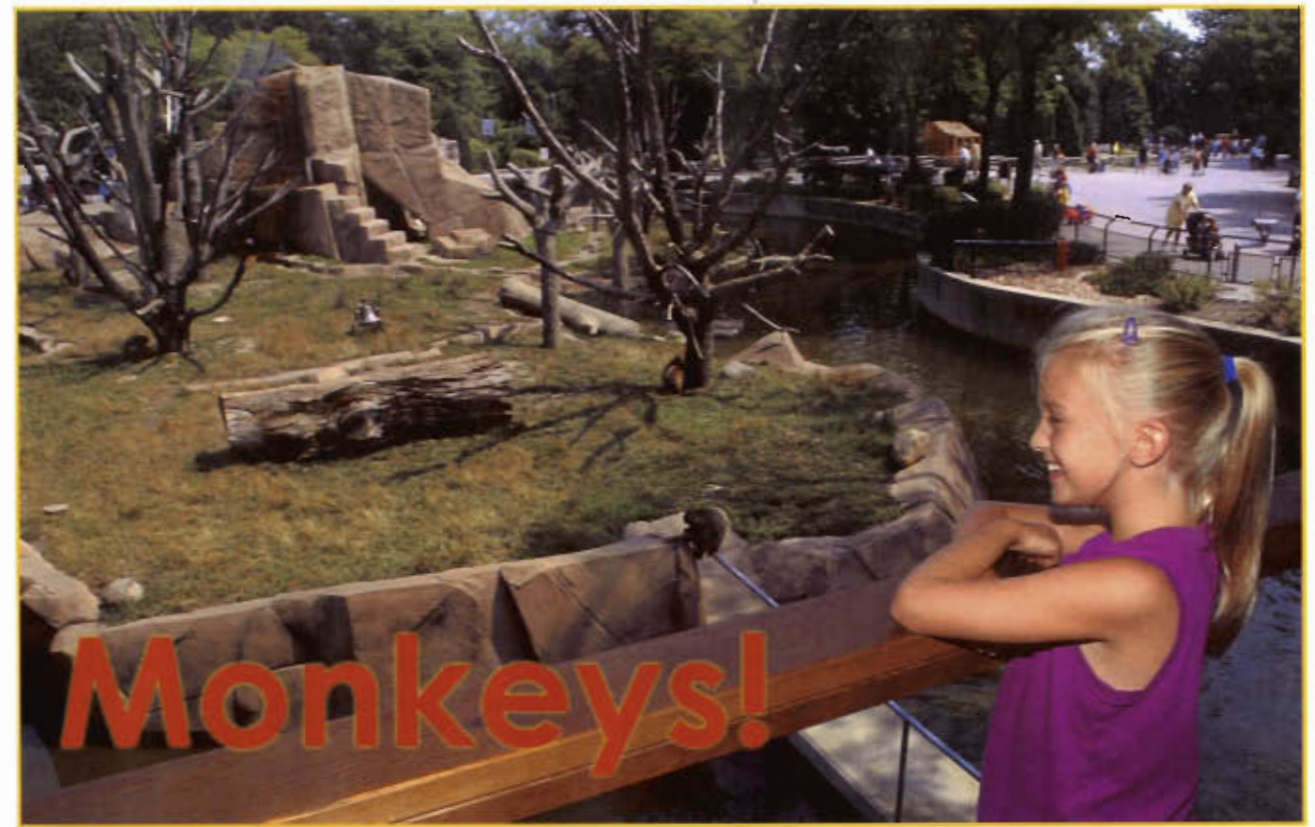
Conservation & Belize

The Zoological Society has conservation and education projects in the Central American country of Belize (See story on page 14.). The words at left below refer to conservation in Belize and Wisconsin. Find these words in the grid of letters below and circle them. Words may be forward, backward, up, down or diagonal.

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| BELIZE | JAGUAR |
| BIRDS | MANATEE |
| CAPTIVE BREEDING | MAYA |
| CAYE | MIGRATION |
| CONSERVATION | OCEAN |
| CORAL REEF | OCELOT |
| ENDANGERED | RAIN FOREST |
| GREEN IGUANA | RUNAWAY CREEK |
| HABITAT | SCARLET MACAW |
| HAWKSBILL TURTLE | SIBUN RIVER |
| JABIRU STORK | SPECIES SURVIVAL |
| | SPIDER MONKEY |
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O	A	V	X	M	C	C	I	A	A	N	A	T	E	R	S
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N	I	K	R	O	T	S	U	R	I	B	A	J	A	E	W
I	O	K	E	E	R	C	Y	A	W	A	N	U	R	W	A
A	N	S	P	I	D	E	R	M	O	N	K	E	Y	Q	H
R	S	I	B	U	N	R	I	V	E	R	S	D	R	I	B

Let's Study



The next time you come to the Zoo, be an ethologist.

That's a person who studies animal behavior, practicing the science of ethology (ē thā'uh jē). Go to the covered deck looking over Macaque Island and watch the 26 Japanese macaques (muh kaks'), called snow monkeys, that live there year-round. You can learn a lot from zoo animals because you can observe behavior that you can't in the wild, mainly because you can't get close enough. The best way to practice ethology is to watch an animal for 24 hours a day. Since you don't have that much time, pick one monkey and watch it for seven minutes. (Note: If you lose sight of your monkey, pick another one and start over. Use a watch to time seven minutes.) This will help you answer the question: How does a snow monkey spend its time? Now, check off all the behaviors below that you see the monkey do in seven minutes and how many times each behavior occurred.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbed on the ropes. | <input type="checkbox"/> Ran. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbed a tree. | <input type="checkbox"/> Walked. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Climbed on the mountain. | <input type="checkbox"/> Chased another monkey. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ate some food.
What kind? _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Was chased by another monkey. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dipped its food in the moat water. | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocalized. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groomed another monkey (picked through its hair). | <input type="checkbox"/> Mode noise with the wooden wind chimes. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Was groomed by another monkey. | <input type="checkbox"/> Crossed the bridge and went indoors. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Groomed itself. <input type="checkbox"/> Scratched its body. | |



Dipping food in water

Monkeys & Apes

Rearrange the boxes below to reveal a message. Each box must keep the letters it has in it.



VET	S; A	SHA	OT.	PES	KEY	AIL	DON	MON

Bridging Cultures

How do you save songbirds? One way is to build a bridge between children in two very different countries. Teach them how to conserve birds in their own country. Then let them talk to each other about how they're doing it.

Many songbirds fly south to the country of Belize during Wisconsin's fall. They fly back to Wisconsin in spring to have baby birds. A Zoological Society project called Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin FronterasSM (BWB-ASF)* has studied migratory and other birds to learn better ways to help conserve birds. The project also has taught children in the Midwest and in Belize how to observe birds and create better habitats for them.

Along the way, the project has created a cultural exchange between the U.S. and the Belizean children. It started when students from Deer Creek Middle School in St. Francis (Wis.) made a videotape tour of their school for Belizean students. "The tape inspired students in Belize, who wrote letters and created exchange packets filled

with photos, maps, crafts and audiotapes," says Kerry Scanlan education coordinator of BWB-ASF. On one trip to Belize, Scanlan made a videotape of Belizean students and showed it to students in many of the Midwest schools in BWB-ASF. One class that saw the tape

Items sent from Belize students: coins, pictures, cords, belt, rattle, calendar.



From left: Michael Crumrine, Marquis Cobbs, Brianna Feller and Matthew Lathrop from Milwaukee Montessori School look at letters sent to Belize.

was at Milwaukee Montessori School. Sara Pearce, an upper elementary class teacher there, says: "I think our kids enjoyed seeing how much the kids in Belize are like them. They have the same giggly moments. They have similar music." Says Scanlan: "They also noted the differences: open-air classrooms in Belize, no cafeteria, very little technology, kids speaking English with an accent."

Milwaukee Montessori School students shared what they had done to help birds. "We put up bird feeders, and we worked with land managers who helped us put in a baby prairie on school grounds with native plants that are good habitat for birds," says Pearce.

Stephen Diaz, a student at Roaring Creek School in Belize's Cayo District, wrote a letter to Midwest students about the national bird of Belize, the toucan: "It is a precious animal. Anyone caught hurting the toucan could be arrested." He included an aluminum toucan he had made. He added that he was sorry about Sept. 11 and that he prayed for an end to violence.

Says Scanlan, who has made copies of the children's letters and distributed them to the various BWB-ASF schools: "This exchange demonstrates how children are similar no matter where they may be from. The exchange gives students an expanded world view and also may create international friendships." In the end, birds benefit, but so do people.



The Serengeti Circle is an exclusive group of corporations and foundations that support the Zoo and Zoological Society through grants and sponsorship of special events, exhibits/attractions, educational and conservation programs, and promotions at the \$2,500 level and above. For more information on sponsorship opportunities at the Zoo, please call Patty Harigan, (414) 302-9485.

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 - Father's Day at the Zoo
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- metroparent**
 - Playhouse Raffle*
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 - Nights In June Entertainment



Kimberly-Clark Corp. has been a longtime supporter of the Zoological Society and the Zoo. Its Huggies Pull-Ups™ is a sponsor of the strollers that the Zoo rents to visitors. Here Kelly Savage of Wisconsin Rapids secures her younger daughters, Sierra, 2, and Shyenne, 3, while Shyenne, 5, holds the back of the stroller.

*BWB-ASF is a project run by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and its partner, the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. For more information, check the Web site: www.zoosociety.org and select Conservation/Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin Fronteras.

Careers Camp: Jobs at the Zoo

When you ask children what kind of jobs people do at a zoo, most of them say zookeeper or vet. They're not aware of the variety of specialties a major zoo requires. So the Zoological Society education staff designed a summer camp just for ages 12-14 (when children often start thinking about careers) to expose them to a variety of careers in the biological sciences. It was called You in the Zoo: Careers.



Bess Frank, the Zoo's curator of large mammals, answers questions about her job from children in a zoo-careers camp. Opposite page, top: Karin Schwartz, Zoo registrar, demonstrates a device called a transponder that reads microchips injected into some animals to identify them.

"A second goal," says James Mills, the careers-camp instructor, "was to have these older kids [ages 12-14 are the oldest we currently serve in summer camps] graduate from their summer camp years knowing something of the conservation activities and value of the Milwaukee County Zoo, particularly how the Zoo's animal-

management staff (registrar and curators) work with staff at many other institutions for the betterment of captive animals AND these animals' wild relatives. We also wanted the kids to know why collaboration is so important in assuring the long-term health of captive populations."

So the children met with the Zoo registrar, Karin Schwartz; the curator of large mammals, Bess Frank; and elephant zookeepers Ray Hren and Tracey Dolphin.

Matt Thompson, 14, of Brookfield, and his sister Karen, 12, both were interested in becoming Zoological Society interns after taking this camp. Both also were surprised by what they discovered: "I thought that there were specific people who only did the dirty work and cleaned the cages, and some people who did the fun stuff," says Matt. "And I learned that it was the same people who do both. We found out that there are so many different jobs needed to run a zoo effectively.



There are nutritionists, record keepers, people who check on animal medications, trainers, people who manage the number and kinds of species."

Karen, who is considering a career in medicine, was fascinated by the amount of record keeping that zookeepers and veterinarians need to do. In the aquarium she was amazed to learn that some of the fish weigh as much as a child, 98 pounds or more. That means they can be heavy to lift and transport.

Chelsea Howard, 12, of New Berlin, likes the idea of being a zookeeper. "You get to interact with the animals and have fun with them." Of course, you also get to pick up their poop. Many zookeepers get special instruction in how to train animals so the animals can help with their own health care, such as an elephant holding its foot up for a zookeeper to clean. Zookeepers have to learn how to protect themselves and be safe with the animals. For example, when Tracey Dolphin (right) works with the elephants outdoors, she stands on the other side of the moat from them.


Part of zookeeper Ray Hren's job is to give the 1:30 p.m. daily elephant talk in summer. Children in the camp heard him explain: "Elephants need daily care. Besides feeding, they get a bath every day and their feet are checked. Once a week we work on their feet to get rid of dead tissue. It's just like us clipping our nails."

While zookeepers aren't required to have a college degree, children learned, many of them do. Hren, for example, who has worked at the Zoo for 13 years, has a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology.

Registrar Karin Schwartz (Left) explained how she keeps track of the Zoo's 2,000 animals: their Latin names, common names, nicknames (Lucy the African elephant), their dates of birth and death, the date they arrived from or departed to another zoo, their gender, the cost of an animal if it was purchased (for example, it cost \$50 for a spectacled mousebird last March), and much more.

Bess Frank explained that the Zoo's curators do the overall planning for their areas. As curator of large mammals, she is in charge of pachyderms, felines, Australian animals and the North American areas (grizzly bears, moose, elk, etc.).

Frank, who has worked here since 1987, previously worked at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. She told the children of a humorous incident there: One night a guard checking the reptile house panicked when he thought he saw a snake that had gotten loose, and he shot it. Turned out he shot a hose.

"I liked talking to people who work here and learning about their careers," says Karen Thompson. She rated the camp a success. 

'There are so many different jobs needed to run a zoo effectively.'



Tracey Dolphin talks about Brittany the elephant (background).

A Hunt for History



Perusing material for the Zoo's archives are (from left) Koye Lynne Carpenter, Christine Birt and Bess Frank.

When Milwaukee got its first elephant in August 1907, the 6-year-old youngster was the star of a parade through downtown. For some people, the arrival of Countess Heine the elephant made the old Washington Park Zoo a "real zoo," even though that Zoo's collection of 217 animals included other large mammals such as an African lion, California sea lions, and several bears.

Perhaps it's appropriate that the woman who is curator of elephants (actually, of all large

mammals) at today's Milwaukee County Zoo likes to hunt down historical tidbits such as the above. She is Bess Frank, and she is both a curator and the Zoo's unofficial historian.

"I've had an interest in Zoo artifacts since started as a keeper at the National Zoo in 1974. So when people find things, they just give them to me," says Frank. "I have a lot of old postcards from both Washington Park and the Milwaukee County Zoo."

The Washington Park Zoo was started in 1892, and the Zoological Society in 1910. Frank has old reports from the Society, which was instrumental in expanding the Zoo. The Society was responsible for providing Zoo animals, including the popular polar bears. Milwaukee made zoo history when, in 1919, one of the polar bears, Suitana, gave birth to the first polar bear born in captivity. He was named Zero because the temperature

outside was below zero. The Zoo's current male polar bear, born 70 years later, also is named Zero.

To create more formal archives for Zoo history, Frank applied to the State Historical Society's Wisconsin Historic Records Advisory Board for help. Through their Assessment-Mentoring Program, they assigned two professional archivists to the Zoo: Bill Jackson, senior archivist for Harley-Davidson, and Ken Wirth, records manager at Johnson Controls. An intern, Christine Birt from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee archives program, was hired to create a database of slides taken over the years. Kaye Lynne Carpenter, a Zoo Pride volunteer, joined in, and Frank had a history committee. They have spent much of the last year collecting and cataloging material. In explorations of the Zoo's closets and "attics," they have found:

1) More than fifty 16mm films, including one made by

a Zoological Society board member in the 1930s of the bear exhibits in Washington Park, and films showing construction of the current Zoo.

- 2) Animal records dating to 1894;
- 3) A painting done by the Zoo director Ernst Untermann in the 1930s of African animals. Untermann painted murals in the Washington Park Zoo.

"We're hoping to integrate this with the Zoological Society's archival collection maintained at the State Historical Society," says Frank. For a report on Frank's project, check the Historic Society's Web site:

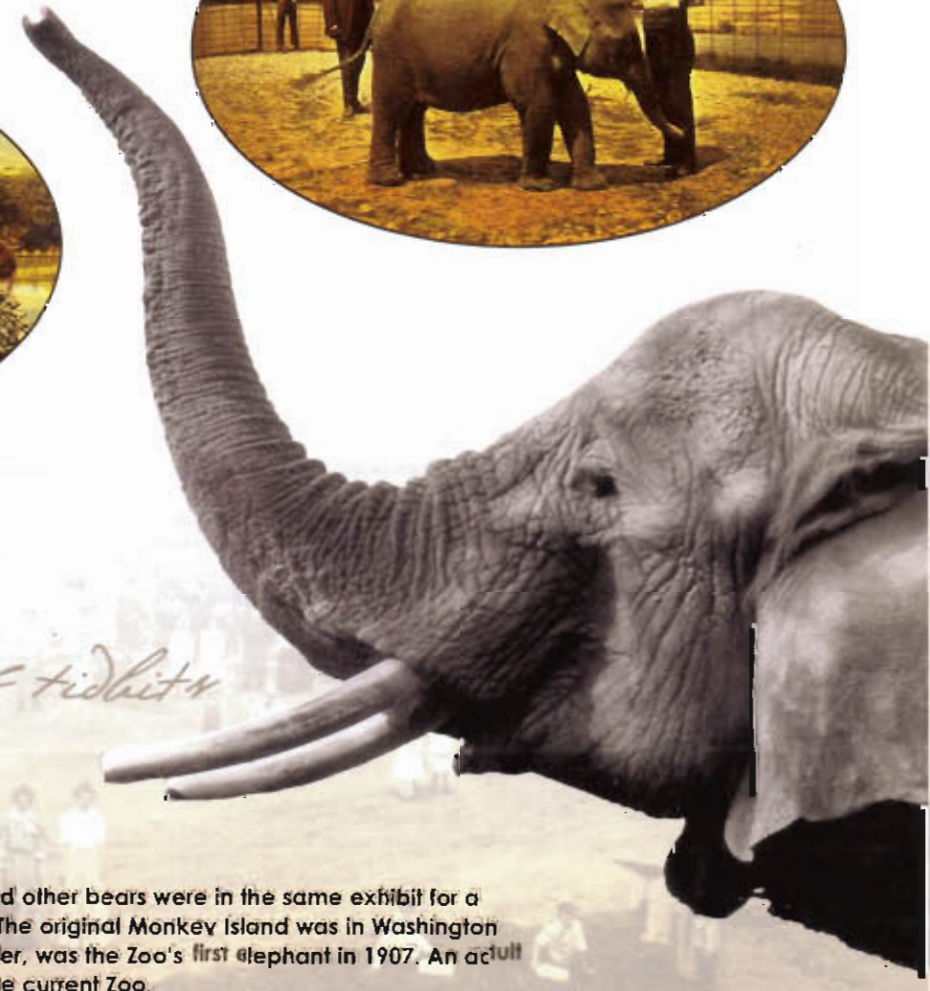
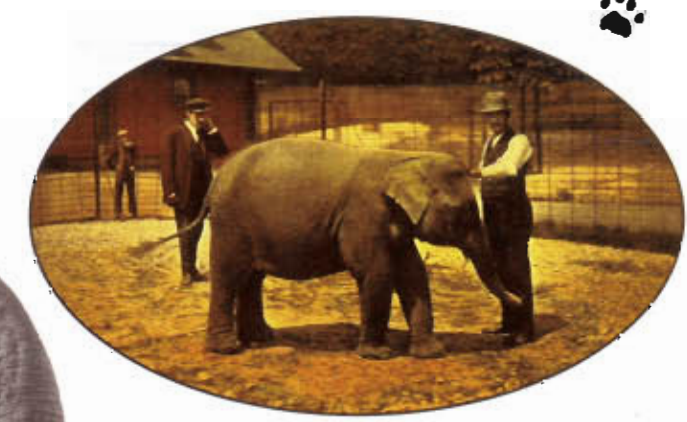
www.shsw.wisc.edu/archives/whrab/mentoring/expanded/milwaukee_zoo.html. Meanwhile, please don't send her any more historical material. She has an elephant load of it.



exploring the Zoo's closets



hunting down historical tidbits



Clockwise from left: Polar bears and other bears were in the same exhibit for a while at the Washington Park Zoo. The original Monkey Island was in Washington Park. Princess Heine, still a youngster, was the Zoo's first elephant in 1907. An actual African elephant gets training at the current Zoo.

The Zoological Society recognizes its major donors through membership in the Platypus Society. Platypus members have the option to receive exclusive VIP benefits. If you would like more information about the Platypus Society, please contact the Zoological Society's Development Department at (414) 276-0843, vmail 300.

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"Sue & I have been so very proud to be involved with the Zoological Society for many years because of the tremendous respect our Zoo has earned over the years as a leader in the U.S. The Zoo facilities, the animals, the leadership and the support from the community, the visitors, people from out of state, and the generous volunteers and corporations of Wisconsin have made our Zoo what it is today, and all parties are constantly working on improving it even

more each year. As a member of the Platypus Society through the Russ Darrow Group, my employees from all locations really appreciate and enjoy being able to bring their families and friends to the Zoo using the Platypus/VIP membership cards."

Russ Darrow II and Sue Darrow
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NEW MEMBERS
The Zoological Society welcomes all new members who have joined from March 1, 2002, through August 23, 2002:

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New Gift Levels
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+ Members who have increased their level of giving by 10% or more
+ Members who have made in-kind gifts of products or services
5-year Platypus Society Member in hold (updated each fall)
Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after August 23, 2002, will be recognized in the next issue of Alive.



Dall Sheep

Born: May 17, 2002
Dall Sheep Exhibit

Usually you see the Dall sheep with just their noses in the food bin. But the new baby in the exhibit likes to climb all the way into the food trough. Look for him there first when you visit the Dall sheep, which are at the south end of the Zoo near Lake Evinrude and across from the Alaskan brown bears and the moose. The young one's name is Denali, and "he spends a lot of time resting in the food bin," says Bess Frank, curator of large mammals. Shortly after he was born he was climbing Sheep Mountain following his mom. Dall sheep have special hooves that enable them to escape danger by climbing very rough terrain. They live in mountainous areas in Alaska and Canada's Yukon Territory. Denali is named after Denali National Park in Alaska. Frank chose the name from a list of Alaskan geographical spots submitted by Nicole Farrar's combined first- and second-grade class at Country Dale School in Franklin (a Milwaukee County Zoo staff member's child is in the class). Denali eventually will replace his dad, Mr. Toronto, as the dominant male in the herd of three females and two males.

Rockhopper penguins

Hatched: May 29 and June 2
Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary

Two zookeepers, Heather Couch and Joan Volpe, made a 16-hour drive to the Detroit Zoo on May 21 to get three rockhopper penguin eggs and bring them to the Milwaukee County Zoo to hatch. One egg was infertile, but the other two hatched and were hand-raised by a zookeeper "chick team." A Zoo vet checked on them almost daily. The younger chick survived an infection, and by the end of August both chicks were active and growing, although not eager eaters, according to Ellen Saksefski, aviary area supervisor. Zookeepers introduced the chicks to a small pool to start them swimming before giving them access to the big pool in the main exhibit. A pair of adult rockhoppers that were experienced parents were put in with the chicks, in hopes that they would bond with the chicks and teach them to swim and to feed. The younger chick didn't like swimming much, but Saksefski thought she saw the female adult trying to help him out of the pool – a good sign. The Zoo's nine other rockhoppers are aging. So zookeepers hope that the chicks will be the start of a younger flock. **At right:** chick. **Inset:** adult rockhopper.



Zebra

Born: June 11, 2002
African Waterhole Exhibit

You could say that T.J., the Zoo's baby Chapman's zebra, is a horse of a different color. After all, Zebras and horses are in the same family, the equidae, which includes wild asses and domesticated donkeys and burros. Members of this family move quickly for their large size. Zebras, however, are shorter and stockier than horses, have short manes that stand up, and tufted tails. And then there's the matter of those stripes. Most zebras have black and white stripes. The stripes are like human fingerprints – no two are alike. Chapman's zebras, however, have black and light tan stripes with a darker tan stripe between them. The zebras are outside all winter because they can withstand the cold like horses. T.J. is a female, and her parents are Zink and Zach. Zink, born here June 22, 1994, was named after the book *Zink the Zebra: A Special Tale*, written by Kelly Weil, who died of cancer at age 11. Kelly's dad, Les Weil, started the Zink the Zebra Foundation to educate people about childhood cancer. The foundation named Zink's baby T.J. She is the Zoological Society's holiday animal. You can give a sponsorship of T.J. as a holiday gift. Just look in this magazine for a sponsorship form.





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