

Alive



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An insider magazine for members of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee | Fall 2010

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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Support from our community makes it possible each year for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) to succeed in our mission (at left). Our supporters, companies and foundations believe in our projects that are



making a difference in the world - whether it's across an ocean or right here at the Milwaukee County Zoo. We are highlighting two supporters today who have made generous gifts to help us with two current projects.

First is Northwestern Mutual Foundation, a longtime supporter of the ZSM and the Zoo. During our last capital campaign, Northwestern Mutual made a significant donation to help remodel the Zoo's farm, now called the Northwestern Mutual Family Farm. That was done five years ago. This year the foundation has provided funding to upgrade the one part of the farm that we weren't able to re-do in 2005: the

beloved Munchkin Dairy Farm. The child-size dairy is a bit weary for wear and needs updating. Northwestern Mutual's gift will help pay for all new components, educational graphics and fun features. Children will be able to play in a milk truck or a tractor, meet a cow, and learn how a dairy farm works. The Zoo has the last working farm in the city of Milwaukee, and the award-winning milk from its cows goes to Golden Guernsey Dairy and, then, to your homes. The new Munchkin Dairy Farm will help teach children about the connection between animals (namely cows) to the milk we drink. We also hope that everyone who visits the farm will understand and appreciate better the role of agriculture in our daily lives.

The second donor we want to recognize has given more than \$1 million in this last fiscal year to the ZSM to help the endangered bonobo - both in the wild and at the Zoo. This donor wishes to remain anonymous, but her commitment to conservation is stellar. Thanks to her generous support, by next spring our bonobos at the Zoo (see story on page 14 on two new bonobos) will have an outdoor exhibit that will allow them to cavort among the trees. The exhibit will feature mesh chutes and lofts at various levels in the woods next to the Peck Welcome Center. For the first time in the Zoo's history, zoogoers will be able to view these forest apes outdoors. One loft will be at eye level for Zoo visitors standing on the viewing deck of the Peck. Other chutes will allow the bonobos to hide from public view, just as they can do in their indoor exhibit. This new system of chutes and lofts will add territory for the bonobos to explore and provide endless hours of enrichment.

But that's not all. The renovation plans also include updating the area around the indoor bonobo exhibit. New graphics will feature the Zoological Society's ground-breaking work to help save bonobos in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the only place in the world where they are found in the wild. A diorama of our study site, video footage and bonobo photos will create a one-of-a-kind experience. The diorama will feature the ZSM's field research station, Etate, in Salonga National Park. Visitors should get a feel for being in the tropical forest. Equally important, visitors can learn about the challenges of caring for captive bonobos and what research is going on here at the Zoo.

So, thank you to these and other donors. We couldn't do it without you.

Robert Davis

Dr. Bert Davis
 Chief Executive Officer



100th Anniversary Year of the Zoological Society

4 *Conservation: Our Longtime Mission*

Bonobos, birds, baboons, barn owls – these are some of the many animals the Zoological Society has worked to save in the wild. Learn about our dedication to saving wildlife. **Web:** From Grenada frogs to Amur tigers, the Zoological Society funds animal conservation in Wisconsin and abroad, zoosociety.org/conservationstories.

7 *Education: Earning Scout Badges*

Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts can now earn badges and patches in the Zoological Society's education programs. **Web:** Follow the scouts at the Zoo as they explore bats, crafts and bears, zoosociety.org/ScoutSlideshow.

8 *Get Your Culture at the Zoo*

The Zoo is home to an amazing array of sculptures, paintings, murals, poetry displays and flower art. **Web:** Virtual tours of art at the Zoo, zoosociety.org/zooart, and of all 54 poetry displays, zoosociety.org/poetry.

11 *Conservation Chronicles: Frog Man*

Helping save endangered frogs and snakes on the Caribbean island of Grenada is the Zoo's own aquarium and reptile curator, Craig Berg. **Web:** Berg's field diary, zoosociety.org/grenadadiary

14 *What's Gnu*

A cute baby alpaca, Tink the elusive badger, a sandhill crane, and two bonobos. **Web:** More new animals, zoosociety.org/gnu

Kids Alive 12-13 Make a zebra pillow and discover how animals use camouflage. **Web:** Matchstick camouflage game, spotted jaguar pillow and fun animal facts, zoosociety.org/kidsstuff

Contributors See an insert packaged with this *Alive* that includes lists of Serengeti Circle members and Platypus Society donors.

ON THE COVER: Enriquer the baby alpaca. See page 15.

Society Page



A Zoo Devotee

Thom Brown can't decide on his favorite animal at the Milwaukee County Zoo: "I love the lion exhibit. I love the polar bears – and the penguins." He says he can relate to the black-and-white birds. Brown dons his own "penguin suit" every year to attend the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) Zoo Ball with Shari, his wife of 45 years. Brown represents Tri City National Bank on the ZSM's Board of Directors. The bank has been a supporter of the Zoo and the Zoological Society for about 35 years. It sponsors the Zoo's summer evening concert series, Sunset Zoofari; the annual Behind the Scenes Weekend in March; and, last January, the ZSM's Centennial Celebration Kickoff (to which the bank brought its signature popcorn wagons).

Brown, now retired, left after 19 years at the bank but kept in close contact with friends there. The bank drew upon that relationship when CEO Hank Karbiner passed away in 2008.

The bank asked Brown to take Karbiner's position as Tri City's representative on the ZSM Board. Brown was honored, but not entirely surprised. Years ago he had been active on a ZSM committee organizing fund-raising events such as Feed the Fauna Fest, a day for seniors at the Zoo, and Teddy Bear Days (where children brought teddy bears to the Zoo). "Back then we started to bring the popcorn wagons out from Tri City (to the Zoo for special events)," he says.

Brown's favorite part of being on the Board is interacting with other people who appreciate animals. Brown goes to "any event that I can possibly attend" on Zoo grounds. He's a member of the Platypus Society, the



Thom and Shari Brown at the 2010 Zoo Ball, sponsored by American Airlines

ZSM's premier annual giving group, and he enjoys their VIP premieres of special exhibits. He can't say enough about how much the Zoo benefits the Milwaukee area. "My fondest memories, if I remember anything about my childhood in Milwaukee, are of the Zoo. I don't

think taxpayers could even begin to evaluate or put a price tag on it." The Zoo opens a new world for children. Zoological Society classes introduce the idea of conservation and respect for the world we live in. "The Zoo gives you an appreciation for animals, and for the knowledge that you need to care for a household pet." You can learn even from everyday tasks zoo-keepers perform. If he could, Brown says, "I'd probably even volunteer to clean out the exhibits."

By Gabbi Chee

The Tough Work of Conservation



Actress Stefanie Powers. Archeologist Richard Leakey. Chimpanzee researcher Jane Goodall. TV personality Jim Fowler (“Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom”). Author and wildlife expert Jack Hanna. What is their connection to Milwaukee? They are some of the internationally known personalities whom the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) helped bring to Wisconsin to speak about saving wildlife.

While these well-known names bring attention to conservation efforts, the real job of saving animals in the wild takes a lot of work and follow-through. And the effort is not glamorous or well-understood by the public. Dr. Jane Goodall, who spent years in Africa doing field research and still suffers from malaria, can attest to that. So can the Zoological Society’s Dr. Gay E. Reinartz, who has spent more than a decade traveling to Africa to study and help save the highly endangered great ape known as the bonobo. Here’s an excerpt from a 2008 dispatch she sent from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where her team was mapping bonobo territory and taking note of other endangered wildlife.



“The six of us plunge down into a gorge thickly clotted with vines. The bank is too steep to stand; so I sit down and ride out the last 10 meters on the seat of my pants and plop onto the hard floor of the shallow spring that flows from fissures in the rock bottom of the hill. While filling my water bottle, Bunda points to the nearby clay bank pocked by elephant footprints made a few days ago. How do [these forest elephants] manage to get their hulking bodies way down here and back up again? Immediately on the other side of the stream, the ground rises straight up. I grab at small trees and roots to pull myself up. How many more of these earth-cracks do we have to cross today?”

Yet slogging through ravines and bug-infested, intensely hot forests is not the biggest challenge. Building a relationship with the Congolese who live near bonobo habitat and finding ways to get them invested in conservation – those are the real challenges. (More on these programs at www.zoosociety.org/Conservation.) “To make a significant contribution to conservation, you have to get there and do the work. You have to be in the trenches,” says Dr. Reinartz. “For the bonobo, we’re in the trenches.”

The Zoological Society has been praised for its 15 years of pioneering work in conserving bonobos – both in Africa and North America. Its field program is called the Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI). For bonobos in captivity, the ZSM



Barn Owls

Wisconsin’s once-plentiful population of barn owls had dwindled dramatically by 1981. An early conservation project – begun in 1982 by the Zoo, the Zoological Society and the Department of Natural Resources – raised barn owls at the Zoo and released them into the wild. “We attempted to train the birds to eat [dead] mice,” says Dr. Gay Reinartz. “This was not successful because the birds didn’t learn to hunt well.”

Belize & Beyond

Tammie Niffenegger, a teacher at Port Washington High School, accompanied six Wisconsin high school students to Belize, home of the jabiru stork (in background) in summer 2005. Their trip was part of the Belize & Beyond program, a joint effort of the Zoological Society and We Energies. The program reached about 650 children a year for three years and included a curriculum developed for teachers by the ZSM’s Conservation Education Department, field trips in Wisconsin, and an essay contest to pick students who would travel to Belize. The ZSM also sponsored jabiru stork research in Belize.

created and still coordinates, through Dr. Reinartz, the Bonobo Species Survival Program (SSP[®]) under the auspices of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The SSP is a scientific breeding program that manages endangered species in captivity to ensure that populations survive into the future. “It is phenomenal that Milwaukee turns out to be the city that does the most on Earth for bonobo conservation,” says Dr. Reinartz, ZSM conservation coordinator. “The Milwaukee County Zoo and ZSM have really come together, on so many levels – from our exhibits, animal management, and research at the Zoo and in the wild. That creates a model for what zoos worldwide should be doing for numerous species.”

Bonobos are just one example of the ZSM’s long-term commitment to conservation and its partnership with the Zoo. Since the 1980s, the ZSM has provided support for more than 100 conservation projects. These included efforts to help or study

Bonobos

Dr. Gay E. Reinartz, Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) conservation coordinator, interacts with Maringa the bonobo through a window into the bonobo exhibit at the Milwaukee County Zoo in August 2004. The ZSM is a pioneer in helping save these endangered apes. Dr. Reinartz heads the North American Bonobo Species Survival Plan and also directs ZSM bonobo research and conservation efforts in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Maringa died in 2010 after a long life at the Zoo.



long-term projects we've supported:

- **Swans:** For more than a decade, starting in 1987, the ZSM worked with the Zoo and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to raise and successfully reintroduce trumpeter swans to their native habitat in Wisconsin. The Zoo currently has two pairs of swans.
- **Turtles:** Since 1996, the Zoo and the DNR, with funding from the ZSM, have raised ornate box turtles in captivity until they're big enough to withstand the dangers of the wild (an ongoing project). Since wild populations of these turtles have plummeted in Wisconsin, the goal is to give them a "head start" in hopes of increasing their numbers.
- **Penguins:** For 16 years, starting in 1994, the ZSM has supported Zoo-coordinated research on Humboldt penguins in Chile (projects are ongoing). The ZSM also helped build the Taylor Family Foundation Humboldt Penguin Exhibit at the Zoo, and helped remodel that exhibit in 2009.
- **Songbirds:** For more than a dozen years, starting in 1996, the ZSM and its conservation partner, the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. (FWC), ran an international bird research-conservation-education project called Birds Without Borders-*Aves Sin Fronteras*®.

The international coordinator of that

project, Vicki Piaskowski, pointed out the important practical application of their research for private landowners and individuals. The project produced two bird guides – one for Belize and one for Wisconsin – that "give people tips on how to manage their lands to help birds," she says.

The Zoological Society's focus on specific conservation projects started in the early 1980s. Before that, the ZSM spent more effort acquiring animals and helping provide a sanctuary at the Zoo for animals that would be killed if left in the wild. By the mid-1980s, concerned members of the ZSM's Board of Directors worked with then-Zoo Director Gil Boese to develop conservation projects. When Dr. Boese resigned as Zoo director and became ZSM president in 1989, he and the ZSM Board formed a research and conservation committee, says Dr. Reinartz. "I was hired as the conservation coordinator. We planned three tiers of conservation projects: at the Zoo and in the Milwaukee area, at the state level and on a global level."

In the Milwaukee area the ZSM funded projects such as installations of peregrine falcon and crane nest platforms, and opportunities to study bonobo behavior at the Zoo. On the state level, one successful program, started in the 1990s, was a grant program for graduate students at Wisconsin universities who



Trumpeter Swans

One of the Zoo's pairs of trumpeter swans lived here 17 years and fledged many cygnets. The ZSM worked with the Zoo and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to raise and reintroduce trumpeter swans to their native habitat in Wisconsin. Today a significant wild population of these swans thrives in Wisconsin and the Midwest.

animals ranging from Japanese macaques to Wisconsin's white-tailed deer, from Siberian tigers to Wisconsin's northern blue butterfly. You can find descriptions for many of these at zoosociety.org/Conservation. Here are some of the



Songbirds

Vicki Piaskowski (far left), formerly the Zoological Society's main bird researcher, demonstrated with pliers how birds like grosbeaks use their strong beaks to hold and crack seeds. She spoke Feb. 28, 2009, to children in a Zoological Society Kids Conservation Club workshop. Piaskowski and Zoological Society staff produced two bird guides as part of Birds Without Borders-Aves Sin Fronteras® (BWB-ASF). This research-education-conservation project spanned from Wisconsin to the Central American country of Belize. With the dwindling populations of many songbirds, the project's goal was to find ways people could help birds, and then teach children and adults about birds. For details on the Kids Conservation Club, go to zoosociety.org/kidsclub. To see the bird guides, go to zoosociety.org/BWB.

Butterflies

Katherine "Katie" Beilfuss, when she was a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, received a grant from the Zoological Society to study the habitats of the regal fritillary butterfly as a way to find out some of the reasons the species is dwindling. Above she has her butterfly net at the Milwaukee County Zoo's butterfly garden, just for fun. Her studies actually took place in Wisconsin's Iowa County. For a report on her research, which was funded by the ZSM under its Graduate Student Conservation Biology Grant Program, go to zoosociety.org/Pubs/Alive, and choose the April 2003 issue.

Ornate Box Turtle

The Zoological Society funds an annual turtle project run by the Zoo and the Department of Natural Resources. Zookeeper Chad Pappas collects box turtle eggs in the wild during breeding season in June and then raises the turtles at the Zoo. A year later, mature turtles, with a better chance at survival, are released back to their native habitats. The goal is to establish a sustainable population of these turtles in the wild. This particular turtle helps educate children in Zoological Society conservation education classes at the Zoo.

were planning research in animal conservation biology. Student projects ranged from studying chimpanzee habitat in Africa to butterfly habitat in Wisconsin. "We partnered with the universities to find the best proposals. Then we provided the students with seed money – funds that are difficult to come by for students just beginning research." Every two years the ZSM held a symposium for students to present their results. "The program was unprecedented," says Dr. Reinartz, "and it has never been successfully copied."

On a global level, we funded several projects in Belize: a sanctuary for howler monkeys (called baboons in Belize), an FWC-run nature preserve, bird research, the Belize & Beyond education program, etc. In Africa, we funded Lewa rhino and elephant preserve in Kenya, gorilla research via the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International, and, of course, bonobos in BCBI. Around the world, the ZSM funded animal studies ranging from elephants in South Africa to tree kangaroos in Papua New Guinea.

The Zoological Society has spent millions of dollars in the last three decades on conservation, a key part of its mission. In 2009-2010 alone, the Society spent nearly \$329,000 on conservation (including BCBI), with a significant part of the money coming from grants. "Yet many people do not understand what conservation is about," says Dr. Reinartz. "As a society, we've become more disconnected from nature and more illiterate about our biology, our ecology and the interconnectedness of all living things. What do the rain forests of the Congo have to do with us? These forests give us oxygen. They form a major portion of the lungs of our planet. If you protect the bonobo, you protect the forests."

Zoos come a long way in the 100 years since the Zoological Society was founded. "Forty years ago, if a tiger died, we imported another one," says Dr. Reinartz. Now international laws protect endangered tigers and other animals from being imported from the wild. "The whole mission of zoos has changed." Modern zoos are conservation and education centers – not just amusement parks. They're places where you can come to learn

about individual species and how humans relate to them. You can't always see conservation at work. For example, you can see the gorillas on exhibit at our Zoo. What you don't see is that the Zoo participates in a gorilla SSP and provides researchers opportunities to study gorillas. You may not know that the Zoo's outstanding veterinarians have performed first-of-a-kind procedures to help our great apes, and have provided examples for other zoos. The Zoological Society helps the Zoo with conservation by supporting gorilla preservation efforts in Africa, by funding vet interns and pathologists to study at the Zoo, and by producing Zoo signs to educate the public about gorillas. The ZSM's Conservation Education Department (which runs classes year-round at the Zoo) also teaches children about gorillas and why they're endangered.

This public-private partnership between the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County has helped the Zoo meet its conservation mission. Through support of conservation projects (some of which are highlighted on these pages) the ZSM has shown how seriously it takes its own conservation mission. In fact, through its model international bonobo and bird programs, the Zoological Society has shown the world that one small Midwest non-profit organization truly can be a leader in conservation.

By Paula Brookmire

Scout it Out!

Education



Earning Badges at the Zoo



Madison Begos, 9, shows off her new Animals Try-It patch. Madison's Brownie Girl Scout Troop #1334 of Wauwatosa earned the patch at the Zoo May 28.

Photo by Gabbi Chee

Life is brutal for the Great Blue Bear. Threatened by poachers and pollution, the bear faces imminent extinction. Don't worry, though. The Great Blue Bear is a fictional creature used at the Milwaukee County Zoo as a very real teaching tool for Bear Cub Scouts.

Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts now can earn a badge or a patch at the Zoo, thanks to Chris Uitz, an instructor for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM). The idea started in 2004, when Uitz, an Eagle Scout, became assistant manager of school programs for the ZSM's Conservation Education Department. Scout troops kept contacting him, wanting to earn badges at the Zoo. "We would take a program designed for school classes and tailor it as much as we could, but we didn't do all the requirements," says Uitz. In 2008, Uitz designed two Badge-in-a-Day Scouting Programs: a Sharing Your World with Wildlife Achievement class for Bear Cub Scouts (grade 3) and an Animals Try-it class for Brownie Girl Scouts (grades 2-3). The classes began in fall 2009. They proved popular immediately. "We booked every Saturday that we offered," says Uitz.

Matthew Jankowski, 9, reaches out to feel a tiger pelt. Matthew's Bear Cub Scout den from Franklin was at the Zoo Feb. 13 for the Zoological Society's Badge-in-a-Day program.

Photo by
Richard Brodzeller



Scouting and conservation education are quite compatible, says Uitz. "There's a real emphasis in Scouting on not only appreciating nature, but also learning about it and being inquisitive. It's very easy to juxtapose Zoological Society conservation education goals with the requirements for the badges."

To earn the Wildlife Achievement, Bear Cub Scouts must investigate endangered and recently extinct species. The ZSM class accomplishes this through activities such as The Extinction Game, which has boys play Great Blue Bear cubs. Scrambling across the classroom floor on all fours, the boys dodge pompoms thrown by "poachers" (in actuality their chaperones). If hit, the scout is out of the game. The boys also flip over paper pieces of "meat" to see if they are safe to eat. If a scout picks up meat labeled as polluted, he is out of the game. The Bear Cubs see how quickly populations can decrease. The scouts get a look at real animals, too, as Uitz brings out a live chinchilla and an ornate box turtle. The chinchilla is endangered in the wild due to overhunting, and the turtle is the victim of immense habitat loss.

The Brownie program also includes meeting the turtle and, instead of a chinchilla, a Madagascar hissing cockroach. While the Bear Cub Scouts focus on endangered and extinct species, the Brownies are introduced to concepts like adaptations (e.g., the cockroach's armor-like exoskeleton). As a badge requirement, the girls learn how to handle wildlife encounters. They break into groups to perform skits for one another. In one scenario, two campers come across what looks like a dead bat while cleaning their cabin. What to do? Don't touch it, they decide. Instead, the girls get their scout leader, who calls a camp ranger to dispose of the bat. They did the right thing, Uitz says. If the bat were alive, it might have bitten or scratched them and made them very sick.

In another skit, two girls, screaming loudly, race away from a pair of bears in the woods. "Not the best decision or reaction," says Uitz. If you run, the bears think you're on their lunch menu! The best thing to do is remain calm, talk to the bear and back away slowly.

Lessons like this, Uitz says, have resulted in positive feedback and requests for even more programs, especially for older scouts. This fall the Zoological Society is offering a Naturalist Activity badge program for Webelos Cub Scouts (grades 4-5). By spring 2011, the ZSM hopes to offer a Wildlife badge program for Junior Girl Scouts (grades 4-5). Uitz hopes that scouts who have completed the program will come back to the Zoo ready to share their excitement and new knowledge with friends and family.

By Gabbi Chee

Get Your Culture at the Zoo

By Paula Brookmire

Photography by Richard Brodzeller

Sculpture garden, art museum, poetry tour, totem walk, flowing fabric art, flower designs – did you know your Zoo offers so many types of culture? There’s a discovery around every curve. In between greeting the animals, you can go on an art tour. Or hunt for the 54 poetry displays. It’s a great way to explore the Milwaukee County Zoo. Many of the artworks were donated to or commissioned by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) and then presented to the Zoo. The poetry installations were designed and/or created by ZSM artists. See how many sculptures, paintings and other artworks you can find. Add in the animal art made from flowers and plants created by Zoo horticulturalists, and you have more of a challenge. Go on a quick tour here of some of the artwork you’ll find at the Zoo. Then go online for a virtual tour of many more Zoo artworks (a few of which you can see only online) and another tour of the poetry installations, many of which are art pieces themselves: zoosociety.org/zooart. You also can find a slide show of some of the Zoo’s topiary and flowers at zoosociety.org/zooflowers.



Large photo: Fiber artworks like triangular flags – hanging inside Lakeview Place restaurant – These flowing fabric art pieces “are gently abstracted interpretations of nature: leaves, flowers, clouds,” says artist Louise Kodis of Spokane, Wash. She received a \$25,000 commission from the Milwaukee County Arts Committee to create this colorful ceiling art.

Above right: Wolf totem with poem – Wolf Woods boardwalk – Standing next to wooden totem posts near the wolf yard is this gray wolf sculpted by Sean Mizer of Milwaukee. An excerpt from a poem by Maria Melendez was sandblasted onto a plaque attached to the sculpture. “A wolf’s spirit never disappears from the forest” is the poetry line that guided ZSM artists to place the piece in the woods.



Clockwise from top left:

Train Topiary - near train station - This artful topiary was designed by Zoo horticulturalists Ann Hackbarth and Noah Huber, who have created several topiary "artworks" on Zoo grounds. The topiaries are often made by inmates in the Milwaukee County House of Corrections.

Puffins on a cliff - Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary's Penguin Hall - These three bronze Atlantic puffins were sculpted by Wisconsin artist Andy Schumann, who loves birds. A gift to pay for a bird sculpture was donated to the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., in 1988 from the estate of Donna M. Larsen. This finished artwork, later presented to the Zoo, is dedicated to Larson and her friend Mary Ellen Bush. Schumann has created a dozen bronze bird sculptures. "I've also fabricated birds in steel and done a trio of whooping cranes in fiberglass for a large wall artwork, which can be seen on my Web site: www.schumannsculpture.com." He also has designed animals in pewter for the ZSM's holiday ornaments for 16 years.

Sculpture of Bill Borchert Larson & his mom - Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country, south entrance - This sculpture that also serves as a bench was created by William G. ("Bill") Moomey (standing), an honorary Zoological Society Board member. Bill Borchert Larson, whose foundation gave the major

gift for the reconstructed feline building, sits next to a sculpture of his mother, Florence Mila Borchert, at age 19. Zoo visitors like to have their photos taken sitting next to Florence. In the background is a statue of Larson (now deceased) in his 30s, representing his travels in Africa.

Japanese cranes - Zoo Library (in Northwestern Mutual Family Farm) - Back at the Zoo this fall after being restored, this large four-panel screen of cranes is watercolor, charcoal, tempera and silver leaf on Japanese paper. It was donated to the Zoological Society in 1993 by the artist, Mr. Misaki Ando, through the help of the Michael Lord Gallery in Milwaukee. The piece formerly hung in Peck Welcome Center, but it suffered from temperature and humidity fluctuations. The library has a more stable temperature, which will help preserve the piece.

Sculpture of Otto Borchert and young Florence - in front of Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building - This statue depicts Otto Borchert with his young daughter, Florence, by his side. Borchert was a brewing company executive who helped bring several animals to the Zoo in the early 20th century. The statues were created by Bill Moomey and donated in 2005 to the Zoological Society by Bill Borchert Larson, grandson of Otto Borchert. Larson gave the major gift to build the special exhibits building, which opened in May 1997.



Clockwise from top left:

Fish out of water - Lake Evinrude - The Pisarski family of West Allis point to fish in the water and fish in a metal artwork that sports a poem about trout. Artist Sean Mizer, of Studio Works of Milwaukee, collaborated with Zoological Society artists to create this hand-cut, formed steel piece. The colors and shapes reflect those around the Zoo's lake. This restful spot was chosen because a lot of fish congregate here, says Marcia Sinner, Zoological Society creative director. From left are Todd and Sarah Pisarski and their children, Lydia, 4; Hannah, 6; Rebecca, 5; and Isaac, 8.

Wooden animal mural-wall - in Peck Welcome Center conference room (not on public view) - Carved out of 2-inch-thick butternut in 1963 by Milwaukee artist Dick Wiken, this 8-foot-high by 25-foot-wide mural took two months to complete. It depicts many of the Zoo's African animals, including an elephant, giraffe, white rhino, lion and monkey. This originally hung in Zoological Society offices but was moved in the late 1980s to the Peck.

Bonobo backlit stained-glass scene - in Apes of Africa - Donated by Milwaukee artist Janice Korinek-Niedzialkowski, this stunning forest scene is about 5 feet high, as is a nearby gorilla scene in stained glass, which was donated by Milwaukee artists Rocky and Jo Applebeck.

Clay "necklace" - This high-fire clay artwork with lines of poetry about trees was created by ZSM art director Marcia Sinner (left) and artist Julie Radcliffe. It hangs on a large tree near the Wong Family Pheasantry at the Zoo. "We wanted to make a necklace for the tree - something very earthy that would bring attention to the beauty of the tree," says Sinner. The poem is from "The Presence of Trees" by Michael Glaser.

Frog Man

Craig Berg was on a frog search. In November 2009 he was hiking high into the mountains of a remote region in Grenada, an island country in the Caribbean. Berg, the Milwaukee County Zoo's reptile and aquarium curator, hoped this site would house the rare and endangered Grenada frog. "Unfortunately, the hopes turned to trepidation as twilight fell," Berg later wrote in a field journal. That night, he saw only four frogs, down from 26 spotted within an hour in 2007. "This does not bode well for the Grenada frog," wrote Berg.

Nor does it bode well for other amphibians. For decades, these animals have been under attack by a deadly fungus called chytrid, and no one is certain how it was introduced. Chytrid attacks frogs' skin, which they use to take in and expel water, causing them to die of improper water balance. The fungus could kill as many as one-third of all frogs in this century. Since frogs eat insects, that will mean more mosquitoes and the serious diseases they can carry, such as malaria and dengue fever. Thanks to funding from the non-profit Zoological Society of Milwaukee, Berg has taken 13 research trips to Grenada since 2003 to study frogs and other island wildlife. He often travels with Billie Harrison of the Racine Zoo, and Bob Henderson, senior curator of herpetology at the Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM).

From navigating winding, muddy roads to getting sliced by razor-sharp saber grass during a hike into Grenada frog habitat, Berg and his colleagues aren't afraid of danger in the name of science. The fungus was discovered in Grenada in 2009, and researchers want to learn how far it has spread and whether it infected all four frog species on the island. Besides its native Grenada frog (*Pristimantis euphronides*), the island is home to the non-native cane toad, the Windward Island ditch frog and the highly invasive Johnstone's whistling frog (which competes with the Grenada frog for habitat and reproduces quickly). Last year, the team swabbed frogs for chytrid at several little-explored mountain sites (the fungus is easily spread through everything from foot traffic to infected water). No one knows how many Grenada frogs are left in the wild, says Berg, but "chytrid is decimating" the population. Drier weather caused by global climate changes could be adding to the problem since the frog thrives in cool, moist climates.

The good news is that chytrid is easy to treat with a special anti-fungal solution (two Zoo tomato frogs were successfully treated last spring, for example). Healthy frogs, however, can't go back to a contaminated environment, and no one yet knows how to develop a chytrid-free environment in the wild. So treated frogs have to stay in captivity. To help save the frogs, Berg is applying for a grant to treat frogs in quarantine in Grenada and train island researchers in amphibian biology and chytrid basics. Besides eating insects, frogs hold great medical potential, he notes. Frog secretions are used to develop medicines for everything from cancer to gastric ulcers.



Scientist Craig Berg examined a female Grenada frog at the Zoo in 2006. As of July 2010, the Zoo did not have Grenada frogs.



Photo provided by Craig Berg.


Unfortunately, few people in Grenada know about its native frog. In fall 2009, Berg and

researchers from Grenada's Forestry Department went on Grenada TV and radio programs to talk about the frog and other island wildlife that face threats. Grenada's tree boa snakes, for example, are disappearing, possibly because overgrown forests are taking over their habitat, says Berg. Also, these non-venomous snakes are sometimes mutilated or killed because they're thought to be dangerous. Berg is helping the MPM's Henderson to measure, weigh and tag island snakes for future tracking. During that effort in 2009, Berg documented an invasive species of black-headed snake on the island, the *Tantilla melanacephala*. In his "downtime" on recent trips, he worked with students from Wisconsin Lutheran College to monitor the health of reefs in a marine reserve.

It's not easy finding answers to how to save threatened animals. Berg fears that Grenada frogs may go extinct before scientists can find a solution to chytrid. He's doing his part to help.

By Julia Kolker

ON THE WEB:

Treacherous roads and field dinners heated on an engine: Craig Berg's Grenada field journal and photos, zoosociety.org/grenadadiary. Plus, learn about Berg's past frog conservation work in Panama,  get the scoop on Zoo frogs and - for kids - make a frog craft.

Kids Alive



1) cdaonaan

Animals, Under Cover...

When you play hide-and-seek, you might scramble behind a tree or crawl under a bush where no one will see you. Animals hide in the wild, too. But they can't always find good hiding places. Instead, they hide in plain sight using camouflage. Camouflage is an animal's way of disguising itself. Look at the five animals along the top of these pages. Unscramble the letters under each picture to name the animal. How do they blend into their surroundings? Play the matching game below to discover special types of camouflage. On the next page, find out how to make your own zebra-stripe pillowcase. Then go online to zoosociety.org/kidsstuff for answers and for more camouflage-themed activities. On your next visit to the Milwaukee County Zoo, seek out the expert animal hidiers you find on these pages.

giant Pacific octopus



Baird's tapir



cheetahs

Cool Camouflage Facts:

Each animal at left has specialized camouflage. Write the letter of the correct animal's picture on the line next to the description of its camouflage. Find the answers online at www.zoosociety.org/kidsstuff.

- Blending in:** Baby animals make tasty treats for predators. Camouflage can protect them from being eaten. This young animal's colors blend in with sunlight shining through leaves in its forest habitat. _____
- Fooling the eye:** Some animals hide from the animals they want to eat! This predator has "disruptive camouflage." That means the pattern on its body makes it hard to see the outline of the animal's body. _____
- Changing colors:** This sea creature can change colors to blend in with the many rocks, corals and plants in its environment. _____



2) nwsō perlōda



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4) peca khketecin



5) dripes yomnek

Have a Zebra-stripe Pillow Fight!

Zebra camouflage isn't about blending in with the environment. It's about blending into the herd. Notice how a zebra's stripes change direction from its body to its legs. When zebras are close together in a herd, predators have trouble seeing where one zebra ends and another begins.

Make these zebra-stripe pillowcases. Then put them side by side. Can you see how the stripes make it difficult to tell where one pillowcase ends and another begins, just like real zebras? Now fill your pillowcases and have a fun pillow fight!

For photos of this project and directions on how to make a jaguar-print pillowcase, go to www.zoosociety.org/kidsstuff.

Materials needed for each pillowcase:

- Zebra-stripe pattern (see step No. 3 below)
- One standard-size (20-by-30-inch) white pillowcase*
- Small disposable plastic bowl for paint
- 20-by-30-inch piece of cardboard
- Wax paper
- Tape & pencil
- 4-ounce bottle of black fabric paint*
- Newspapers
- 1-inch foam brush

Before you begin:

Wash and dry pillowcase without using fabric softener.

1. Wear old clothes.
2. Waterproof cardboard by taping wax paper to both sides; then slip it inside pillowcase.
3. With parents' permission, print zebra-stripe pattern at zoosociety.org/kidsstuff. Put pattern on table next to pillowcase. With pencil, draw the outline of wide stripes onto pillowcase, using pattern as a model.** Write an X inside each stripe outline (so you don't get confused).
4. Pour 2 ounces (half a 4-ounce bottle) of paint into disposable plastic bowl. Lay newspaper underneath pillowcase so you don't get paint on your work surface. Use foam brush to paint inside your penciled stripes, where the X marks are.
5. Dry flat at least 7 hours. Wait 72 hours before washing.

Note: If you want the pattern on both sides, turn pillowcase over and repeat steps 3-5.

*We found two pillowcases for \$6.99 at Target. We used Tulip Soft Fabric Paint in Ebony Matte (regular price \$5.29 at Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores).

**No two zebras share the same stripe pattern. So it's okay if your pillowcase doesn't look exactly like ours. You can even make your own pattern!



Sandhill Crane

Arrived: April 3, 2010
Elk yard

She's a common crane with an uncommon story. Sandy, a young sandhill crane, came to the Milwaukee County Zoo from the Wildlife Resource Center in Wonder Lake, Ill. Found in the wild, she had somehow broken her wing and wrist. The center treated Sandy, but could not keep her due to space constraints. That's where Zoo Pride volunteer Diane Tyk stepped in. Tyk also volunteers at the Wildlife Resource Center, which is near her home in Crystal Lake, Ill. She contacted Zoo staff about the crane's situation in mid-January. Less than three months later, Sandy came to our Zoo. Wild sandhill cranes, the world's most common crane species, nest and breed in the wetlands of Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and Canada. For winter, these birds migrate south as far as Florida, Cuba and parts of Mexico. Sadly, Sandy can't migrate. Though her bones have healed, she is incapable of flying, says Carol Kagy, aviary area supervisor. So the open-air elk yard is a perfect fit for her, since it gives her lots of space to roam on foot. "Having birds in with the hoofstock makes a more dynamic and educational exhibit," says North America area supervisor Dawn Fleuchaus. And since sandhill cranes are North American natives, Sandy's new "roommates," the Zoo's two North American elk, get along well with her, adds Fleuchaus. Sandy and the elk, Laurie and Comanche, "calmly rest and walk near each other." But if Sandy's feathers do get ruffled, so to speak, you can tell. The sandhill crane has a red, heart-shaped patch of bare skin on her face that changes size and shape when she's excited.

What's Gnu?



Bonobos

Female born: Feb. 19, 2010
Male arrived: April 19, 2010
Apes of Africa Pavilion

Social dynamics have been shifting lately among the Milwaukee County Zoo's group of 16 bonobos. These great apes have highly sophisticated hierarchies, with relationships often in flux. So additions to the group always involve adjustment and a lot of attention by the keepers. The group has two new members this year: Ricky, a 15-year-old male, and Kitoko, the baby of



Bonobo photos by Mark Scheuber

of an 11-year-old female, Zomi. When Ricky (above) joined the group, the other bonobos treated him to a "honeymoon phase," says Barbara Bell, the main bonobo keeper. They were all fascinated by him. Ricky was born at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Ohio, which also has a large group of bonobos. So he is "very, very savvy to hierarchy," says Bell. The attention Ricky gets makes some of the other bonobos jealous, and that makes Ricky nervous because he was a lower-ranking male in Ohio. As Ricky acclimates to the group, keepers hope to breed him with one of the females. The integration has been less tense and dramatic for Zomi's baby. "Zomi is a perfect mother in every way," says Bell. Zomi (left) patiently allows the baby to take fruit from her hand or even out of her mouth and play with it. Look closely, or else you might think Kitoko (which means "pretty") is just part of Zomi – the mother rarely lets her girl out of her arms. The rest of the group is aware of the little one. They sometimes sit near Zomi and Kitoko, and are quick to respond with a friendly touch when she reaches out to them with her tiny hand. Bonobos are on the brink of extinction, and the Milwaukee County Zoo is home to one of the largest groups in captivity. The Zoological Society is one of the leading research organizations studying bonobos in Africa. See www.zoosociety.org/Conservation.



American Badger

Arrived: April 7, 2010

Exhibit to the north of American black bear yard

Would you guess that one of the Milwaukee County Zoo's hard-to-find animals is Wisconsin's state animal?

Yes, it's the badger. You may see pictures of this famous sports mascot everywhere, yet few Wisconsinites have viewed live badgers in the wild. Tink, the Zoo's new (and only) badger, can be as elusive as her cousins in their native



west and central U.S., northern Mexico and central Canada. Named after Tinkerbell, the fairy in "Peter Pan," our Tink spends much of her time digging in her exhibit. In fact, she sometimes "disappears" underground! The best time to see Tink is at noon, when she is fed, and in the late afternoon,* when she's more active, says Dawn Fleuchaus, North America area supervisor. Digging is a natural behavior for badgers in the wild, where they're active mostly at night. One now-famous exception is a wild badger that had wandered into Milwaukee's downtown post office one morning last May. In fact, Wisconsin is known as the badger state because its early settlers were miners who, like badgers, did a lot of digging. Two researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee are now studying badger genetics in hopes of learning more about these animals. For more details or to report a badger sighting, see the link on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/zoopass](https://www.facebook.com/zoopass).

*In October, the Zoo is open until 4:30 p.m. daily; in November through February, only until 2:30 p.m.

Alpaca

Born: July 13, 2010

South America Exhibit

Sooner the alpaca is a striking animal. You can easily pick him out from the Milwaukee County Zoo's herd of alpacas. The 6-year-old male is white, with a large dark patch that covers most of his back. But you might do a double take when you notice a spitting image of Sooner, in miniature, prancing about the yard. That's not an illusion; it's Enrique, the son of Sooner and Eleanor, and the newest addition to the South America yard. Alpacas are a common, domesticated species native to mountainous areas of Peru. They are bred for their wool, which is warmer than that of sheep. Enrique is a great example of how quickly alpacas develop. Just an hour and 14 minutes after birth, Enrique (above), "was able to stand up on his own power for eight minutes," notes Bob Collazo, a South America keeper. And at barely 3 weeks old, Enrique started to taste the hay that is spread out in the exhibit to feed the adult animals. He'll probably keep nursing until he is at least 6 months old, says Dawn Wicker, area supervisor of the South America yard and of Winter Quarters, where many of the Zoo's animals spend their nights and live in winter. By their first birthday, most alpacas have reached their full size. Enrique is a very curious little fellow. He'll race across the yard to say hello to another animal. And he was spotted sneaking up on an unsuspecting peacock and then nibbling at its tail feathers. The bird left in a hurry.

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This mom and baby hippo ornament in pewter makes a great gift. Or get one to decorate your tree or home this holiday season.

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