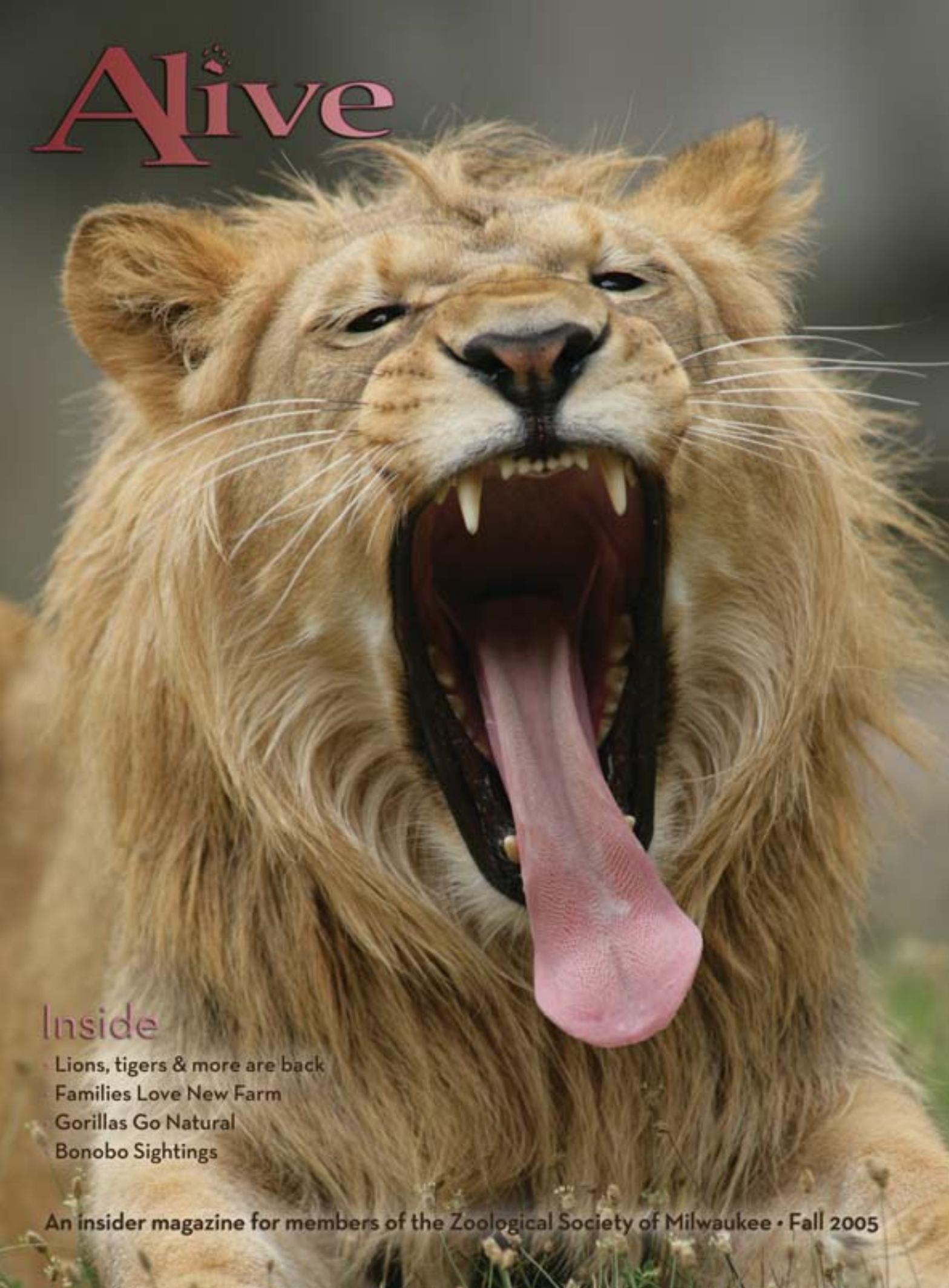


Alive



Inside

- Lions, tigers & more are back
- Families Love New Farm
- Gorillas Go Natural
- Bonobo Sightings

An insider magazine for members of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee • Fall 2005

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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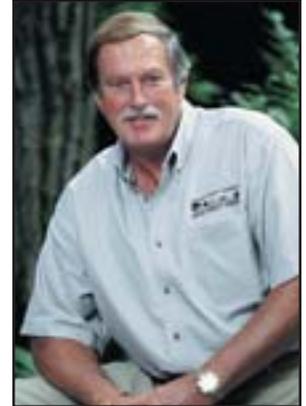
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CEO's Letter



As my term as chief executive officer of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) comes to an end, I look forward to spending more time on our conservation efforts, including conducting field research in Africa and Belize. The Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. (FWC), which I helped found in 1992 and have been president of ever since, is the ZSM's partner in conservation. As FWC president, I hope to increase some of our global conservation projects by seeking new funders.



I will continue to work with the ZSM on planning for our future, on recruiting major gifts and on managing our two remaining capital campaign projects: the Miller Brewing Company Giraffe Experience (opening in 2006) and the U.S. Bank Gathering Place entrance atrium to the Zoo (opening in 2008).

From my years of research work in Africa and leading wildlife safaris (see page 24) to establishing wildlife preserves in both Belize and Wisconsin, conservation of the animals we love and the habitats we share with them has been a driving force in my life. Getting back into the field – whether it's exploring caves in Belize or finding ways to save the endangered black rhino in Africa – will be an endeavor of love.

The FWC was founded so that it could help the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society meet conservation requirements of the American Zoo and Aquarium Association. To be accredited and to receive new animals, our Zoo and the ZSM must be involved in conservation projects in the wild. So we created two wildlife sanctuaries: Runaway Creek Nature Preserve in Belize and the Ott Family Nature Preserve in Rosendale, Wis. The FWC holds the title to both. Our ZSM staff has been conducting bird research on both preserves for years and has produced numerous reports and journal articles contributing to the conservation of birds. The FWC supports many other conservation projects, from saving jaguars to protecting gorillas. We help fund Humboldt penguin research and other conservation projects by Zoo staff. During the last 13 years, the ZSM via several FWC endowments also has awarded grants totaling more than \$254,000 to 160 graduate students in Wisconsin who have conducted conservation biology research throughout the world.

All of the endowment funds that support these projects are held by the FWC. This keeps those funds from being commingled with day-to-day operating monies, and assures future funding of FWC projects, Zoo projects and Zoological Society programs with specific endowments. The FWC operates under a separate Board of Directors and separate fiscal management than that of the ZSM.

As Dr. Bert Davis (see story on page 9), our current president and chief operating officer, takes over as ZSM chief executive officer, our transition will put the future in good hands.

Dr. Gil Boese,
Chief Executive Officer

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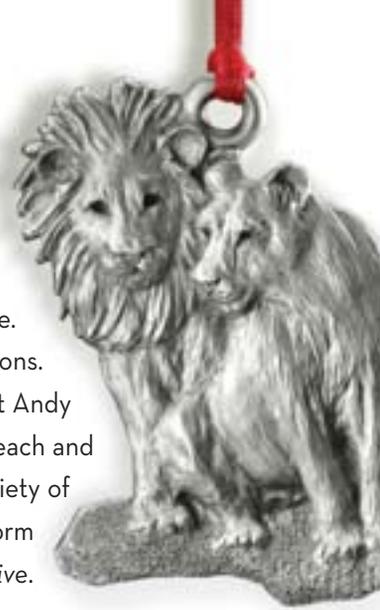
Catch the sense of adventure and see how safaris help conservation.

On the cover: Themba, the new young male lion. See page 4.

Holiday Ornaments

Celebrate the return of the big cats to the Milwaukee County Zoo and their new home, the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country. The Zoological Society is offering a pewter lion holiday ornament for sale. Decorate your tree with a pair of African lions.

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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Right: Kristina, the new baby camel.

Below: Boris, the new snow leopard.





Feline Facility Draws Crowds



It seems that everyone's happy to have the Zoo's new feline facility open – especially the cats. The July 11 grand opening for the new Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country brought out about 600 guests. The Zoological Society member premieres that same week drew thousands to the building. The building was featured on TV, in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and in other publications.

Who can resist playful cats, especially the young ones that are new to the collection. The young male lion named Themba (see photo on cover) came right up to the glass to paw at visitors. The cheetahs were happy to bask in the attention of the crowds, lying only feet away from the front of their exhibit. And Stella the jewel-faced jaguar curled up on top of a rock for all to see.

Sheena the tiger prowled her large exhibit. Boris, the new male snow leopard, did not make it into his exhibit till early August, but when he did, he majestically dominated his outdoor yard.

Thanks in great part to the major gift from the Florence Borchert Bartling Foundation and its director, Bill Borchert Larson (see story next page), the grand new feline building is one of the most popular spots at the Zoo. Natural-looking exhibits place the big cats in habitats similar to what they would live in in the wild. Natural sunlight filters in through Space-Age skylights made with a super insulating yet light-transmitting Kalwall+ Nanogel® product called Nanogel translucent aerogel. Designed for the aerospace industry by the Cabot Corporation, aerogel is 97%

air trapped in millions of pores of a feather-weight material, says a Cabot spokesman. "This is its first application in a down-to-Earth Zoo project."

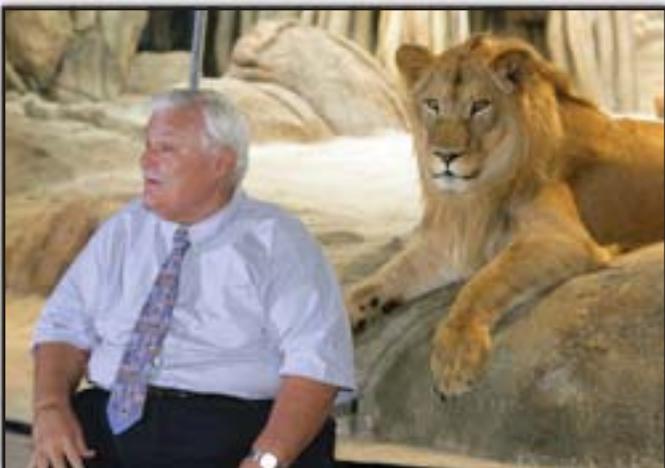
Winding pathways, inside the building and out, take visitors on an exploration of scenes ranging from a Central American rain forest to a Siberian woods. Outside the south entrance to the building a new Asian area stretches from the snow leopard exhibit at one end of the Birch Creek Trailhead to the red pandas and Himalayan black bears near the other end. At this area, too, is a charming sculpture of Bill Borchert Larson's mother, Florence, sitting on a bench (see photo). It's becoming a favorite spot for families to pose for pictures.

Captivating signs inside the building provide visitors with lots of information about the big cats and the hyenas (see page 31) that share the building. For kids, there's a cat mound – rockwork with seven clues that cats had been there – and other interactive spots. A kid-friendly design features lower exhibit windows, kid-oriented graphics and a special window into the cheetahs' yard. Another fun feature of the new building is the kitchen: A big open window allows you to watch keepers prepare the cats' meat-filled meals. You also can peek through exhibit-door pephholes to see zookeepers at work in holding areas. When cubs are born, you will be able to watch them on a large video screen.

For a rundown on the six new cats, see pages 6, 7 and 8. [The Zoo also will be getting two 3-year-old male Amur (Siberian) tigers from Toronto eventually.] The long-time resident cats that are back on exhibit are the three cheetahs (Ace, Onyx and Juba), Sheena the Amur tiger and her son Kajmak, and Sasha the lioness. The building is part of the New Zoo II Capital Campaign coordinated by the public-private partnership of Milwaukee County and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The Capital Campaign has been improving animal exhibits and facilities at the Milwaukee County Zoo for several years.

Right: Sculpture of the late Florence Mila Borchert on a bench outside the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country.

See donor list on page 8.



Bill Borchert Larson and Themba the lion strike similar poses.

A Family Tradition

Bill Borchert Larson, the man behind the new Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country, has a long history of giving to the Milwaukee County Zoo. Larson, the major donor to the new feline building, also funded the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building (which opened in May 1997) and has supported the Zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) for many years. Bill is carrying on his family's tradition of assisting socially aware organizations. His grandfather, Otto Borchert, was an animal lover who supported the Zoo from its earliest days. Bill's mother, Florence, was a philanthropist who taught Bill the importance of social responsibility, introducing him to many charitable organizations.



In 1984 Bill Borchert Larson poses with his mother, Florence.

Bill dedicated the Zoo's new, expanded feline facility to his mother. "She taught me an appreciation and respect for all things," he says. A life-size sculpture of Florence at age 19 was placed outside the south entrance of the building. She sits on a bench and holds a puppy (she had pet dogs rather than cats). The sculpture



and the building, he says, are "a thank-you to my mother for not only being the best mother anyone could ask for, but for also being my best friend. If God had asked me what I wanted for a mother, I couldn't have asked for anyone better. The building is also a thank-you to the community for allowing my family to call Milwaukee home since 1848. Most of all, it's a very special thank-you to God for creating such beautiful creatures great and small.

Everything on this Earth has its place."

Bill's great-great-grandfather, Frederick Borchert, Sr., started the family fortune when he came to Milwaukee from Germany and founded a grain company that became the Falk, Jung and Borchert Brewery. Otto Borchert, Bill's grandfather, was a Milwaukee businessman and owner of the original Milwaukee Brewers. Starting in the early 20th century, Otto made anonymous donations that helped the Zoo buy animals. In 1997, Bill dedicated the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building in Otto's honor, and this year he installed a life-size immersion sculpture in front of the building depicting Otto sitting on a bench with his daughter, 9-year-old Florence, at his side. This building has been home to 14 touring, museum-quality exhibits and many special events.

Bill's interest in animals extends to worldwide wildlife and conservation projects, particularly in Ethiopia and East Africa. He was the ZSM's first platinum patron member and has worked with Zoo Pride (the volunteer auxiliary) and other ZSM committees.

The Zoo's Big Cats

It may seem like all big cats do is eat, sleep and lounge regally in their exhibits. But cats also like to play with toys, stalk like they would in the wild and make noise. Different species of big cat have distinct personalities. The six new cats in the Zoo's Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country have memorable character quirks. Here's a look at their personalities from Neil Dretzka, feline area supervisor:

- Two snow leopards arrived in summer: A female called Tomiris, age 5, from the Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, and a male called Boris, age 10, from the Great Plains Zoo in Sioux Falls, S.D. Stately looking snow leopards, which live in the mountains of Central Asia, become playful and mischievous at night, says Dretzka. Tomiris, who likes playing with water and soliciting scratches, is described by her previous keepers as talented. Her favorite game is "stalk the keeper." Boris adjusted well to his new home in Milwaukee. He is "a big boy with a relaxed regal presence," says Dretzka. They remain in an outdoor exhibit year-round.



Sanura the young female lion explores an exhibit that looks like an African plain.

Sheena the Amur tiger has an exhibit that looks like the Siberian woods where a dwindling number of such tigers still live in the wild.

- Two 1-year-old jaguars arrived in spring: Stella, a female from the Fort Worth Zoo in Texas, and Cuxtal (pronounced cush-tal), a male from the Audubon Zoo in Louisiana. Jaguars, which prey on monkeys and tapirs in the jungles and forests of Central and South America, are cocky little street fighters with a chip on their shoulder, warns Dretzka. Despite seeming shy and reserved, Stella likes to jump on the inside of the exhibit door in front of a keeper. Cuxtal is outgoing and likes to play in water. There is a pond in their indoor exhibit.

- Two lions arrived this spring, both age 2: Themba, a male lion from the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, and Sanura, a female from the Indianapolis Zoo. Lions, which live in families called prides on the plains of Africa, are short-tempered and have an in-your-face personality, says Dretzka. Playful Themba likes to chase keepers as they walk around the holding area. From the moment the new feline building opened, he came right up to the windows to paw at visitors, eyeball the children, and get his nose to the glass. Adventurous Sanura follows suit. Thanks to previous training, Sanura knows several commands.

Continued on next page.

Cheetahs, which live in Africa, have a sleek look that matches their reputation for being the fastest animal on land.



Stella the female jaguar has a picture-perfect face.



Boris the snow leopard has a coat that keeps him warm enough for the fierce winters in the mountains of Central Asia.

Thanks to Special Donors

-  The major gift from the Florence Borchert Bartling Foundation allowed us to start the renovation on the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country.
-  Neal and Carla Butenhoff are donors to the Birch Creek Trailhead, an outdoor retreat and walkway named in their honor.
-  The jaguar exhibit is named in honor of donors **Gerald and Katherine Nell**.
-  The snow leopard exhibit is named in honor of the **Krause Family Foundation** for its donation.
-  The Siberian tiger exhibit is named in honor of donors **Patti and Jack McKeithan**.
-  The cheetah exhibit is named in honor of **Zoo Pride** for their donations and volunteer support.
-  **Bridget and Mark Kirkish** are donors to the cheetah exhibit.
-  **Mrs. Carole F. Houston** is a donor to the jaguar exhibit.
-  **Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation** is a donor to the snow leopard exhibit.
-  **Gordana and Milan Racic** are donors to the snow leopard exhibit.
-  Other donors to the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country at \$10,000 and above include the **Schoenleber Foundation**, **Marian Scheibe Foundation**, and the **Alvin & Marion Birnschein Foundation**.
-  An **anonymous donor** is sponsoring the red panda exhibit.
-  An **anonymous donor** also donated to the cheetah exhibit.
-  **The Kresge Foundation** has designated its challenge grant for the feline facility.
-  Hundreds of donors to the Zoological Society's Annual Appeal and the New Zoo II Capital Campaign helped us to complete the Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country.



Cuxtal the male jaguar has spots all the way down to his toes.



Animals Inspire New Leader

How many people can say that a children's animal show on TV led them to their current career? How many of those can say that they actually went on to work with one of the stars of that same TV show?

Dr. Bert Davis can. His experience tells him how important early influences can be in a child's life. That's why he's such a believer in the mission of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). Getting children to the Zoo, bringing animals to them in the classroom, and giving them hands-on ways to help conservation – these things make a difference in the world's future. Ultimately, the ZSM wants to preserve the environment both for animals and for humans.

Dr. Robert M. "Bert" Davis started July 6 as ZSM president and chief operating officer. In January 2006, he will take over as chief executive officer from Dr. Gil Boese, current CEO. Dr. Boese was president of the ZSM for 16 years. In the six-month transition period, Dr. Davis is learning all about the ZSM, the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Milwaukee area. This is your chance to learn about him.

When Bert was growing up in Chicago in the 1960s, the TV show that had him glued to the tube every Saturday morning at 9:00 was "Ark in the Park." It was co-hosted by Dr. Marlin Perkins and Dr. Lester Fisher. At the time, Marlin Perkins was director of the Lincoln Park Zoo, and Fisher was its first veterinarian. Later Perkins would become famous as host of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom," a very popular TV show about animals. "I was 6, 7, 8 years old during the years when I watched those shows. That's what made me want to become a vet," says Dr. Davis, who was graduated in 1989 from Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine in Alabama. His undergraduate degrees were in biology, and animal and poultry sciences.

Years later, when Dr. Davis became vice president of education at the Lincoln Park Zoo, Dr. Fisher worked with him on the Zoo's education committee. The two vets still keep in touch.

How did Dr. Davis get from being a vet to being a teacher and then head of a zoo's education department? "I've always had a

passion for education," he says. "My father taught industrial electronics in a technical high school in Chicago. My mom is a retired surgical nurse. They stressed education.... When I was in graduate school, I was a teaching assistant. And I loved sharing knowledge. It was a challenge for me to explain something that everyone thought was so hard. Sharing information and seeing the light bulb go off in someone's head is one of the most incredible experiences you can have."



Dr. Bert Davis outside the giraffe exhibit.

In 1991 Dr. Davis went to the National Zoo in Washington, D.C., to do research as a Smithsonian faculty fellow (the National Zoo is run by the Smithsonian Institution). From 1993 through 1997, he was a vet there. "I started doing outreach at the National Zoo's Scientist in the Classroom program for grades kindergarten through 12. I loved talking to kids about what we did at the zoo. They were really interested in learning about animals, conservation, zoo careers and what the challenges were of a black person becoming a research fellow at the Smithsonian."

What clinched it, however, were twin girls visiting the cheetah exhibit at the National Zoo with their parents. As Dr. Davis walked past, on his way to a meeting, the girls ran up to him. "They were in the sixth grade, and it turns out I had gone to their school when they were in fifth grade. And these little girls remembered everything I told them about cheetahs. 'We both want to become veterinarians,' they said to me. I just broke into tears that I had had so much influence on them. Shortly after that, I decided that I wanted to be an educator in a zoo setting." An education job opened at Zoo Atlanta. He applied and got it. He would be working with a mentor, Dr. Rita McManamon, whom he had worked for one summer while in veterinary school. "Right around that time, I proposed to my girlfriend, now my wife, Nancy." So his life changed dramatically in one year, 1997.

This latest change, moving to the ZSM from a strategic-planning job at the Lincoln Park Zoo, will give him a chance to lead what he says is a very impressive non-profit organization into the future. But, hey, it's still all about animals – his first love.

-By Paula Brookmire





Families Love Fun-Filled Farm

What could be more fun for kids? Live animal presentations. Dazzling raptors flying overhead. Play structures built to size for kids. All this and more tempted children and their families in the new Northwestern Mutual Family Farm, which opened in June at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

The farm is one of several completed projects in the New Zoo II Capital Campaign, a public-private partnership of the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County. About 500 guests were invited to tour the new farm during the grand opening held June 14. The farm also was premiered to Zoological Society members June 15, 16 and 17 during the member event called Nights in June.

“As a major donor to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee’s Capital Campaign, we looked at a number of options of where to donate,” said Tom Dyer, vice president of corporate services at Northwestern Mutual, who spoke at the grand opening. “We chose the farm because it’s a happy, fun and

Tom Dyer welcomes about 500 guests to the grand opening of the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm on June 14. Dyer is vice president of corporate services at Northwestern Mutual.

enjoyable place for families to take a break from other activities at the Zoo. At the same time it gives Northwestern Mutual and the

Foundation some visibility.”

Where the old petting ring used to be, the new Stackner Animal Encounter building, sponsored by the Stackner Family Foundation, now allows you to see such animals as a rooster, a porcupine, a groundhog, a red-tailed hawk, a snake and a duck out in yards even in winter, if it’s not too cold. The popular chick hatchery, open only in summer previously, now is viewable year-round through a window into the Stackner Animal Encounter building. Adult cochin chickens also can be viewed through two windows. Adding to the fun last summer were live-animal presentations at the building, where kids could pet the

animals afterward. The programs start up again Memorial Day weekend 2006. Milking demonstrations in the Dairy Barn, however, go on all year, even in winter.

As they gazed at a bald eagle, people who attended a new Birds of Prey Show this summer were in awe. Viewing our national bird and ducking as another raptor flew within inches of their heads was even more exciting. The show, which also describes the significance of birds of prey in Native American culture, was made possible by the Forest County Potawatomi Community. With additional seating



Emily Enea (foreground) and Sydney Woda, both 11, try out a slide in the Zoo’s new Kohl’s Cares for Kids Play Area. Richard and Mary Ellen Enea, Emily’s parents, donated to an animal play structure. Kohl’s Corporation donated to the overall play area.



and a larger stage, the new Birds of Prey Theater accommodated 220 more visitors than the old theater. The show is over for this year, but the birds take flight again starting Memorial Day weekend 2006.

One of the striking differences about the new farm was the vibrant color provided by the many flower gardens. One of the most colorful was a butterfly garden near the Birds of Prey Theater. Perched in the middle of the garden was a topiary butterfly, and the garden itself was shaped like a butterfly. (See page 12.) Horticulturalists at the Zoo planted specific flowers and plants, such as aster and scabiosa, to attract butterflies. Near the Zoo's train tracks, University of Wisconsin Extension master gardeners created a garden that will benefit butterflies during each stage of their lives, including as caterpillars. Across from the horse barn the UW-Extension master gardeners also prepared four American heritage gardens (Asian, African-American, European and early American).

A popular attraction in the farm during the summer, where kids were able to burn off some energy, were the two new play areas, sponsored by Kohl's Corporation. The area designed for children ages 2-5 has a slide, climbing steps and dexterity stations; the area for ages 5-12 has slides, a circular swing, a fire-station-type pole, a U-shaped teeter-totter and lots of climbing structures. Across from the play areas is a new, kid-friendly food stand with several healthful choices such as applesauce, veggies with dip, and a fruit cup.

Dr. Gil Boese, chief executive officer of the Zoological Society, said that the farm was given a major makeover. "Besides the new buildings, we have changed all the entrances, given the goat yard a face-lift, improved the interactive areas inside the Octagon Barn, added more gardens and landscaping, and upgraded fencing." Even cleaning up has been given more prominence, with two new hand-washing areas – one near the Goat Yard and one next to Stackner Animal Encounter. Washing hands is especially important after children pet goats and other farm animals.

"Northwestern Mutual has been part of the Milwaukee community for nearly 150 years, and our company feels that commitment to our community is key to our success," said Lynn Heimbruch, grant and sponsorship manager for the Northwestern Mutual Foundation. The Northwestern Mutual Foundation contributes \$13 million annually to various projects, most of which stay in the greater Milwaukee area, says Heimbruch. "Education is the primary focus for our foundation; so we feel the farm at the Milwaukee County Zoo is an excellent fit for us. What better way to teach children about our state than through this interactive and engaging farm experience!"

-By Nicole Reeck



Dawn Hamill and her 2-year-old son, Austin, pet a snake after an animal presentation at the farm's new Stackner Animal Encounter building.

See page 12 for donor list.



This view of the new farm shows the Stackner Animal Encounter where the petting ring used to be.

Cochin chickens have feathers on their feet to help keep them warm in winter. You can see them outside or through windows year-round.



Before view of the farm shows the central petting ring.



The farm has two butterfly gardens as models for how to plant your own garden.

Thanks to Special Donors

-  **Northwestern Mutual Foundation** gave the major gift to remodel the farm.
-  **Kohl's Corporation** donated to the Kohl's Cares for Kids Play Area.
-  The **Judith A. Grimes Charitable Trust** is a donor to the children's play structure for ages 5-12.
-  **Richard and Mary Ellen Enea** are donors to an animal play structure.
-  The **Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board** is a donor to the new milking parlor video and the Meet Belle the Dairy Cow exhibit.
-  **Sargento Foods Inc.** is a donor to the Meet Belle the Dairy Cow exhibit.
-  The **Stackner Animal Encounter** is named in honor of the **Stackner Family Foundation**
-  Many donors to the Zoological Society Annual Appeal and the New Zoo II Capital Campaign designated their donations to support the renovated Northwestern Mutual Family Farm.



Above: Cynthia Boerner and her 2-year-old son, Zachary, carefully pet Pokey the porcupine in the farm.

Top: View of the new play area at the farm.





Kids ALive



Help **CATS**, Help **BIRDS**

Did you know more than 7 million birds are killed each year by cats? That's a lot of birds! If you keep your family cat indoors, you'll help many birds near your home. You'll help your cat at the same time.

"Cats are predators, which means they hunt other living things," says Vicki Piaskowski, international coordinator for Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin Fronteras®. "Even if your cat is well-fed, it still has the natural instinct to hunt when it is outdoors."

Once caught by a cat, few birds survive, even if they escape. The bird usually dies because its wounds get infected from the cat's claws or teeth.

Did you know that the average life span of an outdoor cat is 2-5 years? Cats that live their entire lives indoors, however, can live 17 years or more. When you let your cat outside, it may get hit by a car, attacked by other animals or get lost or stolen. It may pick up a disease or even starve. So, do what is best for your cat: **Keep it indoors**. When you do this, you'll also be doing your part to help conservation. You'll be protecting birds!



For more information and to learn how to make an outdoor cat an indoor cat, visit the American Bird Conservancy **Cats Indoors!** program
Web site at www.abcbirds.org/cats/.

Our Endangered Cats

The big cats here at the Milwaukee County Zoo come from all over the world: Africa, Asia, Central and South America. The family of big cats is one of the most endangered in the world today. They are hunted for their fur coats. They are killed because people fear them.

They are hunted by farmers when the cats sometimes attack cattle. Because people have taken over much of the cats' habitats, the animals can have trouble finding food. See the stories on pages 4-8 on all the new big cats at the Zoo. Next time you're at the Zoo, visit the new Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country. Meet the cats up close.

Match Cats & Their Prey

Read these facts about a few of the big cats and match the big cats to their prey. Draw a line to connect cat and prey.



Lions:

- Live in Africa
- Eat zebras and antelope
- Are the most social cats; live in families called prides
- See very well in the dark and have a great sense of smell

Jaguars:

- Live in jungles and forests of Central and South America
- Eat animals ranging from tapirs to monkeys
- Can hunt prey by jumping down onto it from a tree
- Usually hunt during the day, but will hunt at night

Cheetahs:

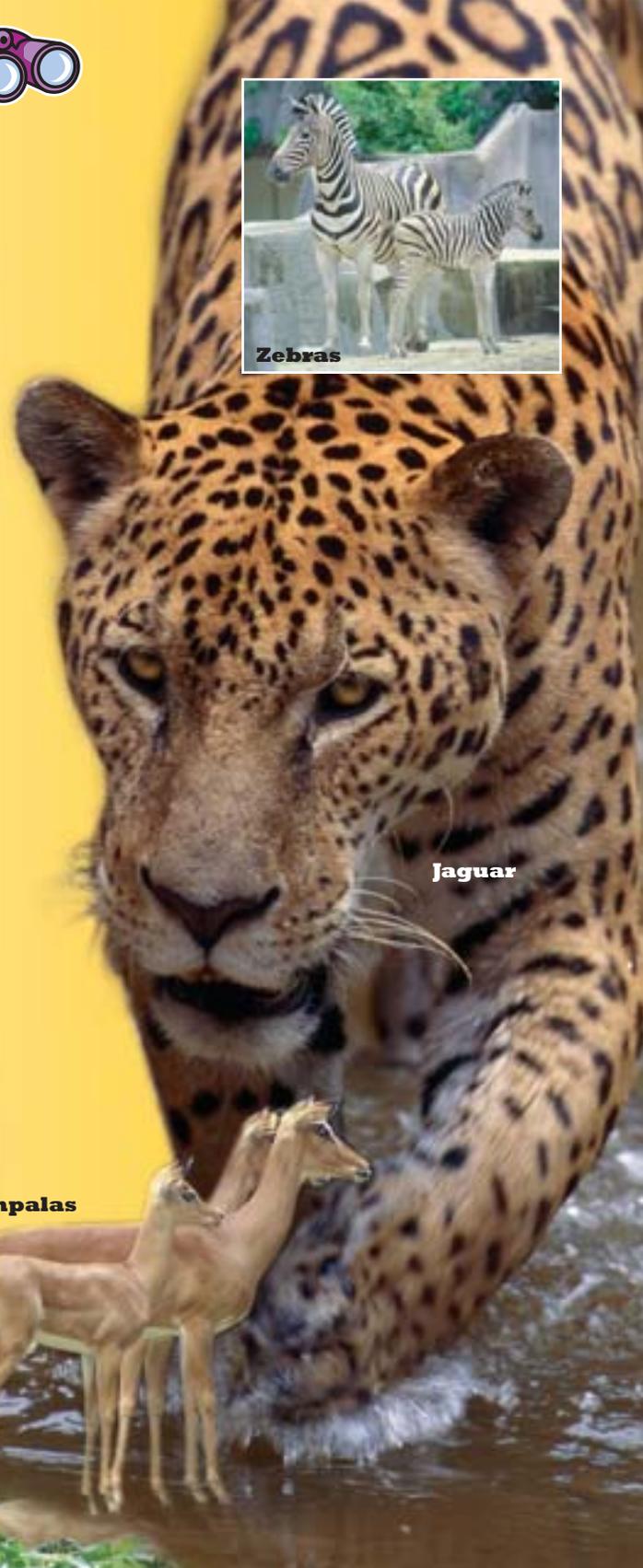
- Live in Africa
- Eat impalas and gazelles
- Are the only cats that cannot retract their claws
- Are the fastest land mammals (can reach speeds of 60-70 mph during short sprints)
- Look for the "tear stripes" that run from the corner of each eye down the side of the nose (muzzle)

Answers to Crossword:

Down: 1. claws, 2. endangered, 3. roar
Across: 1. carnivores, 2. canine, 3. habitats, 4. prey, 5. cubs

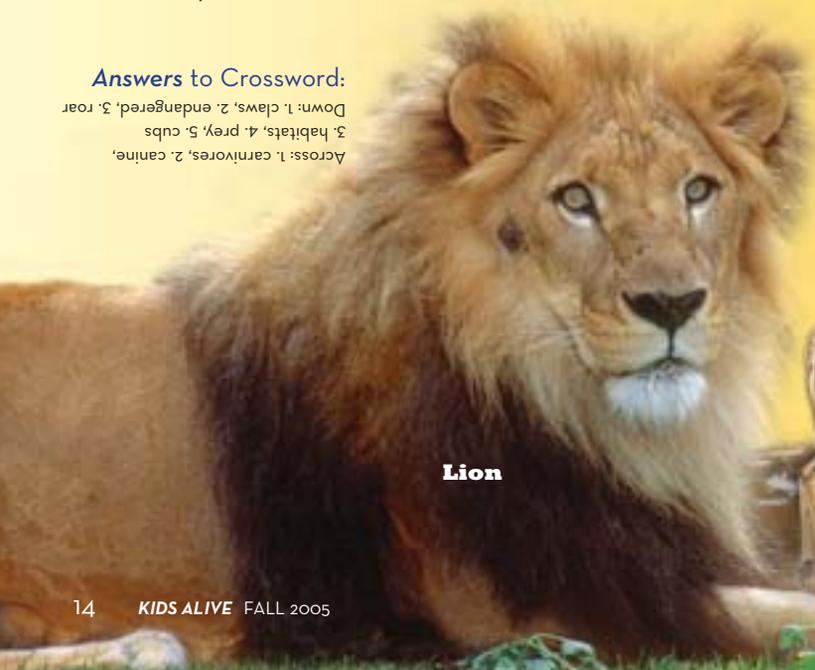


Zebras



Jaguar

Impalas



Lion

BIG CATS at the ZOO

Big Cat Crossword

Use the underlined words to fill in the blanks to the clues at right. Then fill in the crossword puzzle spaces below.

Big cats live in many different habitats - from hot tropical jungles to open savannas. Big cats are endangered because people are destroying their habitats. Big cat babies are called cubs. All cats are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They have long claws and sharp, pointy canine teeth used for hunting prey. Big cats can roar, but they cannot purr.

ACROSS

1. Meat-eaters are called _____.
2. A sharp pointy tooth is called a _____ tooth.
3. _____ are where animals live.
4. An animal hunted for food is called the _____.
5. Big cat babies are known as _____.

DOWN

1. A big cat's paw has sharp _____.
2. As people destroy their habitats, big cats become _____.
3. Big cats _____, but do not purr.

Answers to Cats & Prey Match:

1. Lions eat zebras
2. Jaguars eat tapirs
3. Cheetahs eat impalas

Cat Joke

Why is it so difficult for a leopard to hide?

Answer (hold page up to mirror):
Because it is always spotted

Cheetah



Tapir



Jaguar photo: stock photography

ZOO CHOO-CHOO

All aboard! Did you know that the fastest growing Zoological Society classes are for 2-year-olds? The most popular class among 2-year-olds is the train class. "The train is something special at the Milwaukee County Zoo because not all Zoos have trains," says MaryLynn Conter Strack, Zoological Society enrichment program specialist. "We decided to start the Zoo train class because many kids think of the train when they're asked what they see at the Zoo."

For many 2-year-olds, this class may be their first school-like experience. Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) educators want to make it a fun one. This class uses the Zoo train to focus on learning basic shapes and counting. In the classroom, kids have fun with art projects and learning activities. They can make shapes and tracks in the sand, play games and use stamps with various shapes on them

The main art project is a train costume: a piece of poster board folded in half and cut into the shape of a train. It also has a cardboard smokestack and windows. Kids can then be creative by gluing animals onto their train and decorating it with crayons and paints. When they're done, kids can put on their costumes with their arms hanging out the "windows." Then they become engineers and drive their train around the classroom.



Children wave from the North Shore Bank Safari Train at the Zoo.



Children can follow the "train tracks" in the Zoological Society classroom.

"There are train tracks taped to the floor for the children to follow," says MaryLynn. "We do have a lot of 'trains' jumping the tracks and going their own directions, which is OK, too!" At the end of the class, a real train ride on the North Shore Bank Safari Train takes kids past some of their favorite animals at the Zoo.

The train class is offered only in September, and each session is limited to nine children with one adult each. Nearly 300 children took the class this September. For more information about other 2-year-old classes throughout the year, visit the ZSM Web site at www.zoosociety.org, and select Education.

-By Nicole Reeck

Bringing the Zoo to You

Butterflies can taste with their legs, owls can see in the dark and polar bears can smell through 4 feet of ice. Why can humans do none of these things? One answer is that animals and humans have developed different senses to survive. This was the message of Animal Senses, a Zoo to You program of the Zoological Society Conservation Education Department, presented to three classes of about 45 kindergarteners at Lincoln Elementary School in Cudahy last winter.

Children know that we humans see with our eyes, smell with our noses, hear with our ears, taste with our mouths and touch with our hands. But how do you explain a snake's take on the senses to a 5-year-old? Zoo to You instructor Christopher Uitz asked kids to do some simple actions and compared them to those of animals.

"Boys and girls, can you move your eyes without moving your head?" Uitz asked, and the kindergarteners happily complied by scanning the room from left to right. Uitz then explained that owls can't move their eyes without moving their heads, but, unlike humans, they can see in the dark. This helps owls find food and avoid predators at night.

In another activity, Uitz asked kids to close their eyes. He dropped a marshmallow in their outstretched palms. After the kids popped marshmallows in their mouths, Uitz explained that while humans taste with their tongues, butterflies taste with their feet! When butterflies are hungry, they must land on a flower to taste it.

Sometimes animals have far sharper senses than humans. To demonstrate, Uitz let kids smell some food extracts such as orange and peppermint, bringing small canisters close to their noses. The children guessed correctly only about half of the time. Animals like polar bears and dogs have long snouts that detect smells far better a human nose can. Polar bears, for example,

Right: Instructor Christopher Uitz carried a hedgehog into Lincoln Elementary School in Cudahy for a Zoo to You class.

Jackson Ziegert and Elizabeth Hellrung, both of Cudahy, look at an African hedgehog, Needles, during a Zoo to You class.



Photos by Robb Quinn

can smell seals, their most important food source, through 4 feet of ice every time!

Some animals have more than one sharpened sense. Uitz brought out Needles, an African hedgehog, who sniffed vigorously as Uitz took her around the classroom.

Hedgehogs are small, nocturnal animals that must defend themselves against eagles and dogs. They need a good sense of touch, eyesight to get around in the dark, and a super-sharp sense of smell to spot predators and food. "I liked that the hedgehog curled up in a ball and hid," said kindergartener Dylan McElwee. Dylan now knows that Needles was using her nose to smell a roomful of strangers and respond to possible danger.

Zoological Society instructors often bring live animals to schools for Zoo to You programs. Depending on grade level, the programs also may include craft activities and touchable artifacts. "I thought Zoo to You was wonderful," said kindergarten teacher Julie Smaglick. "We're learning about the senses now; so it's nice that kids have a hands-on activity."

Besides Animal Senses, Zoo to You programs include topics such as Wisconsin Animals; Things With Wings; Scutes, Scales, and Lizard Tails; and Critter Covers. For more information on Zoo to You programs for 2nd through 12th grades, visit the Zoological Society's Web site, www.zoosociety.org, or call our Conservation Education Department at (414) 258-5058.

-By Julia Kolker

A Natural Place for Gor

Jan Rafert and Cassius the gorilla observe one another at the Zoo.



Inside the Stearns Family Apes of Africa Pavilion, natural light filters down between the leaves of tall palms in a tropical rain forest. A gurgling waterfall and a light mist in the air suggest you are in the lowlands of Cameroon in west-central Africa, where the Zoo's oldest gorilla, Femelle, is believed to have been born about 43 years ago.

The carefully designed exhibit promotes gorillas' natural behavior by re-creating their natural habitat. The Milwaukee County Zoo's six gorillas forage for food, play, sit and eat live plants, just as they would in the wild. A more natural environment encourages captive gorillas to develop socially and reproduce successfully, says Jan Rafert, primate curator. Zoologists help the process by providing matchmaking through the Lowland Gorilla Species Survival Plan (SSP). North American zoos in the SSP cooperate to loan out or

take in gorillas for breeding, so that the apes don't become inbred in just a small group.

The battle to save the endangered gorilla from extinction is being fought on two fronts. Zoologists try to keep a viable population of gorillas in captivity while conservationists fight to protect gorillas in central Africa, their native habitat.

Wars, forest cutting, poaching for bushmeat (as game meat is called) or for "trophy" heads and hands, and an outbreak of Ebola virus in Africa all threaten gorillas, the largest of the great apes. In the last decade alone, the number of gorillas in Africa, believed to have totaled between 80,000 and 100,000, may have been cut in half, according to a 2003 report in "Natural History," the magazine of the American Museum of Natural History in New York.



The future for gorillas is uncertain. "With central Africa's human population growing quickly, pressures on both gorilla habitat and the animals themselves will only escalate," says the Wildlife Conservation Society, which has headquarters at the Bronx Zoo in New York City. Continuing turmoil in the region makes it difficult to protect gorillas.

Jan Rafert has fought on both fronts in this conservation battle. A vocal advocate for gorillas, he visited the mountain gorillas' native Rwanda three times. He spent six months in 1984 and 1985 at the Karisoke Research Center, a protected mountain gorillas study area; he assisted noted anthropologist Dr. David Watts in collecting feeding data from wild gorillas. Rafert also worked with Dian Fossey, celebrated researcher of the mountain gorilla (the movie "Gorillas in the Mist" chronicled her work). He helped on her demographic studies of the gorillas and participated in the anti-poaching patrols Fossey established. He went again in 1986, after Fossey was murdered (probably by poachers), to keep the camp running, and once more for a six-month stint in 1987.

Rafert returned to the Brookfield Zoo outside Chicago as a zookeeper. In 1989, he came to the Milwaukee County Zoo as curator of primates and small mammals. "It was a difficult decision because I would have to give up having daily contact with the animals as a zookeeper," he says. "It came down to this: Why am I in this business? I could have stayed where I was or I could be in a position to make decisions." The Zoo would send Rafert as its representative to the Gorilla SSP, a group of representatives from 50 zoos across North

America and several advisors who manage the North American gorilla population of 347 (as of June 2005). He was elected to its nine-member steering committee.

At an SSP meeting last April, the group discussed breeding strategy. "The problem is that all the zoos want breeding females, and there aren't enough to go around," Rafert says. "The good news is that we are near the top of the list to have our concerns addressed and potentially receive a breeding female." That's because our Zoo's female gorillas are quite old.

"We don't know if gorillas experience menopause, but our females' reproductive years appear to be over," says Rafert.

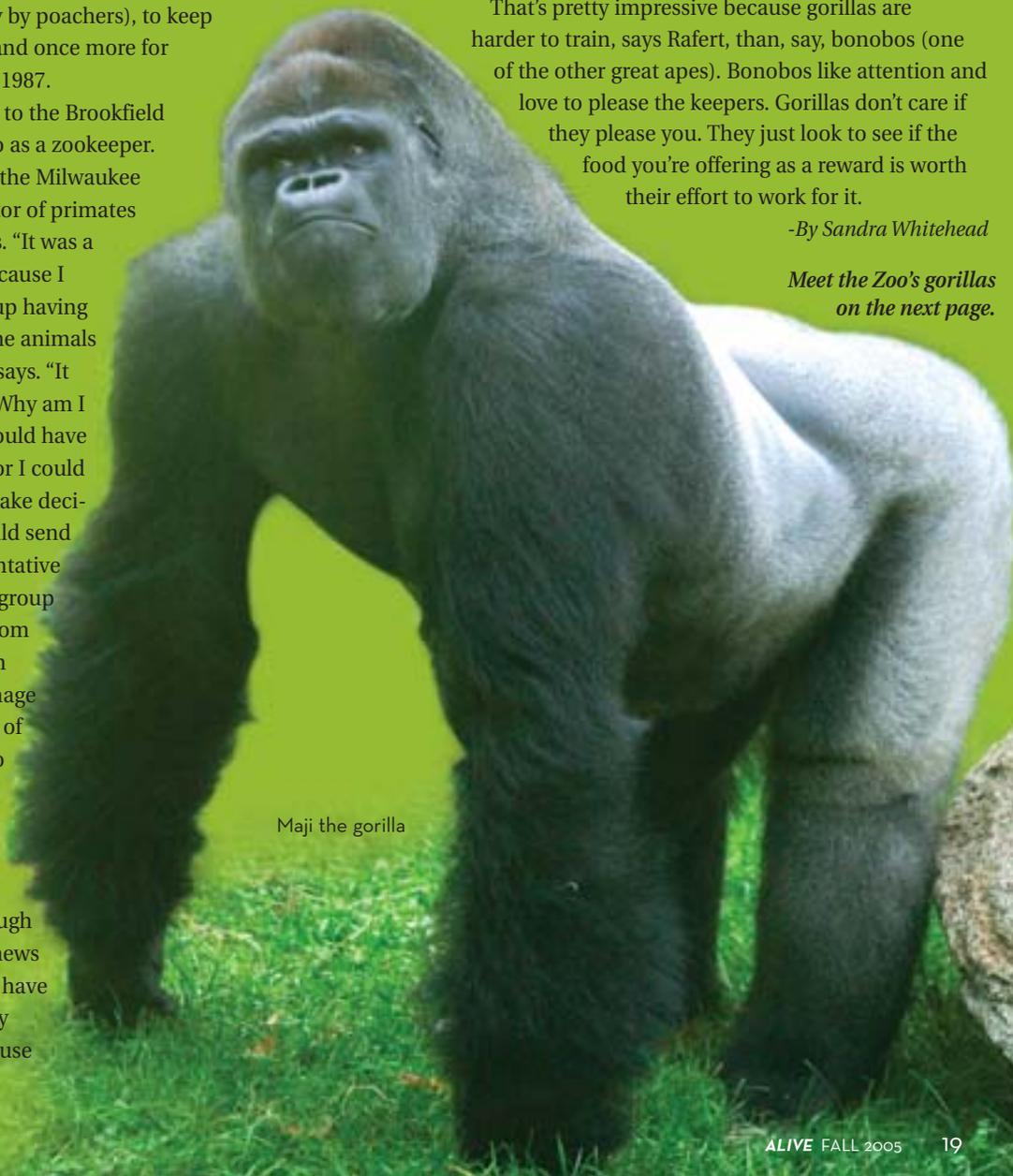
The SSP must plan its matchmaking carefully, not only to ensure genetic and age compatibility, but also to account for the individual gorilla's taste in breeding companions. Females begin to breed at about age 10, menstruating once every 28 days. Like humans, they may mate in any season, with pregnancy lasting almost nine months. But whether gorillas mate or not depends primarily on the male making a good impression. "It's a female's choice," says Rafert. "She wants a male who is stronger than she is, who can protect her."

Training is also important to keeping captive gorillas healthy because they are trained to participate in their own medical care. Training happens throughout the day, every day, in sessions that usually last less than five minutes each, says the Zoo's principal gorilla keeper, Claire Richard. The training method, called operant conditioning, slowly shapes behavior by rewarding the apes for every small step that leads to the behavior the keeper wants. There is never any punishment, and training is voluntary for the animals. Some of the Zoo's gorillas have learned to sit still for drug injections, a temperature reading with a rectal thermometer, or treatment of wounds.

That's pretty impressive because gorillas are harder to train, says Rafert, than, say, bonobos (one of the other great apes). Bonobos like attention and love to please the keepers. Gorillas don't care if they please you. They just look to see if the food you're offering as a reward is worth their effort to work for it.

-By Sandra Whitehead

Meet the Zoo's gorillas on the next page.



Maji the gorilla



Maji



Femelle

Meet Our Gorillas

Contrary to their “King Kong” movie image, the largest of the great apes are not aggressive monsters. Gorillas are amiable creatures, says primate curator Jan Rafert. “They are very peaceful and would be good role models for human beings.”

Gorillas have very expressive features, especially their eyes. They have hairless faces, with flat noses and flaring nostrils. Their eyes and ears are small, their brow ridges prominent. Their body structure is similar to that of humans, except that their arms are much longer and legs are shorter. They move about in a stooped position, on all fours, resting on the knuckles of their hands.

Gorillas usually live in family groups of a single, large silverback male and three to four females along with juveniles and infants. Their average life span, both in the wild and in captivity, is 35 to 45 years old, says Rafert. Adult males weigh around 450 pounds, but females are smaller, averaging 250 pounds.

If you spend time watching the gorillas, you’ll begin to note their distinctive personalities, says Rafert. Femelle is very strong-willed and independent. “She stands up to males and makes them earn her respect. Linda and Ngajji are more gentle, even withdrawn, with sweeter dispositions.” Ngajji likes to sit on top of the log structure. Linda, who has a much blacker face, is often up by the glass, watching the public while they watch her.

Cassius, the largest (see photos), is expected to get up to 450-475 pounds when he reaches his full weight. At 19, Cassius is “just coming out of his very obnoxious teenage years,” says Rafert.

“He was pushing other members of the group to their limits, seeing what he could get away with.”

Maji Maji, 14, is just coming into his silverback phase, when the hair on his back changes from black to silver. In the wild, silverbacks may leave their group and travel alone until they can attract their own females. “He is pretty independent. Sometimes he plays with Hodari, the youngest,” says Rafert.

Hodari, 10, who was hand-raised at the Cincinnati Zoo, is partial to humans, Rafert says. “He follows people. Sometimes he throws a towel on his head. If it gets a laugh, he’ll do it again.”



The Zoological Society & Gorillas

Dr. Gil Boese, chief executive officer of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM), also is past chairman and a current board member of the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. He and the ZSM have supported gorilla research and protection efforts at the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund’s Karisoke Research Center in Rwanda, in east-central Africa. In February 2006, Dr. Boese will be leading a safari to Tanzania, with a planned side trip to Rwanda to check on some of the research progress at Karisoke. The ZSM supports gorilla conservation through its conservation partner, the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., of which Dr. Boese is president.



Study:

Why Do Animals Eat Dirt?

Little kids like to eat “mud pies” – cakey mud masses that may contain minerals that children’s bodies crave. Animals, too, eat “mud pies,” and scientists suspect it’s for the same reason.

When Miguel Morales, a Ph.D. student at University of Wisconsin-Madison, worked as director of a rain-forest reserve in his native Paraguay, he noticed that animals flocked to soil licks. Soil licks, also called salt licks, are natural deposits of dirt and minerals. For the last few years, with the help of \$4,000 in grants from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, the graduate student in land resources has been exploring how and why animals eat soil.

Morales is doing research in the Mbaracayu Reserve in Paraguay, where he worked as director for five years. The Zoological Society’s grants allowed him to buy infrared scouting cameras and have soil samples analyzed. To capture animal behavior at soil licks, Morales and his two-person field team set up the cameras to monitor the area 24 hours a day for 20 months. “This information is crucial to learn more about how wild animals use soil licks and why,” he says.

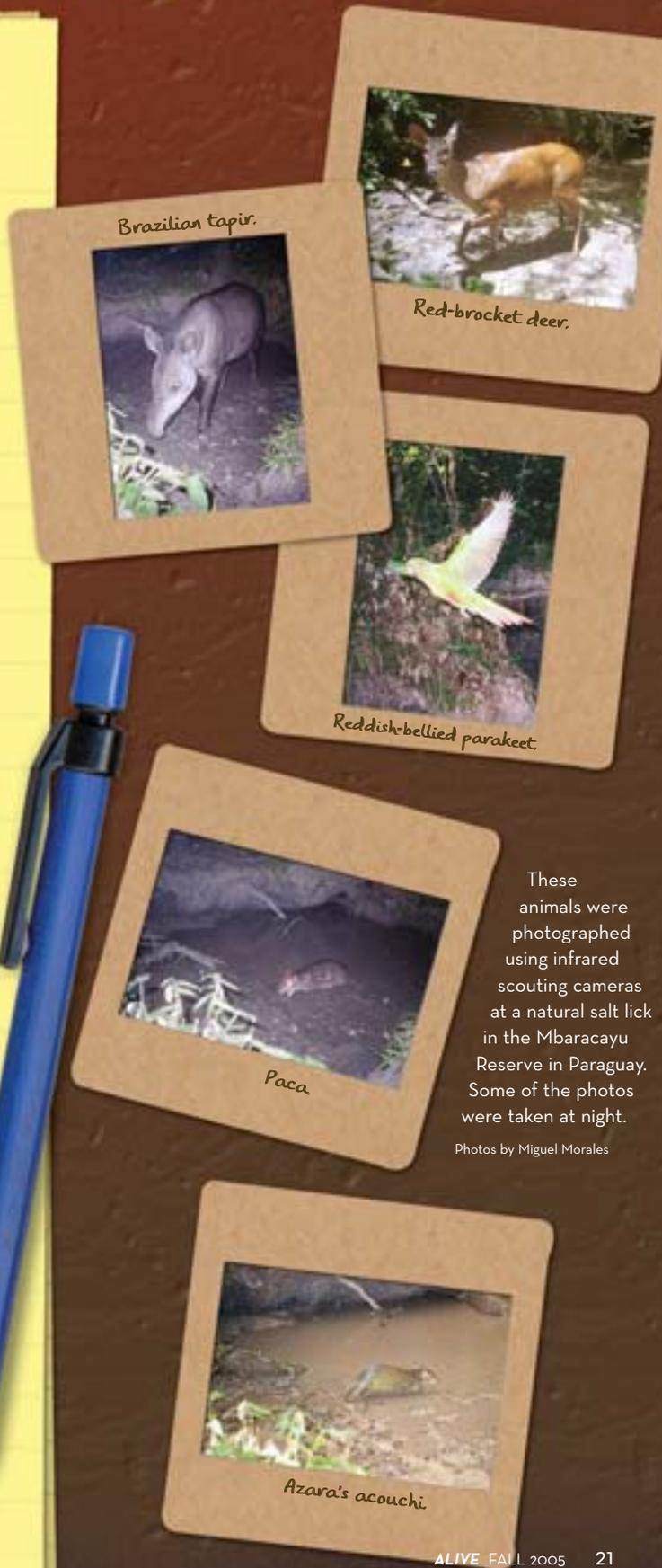
Researchers suspect that eating soil helps animals digest potentially dangerous foods or obtain healthful minerals not found in other foods. Parrots, for example, need to consume soil to absorb toxins in their diet, which includes leaves, seeds and fruit, says Morales.

His initial conclusions found that animals that eat soil are usually herbivores or frugivores (fruit-eaters), like parakeets, tapirs and white-tipped doves. However, pumas, jaguars and foxes make occasional trips to the salt licks to prey on herbivores. In the next step of his research, Morales put different combinations of minerals at the licks to see which minerals animals preferred. He expects to have final results by the end of 2005.

Morales, a native of Asuncion, Paraguay, earned a degree in veterinary sciences in his hometown, but enjoys working with wildlife more than with domestic animals. He moved to Wisconsin to attend UW-Madison, and earned a master’s degree in conservation biology.

The Amazon forest in Peru – where hundreds of macaws, parrots and parakeets come to giant soil licks – is a tourist destination, says Morales. He hopes his research not only will explain the mystery of salt licks, but also bring more tourism and funding to rain forests. “It is difficult to see wild animals in tropical forests mainly because they naturally exist in low densities,” Morales says. “I always thought that if we could increase the chance of sighting wildlife, we could bring more tourists and be able to raise additional money to support the reserve.”

The reserve where he is doing research is located in the Interior Atlantic Forest, which is among the most endangered ecosystems in the world, Morales says. “I would like to do what I can to contribute to its conservation.”



These animals were photographed using infrared scouting cameras at a natural salt lick in the Mbaracayu Reserve in Paraguay. Some of the photos were taken at night.

Photos by Miguel Morales

-By Julia Kolker

High in the rain-forest canopy

but clearly visible, a large male bonobo sits on a branch and swings his feet. Three or four other members of the troop occasionally appear out of the sharp shadows cast by dense foliage. A female shows herself briefly as she climbs out on a limb. However, it is the male who sits and watches, seeming curious but unconcerned by the presence of six human visitors.

Far below on the floor of Africa's Salonga National Park forest stands Dr. Gay Edwards Reinartz, conservation coordinator of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). On May 10, two days before she is to begin the journey back to Wisconsin, she knows she is looking at vindication of four years of ZSM-sponsored

bonobos were protected only on paper. On nine previous missions to Salonga, Dr. Reinartz has seen bonobos only three times, brief glimpses only.

"I've covered many miles in the park without seeing bonobos," Dr. Reinartz says. "For two years we were going on surveys constantly into new areas, and not until we were nearly done with the second year of research did we see bonobos. Occasionally we could hear them and smell them, but they would flee before we could see them."

On this trip, researchers extend the grid of transects where they already have confirmed that bonobos feed and nest. Often laboriously hacking new trails in thick underbrush, they explore new forest blocks. An awed Dr. Reinartz records another three sightings:

April 27 – About a mile beyond the end of one of the station's established research corridors, the team runs into a large group of bonobos – perhaps 8 to 13 individuals – calling, dropping down through the trees to look at the human intruders, moving through the forest around the researchers for an incredible three minutes. A male stays back to watch them cautiously and then silently slips out of sight.

May 8 – In a swamp forest about 5 kilometers from the first site, a smaller group of bonobos dabbles in shallow water. "We could see the sunlight hit their backs," Dr. Reinartz recalls. Creeping quietly, researchers follow the group for more than an hour, only to realize that the bonobos have circled around behind them

to join a larger group that begins to call in the distance.

May 10 – For the next two days, the search goes on in an area not previously surveyed. Led by the ZSM research station chief, Mboyo Bolinga, and their forest guide Isomana Edmond and two more park guards, Dr. Reinartz and her adult son Nathaniel pursue an old elephant trail southeast of Etate. Suddenly, they see bonobos in the canopy. For the next half-hour, the encounter continues. At first team members slow their movements and hush their voices. From rustling movements in the trees and calls, researchers conclude that they are in the presence of at least five or six bonobos. They spot a female moving along a limb. A young adolescent hangs under a branch to peer at the researchers.



Deep in the African forest of Salonga National Park Dr. Gay Edwards Reinartz and her staff look for bonobos. From left are Dr. Reinartz, Mboyo Bolinga, Nduzo Bokono-Bolungi, Botomfie Mompansuon, Isomana Edmond.

anti-poaching efforts in the only place on Earth where this endangered species of ape lives outside captivity.

Salonga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, a United Nations World Heritage Site, is the second largest tropical forest on the planet. It is in the heart of what has been assumed to be the bonobos' natural range. However, until ZSM researchers, in cooperation with the Institute Congolais pour le Conservation de la Nature (ICCN), conducted the first systematic survey for bonobo populations in the park, no one was certain that there actually were bonobos in Salonga. Since the discovery of bonobos in the park, the Zoological Society created a research station, Etate, and staffed it with local people and hired guards. The guards started a vigilant anti-poaching program in this remote area where previously

Bonobo

A big male approaches cautiously, peeking through the branches, and then settles down on a large limb.

To everyone's surprise, the bonobos do not flee; they stay where they are. Eventually, team members begin speaking in normal voices. The humans move about freely on the forest floor below the great apes. Still the bonobos do not flee. At the base of a tree lies the body of a dead infant bonobo. If an infant dies, sometimes the mother will guard the dead baby for a while, Dr. Reinartz says. She speculates that the bonobos may resist their impulse to run away because of the dead infant. For whatever reason, the primates are close enough to photograph, a rare occurrence. Getting pictures, aiming straight up at a subject that is black against the bright sun, is a challenge, but this time it's possible.

Mboyo Bolinga is exceptionally eager for Nathaniel to take a picture. He impatiently shakes Nathaniel as he tries to focus the camera: "Take the picture! Take the picture!" Nathaniel eventually does. "The men see bonobos much more frequently than I do," Dr. Reinartz says of her Congolese colleagues, "but because we have a camera they are so excited they can barely speak. They're from this area and live here. They have a lot more invested in this conservation effort than we do. They put their lives on the line

every day to protect the forest against animal poachers."

Nevertheless, Dr. Reinartz wonders at the jubilant reaction over this last encounter. Observing bonobos is an exceptional experience for her, but why are the Etate locals so thrilled? "You see bonobos all the time," she tells Mboyo Bolinga. "Why are you so excited?"

Mboyo Bolinga has seen the photographs Reinartz takes in the copies of *Alive* that she brings to the station on her missions. He knows that the magazine represents the Zoological Society, which established the research station and keeps it going. He replies, "Madame, you're going to tell the world that there are bonobos at Etate."

Dr. Reinartz responds, "That's exactly what I'm going to do."

-By Jo Sandin 

A male bonobo looks down on the Zoological Society researchers.
Photos: ZSM



A baby bonobo clings to the trees.

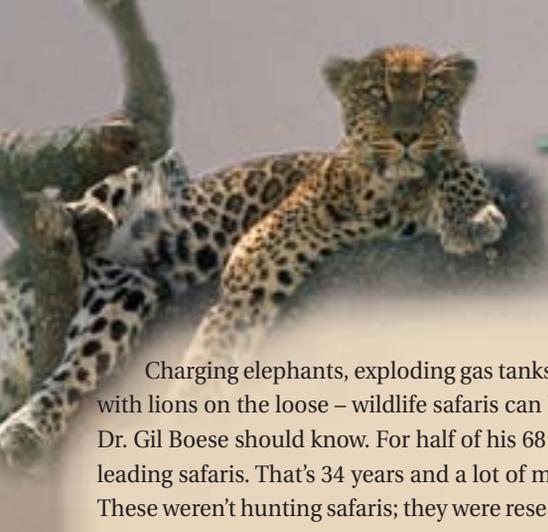


Peeking through the treetops.



Right: This clear photo of a bonobo was possible because the ape is in the Lola ya Bonobo sanctuary in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Breakthrough



THE VALUE OF

Charging elephants, exploding gas tanks, broken-down trucks with lions on the loose – wildlife safaris can be full of adventure. Dr. Gil Boese should know. For half of his 68 years, he has been leading safaris. That's 34 years and a lot of memories and photos. These weren't hunting safaris; they were research and photography trips. Yet they were much more than that, he says. They have produced lasting benefits that you might not expect.

First of all, travelers on Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) safaris all are asked to help the native people in some way. "Collectively, people on our safaris have made contributions to the local economies and to schools. We always bring books, pencils, and other school supplies. We've been doing that for 10 years," says Dr. Boese, chief executive officer of the ZSM. "In helping a school, we also become part of the national movement for a more educated populace in Kenya. I've seen grown men with their eyes full of tears when they see how just a pencil and notebook can bring a smile to a child's face. For these business executives used to dealing in millions of dollars, it's kind of a reality check."

Some safari groups have gone beyond school supplies. One group helped fund a water-catchment project for a Kenyan school near the Lewa Conservancy (a wildlife reserve that the ZSM helps support). Later the same people raised money to build a classroom at the school. Says Dr. Boese: "We're kind of a senior Peace Corps."

For native people, many of whom are poor and must be concerned more about survival than conservation, seeing the rewards associated with tourism gives them a vested interest in protecting wildlife. "The people get a nuts-and-bolts practical understanding that by having national parks, which draw tourists, there can and must be a benefit to the local people," says Dr. Boese.

The Zoological Society itself has benefited tremendously from safaris. "Many safari participants have gone on to become ZSM Board members," says Dr. Boese. "It's a very nice way to cultivate good relationships. For example, Jack McKeithan (head of Tamarack Petroleum), Lorry Uihlein (of the Schlitz brewing family) and Dick Steinman (real-estate developer) went on our 1985 safari to Kenya. Jack and Lorry joined the ZSM Board of Directors afterward, and Jack went on to chair our New Zoo II Capital Campaign 15 years later. Dick, who had been a Board member previously and was an honorary Board member, decided to become more active and re-join as an active member. Dick later became a director of the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., the ZSM's partner organization."

A host of other Milwaukee-area business leaders who went on ZSM safaris later became Board members, including Larry Weiss, Tom Wamser, Andy Sawyer and Dick Gebhardt. Karen Peck Katz went on a ZSM safari to the Central American country of

Belize and became much more interested in ZSM education projects and eventually became chair of the Board's education committee. That led to her persuading her family foundation to make the major gift to build the ZSM's new Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center (which opened in fall 2004). Both Ann McNeer and Jack Recht got much more involved in ZSM activities after safaris. Both were honorary Board directors as of 2005. Quinn Martin was a Board member when he went to Belize; he later became chairman of the Board.

Safaris generally are safe, but the unexpected can happen. Dr. Boese recalls one safari where a mother elephant got agitated when the travelers came upon her herd suddenly. When a woman snapped a photo of the elephant's baby, the mother elephant charged. "Our guide and I raised our arms up and yelled, 'Stop.' The elephant stopped her charge about 30 feet away from us."

On a safari in the late 1980s to Zimbabwe in Africa, Dr. Boese's group sighted a leopard as it jumped from a tree. Curious, the group of seven left their truck and headed across a plain toward the leopard's tree, with Garth Thompson as their guide. "We came across a lion threatening to charge. We backed up, and another lion showed up. Soon there were three lions. We kept together and kept moving, putting space between the lions and our group, till we got back to our vehicle. Then, still curious, we drove the vehicle back across the plain to the leopard's tree. The leopard had killed an impala and carried it up into the tree. The lions had chased away the leopard and taken the kill. When we went to leave, the vehicle would not start. So we had to get out, keeping a lookout for the lions, and push the truck to start it."

The day's excitement wasn't over, however. "When we got back to camp that afternoon, a hut was in flames and the roof tiles were exploding. I saw three 200-pound butane tanks nearby that could cause a huge explosion once the fire reached them. Not thinking, I ran and pulled the first tank out away from the flames, then the second tank. When I tried to get the third tank, I found it was hooked up to a hose. Garth Thompson ran over to help and, together, we pulled the tank away from the fire. We could hear gas spurting out from the top. While we were doing this, a 40-pound butane gas tank blew up in the building and threw both of us into the air. It's amazing we weren't seriously injured."

Dr. Boese's safaris continue, but facilities have improved and he has refined the itineraries. Still, the sense of adventure is the same, as is the desire to protect the animals that most people see only in movies, on TV or – for a live experience – in a zoo. In the end, the real value of safaris is in getting people committed to conservation.

-By Paula Brookmire

Top left: A leopard looks down from its perch in a tree.

SAFARIS



Zebras gather at a watering hole in Tanzania in the Serengeti plain.



Water buffalo and birds have a mutually agreeable relationship.





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Left: The Northwestern Mutual Family Farm, a capital campaign project, opened in June 2005.

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Shae Greib, 2, of Watertown rides the Wells Fargo Carousel at the Zoo.

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get in the Platypus Society, the more they will realize all the things they can do to help the Zoo."

- *Carole Houston, patron Platypus Society member at the president's level*

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+ Members who have increased their level of giving by 10% or more

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♥ 5-year Platypus Society Member (updated each fall)

Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after Aug. 16, 2005, will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.

New Members

The Zoological Society welcomes all new members who have joined from November 10, 2004, through August 16, 2005:

CORPORATE Members

GOLD Corporate Partner
\$10,000-\$14,999
GE Healthcare

BRONZE Corporate Partner
\$2,500-\$4,999
Pro Video of Wisconsin, Inc. ★

ASSOCIATE Corporate Partner
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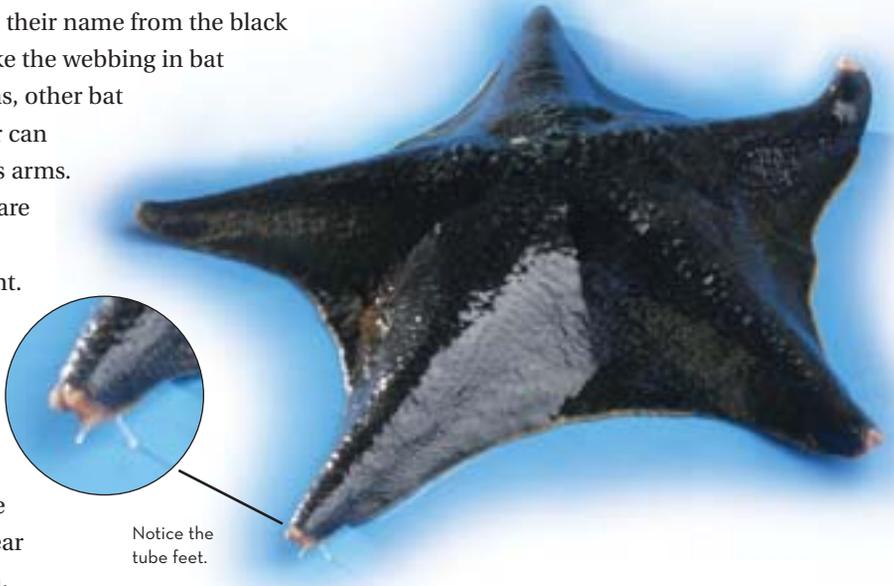
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Your Nurse Home Health



Bat Sea Star

Arrived: January 2005 • Aquatic & Reptile Center

If you look into the octopus exhibit at the Milwaukee County Zoo and see that our two new bat sea stars have enlarged stomachs, don't worry. They're not ill. In fact, you've just caught them during their lunchtime. Because a sea star's mouth is on the underside of its body, it must extend its stomach out of its mouth to digest food externally. Most sea stars are strictly carnivorous and will eat only other animals, but bat sea stars are omnivorous and will eat anything from seaweed to dead fish. In the wild bat stars can be found in cool Pacific Ocean waters near seaweed forests. Bat sea stars, also known as bat stars, get their name from the black webbing between each of their arms, which is like the webbing in bat wings. Although the Zoo's bat stars have five arms, other bat stars can have from four to eight arms. A sea star can sense light through an "eye spot" at the end of its arms. Sea stars also have "smelly feet"! Their tube feet are covered with chemical receptors. These sensory tentacles allow them to "smell" their environment. In other words, they follow their feet to find food. Sea stars also have the ability to regenerate their arms if they are damaged or eaten by predators. In most cases, the severed arm of a sea star dies. A few species of sea stars, however, can regenerate an entire sea star from a single arm. This process is rare and may take up to a year for the arms to grow back to their original length.



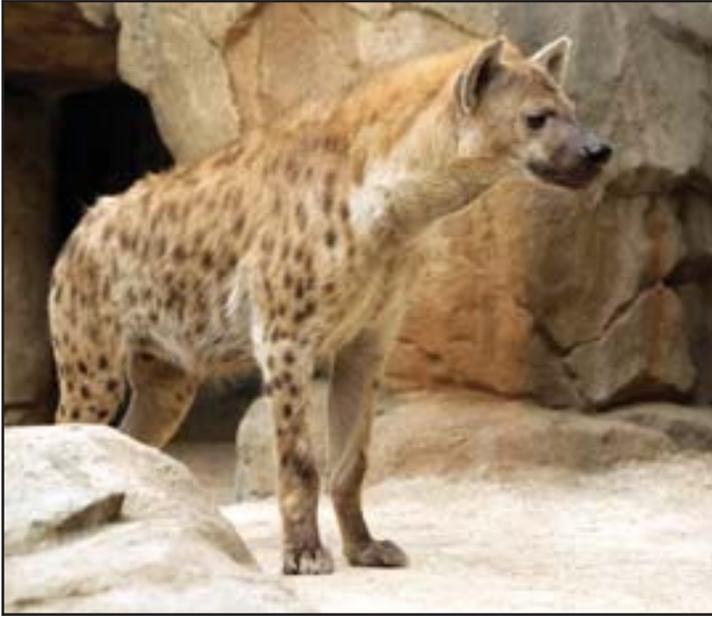
Notice the tube feet.



Fennec Foxes

Arrived: May/June 2005 • Small Mammals Building

Now you see them, now you don't. In a way it looks like Anubis and Sampson, the Zoo's two new fennec foxes, can create magic. Because they are able to dig so rapidly, fennec foxes have the reputation of being able to sink into the ground magically. They also dig for their food, which in the wild consists of lizards, insects, birds and small rodents. At the Zoo, Anubis and Sampson have their choice of mice, dog food and crickets. Fennec foxes are the smallest of all wild dogs, and yet they have the largest ears proportional to body size in the family. Their large ears aid in getting rid of excess heat in the body. Sampson's ears, however, are smaller than normal because his mother over-groomed them when he was born. He now has only one-third of his ear length. Adult fennec foxes can weigh up to 3.5 pounds, and their ears can grow to be between 4 and 6 inches long. Since the foxes are nocturnal, the big ears help them hear prey at night. Except for their black-tipped tails, fennec foxes are a cream color, which helps them blend into the dry, desert regions of Africa where they live. To protect their feet from the desert's scorching sand, fennec foxes have fur that covers the pads of their feet. The fur helps them dig and travel along the sand easier. This type of fox has adapted so that it can survive when water is not available. Its kidneys restrict water loss. It also gets water from its food and from the dew that forms when the fox burrows in the ground.



Spotted Hyenas

Arrived: May 2005 • Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country

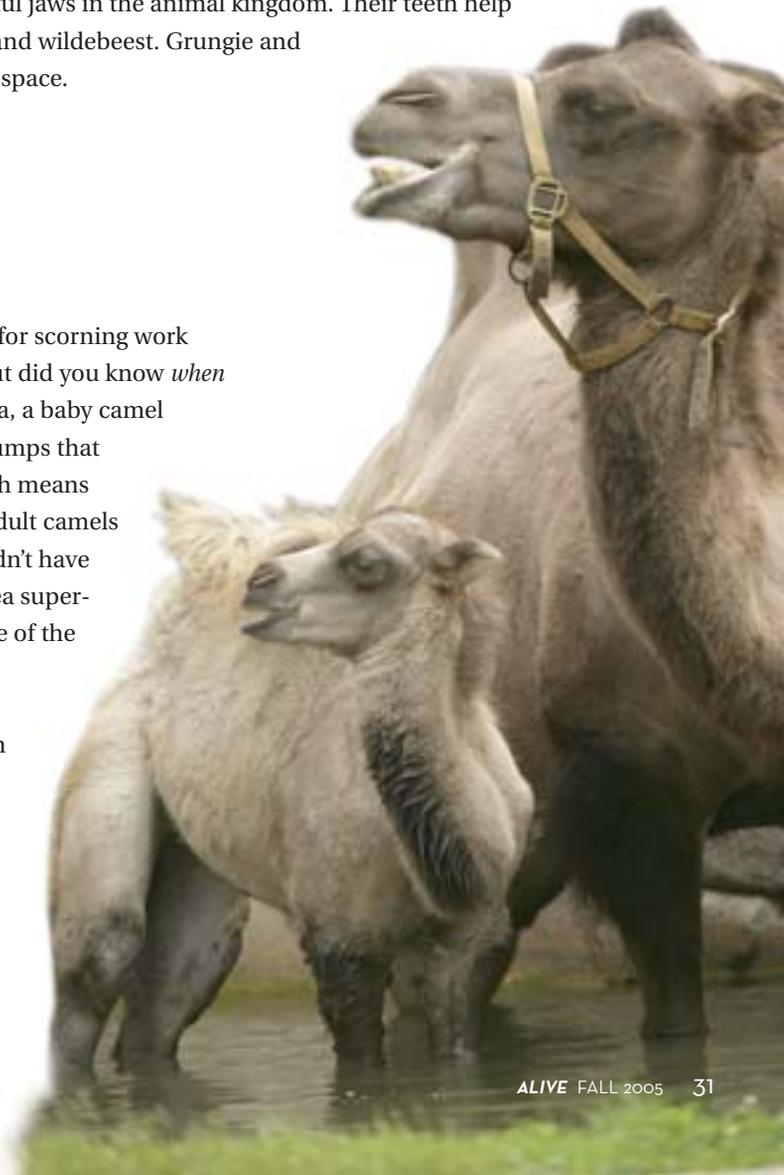
Visit 6-year-old hyena brothers Grungie and Scruffy in the new Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country and you may suspect you've stepped into a scene from the movie "Animal House." When excited or feeding, hyenas make "laughing" noises, whoops, yelps and squeals. "Hyenas are like teenage boys who like to punch each other in the arm and look for mischief," says Neil Dretzka, area supervisor of the feline building. Hyenas have long had a reputation for being, well, scruffy and grungy. While they look more like dogs than cats, hyenas are more closely related to cats, which is why they're in the feline building. Found in southern Africa, hyenas are known as scavengers. They eat dead animals, often consuming entire carcasses, including skin and bones. Some people

scorn hyenas for their less-than-pleasant feeding habits, but hyenas have been venerated by some cultures as a valuable part of the food chain, clearing away carrion. Besides, hyenas are impressive hunters, spending 90% of their time looking for live food. In proportion to size, hyenas have the most powerful jaws in the animal kingdom. Their teeth help them crush and consume bones of large prey such as zebra and wildebeest. Grungie and Scruffy will alternate with the Zoo's lions in the same exhibit space.

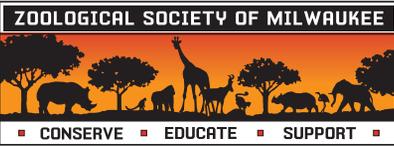
Camel Calf

Born: May 14, 2005 • Camel Exhibit

You may know *how* the camel got its hump – as punishment for scorning work by saying "humph," according to writer Rudyard Kipling – but did you know *when* a camel gets its hump? The answer is when it is born. Kristina, a baby camel born at the Zoo in May, came into the world with two tiny bumps that hung over one side. (All camels at the Zoo are Bactrian, which means they have two humps and are from Central Asia.) Well-fed, adult camels have firm, round humps, but in the first few days Kristina didn't have enough body fat to fill her humps out, says Dawn Wicker, area supervisor for the Zoo's camels, South American animals and some of the African animals. Now her humps are more developed. Baby camels, called calves, don't look a lot like their parents. At 2 weeks old, 80-pound Kristina was tiny compared to her mom and dad, Sanchi and Moses, who weigh more than 1,000 pounds each! The parents have a classic light brown coat, while Kristina's is charcoal gray, and she'll shed it by the end of her first year. Camels, along with other hoofed animals like cows and horses, learn to walk early. Kristina tried to stand a few hours after she was born and walked by the end of her first day. There's no laziness in this camel.



Alive



Remember, Members:

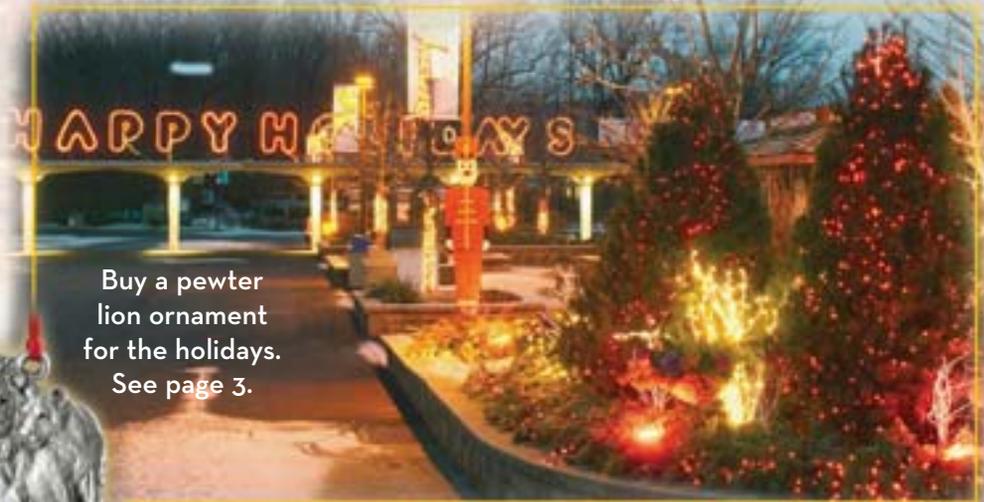
Use your **Zoo Pass** for **FREE** admission to

HOLIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

AT THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO
DECEMBER 2-3, 9-10, 16-17, 2005

Be sure to see:

- Hawks Nursery's Fantastic Forest of child-decorated trees
- Santa's Workshop & Mrs. Claus' Bake Shop
- Kriss Kringle's Craft Corner for Kids
- The Zoo's dazzling holiday light displays



Buy a pewter lion ornament for the holidays. See page 3.

Event is 6-9 p.m.
Call (414) 256-5412 for details.

Sponsor Themba, the new male lion: See insert.