

Alive



INSIDE

All New in Education
Bonobo Conservation
Scenic Zoo Spots
Bear Watch



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

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Few people realize how extensive the Zoological Society's education programs are. Our efforts range from training World Heritage Site park guards in Africa to protect wildlife (see page 24) to training villagers in Belize as tourist guides who can identify and conserve rare eagles (see page 18). Most of our programs, of course, are closer to home, but they have far-reaching impact.



As you'll see in the first part of this magazine, we reach about 470,000 people each year with our educational messages – in workshops, camps and tours at the Zoo and in a variety of outreach programs (page 7). The children in our workshops often come back year after year. Many become conservation advocates. Some even return as education interns when they're in college (page 14) and later as teachers. So, in 26 years of teaching about wildlife and conservation, the Zoological Society has developed a new generation of conservationists – or at least of people who understand the value of conservation.

The scope and impact of our education programs is an untold story. With the opening of our new Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center this fall, we have a chance to focus on all of our education efforts. We thank everyone who contributed to this building, which is part of our New Zoo II Capital Campaign, a public-private partnership with Milwaukee County to raise \$29.6 million to improve the Zoo.

We're on the threshold of finishing the campaign. In this final phase, we are excited to announce that we have received a prestigious \$700,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation, a national charitable foundation based in Michigan. Their grants are made on a challenge basis, requiring the raising of remaining capital campaign funds, thereby ensuring completion of the projects. Our challenge is to raise \$2.1 million by January 2006. The campaign projects left to complete are a new feline facility (page 10), the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Encounter; a remodeled farm, the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm; a renovated giraffe facility, the Miller Brewing Company Giraffe Experience; and a walk-in atrium entrance to the Zoo called U.S. Bank's Gathering Place.

We need to expand our base of contributors to meet the Kresge challenge. We hope you, our members, will help by encouraging your friends and neighbors to contribute to our 2004-2005 Annual Appeal for the feline facility or to donate to the other projects. Challenge the neighborhood kids to hold a fund-raising project for the big cats or ask your own children to donate allowance money for a month to the new Zoo farm. We'll send a thank-you. Let's work together as a community to support the Milwaukee County Zoo.

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

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Doing what it takes to save these great apes, the Zoological Society has a research station, staff and an office in a strife-torn African country.

Holiday Ornaments

To celebrate the new twin moose at our Zoo, the Zoological Society is offering a pewter moose holiday ornament for sale. To celebrate our bird-conservation efforts in Belize, we are offering a pewter ornament of a jabiru stork. Designed by Port Washington artist Andy Schumann, the ornaments cost \$14 each and raise funds for

the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. To order, use the form inserted into this *Alive*.



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Meet our dedicated Board of Directors and discover why they love the Milwaukee County Zoo.



Julia Cairns, 2, of Brookfield is fascinated by a frog at a Leap Frogs workshop.

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KIDS ALIVE

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On the cover
Spirit, the new baby zebra at the Zoo

The school at the Milwaukee County Zoo just got a lot bigger. Its new location is a lot more prominent, and the Zoological Society's respected education programs now are getting more of the attention they deserve. Given that we have probably the largest lineup of education programs of any zoo in the United States, the fanfare is long overdue.

This is all thanks to the new Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center. The new Zoological Society education facility, which runs workshops during the academic year and camps throughout the summer, opened in September. The building was made possible by a lead gift from the Milton and Lillian Peck Foundation and by donors to the Zoological Society's Annual Appeal as well as sponsors (see box on pg. 6).

Facing the largest Zoo parking lot in front and a grassy outdoor area in back, the building offers much that the previous, three-classroom building in Stackner Heritage Farm did not:

- Easy car and bus dropoff and pickup of children attending classes
- Access to a secluded outdoor area for fresh-air activities
- Five more classrooms to meet the demand for more programs
- An Animal Adaptations Lab with expanded Web-based programs
- A large, sun-filled indoor gathering area
- Taller and more versatile classrooms dedicated to specific age groups
- A launching point for bringing Zoological Society workshops directly to schools
- An environmentally friendly building design, including a "green" roof with plants
- Office space for the college interns who help make our summer camps possible
- More functional space for Zoological Society educators
- New desks, chairs and tables





Copeland Wick, 2, and his dad, John, of Milwaukee look at a real frog in MaryLynn Conter-Strack's Leap Frogs workshop.

The grand opening of our new building (Oct. 2 and 3 for members and donors) gave us a chance to talk about the numerous education programs we conduct and our approach to “conservation education.” In the next several pages you’ll learn about 1) our philosophy of education, 2) our staff, interns and volunteers, 3) the meaning of conservation education, 4) our diversified outreach programs into schools and the community, and 5) the clever ways that we teach about nature.

How We Teach

“There is no single right way to learn,” notes Dr. Dawn St. George, director of education for the Zoological Society. “All kids learn differently. We’re always taking that into account. That’s why we have four to five different learning stations in many classrooms: to meet each child’s unique interests and needs. One child will learn through a book, one is going to get his hands wet, one will do coloring. We also have small classes and the kind of individual attention that give children a choice over their learning and chance to learn at their own pace. We use a variety of teaching techniques, too, from hands-on crafts and science experiments to games and songs to tours of the Zoo.”

She adds that the Zoological Society doesn’t really design programs only for children with so-called “special needs” because all of our programs can accommodate children with different developmental

levels. “We’re very proud that our programs are diversified enough to meet all needs.” The new building, of course, accommodates students and adults with disabilities.

Conservation Education?

Hey, it’s a Zoo out here! We’re in the business of teaching about animals. Some of our endangered animals at the Zoo, however, won’t exist in the future if we don’t conserve their habitats now. So our underlying message is always conservation. If the next generation learns the connection between protecting habitats and keeping animals alive, some animals may not go extinct. If children learn the connection between saving our environment and the survival of the Earth, humans may have a better quality of life in the future. So it’s not just education. It’s *conservation* education.

Well-Educated Staff

Our director, Dawn St. George, has a Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (1997), with a minor in biology. She has done field research on chimps and baboons in Africa, and on long-tailed macaque monkeys in Bali and Thailand. She has a master’s degree in counseling psychology and a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. She was an elementary school teacher for four years and a TV journalist for four years. The rest of the full-time educators all have college degrees.

Continued on next page

◀ The Zoological Society’s education staff, as well as college interns (light yellow shirts) and volunteer high school assistants (gold shirts), pose in front of the new Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center in summer. **From left to right, front row:** April Nerison, Sara Abdulrahman, Ruthann Towers, Erin Rogers, Elizabeth Burant, Cheryl Choice, Molly Mahoney; **second row:** Mary Kogler, Kerry Scanlan, Francesca Jeffries, Christine Cira, Julie Emerson, Barbara Hetznecker, MaryLynn Conter-Strack, Sarah Lloyd; **third row:** Donna Hunt, Mandy Lindbloom, James Mills, Rebecca Towers, Patty Trinko, Mary Baumann, Aurora Brookens; **back row:** Dawn St. George, Jenny DeGolier, Jennifer Josheff, Stacey Rebholz, Christopher M. Uitz, Dana M. Benson, Domonique Isaac, Kaija Zusevics, Becky Neuman, Shannon Gramann, Kelly Neu, Kayla Duellman, Erin Wilcox, and Kristin Dhein.

Did You Know

- “The Zoological Society has one of the largest education programs at any zoo in the United States, if not the largest,” says Education Director Dawn St. George.
- “We have a remarkable ratio of teachers and volunteers to students,” adds St. George. “It’s six to one during the academic year and four to one in summer because we add college interns and trained high school assistants.”
- More than 10,000 people (7,451 children and 2,759 parents) enjoyed our 2004 Summer Camps, sponsored by PepsiCo Beverages & Foods and Pick’n Save. We offered 405 camp sessions.
- More than 13,000 children and parents attended our workshops between September 2003 and May 2004.
- More than 225,000 schoolchildren and teachers were exposed to our school-directed programs in 2003-2004.
- The Zoological Society reaches about 470,000 people each year – at the Zoo, throughout Wisconsin and internationally – with messages about wildlife and conservation.



They are James Mills, school program coordinator, who has a master's degree in museum education; Donna Hunt, summer camp coordinator, who has a bachelor of science (BS) in elementary education; Patty Trinko, enrichment program coordinator, who has a BS in elementary education; MaryLynn Conter-Strack, enrichment program assistant coordinator, who has a BS in biology; Kerry Scanlan, community program coordinator, who has a bachelor of arts degree in geography; Julie Emerson,

school program specialist (Animal Ambassador program), who has a BS in zoology; Becca Towers, school program specialist, who has a BS in education; and Francesca Jeffries, school program specialist, who has a bachelor of arts in biology.



For our summer camps, we have 18 college-student interns and 43 volunteer high school assistants. Also helping with our education programs are 75 volunteers who are members of Zoo Pride, the volunteer auxiliary of the Zoological Society.

History

Education has been one of the three parts of the Zoological Society's mission since the non-profit Society started in 1910. Early education efforts included animal and conservation stories in various publications, signs at the Zoo, and outreach to the media. Our formal education program for children began in 1978 when Prof. Mary Thiry transferred to the Zoo from the University of Wisconsin Extension. In her first 1½ years she started teaching schoolchildren who came to the Zoo on field trips, reaching about 3,000 children. In 1980, Dr. Gil Boese was hired as Zoo director partly to develop an education program. He came from the Brookfield Zoo, where he had served as deputy zoo director and as curator of education and research. The Brookfield Zoo has a reputation for cutting-edge education programs. The accreditation for the Milwaukee County Zoo had been delayed until it could develop a full-fledged education program.

"The Zoological Society was funding much of the education program," says Boese, "and we grew the program through the Society." Boese left the Zoo director position and became president of the Zoological Society in 1989. Mary Thiry served as education director for more than two decades. In 2000, Dr. Dawn St. George took the position. Today the education programs held at the Zoo are run completely by the Zoological Society and reach about 250,000 children and adults annually through academic-year programs and summer camps. Thousands more are reached through Zoological Society outreach education efforts.

—Paula Brookmire 

Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center Sponsors & Donors

- Milton & Lillian Peck Foundation, lead gift
- Alice Bertschy Kadish sponsored the building's north wing, dedicated to programs for school classes
- Helen Bader Foundation, Inc., sponsored the south wing of the building
- Jeff and Debbie Nowak, DMC Advertising & Direct Marketing, sponsored the atrium
- SBC Foundation sponsored an Internet area in the Animal Adaptations Lab
- Johnson Controls Foundation sponsored two second-floor classrooms
- A legacy gift was provided by the Susan R. Pierson Irrevocable Trust for a classroom
- Other building sponsors (\$1,000+) include the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, an anonymous family foundation, West Bend Community Foundation's Ziegler Family Fund, The Richard & Ethel Herzfeld Foundation, Jennifer and Peter Buffett, Elizabeth Elser Doolittle Charitable Trusts, R.D. and Linda Peters Foundation, Zoo Pride volunteer Chris Kress, and The Markos Foundation, Inc.
- Annual Appeal donors of \$75 or more will be recognized along the first-floor hallways




The new building uses environmentally friendly materials, some stacked in the atrium (above), and has a "green" roof (top left).

Zoological Society education programs reach from Africa to Belize (see page 2). While we have extensive programs taught at the Milwaukee County Zoo, we have a range of outreach programs on wildlife and conservation that we bring to schools, libraries and communities throughout southeastern Wisconsin. Here's a summary, starting with our newest offering, Zoo to You, which is for school classes that can't take field trips to the Zoo. For more information, please check our Web site or call the Education Department.*

Zoo to You: So you're interested in the Zoological Society's fun education programs but you just can't make it to the Zoo?



Blinker, an eastern screech owl, is one of the Care for Critters program birds that meets with audiences at libraries, schools and summer festivals. Pick'n Save sponsors Care for Critters.

No problem. Our Education Department this fall started Zoo to You, an inexpensive program that brings some existing animal-science workshops (Homes and Hideaways: Habitats and Critter Covers) and some new ones (Great Apes, Wolves in Wisconsin, and Zoo Careers) to your school for a 45- to 60-minute presentation. Our educators will bring along animal artifacts (bones, fur, skulls), audiovisuals and, for some workshops, live animals and/or arts and crafts materials. To learn more about Zoo to You programs (we can't list them all here), look for the van symbol  next to the workshop descrip-

tion in the school programs brochure on our Web site under Education and then School Programs.

Care for Critters: If you have a large group of first through eighth graders who'd enjoy meeting some neat live animals, we've got you covered. Our Care for Critters program is celebrating its 10th year of presenting live-animal programs completely free, thanks to sponsorship from Pick'n Save, which has been with us from the start. All a school needs to do is provide a large facility (gym or auditorium).

Kerry Scanlan takes students from Brookfield East High School on a field trip to a Pewaukee bird-research site during an outreach program called Belize & Beyond, coordinated by the Zoological Society and We Energies. Last summer six students and a teacher went to Belize as part of this program.

Each year we have a new set of animals and new theme for the program, which usually lasts about 45 minutes. This year it's Birds of the World, featuring raptors and parrots from around the globe. You'll discover how each bird eats and how each fits into its environment. Children ages 6-14 will come away with a better appreciation of the birds, their food sources, and their habitats. Live animals featured may include owls, eagles, a vulture, an augur buzzard or red-tailed hawk, a falcon, a thick-billed parrot or yellow-headed Amazon parrot, and prey such as a snake or rat. During the 2003-2004 school year, this program reached about 75,500 children at 324 schools. Care for Critters is also available to libraries and, in summer, to festivals and church fairs.

Belize & Beyond: Great minds think alike. So do creative organizations. In 2003 We Energies and the Zoological Society – which both have long-term projects and land preserves in Belize, Central America – joined forces to create Belize & Beyond. This education program

for high school students focuses on birds, conservation and the links between tropical forests and Wisconsin's temperate forests. More than 600 students in nine selected schools in eastern Wisconsin were invited to participate in a program that included field trips, educator talks at the schools, and the chance for six students and one teacher to earn a weeklong trip to Belize as "eco-scholars" in August 2004 (look for a report in your January 2005 *Alive*).

Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin FronterasSM (BWB-ASF): Saving songbirds is the ultimate goal of this multiyear research, conservation and education project run by the Zoological Society

Animal Ambassadors: Children in schools serving economically disadvantaged neighborhoods learn that science can be fun and that they can have a positive impact on the world as "animal ambassadors" through this environmental education program. Selected schools are invited to participate, thanks to sponsorship from corporations and foundations. This semester-long program provides teacher training, two classroom visits by a Zoological Society educator, two class visits to the Milwaukee County Zoo, and a graduation. Since 1989, the Ambassador program has reached 900 to 1,200 Milwaukee-area children per year. Most participating schools involve only their fourth-grade classes in the program. Six

schools, however, now are participating in the Animal Ambassador Continuum, starting with second graders learning about animal groups as Pee Wee Ambassadors, then third graders becoming Junior Ambassadors as they learn about food chains and habitats, and fourth graders becoming Senior Animal Ambassadors by learning about endangered species, animal-related careers and more.

Zoo Pride Speaker's Bureau: Not all of our outreach programs are designed for kids. This one, featuring slide shows and informative talks, caters to older audiences such as those at community senior centers, senior and assisted-living residences, and service and civic groups. Docents from the Society's volunteer aux-

iliary, Zoo Pride, travel within a 40-mile radius of the Zoo to present Zoo-related topics 40 to 45 times a year. Their eight programs feature: 1) A day at the Zoo: a photo safari, 2) The history of zoos, 3) Cats: the ultimate predator, 4) Primates, 5) Birds of the Zoo, 6) Conservation of endangered species, 7) Animals of the day and night, and 8) Animals of land and water. Each program is free, but donations to Zoo Pride are welcome and support their volunteer activities.

–Julie Lawrence 



Londria White (foreground) is awed by an albino black rat snake during a Zoological Society Care for Critters program, sponsored by Pick'n Save, at her school. The program was part of graduation ceremonies for Carson Academy students who participated in the Society's Animal Ambassador program.

in cooperation with the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., and private landowners. Since 1996 BWB-ASF staff have studied 50 of the 114 species of Neotropical migratory birds that breed in Wisconsin and "winter" in Belize, as well as many resident birds. Our **research** is aimed at finding out why some songbirds are dwindling and what they need to survive. Our **conservation** goal is to work with private landowners on managing their land to help birds. The **education** portion of the project teaches the importance of birds and how to conserve them; it includes talks and bird-banding demonstrations in communities near our study sites. A bird-science program, coordinated by the Zoological Society's Education Department, began in Wisconsin in 1998 and kicked off in Belize in 2000, reaching more than 3,300 middle- and high-school students and 46 teachers in Wisconsin and Belize.

*Our Web site is: www.zoosociety.org. For information on Zoo to You, Belize & Beyond, or Animal Ambassador programs, call (414) 258-5058. For Pick'n Save's Care for Critters programs, call Lisa B. at (414) 258-2333. For Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin Fronteras, call (414) 276-0339. For Speakers Bureau slide shows, call Zoo Pride at (414) 258-5667.



GROSS me out!

Clever Ways to Explain the Grosser Side of Nature

Let's face it; everything in nature isn't beautiful. And just like us, even the cutest of creatures do things that make you say "Ewwwww." We're calling it "grossology"—the study of all things yucky. For obvious reasons, it's not the most popular of topics in most classrooms. So the creative minds at the Zoological Society's Education Department thought, "What better place to tackle it than the Zoo?" Together they have figured out a way to make even gooey and stinky things interesting and, well, fun!

Take Julie Emerson's Scoop on Poop summer camp. Sure it has a clever name, but how exactly do you get a group of 8- and 9-year-olds to take you seriously when you're talking to them about animal excrement? How about starting with making them tell you all the slang terms they can think of for feces? "I try to get the silliness out right away," says Emerson, a Zoological Society instructor. "Then we are able to focus on the scientific stuff."

She asks for a volunteer to give her another word for poop. A timid arm raises, and one brave young man answers, "Poo poo." There's an expected explosion of giggles and soon arms are shooting up with answers. The next thing they know, there's a long list of funny words in front of them. "These are the words we will not be using," Emerson instructs. Students are limited to using only scientific terms, such as "scat" or "feces," and the kids are pretty good at sticking to that rule.

Next they set out on a "Scat Scavenger Hunt" in which the kids divide into groups and tour the Zoo searching for various types of scat and animals with interesting



digestive systems. Each group is expected to find a) an animal at the Zoo that can go for weeks without going to the bathroom, b) an animal whose scat might contain fur, and c) animals that produce round scat.

"I'm making elephant scat," says Morgan Rector, 9, as she molds a plate of brown mush (above) into round piles. "I'm adding hay to mine because that's what I saw them eating when we went on tour."

After everyone returns from the hunt, it's time to get dirty! They've already seen the different shapes and sizes that animal feces come in, and now Emerson's art project puts their scat skills to the test. Each child gets a plastic bag with a mixture of

flour, salt, coffee grounds and sand. When water is added, the kids mash it together and mold it into the animal dung of their choice. "It sounds silly, but they are actually learning a lot about science," says Emerson.

In instructor Kerry Scanlan's Grossology class, 10- and 11-year-olds learn that elephants and dogs sometimes eat their own scat, that birds regurgitate their food for their young and that some animals use their urine as a communications tool. Is she just trying to gross them out? No; she knows that it's important for children to understand that although some animal behaviors may seem disgusting, there can be important reasons for them. When was the last time you met a 10-year-old who knows what "coprophagia" means? Ask any of Scanlan's students and they'll not only be able to tell you that it refers to an animal eating its own scat, but they also will be able to let you know why the animal does it.

—Julie Lawrence 



Feline Facility Roaring Ahead

No, the loud rumbles coming from the Feline Building are not the lions roaring. They are the sounds of people hard at work building an almost completely new facility. "We are right on schedule," says Deputy Zoo Director Dr. Bruce Beehler, who notes that the building is due to open in July 2005. The old structure was partially demolished and new foundations were laid in July 2004 (see photo). The innovative design of the new Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Encounter was created with both animals and people in mind. "It is really a team effort," says Beehler. "The design team includes representatives from several divisions of the Zoo; the Zoological Society; local architects (Zimmerman Design Group); zoo architects from Seattle (PJA Architects); structural, civil and mechanical engineers; construction managers (CG Schmidt); and the Department of Public Works."

animal's natural habitat. Behind-the-scenes animal dens and animal management and care areas also will be much larger.

"We're working on several aspects to make the overall Zoo experience the best it can be for our visitors," says Beehler. That includes visitor restrooms (the old building had none), an education area with fun new graphics and signs, and peepholes on exhibit doors so visitors can get a glimpse of the interesting things zookeepers do behind closed doors. When there are new cubs (which may stay off exhibit for weeks), you can watch them in their dens on a large video screen. The kitchen area now will be visible to the public, so you can see keepers prepare food for the cats' public feeding or weigh cubs.

The new design is much more kid-friendly. Exhibit windows and kid-oriented graphics panels will be lower, making it easier



The new building, part of a Zoo Capital Campaign coordinated by the public-private partnership of Milwaukee County and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, will have more spacious indoor and outdoor exhibits. The idea is to create more realistic and stimulating environments for the cats. Each of four big indoor exhibits will connect to an outdoor yard: 1) Siberian tigers, 2) jaguars 3) lions and hyenas taking turns in the indoor and outdoor exhibits, and 4) cheetahs. A large outdoor exhibit will be built for the snow leopards. The red pandas also will get a new outdoor yard. The exhibits will give visitors a feel for the

for little people to see. Kids also will have a viewport into the outdoor cheetah exhibit. A new, 600-square-foot education area will let Zoological Society educators conduct special programs on cats. The area also will have alcoves with big-cat facts and updates on the Zoo's cats and hyenas, says Beehler, adding: "These experience stations will involve the senses, whether it's listening to the sounds of the animals, feeling life-size models of their claws, or checking out features through sight tubes."



To contribute to the new Feline Building, please call us at (414) 258-2333.

Kids ALive

animal mysteries

Animals are full of mysteries. They can't talk and tell zookeepers what they need. So how do the keepers know how to help the animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo? Just like real detectives, zookeepers search for clues. What kinds of foods do the animals like? What games do they like to play? How do you tell if an animal is hurt or sick? Zookeepers watch the animals carefully and learn something new every day.

With 2,000 animals at the Zoo, animal sleuthing is a full-time job. The keepers get help from Zoo Pride volunteers. They keep watch over new animals at the Zoo and tell keepers if an animal seems to have a problem. You have to be age 15 to join Zoo Pride, but you can start learning to solve animal mysteries right now. Grab a pencil and paper and let's get sleuthing!

First clue: Take a peek at what kids in the Zoological Society's Zoo's Clues camp discovered last summer. It's called **animal enrichment**. This is a "sneaky" way that zookeepers learn about animals while watching them play. Enrichment includes things like toys, unusual scents and puzzles that make the animal's environment more fun and exciting. By putting a plastic ball or tube in an animal's exhibit, keepers can "spy" on the animal as it tries to get a food treat out of the toy. In the Primates of the World building, area supervisor Trish Khan hid a plastic toy in Tommy the orangutan's exhibit. Then she gave him a clue by showing him a matching toy. He went looking for the toy she had hidden. Kids in Zoo's Clues camp watched as the clever ape searched high and low for his toy. (See photo.)

Mystery question: What do you think Trish Khan and the kids in camp learned about orangutans as they watched Tommy search?

Turn page for more clues: If you have fun with the sleuthing on the next pages, you'll love our 2005 summer mystery camps. You can become a Zoo detective searching for clues in such camps as Spy Kids, Part Zoo and a family mystery camp. You can start planning for summer camps in January, when the Zoological Society's Education Department publishes its 2005 camp brochure in the January issue of *Alive*.



They learned that giving orangutans and other animals enrichment toys keeps them busy, active and healthy.

◀ Answer to mystery question

Zoo Clues



Read the clues for each mystery animal. Try to guess the animal. Use a mirror to decode the correct answers. How did you do?



Mystery 1 (see photo at right):

These children at a Zoological Society summer camp are standing in front of an outdoor animal exhibit. Diane Tyk, a Zoo Pride volunteer, is telling them about the animal in the background. Can you figure out what that animal is?

lɘmɘs

Mystery 2:

1. The largest and heaviest living bird weighing 150-300 pounds
2. Can run up to 43 mph
3. Very aggressive, defending itself with powerful kicks

ɘstɘtʃ

Mystery 3:

1. Lives in trees and swamps of South America
2. Can grow to 33 feet long and 550 pounds
3. Smells with its tongue and suffocates its prey

ɘbnɘsɘnɘs

Mystery 4:

1. A marsupial, or *pouched*, animal that lives in Australia
2. Can leap 30 feet in one bound
3. Its baby is called a joey

knɘʃɘrɘɘ

Mystery 5:

1. A short-sighted, slow-moving animal with sharp claws
2. Feeds on leaves, twigs, bark and green plants
3. Good swimmer because its hollow quills help it to float

ɘnɘkɘrɘnɘq

Mystery 6:

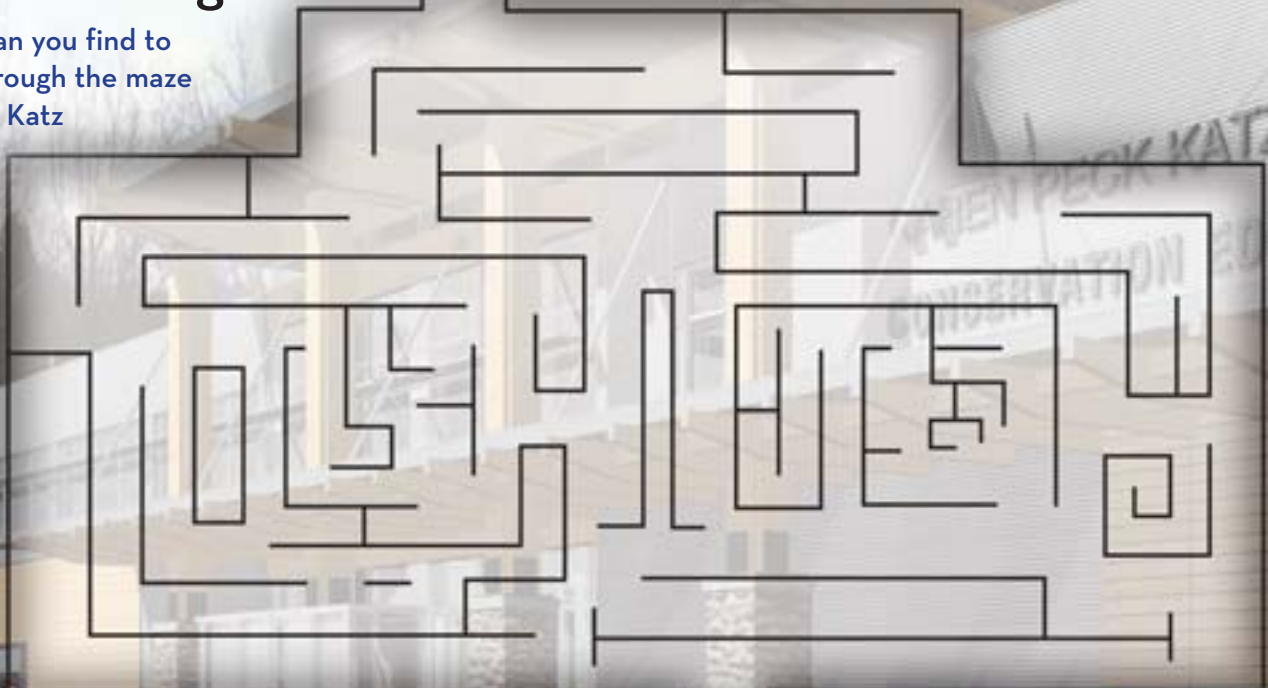
1. Lives in Arctic regions
2. Has black skin to trap heat for warmth
3. It is a meat eater (carnivore)

ɘpɘrɘ ɘɘrɘ

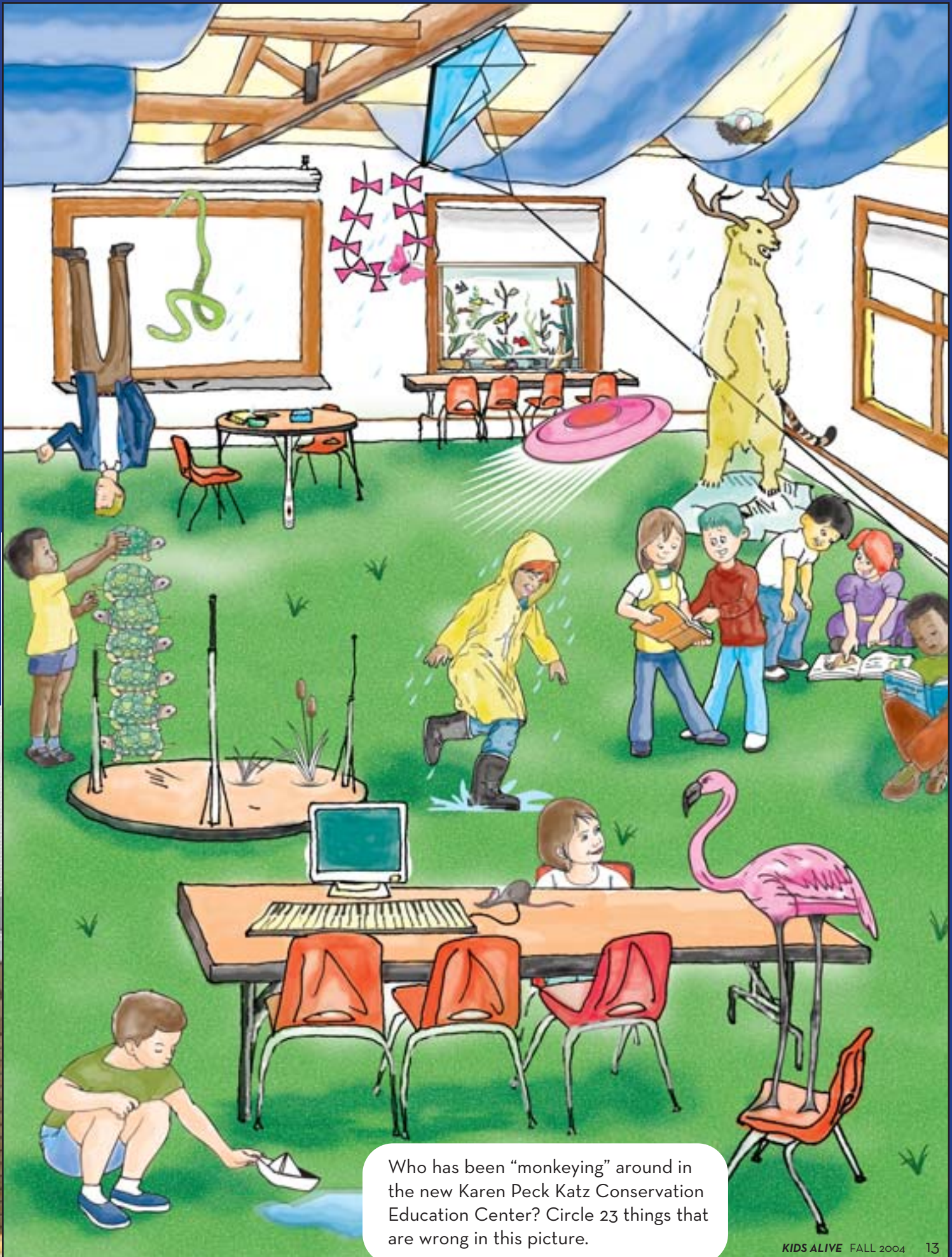
A MAZE of a New Building

How many ways can you find to make your way through the maze of the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center?

Enter



Exit



Who has been “monkeying” around in the new Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center? Circle 23 things that are wrong in this picture.

Kids Alive

For Stephan Tupper, the Zoological Society's summer camps are far more than a way to enjoy the Zoo while learning, too. They're a way to spend the summer months in a familiar place doing what he loves.

Stephan knows the camps really well because he has been going to them for 10 years! He started when he was a kid. He made crafts, sang songs and toured the Zoo to see the animals. When he got to high school, he discovered that he could be a volunteer at the summer camps, helping the younger children have the same fun he did as a kid. So he was trained as a high school volunteer assistant. Then he went on to become a camp counselor in training. When Stephan went to college, he learned he could apply to be a college intern at the camps. So he did, and last summer he helped teach kids at camp about the Zoo's animals.

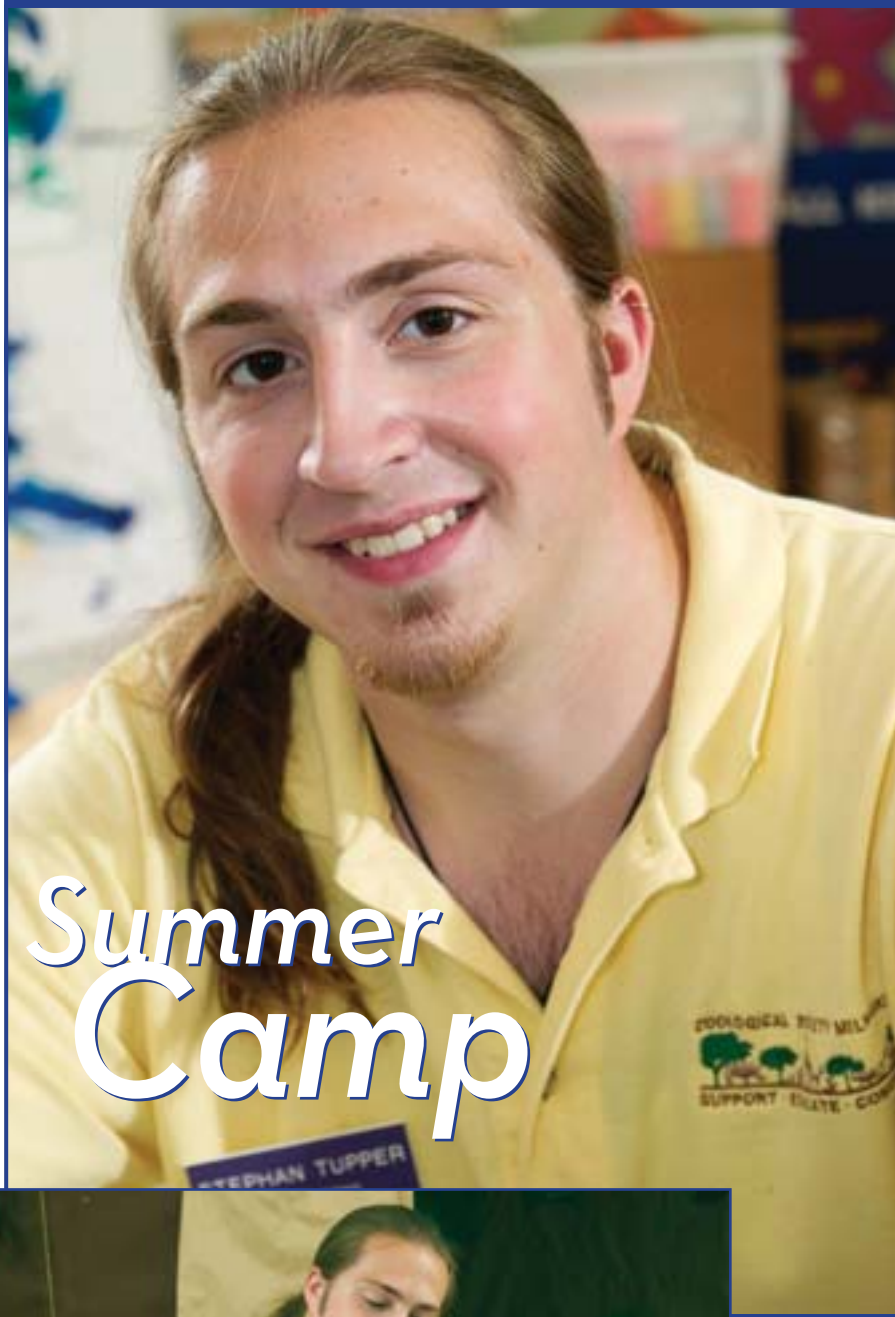
10 Years ^{at} Summer Camp


What is it that keeps him coming back for more? "The summer camps are a lot of fun," says Stephen, who is a junior at Concordia University in Mequon. "You get to forget that you're an adult and goof off all day!" Well, maybe it just feels like goofing off because the Zoo is such a great place to work. There's plenty to do every day at camp, but the Zoological Society educators know how to make learning fun.

Stephan has always had a strong love for animals. From a young age, he dreamt of becoming a marine biologist. After spending four years as a camp high school assistant, however, Stephan realized that he really wanted to teach. As a college intern, he lead his campers in art projects, experiments, songs and tours. His favorite camp activity was taking campers behind the scenes at the Zoo to talk

with zookeepers. "Interacting with the kids on tour is a blast, and the zookeepers have a lot of great information to share," he says. "It's really cool, both for the kids and for the staff."

-Robyn Straub





Macaque Island and its new monkey facility have the feel of a graceful Japanese garden. From the covered deck overlooking Macaque Island, you can watch the monkeys cavort.

Retreat into the Zoo

The Zoo is more than just a place to watch animals. It can be a quiet haven full of charming spots to recharge and enjoy nature. October is the best month to visit. The weather is usually mild, the crowds are down and migratory birds are on the wing, stopping at the Zoo on their way south. You may be surprised by the number of secluded, lovely and interesting retreats at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Here are eight of them, many created deliberately as part of our Capital Campaigns* to improve the Zoo in small ways as well as big. These are listed in an order you could follow if you wanted to spend a few hours exploring the Zoo and taking time to observe its beauty.

1) **Bench-lined pathway to Animal Health Center:** As you enter the Zoo through the Main Mall, turn right at the Humboldt penguins, past Flamingo Terrace and turn right at the Animal Health Center sign. This birch- and pine-covered path leading to the Holz Family Learning Zone winds partly around a pond filled with golden-hued koi. From eight of the 13 donated benches along the way, you can see a willow-covered stone bridge across the water, an idyllic vista.

2) **Wong Family Pheasantry:** As you exit the pathway above, turn right, go through the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary and exit

the building to a very secluded, shady area along a U-shaped path to the right. Here you'll find the exotic Chinese golden and silver pheasants, the elegant Demoiselle crane, and the colorful satyr tragopan from the Himalayan Mountains. This hidden gem of an exhibit is dedicated to the memory of the late Joe Wong, founder of the former La Joy's Restaurant.

3) **Covered deck overlooking Macaque Island:** What a wonderful place from which to view the antics of these fascinating monkeys. They chase, they scream, they groom each other's hair, and they leap around the mountain on their island that was remodeled a few years ago thanks to Zoological Society Annual Appeal donors and a gift from Carl & Ruth Gosewehr.

4) **Temple Monkeys of Tikal outdoor exhibit:** Across from Macaque Island but more secluded is this spider monkey exhibit, expanded a few years ago thanks to Zoological Society Annual Appeal donors and a gift from the Krause Family Foundation. Here you'll find shady foliage, Maya-style stellas (stone tablets with writing), and the swinging spider monkeys leaping from rope to log and then to the viewing window where they'll come up and look you in the eye. The indoor spider monkey exhibit has just as nice a viewing area, also complete with foliage and stellas.

5) **Wolf Woods walkway & cabin:** Walk to what we call the "lower Zoo," or the North America area, to the log cabin at Wolf Woods. If it's a cool day, you can go inside and observe the wolves (or have them observe you) through the large picture windows. Then take the winding deck path along the exhibit and through the woods. An outdoor viewing area, the Ray and Florence Folkman Wolf Woods Overlook, lets you peer right into the wolf den. Originally created with Annual Appeal funds, Wolf Woods was dedicated in 2003 to the late Jack Pelisek, thanks to a gift for maintenance and remodeling from Michael Best & Friedrich.

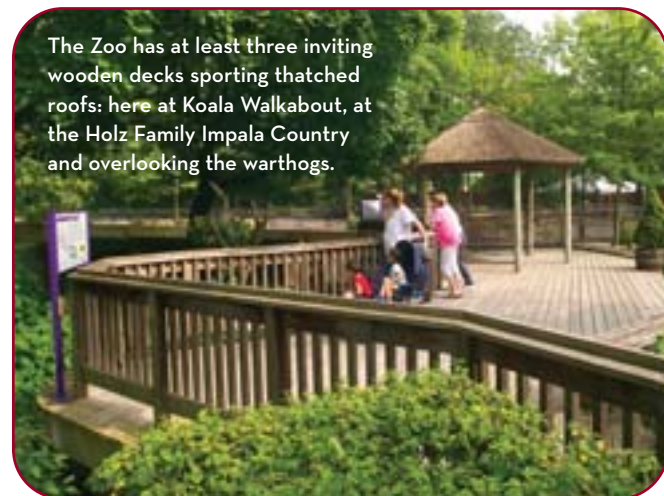
6) **Lake Evinrude & the Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin FronterasSM Deck:** Donated by the Derse Foundation, this L-shaped wooden deck is a great viewing spot for migratory birds, including those that are part of the BWB-ASF research-conservation project.** In fact, there are many charming spots along Lake Evinrude where you can rest, picnic and view birds, including the Zoo's trumpeter swan couple that, at age 19, produced six cygnets last summer. If the weather turns cool, you can go into to Lakeview Place restaurant and view the lake from indoors.

7) **Koala Walkabout & Australian Outback Picnic Area:** From this shady picnic area you can view the Zoo's kangaroos (there were four young joeys hopping around the yard in summer) and, if it's warm enough, a koala. The Koala Walkabout deck overlooking a koala's tree was created thanks to donors to a Zoological Society Annual Appeal

8) **Holz Family Impala Country:** This wooden deck brings you right into the bongo and impala-gazelle yards, high enough to get a good view of the pools, waterfall, storks, vultures and various antelope of Africa. A quaint, covered, thatched roof over the bongo side of the deck picks up the theme of the thatched roofs over Koala Walkabout and the Warthog deck. The antelope areas were remodeled a few years ago thanks to Annual Appeal donors and a gift from the Holz Family Foundation.



Flowers and trees enhance the quiet viewing windows into the spider-monkey outdoor exhibit.



The Zoo has at least three inviting wooden decks sporting thatched roofs: here at Koala Walkabout, at the Holz Family Impala Country and overlooking the warthogs.



The serene, tree-lined path to the Zoo's Animal Health Center is a shady spot to contemplate nature.

—Paula Brookmire 

*For information on the current Capital Campaign run by the public-private partnership of the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County, go to the Zoological Society's Web site at www.zoosociety.org and select Legacy-Philanthropic Gifts/Capital Campaign.

**For information about the Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin FronterasSM project, go to the same site and select conservation/BWB-ASF Research.



Helping Harpy Eagles

If you were given binoculars, bird books and an audiocassette tape of bird songs, would you be able to tell a harpy eagle from a crested eagle or a solitary eagle? Well, in fall 2003, deep in the forests of Belize, six native Belizeans were trained to do just that. With the help of the Zoological Society and its Birds Without Borders-*Aves Sin Fronteras*SM (BWB-ASF) project, these trainees were taught to identify bird species by sight, sound and habitat. The goal was for them to become tour guides specializing in bird identification and able to spot a new eagle not seen in Belize for years.

"We knew at the beginning that this training would be very challenging because the trainees' knowledge about birds and birding was very minimal. They only knew a few birds by their local names and a general name for a number of bird species," said Reynold Cal, a BWB-ASF research associate.

The training will have long-term benefits because it is part of a larger effort to protect the endangered harpy eagle by changing people's view of this bird of prey. In addition, by Zoological Society researchers helping native Belizeans earn money through "eco-tourism," they have an incentive to help with conservation of birds and habitats. "Tourism is a very big part of the Belize economy," said Vicki Piaskowski, the Wisconsin-based BWB-ASF international coordinator.

The six-month intensive bird-guide training began in Rancho Dolores, a village in the Belize District of north-central Belize and home to the six trainees. Field training occurred in mornings and evenings, when bird activity is highest. "We started by pointing out the very common birds and repeating the name several times, stressing identification features," said Cal. Then there were lectures on ornithology and Belize habitats, and a final exam.

The training was part of an 18-month project to reintroduce the harpy eagle to Belize (where it had disappeared) and to teach people who live in areas near the eagles why they should respect the raptors. The project began in June 2003 as a joint effort of the Peregrine Fund-Panama and the Belize Zoo. "This project wouldn't have happened without the tireless efforts of Sharon Matola, director and founder of the Belize Zoo," said Piaskowski, who added that she was thrilled when Matola asked the Zoological Society of Milwaukee to be a

partner in the project. Funds for the project came from the United Nations Development Programme Global Environmental Fund/Small Grants Programme.

To bring the birds back to Belize, project organizers needed to create a secure environment for the released eagles. People who were afraid of raptors and might shoot them needed to learn that harpy eagles feed on small mammals that can be pests (rodents, opossums) and that they also can bring money and jobs to Belize. Belize has a growing, nature-based tourism industry. Just as tourists in Wisconsin flock to areas where bald eagles nest, bird-watching tourists will fly to Belize to see the rare harpy eagle in the wild. As interest in this eagle soars, there is more pressure to protect its habitat. Since harpys have the largest home ranges of all forest raptors, protecting them means preserving large segments of forests and the other wildlife living there.

In an effort to change negative views about this powerful raptor, the Belize Zoo has built a birds of prey facility with a harpy eagle enclosure. A captive-bred harpy eagle named Panama was donated to the Zoo by the Peregrine Fund-Panama. A special observation deck was built so that zoogoers could observe Panama at eye level. "Panama continues to be a popular attraction and education exhibit," said Sharon Matola. "His lack of shyness around human visitors adds to the value of his position as an ambassador for the released harpy eagles in Belize." The large crowds who come to view Panama get the facts about harpys from knowledgeable Zoo staff and from signs surrounding the exhibit.

Matola and the Belize Zoo's education director, Celso Poot, also created a community outreach program to dispel myths about raptors, describe typical raptor behavior and explain the



Panama is an endangered harpy eagle on exhibit at the Belize Zoo.



David Tzul (middle) points out a bird to trainees Stevan Reneau (left) and Christylane Clark.



Vicki Piaskowski explains microscopic feather structure to bird-guide trainee Raymond Reneau.

role that raptors play in the ecosystem. By teaching both adults and children how to identify raptors and why to value them, they hope to reduce poaching of the harpy. In school classrooms, they're teaching children why it's important to restore harpy eagles to the wild. On a national level, they're publicizing the reintroduction through posters, brochures and TV. As of July 2004, the Belize Zoo education department had conducted 23 presentations in communities neighboring forests where harpy eagles are being released. Piaskowski attributes the program's success to Matola, who lobbied to have the Zoo selected as headquarters of the harpy eagle restoration. According to Matola, the Belize program is part of a larger effort aimed at restoring harpy eagles to large tracts of forests throughout southern Mexico, Central America and northern Columbia.

"The harpy eagle is native to Belize, and is probably extinct in Belize," said Piaskowski. Belize is a good choice for the restoration of this eagle because there is so much preserved forest in Belize, noted

Piaskowski. The eagles were captive-bred in Panama by the Peregrine Fund and sent to Belize. Matola reports that the three released harpy eagles are showing signs of steady independence, hunting in the wild and moving out farther and farther from the "hack site," a forest chamber where the eagles are monitored and fed.

"The greatest success from this project will be when the birds are fully independent and begin to reproduce in Belize," said Mario Teul, the Belize national coordinator for BWB-ASF. Even before that happens, however, Belizeans will benefit. "If it were not for this initiative, the six people from Rancho Dolores would never have received the much needed tour-guide training," he noted. A more lasting success for future conservation efforts may be the cooperative teamwork of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and its Birds Without Borders-*Aves Sin Fronteras*SM program, the Belize Zoo and the Peregrine Fund-Panama, along with other conservationists.

—Robyn Straub

◀ Zoological Society staff member David Tzul (left) uses a field guide to identify a bird for trainees Christylane Clark (middle) and Stevan Reneau.

Endangered

Harpy Eagles

Named after the predatory half-woman, half-bird monster of Greek mythology, the harpy eagle is the most powerful bird of prey. Its deadly talons can exert hundreds of pounds of pressure. Yet this endangered raptor is considered to be nearly extinct in Central America. Its original range was from southern Mexico to northern Argentina. Rebuilding a harpy eagle population is difficult because they don't reach sexual maturity till about age 5 and, even then, it's thought that they breed only every two years. They may lay two eggs, but only one chick usually is reared successfully.

Habitat: Tropical lowland forests of Central and South America

Nests: in forest canopy, more than 100 feet above ground

Weight: 10-20 pounds

Wingspan: 7 feet

Life span: 50 years

Diet: small mammals such as rodents and opossums

Threats: Deforestation, destruction of nesting sites, poaching

Conservation efforts: Named the national bird of Panama, being reintroduced to Belize



Our floatplane glided to a stop at Douglas Creek on the coast of the Alaska Peninsula. It dropped me off in the middle of the Alaskan wilderness with only eight other people and 40 bears for company. The first thing I noticed were all the brown bears roaming around, which shouldn't have surprised me, since they were the reason for my journey.

It was June 24, and I was in Alaska with other volunteers to participate in the final year of a study to determine the effects of humans on bears. Researcher Karyn Rode, a graduate student at Washington

Bear Watch: Beyond Tourism

State University, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game were conducting this first-of-its-kind scientific study. Bear watching is a popular tourist activity in Alaska. The McNeil River Sanctuary, about 30 miles from our study site, already has limited the number of visitors to 10 a day during the salmon run because of the impact visitors were having on bears. The study results could be used to help set future bear-watching policy throughout Alaska.

Volunteers from the zoological community were recruited through the American Zoo and Aquarium Association to act as tourist bear-watching groups and help researchers collect data. The researchers had observed these bears last year, and so were aware of their travel patterns and behaviors in the wild before we "tourist researchers" entered the scene. More than 60 people from zoos across the country helped with the study, most paying their own way and bringing all the food and supplies needed for a week in tents. From the Milwaukee County Zoo, the volunteers were zookeepers Mike Hoffmann and Earl Conteh-Morgan. From the Zoological Society of Milwaukee there was me, a member of the Society's Zoo Pride volunteer auxiliary. Twelve groups, each with five to six volunteers, were flown in and out of the remote camp every six days. Four researchers stayed there all summer.

Each morning, we hiked to one of two viewing sites and generally stayed until late afternoon. We counted how many bites of grass a bear took in a set amount of time, data used to calculate how much the bears were eating. Every 20 minutes, a researcher would note information about each bear visible in the area. The researchers communicated via walkie-talkies, and they took turns sitting at an observation post atop a ridge where one could see for miles. At least an hour before and after our visits to the viewing sites, a researcher would scan the area to see if any bears left or returned. Once after we left the area a researcher radioed us that a mother bear and cub that had left the viewing area when we headed that way had returned when we departed.

We weren't allowed out of camp without a researcher, partly because of the danger. We had some close calls. At one viewing site, a young female bear started slowly grazing in our direction. She was not

Bear & majestic scenery



Viewing site

acting aggressively; so we weren't too nervous. When she was 15 yards away, the researcher told us all to stand up. The bear was startled and immediately headed away from us. Two days later, another young female, who hung out near camp, was on the other side of the stream we were walking along near camp. We waited while she crossed the stream in front of us and headed up a ridge. We started walking. She noticed us and started running toward us. The researcher yelled, "Hey!" and she stopped. Eventually she turned away. This had happened to the researchers before. They explained that younger bears liked to test humans to see what we would do.

Our scariest incident occurred when a female bear scurried up a ridge toward us with

used an outhouse, fought mosquitoes, and bore up under a cold, relentless, wind whipping across the treeless flats. The wind forced us to wear jackets even though temperatures were in the 60s and 70s. We spent the evenings socializing, and I learned a lot about a zookeeper's life since most of the volunteers were zookeepers. One night at camp, they shared animal escape stories. Another night

it was injuries and bites, which brought me a new appreciation for reptile keepers.

I will always remember the majestic scenery and the awe of seeing so many bears roaming free. Would I want this experience offered for tourists? It will be nearly two

Ready for my close-up!



Photos by Jennifer Richards



"Tent city" for the Alaskan bear research group



Researcher, a loaded backpack and a bear in the distance

a male in pursuit. The male saw us and backed off. He was not happy, so we had to walk away slowly, without showing panic. It was the end of mating season, and there had been a lot of bear activity near camp in prior weeks. The researchers suspected that females learned males were more leery of humans; so they could get rid of pursuing males by coming near us.

Most of my time there was less thrilling. We hiked between two and six miles a day over rough terrain with heavy backpacks, sometimes needing hip waders to cross a muddy river. We lived in tents,

years before Rode publishes her study results. Even from what I saw in my short stay, however, it was obvious that we were affecting the bears. And if bears become accustomed to humans—as they have in some of our national parks such as Yellowstone—it could be dangerous to both the bears and humans. What if one of those bears charged and didn't stop? Either a tourist would be injured or the bear would be shot.

This was once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that few got to experience. Maybe it should stay that way.

—Jennifer Richards



10th Annual People's Choice ENDANGERED SPECIES ART COMPETITION

A stampede of endangered animals, from rhinos to elephants, took Mayfair mall by storm last March. These animals were depicted in artwork on exhibit in the Zoological Society's Tenth Annual People's Choice Endangered Species Art Competition, sponsored by the Robert K. & Joyce R. Cope Foundation. More than 100 Milwaukee-area, middle- and high-school students participated, and their creations were on display March 8-21. The competition's goal was to increase public awareness of endangered species. Each entry – from a zebra formed from wire to stingrays made from paper – depicted an endangered animal.

Artwork was voted on by the public. Six talented artists, three from middle schools and three from high schools, were selected as People's Choice awards. These winners received \$100 plus a \$50 sponsorship of an animal at the Milwaukee County Zoo. A panel of three jurors also chose two Jurors' Choice awards and two Honorable Mention awards. Jurors' Choice winners received \$50. Honorable Mention artists received a \$50 gift certificate to Milwaukee's Artist & Display art-supplies store.

– Robyn Straub



1



2



8



6



4

1. People's Choice **First Place**

(Middle School)

Florida Panther, oil pastel by Nancy Melchor of Kosciuszko Middle School

2. People's Choice **First Place**

(High School)

Asian Elephant, ink drawing by Elizabeth Szwaya of East Troy High School



3

3. People's Choice **Second Place**

(Middle School)

Rhino, pastel by Samantha Miller of South Milwaukee High School

4. People's Choice **Second Place**

(High School)

Release Me, oil painting of an orangutan in a crate by Philip P. Reuss of Waukesha, who is home-schooled



7

5. People's Choice **Third Place**

(Middle School)

Leopard Mask, papier-mâché mask by Caroline Schwartz of Greenfield, from Whitnall Middle School

6. People's Choice **Third Place**

(High School)

Red-eyed Tree Frog, pastel by Kristin Andreska of South Milwaukee High School



5

7. Juror's Choice

(Middle School)

Spotted Pond Turtle, oil pastels by Abelardo Aparicio of Kosciuszko Middle School

8. Juror's Choice

(High School)

Ocean Floor, paper sculpture depicting stingrays by Daniel Faber of West Allis Central High School

Honorable Mentions

- *Mountain Zebra*, wire sculpture by John Zieloski of West Allis Central High School
- *Rhino*, pastel by Samantha Miller of South Milwaukee High School

Dr. Gay Reinartz interacts with Kosana the bonobo and her baby Deidre through a window into the bonobo exhibit at the Zoo. A growing population of babies in the Zoo's bonobo group is helping the world effort to save these endangered apes. Reinartz is head of the Bonobo Species Survival Plan in North America.

Conservation in

Opposite page photos—Top: Dr. Gay Reinartz reads a GPS device on a trip into Salonga National Park in Africa. Center: Guards at the Zoological Society's African research station. Right: Zoological Society staff members Ntuntani Etienne and Guy Tshimanga.

In its ongoing struggle to save the rare endangered apes called bonobos, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee has added more guards to protect their African habitat and has stepped up its bonobo research.

Bonobos occur in the wild only in the tropical forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo in central Africa. Here in remote, foliage-thick forests of an area called the Salonga National Park, the Zoological Society is supporting 20 guards at three patrol posts. All three posts are in areas that have dense bonobo populations.

“This is a huge work,” says Dr. Gay Reinartz, the Zoological Society’s conservation coordinator. “It’s hard.” To save bonobos in the wild, the Zoological Society, starting in 1997, has ventured into a country full of civil strife, established a forest research station and patrol posts, set up an office in



Kinshasa (the capital city), trained guards and research technicians, supplied them with medicines and equipment, worked with the government, collaborated with other conservation organizations, and overcome numerous obstacles. The Society also recently hired more supplemental guards and provided them field equipment, a patrol boat and a motor. Reinartz even delivered salaries to park guards for several years.*

Last December the Society sponsored the very first training for Salonga Park guards. Given that these guards have to deal with well-armed poachers hunting endangered wildlife in a federally protected park, it was crucial to get them professional training. “These guys are up against life and death,” notes Reinartz, who shows pictures of two guards injured by poachers, one shot in the chest and one in the arm. The Zoological Society arranged for the

surveillance of the area, protect it and take notes on the number of bonobos and bonobo nests they see,” says Reinartz. “They also document bonobo movements and the species of trees that bonobos nest in. If we can identify the trees that bonobos prefer, we can be better informed about what habitats need to be protected.”

To help with tree identification, Reinartz developed a collaboration with Professor Lubini Constantin of the University of Kinshasa, a forest expert, to train Zoological Society guards in how to identify the trees in which bonobos were nesting. On her visit to Etate last spring, Reinartz, Prof. Lubini and three guards who are expert naturalists for that region –Mboyo Bolinga, Isomana Edmond and Bokitsi Bunda – identified 35 species of trees in which bonobos were nesting. “We think we’ve discovered the existence of one species of plant that bonobos eat that thus far has not been reported,” noted Reinartz.


What’s most important about this collaboration, adds Reinartz, is that it’s a significant step toward trying to protect bonobos. “Salonga National Park is one-third the size of Wisconsin,” she says. It’s a huge area to try to protect. So conservationists need to find habitats where key bonobo populations live and give those areas priority. Studying the



role that plants play in where bonobos live will help locate the apes.

The Zoological Society’s project is called the Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI), and it has two main objectives: monitoring bonobos and helping support Salonga National Park, which is a United Nations World Heritage Site. Supporting the Salonga has included training guards, developing antipoaching activities, strengthening ties with Congolese who live in the Salonga and teaching them about conservation. *Under a contract with UNESCO, Reinartz also delivered salaries to park guards, some of whom had not been paid for years. She made her final delivery of salaries last spring, turning over the task to the World Wildlife Fund to do in the future.

This project is one of the best examples of how conservation work involves more than just studying animals. In developing countries, it means setting up an infrastructure to do research and hiring native citizens, who then take an interest in conservation themselves. They teach and influence others. One of her wishes for the future, says Reinartz, is to support a village close to the Salonga with medicines, school supplies, hygiene tips, farming training and information about how conserving animals will help them in the long run. As she describes it, “This is plowing and fertilizing the earth with the seeds of conservation.”

– Paula Brookmire 

the Congo

Congolese military to conduct the training, thanks to grants from Wisconsinites Judy Kern and Tom Slawson, longtime supporters of the Society and its bonobo-conservation efforts.

One of the patrol posts is also a five-building research site set up and staffed by the Zoological Society. Called Etate, this station has five guards and a research technician, Mboyo Bolinga. He and the other guards have been trained to do ecological research by Reinartz. She travels twice a year to the Congo, usually staying for two months at a time. “Bolinga and the guards perform

How You Can Help

For more information on bonobos, BCBI, ways you can donate to the project, people who have sponsored these activities, the Bonobo Species Survival Plan, and bonobos at the Milwaukee County Zoo (including their paintings for sale), check the Zoological Society Web site under conservation: www.zoosociety.org.

Providing Direction

"I love animals. I love education. And I love the Zoo," says Jill Pelisek, one of the 45 members of the Zoological Society Board of Directors. You couldn't ask for better enthusiasm from the people who are setting policy, providing direction and helping raise funds for our non-profit organization.

"When you have leadership from a diverse group of people, you're going to have a great deal of insights into your community."

What may surprise you is that, unlike most corporate boards, our directors are not paid. In fact, they pay us. A requirement to be on our Board is that each member give a \$600 donation, most of



Members of the 2003-2004 Zoological Society Board, left to right: **front row** - Jack McKeithan, Joel Nettesheim, Dr. Gil Boese, Chair Bonnie Joseph, Jill Pelisek, Rheinhold Hugo, Maria Gonzalez Knavel; **middle row** - Associate Board President Liz Little, Zoo Pride President Paula Spiering, Jane Wierzba, Tom Dyer, Tom Perz, Jim McKenna, Joan Prince, Karen Peck Katz, Judy Holz Stathas, Jeff Nowak, Richard Glaisner; **back row** - Rich Tennesen, Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser, Greg Wesley, John Sapp, Tom Dempsey, Andrew Sawyer, Jim Rowe, Jeff Neuenschwander, Bob Anger. **Not available for the photo:** Paul Cadorin, Linda Grunau, John Howard, Dr. Leander R. Jennings, Michael T. Jones, Henry Karbinger, Ken Kerzner, Herbert Mahler, Quinn Martin, John McGourthy, Gina Peter, Richard J. Podell, Jim Rauh, Barry Sattell, Richard Schmidt, William Schmus, John Steiner, Dave Strelitz, Mrs. Robert A. Uihlein Jr., Larry Weiss, and the honorary directors.

Pelisek, a former banker and an adjunct professor in the business school at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, is a good example of the type of involvement our Board members have both with us and in the community. Pelisek and her late husband, Jack, made a major gift to help remodel the Milwaukee County Zoo's Wolf Woods in 1999. She has been on our Board for six years and she also chairs the Board of the UWM Foundation. She truly believes in our mission. "The Zoo would be a much lesser place without the Zoological Society," she says. "It would be less fun, and there would be far less of an impact on the community and on education."

"We have a group of very high-quality consultants running our organization," says Dr. Gil Boese, president of the Zoological Society.

it going to our Platypus Society, a group of key donors to our organization. In addition, they are asked to participate in at least one Zoological Society event each year and contribute an auction item to one of our fund-raisers. In this last year, as we entered the final phase of the New Zoo II Capital Campaign to improve the Zoo, each Board member also was asked to make a donation to the campaign. Everyone did. It's part of the success-oriented attitude of the Board. Says Dick Glaisner of Fiduciary Real Estate Development, who joined the Board again this year after an earlier term from 1988 through 1991, serving first as secretary and then treasurer: "I enjoy sitting on the Board because you can see the results."

Liz Little, a business consultant and liaison who has served on the Board for nine years and is the current president of our Associate Board, says: "Being a member of the Board gives me the opportunity to give back to the Zoo, a place that has meant so much to me over the years. And the Zoological Society is something I really care about." Her comment is echoed by several other members.

Why do they care so much? "I've been to many zoos, but I'm always impressed when I come back to our Zoo," says Maria Gonzalez Knavel, who joined the Board this year. "The care of the animals is one of the strong points of our Zoo. It's a lovely setting, too," adds Knavel, who is a partner at Foley & Lardner LLP.

Jim Rowe of Rowe & Co., a Board member for 10 years, says: "I think this is the most important civic organization for families and the broad populace of Milwaukee that there is in the area. The Zoo serves probably 90% of the populace as opposed to some other institutions that serve only a small percentage of people."

Rich Tennessen, a vice president at Eppstein Uhen Architects, like many of our Board members, has a personal connection to the Zoo. "I have fond memories of the Zoo growing up as a child just 5 minutes from the Zoo. I have three children of my own. They probably get out to the Zoo at least 15 times a year – for Snooze at the Zoo, various Zoo camps, Boo at the Zoo, Holiday Night Lights, the dinosaur exhibits. We ride the train every time we come. Also, my kids go to the Montessori School right across from the Zoo. So I've come to the Zoo with my 9-year-old daughter for a class project on animals." For Tennessen, the value of serving on the Board means "helping to preserve and enhance the Zoo not only for our generation, but for future generations as well."

Attorney Greg Wesley of Gonzalez, Saggio & Harlan has some of the same motivations as Tennessen: "I've always loved the Zoo. I have a young son at home and I'd like him to be involved with the Zoo, not only for fun, but for an educational experience as well. It's important to be involved with community efforts, like the Zoo, that have a significant impact with families." Wesley joined the Board this year.

In addition to attending Board meetings, held five times a year, many Board members are involved in ad hoc or standing committees: audit, finance, research-conservation, education and government liaison. Tom Dempsey, who is in capital management at Morgan Dempsey, notes: "I'm the secretary of the Board, on the finance committee and the capital campaign development committee." A Board member for 10 years, Dempsey says: "I feel that the Zoo is an extraordinary resource for the community and well worth my time to do what I can to make it better."

Karen Peck Katz has been on the Associate Board for nine years and on the governing Board for about seven years and is also an active member of the education committee. She is also on the Board of the Milton & Lillian Peck Foundation, which contributed a lead gift to make possible the Zoological Society's new conservation education facility, which is named the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center. Says Katz: "Without the Zoological Society, the Zoo wouldn't be the world-class Zoo that it is."

—Paula Brookmire



Business consultant Liz Little (left) has been on the Board for nine years while Atty. Maria Gonzalez Knavel joined in 2004.



Architect Rich Tennessen (left) likes bringing his kids to the Zoo. Real estate developer Richard Glaisner's involvement with the Board goes back to 1988.



Atty. Greg Wesley (left) likes the educational emphasis of the Zoological Society, and banker Tom Perz thinks the Society helps keep the Zoo alive by providing financial help and volunteer support.



Atlantic Moon Jellies

Arrived at Zoo: April 23, 2004
Aquatic & Reptile Center

Deep in the Atlantic Ocean, a jelly (formally known as a jellyfish) shoots out a lasso and ropes its prey. Is this the Wild West of aquatic life, or what? Actually, although the jelly has no brain to decipher a cowboy from a conch shell, this is one of many ways it captures its dinner. A common misconception about the jelly is that it uses its stingers only to shoot venom into victims that have ventured too close. But like an underwater rodeo, the jelly also can shoot out threads that loop around their prey and reel them in. A jelly even can spray out strings of slime onto whatever it happens to be hungry for: fish, shrimp, crabs, worms or even other jellies. Some might say that the jelly has an eclectic palate, but it doesn't have much of a choice. A jelly has absolutely no control over its stingers; like a reflex, they go off whenever the tiny hair found



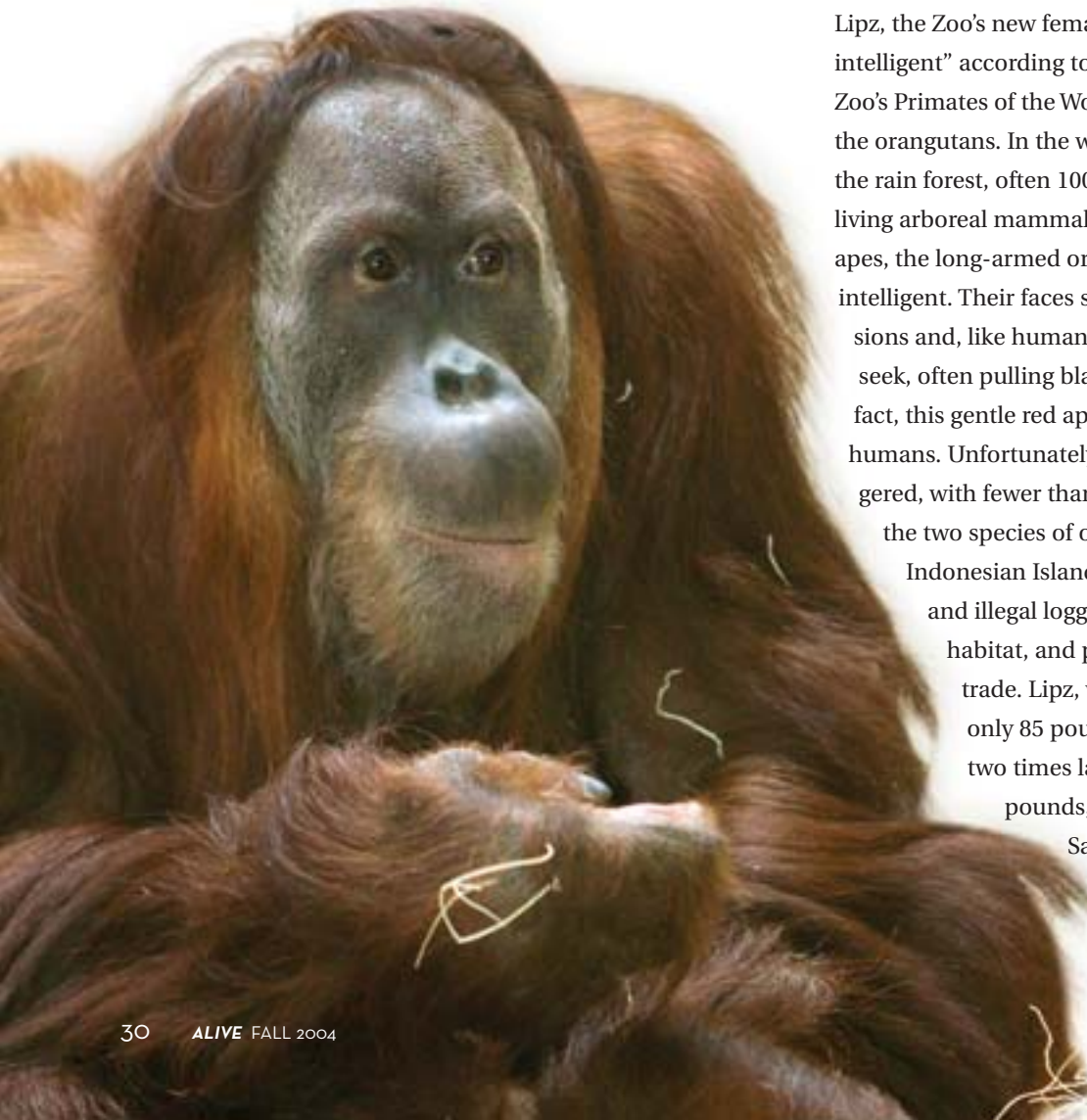
on the tip of each stinger is touched. This happens even if the jelly is not hungry – in fact, even if the jelly is dead! Although each stinger can be used only once, stingers remain active even after the jelly has died. As of July, the Zoo had 23 Atlantic moon jellies in many shapes and sizes, from a quarter to a foot in diameter. Despite their rough “rope ‘em” reputation, they are actually very delicate and graceful creatures as they float in their cylindrical exhibit.

Orangutan

Arrived at Zoo: November 2003
Primates of the World

Lipz, the Zoo's new female orangutan, is “shy, curious and intelligent” according to Trish Khan, area supervisor of the Zoo's Primates of the World and the keeper most familiar with the orangutans. In the wild, orangutans live in the canopy of the rain forest, often 100 feet above ground, and are the largest living arboreal mammal in the world. Like the other great apes, the long-armed orangutans are strong, agile and highly intelligent. Their faces seem to have very humanlike expressions and, like human children, they enjoy playing hide and seek, often pulling blankets or boxes over their heads. In fact, this gentle red ape shares 97% of the same DNA as humans. Unfortunately, orangutans are critically endangered, with fewer than 15,000 still found in the wild. Today the two species of orangutan can be found only on the Indonesian Islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Forest fires and illegal logging have wiped out much of their habitat, and people still hunt these apes for the pet trade. Lipz, who eats leaf pellets and produce, is only 85 pounds and 4 feet tall at age 22. Males are two times larger than females, weighing up to 300 pounds, and have longer hair and cheek pads.

Saba, the Zoo's other, longtime female orangutan, died last summer at age 33. The Zoo has one male orangutan, Tommy, age 22. Tommy and Lipz will not be bred.





Golden Tree Snakes (Flying Snakes)

Arrived at Zoo: May 21, 2004
Aquatic & Reptile Center

We know what you're thinking: If there's such a thing as a flying snake, why haven't I heard of it? Well, the term "flying snake" may be exaggerated, but not too much! The truth is, the Milwaukee County Zoo is one of only two zoos in the country that is home to golden tree snakes, a unique snake species known for its enhanced ability to launch itself and glide so far through the air that it actually appears to be flying. Cool, huh? Well, maybe not so cool if you live in its native country of Thailand where the species is quite common and has a habit of taking up residence on the roofs of homes in urban areas. The snakes are known to be ornery and inclined to bite at anything that moves, but, fortunately, they are so mildly venomous that they have been classified as "harmless." Here at the Zoo, your biggest concern with our three golden tree snakes is seeing them or catching one of them "flying" from tree to tree. Their exhibit is huge, and the snakes themselves are only about as thick as your thumb. So look closely. They are actually very striking creatures. The young are yellowish-green with intricate black patterns. Adults have additional red designs, similar to shamrocks, down their backs.



Scottish Highland Calf

Date of birth: May 5, 2004
Stackner Heritage Farm

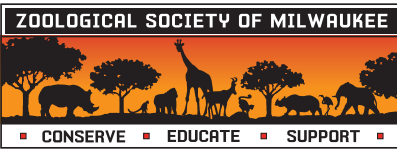
Conner, a Scottish Highland calf born to mom Helga, has turned out to be quite playful. "Conner is a typical baby," says Lisa

Guglielmi, supervisor of Heritage Farm. "He likes to run around and knock over wheelbarrows." Weighing 78 pounds at birth, Conner is expected to gain 2-3 pounds per day for the first year. That means that on his first birthday he will weigh about 1,000 pounds, or a half-ton! That's all on a diet of Timothy hay and alfalfa. Some of you may remember Conner's mom, our 6-year-old Scottish Highland cow Helga, who arrived at the Zoo in 2000. Both Conner and Helga have a red, double coat. This double coat consists of a thick undercoat to keep the animal warm and a long, coarse top coat that protects the Scottish Highland

from harsh weather. These cattle are originally from the cold and rugged Highlands of Scotland and date back to the 16th century, making them one of the oldest registered breeds of cattle. They are a very docile breed and are easy to handle. While Scottish Highland cattle are not an endangered breed, there are fewer than 10,000 worldwide, and a mere 2,500 are registered annually in North America. It is interesting to note that both cows and bulls have horns, although bulls' horns usually curve downward.



Alive



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