

# Alive



## Inside

- See the Animal Stars of 2015 Calendar
  - Zoo Director: We've Got the Look
- Transporting a House by Canoe in the Congo
- 25 Years of Training Animal Ambassadors



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

**2013-2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Directors**

Thom Brown  
 Michael G. Carter  
 Nate Cunniff  
 Dr. Robert Davis  
 Joseph Frohna\*\*  
 Tami Garrison  
 Michael M. Grebe, Jr.  
 John Grunau  
 Katherine Hust  
 Karen Peck Katz  
 Maria Gonzalez Knavel  
 Joe Kresl  
 Caroline Krider  
 James Kuehn  
 Thomas (T.J.) Marini  
 Quinn Martin  
 Jack McKeithan  
 Jay McKenna  
 Kat Morrow  
 Gina Peter\*

Joan Prince, Ph.D.  
 Scott Redlinger  
 Harold Redman  
 Lacey Sadoff  
 Barry Sattell  
 Kim Schaffer  
 Rick Schmidt  
 Ryan Schultz  
 Thelma Sias  
 Billie Jean Smith  
 Roger Smith  
 Jon Sohn  
 Judy Holz Stathas  
 David Strelitz  
 Michael Stull  
 Rich Tennessee  
 Tyler Vassar  
 Gregory Wesley  
 Jane Wierzba  
 Ray Wilson

**Honorary Directors**

William J. Abraham, Jr.  
 John B. Burns  
 William M. Chester, Jr.  
 Stephen M. Dearholt  
 Tom Dempsey  
 Richard A. Gallun  
 John A. Hazelwood  
 Robert A. Kahlor  
 Ann McNeer  
 Sandi Moomey  
 William G. Moomey  
 Jeff Neuenschwander  
 Bernard J. Peck  
 Jay Robertson  
 John W. Taylor  
 Allen W. Williams, Jr.  
 Paul Wong  
 Bernard C. Ziegler III

\* Chair of the Board

\*\* Associate Board President

**2013-2014 ASSOCIATE BOARD**

**Directors**

Anthony Baish  
 Michael Bark  
 Brian Boecker  
 Bill Bussler  
 Cherie Eckmann  
 Jason Ells  
 Sean Finnigan  
 Darryll Fortune  
 Joseph Frohna\*  
 Nezh Hasanoglu  
 Tony Hopkins  
 Paul Hultgren  
 George Justice  
 Eric Lenzen  
 Karen Loth  
 Pat McQuillan  
 Kristin Occhetti  
 Jim Olson  
 Kent Oren

Meghan Shannon  
 Tricia Shiners  
 Brenen Sieber  
 Brookellen Teuber  
 Chris Timm  
 Eido Walny  
 Mark Zimmerman

**Honorary Directors**

Bob Anger  
 David Batten  
 Lori Bechthold  
 Matthew D'Attilio  
 Nora Dreske  
 John Fleckenstein  
 Mike Fox  
 Linda Grunau  
 Eli Guzniczak  
 Lee Walther Kordus  
 Peter Kordus

Joe Kresl  
 Quinn Martin  
 Kat Morrow  
 Margie Paur  
 Katie Pionkoski  
 Richard J. Podell  
 Bunny Raasch-Hooten  
 Arlene Remsik  
 Barry Sattell  
 Dan Schwabe  
 Randy Scoville  
 Judy Holz Stathas  
 Jeff Steren  
 David Strelitz  
 Jim Szymanski  
 Kathleen Toohey  
 Jane Wierzba  
 Ray Wilson

\* Associate Board President

**ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY MANAGEMENT STAFF**

**President/CEO**

Dr. Robert M. Davis

**Development**

Penny Gutekunst,  
 Vice President

**Education**

James Mills,  
 Director

**Communications,  
 Marketing & Membership**

Robin Higgins,  
 Vice President

**Conservation**

Dr. Gay Reinartz,  
 Coordinator

**Technology/  
 Membership Services**

Dominic Schanen,  
 Director

**Finance/Administration**

John Heindel,  
 Vice President

**Creative**

Marcia T. Sinner,  
 Director

Alive is published in winter, spring and fall by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226-4383. Subscription is by membership only. Call 414-258-2333 for information or go to [www.zoosociety.org](http://www.zoosociety.org).

**Editor**

Stacy Vogel Davis

**Graphic Designer**

Robert Weldon

**Photographer**

Richard Brodzeller  
 (unless otherwise noted)

**Contributors**

Paula Brookmire  
 Zak Mazur  
 Dr. Gay Reinartz

**Printer**

NML Graphics



Dr. Robert Davis stands near a graphic display created by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee creative team at the bonobo exhibit.

One of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) missions is to support the Milwaukee County Zoo. The most obvious way we do this is through financial support. For example, in the 2012-13 fiscal year, the ZSM provided \$6,985,617 in direct cash and in-kind support to the Zoo. These funds paid for conservation efforts in the wild, Zoo exhibit upgrades, Zoo event and attraction support, animal care and more.

But there is another important way we help the Zoo: with our time. A good example is the work our Creative Department dedicates

toward Zoo-related projects. As Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser notes (page 3), the Zoo is fortunate to have an in-house Creative Department that designs and creates most of the Zoo's signage, banners and more. According to Marcia Sinner, the ZSM's creative director, about 1,000 hours a year are dedicated toward such projects. The five-person creative team also designs items you don't see at the Zoo, such as advertisements and Web graphics. About 300 to 600 hours per year are spent on special projects. A prime example is the interactive audio-video kiosks, museum-quality diorama and wall graphics at the indoor bonobo exhibit. The Alive magazine you're holding in your hand, our Wild Things newsletter, education class schedules and more are also designed by the Creative Department.

I hope you enjoy your 2015 calendar and the dazzling animal photos shot by veteran photographer Richard Brodzeller. And remember, the next time you come to the Zoo, pay attention to the creative work around you. Without the skills of the Creative Department, our Zoo wouldn't be one of the best in the country.

*Robert Davis*

Dr. Robert (Bert) Davis, Chief Executive Officer



Fall 2014

Volume 34, Issue 3

**CONTENTS**

Zoo Support: Creatively Decorating the Zoo . . . . . 3  
 Education: 25 Years of Animal Ambassadors . . . . . 4  
 Conservation: Little House in the Rainforest . . . . . 6

**ON THE COVER**

A Damara zebra at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

# Many Ways to Support the Zoo

You can excuse Chuck Wikenhauser for thinking the Milwaukee County Zoo is one of the best in the country – after all, he’s the director. But he also serves on the Accreditation Commission for the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), so he knows what he’s talking about. When it comes to creative visuals, Wikenhauser says the Zoo scores high.

“Our signage and graphics are some of the best in the AZA,” he says. “The at-exhibit signage contains a lot of information, but it’s not overwhelming. The signs are very inviting to the eye.”

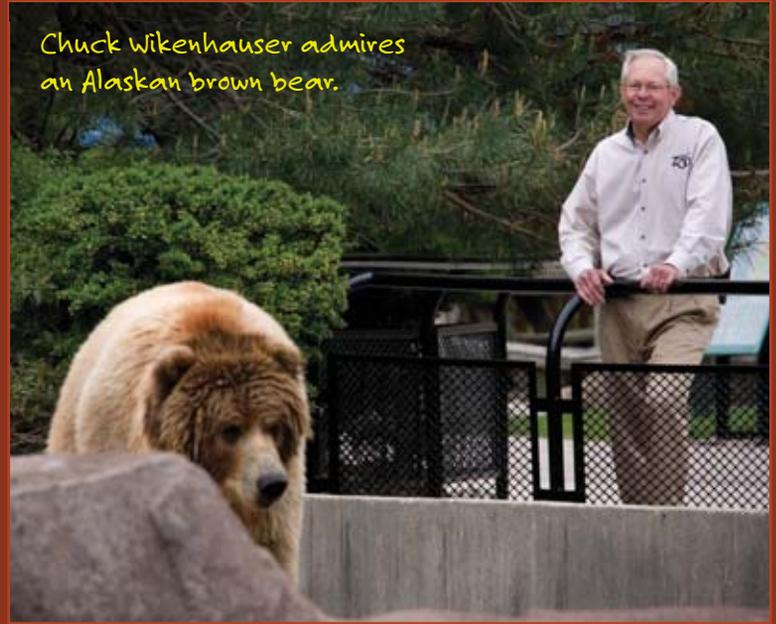
Wikenhauser says some people think the Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) only helps the Zoo financially. But there are other ways the ZSM helps. The large amount of time the Creative Department spends on Zoo-related projects is one example.

“We’re very lucky to have an in-house Creative Department,” he says. “It would be more costly to use an outside agency to design and fabricate signage and other items. Plus, we wouldn’t have a close relationship like we have with Creative. I think it makes our artists feel personally responsible for making the Zoo look great.”

The ZSM also helps the Zoo get AZA accreditation. “To be accredited, you have to have an education program,” says Wikenhauser. The ZSM’s Conservation Education Department offers Zoo classes, camps and more. This includes Kohl’s Wild Theater, the ZSM’s popular theater group, which is made possible by a partnership with Kohl’s Cares.

The ZSM obtains financial support and sponsorships from companies and individuals to fund Zoo and ZSM programs and events. The Development Department runs high-level donor groups like the Platypus Circle and a planned giving program, the Simba Circle. There is also a group for foundations and sponsors called the Serengeti Circle.

Additional support comes from Zoo Pride, the volunteer auxiliary of the ZSM. Zoo Pride contributes about 50,000 volunteer



Chuck Wikenhauser admires an Alaskan brown bear.

hours annually. “They enhance the Zoo experience in so many ways, from helping at events to educating guests at animal exhibits,” says Wikenhauser.

The ZSM’s annual appeal raises money for exhibit renovations, like the outdoor gorilla exhibit. Past appeals have included web-cams in animal exhibits and a revamp of Belle, the fiberglass Holstein cow in the Zoo’s dairy barn. When it comes to conservation efforts in the wild, the ZSM helps fund zookeepers and other staff to travel all over the world for research. Funds also support the Zoo’s veterinary staff and two residency programs. The Sponsor an Animal program raises money for the Zoo’s animals.

Wikenhauser says people often praise their Zoo Pass membership. “It’s a great deal, but people don’t realize it’s not a Zoo-operated program,” he says. Zoo Pass is run by the ZSM’s Communications, Marketing & Membership Department, which also produces an annual animal-themed calendar as well as Wild Things newsletter and Alive magazine. “Both of those publications are very popular,” says Wikenhauser. “They give members the inside scoop and let people know what’s going on. Then they’ll tell their friends, ‘Guess what I just found out is happening at the Zoo!’”

By Zak Mazur



An at-exhibit sign designed by the Zoological Society's Creative Department

# SPEAKING UP FOR THE ANIMALS



Shaperiyon B., 10, of Milwaukee, gets ready to peer through the microscope. The children learn about adaptations and other animal-related topics.



(From left), Thangyeng L., 10; Darviantae H., 10; and Demetrius J., 9, pet a turtle at the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center.

For many Milwaukee-area children, the African animals or big cats at the Milwaukee County Zoo are familiar sights. But for children from disadvantaged neighborhoods, a trip to the Zoo can be rare. Some have never been there, even if it's only a few miles from their homes.

That's where Animal Ambassador steps in. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee (ZSM) program, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, connects thousands of children every year from schools in Milwaukee, Waukesha and South Milwaukee to the Zoo, teaching them about animals, conservation and the environment. "They become ambassadors who speak up for the animals," says Julie Pickard, ZSM school program manager. She has coordinated the Animal Ambassador programs for 15 years.

Since 1989, more than 36,000 students have gone through the program. Many "ambassador" graduates are adults now, and at least one teacher whose class participated in the 2013-14 program went through it as a student, Pickard says. Each school has a sponsor, typically a foundation or corporation, underwriting the cost of the program. Participation has grown to 21 schools, up from seven when the program began. Another five schools with smaller classes experience a modified program.

The Animal Ambassador program works with fourth-grade students at schools in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, mostly in the city of Milwaukee. The children take a trip to

the Zoo to work in the ZSM's state-of-the-art Animal Adaptations Lab in the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center. Then they receive a school visit from Pickard to learn about Wisconsin animals before taking a second field trip to the Zoo to learn about endangered animals. The program is capped off with a graduation ceremony in the Peck Welcome Center at the Zoo where each child receives an animal-science book and tickets to the Zoo for his or her family. Some schools also participate in the Animal Ambassador Continuum for second- and third-graders. The younger children learn about animal groupings, habitats, ecosystems and food chains and also get to visit the Zoo.

Dr. Robert Davis, president and CEO of the ZSM, has worked at zoos across the country. He said Animal Ambassador stands out in his experience for its longevity and the direct connections it creates between the community, the Zoo and the education staff. "We've been able to develop significant long-term relationships with schools and students throughout the years," he says.

Angela Gutierrez, a fourth-grade teacher at La Causa Charter School in Milwaukee, went through the program with her students for the first time in 2013-14. "A majority of the students had never been able to go to the Zoo," she says. "For them, it was life changing."



Concepts they learned through Animal Ambassador, such as the animal kingdom and adaptations, aligned with the fourth-grade science curriculum. It also helped them improve their vocabularies, Gutierrez says. But the field trips made the difference between learning about animals from a book or lecture and seeing them in real life. She recalls the students' awe and joy when they visited a big cat and saw it walk to the window and put its huge paw on the glass: "They were right up close and personal. They thought it was amazing."

The program gets the families involved, too, with worksheets encouraging the students to talk to their parents about recycling, energy efficiency and other conservation efforts. The students can earn additional books by filling out the take-home sheets, which seemed to spark real discussion among the families, Gutierrez says.

The families see the result of their children's work at the graduation ceremony, Pickard says. The ZSM encourages them to return with the tickets provided to the children – two adult tickets, three

child tickets, three special exhibit tickets and a parking pass.

"The goal is to have the kids use those tickets to begin to fulfill their roles as ambassadors," she says. "They're ambassadors for wildlife to their families."

The Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation has sponsored the program since nearly the beginning. Missy MacLeod, foundation president, says the program allows kids to see something Milwaukee has to offer outside of their neighborhoods. The foundation also appreciates the opportunity to sponsor a specific school, Westside Academy II in Milwaukee, year after year.

"The children realize how important it is to have the opportunity to get to a different place and experience different kinds of environments," she says.

*By Stacy Vogel Davis*

## Here is what some of the students had to say about the Animal Ambassador program in spring 2014:

### What does an Animal Ambassador do?

"They speak for the animals and let people know animals need help."

*-Anna, Rawson Elementary School, South Milwaukee*

### What can you do to help endangered animals?

"I can help by telling the people who cut down animal habitats why it's important not to kill their home."

*-Douglas, Browning Elementary School, Milwaukee*

### I want to be an Animal Ambassador because...

"I love animals, and it will mean a lot for me to help living creatures."

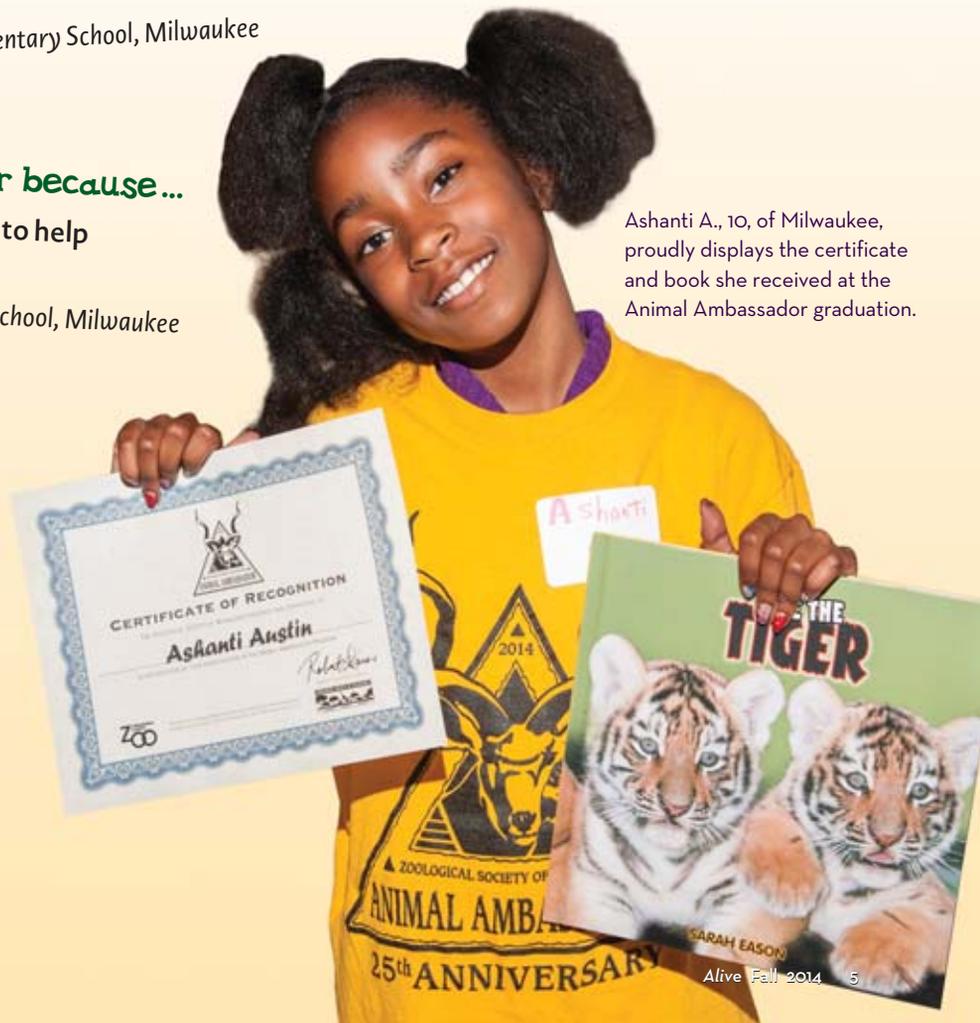
*-Ke'Nevaeh, Clara Barton Elementary School, Milwaukee*

*If you could be any animal, what would it be and why?*

*"I would be a cheetah because I could go to school faster."*

*-Hannah, A.E. Burdick School, Milwaukee*

Ashanti A., 10, of Milwaukee, proudly displays the certificate and book she received at the Animal Ambassador graduation.



**In 2013-14, Animal Ambassadors received funding of more than \$107,000.**

#### Sponsors included:

Antonia Foundation  
 Arnow & Associates  
 Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation  
 Eaton's Cooper Power Systems  
 Jerome J. & Dorothy H. Holz Family Foundation  
 Joy Global Foundation, Inc.  
 Peck Foundation Ltd., Milwaukee  
 PPG Industries Foundation  
 Rockwell Automation  
 Sadoff Family Foundation  
 U.S. Cellular®  
 Zoological Society Associate Board



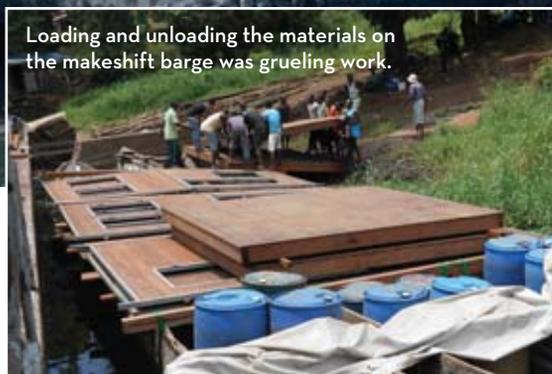
## Notes from the Congo:

# A different kind of houseboat



A team lashed three canoes together to transport 15 tons of building material for a house at the bonobo research station in Etate.

Loading and unloading the materials on the makeshift barge was grueling work.



*Erecting a prefabricated structure might sound easy. But not when the unassembled 15 tons of house parts must be loaded on narrow pirogues (dugout canoes) and hauled along a series of rivers for four days in the remote rainforests of the Democratic Republic of Congo.*

*That's what staff of the Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI) recently did. BCBI is the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's (ZSM's) premier conservation program. When the team finally arrived at its destination – the Etate research and patrol station, located inside the remote Salonga National Park – the house had to be assembled. Etate's structures are built from simple forest materials – sticks, palm fronds and thatch – and therefore must be constantly refurbished or rebuilt. The prefabricated house will last for many years to come.*

*Dr. Gay Reinartz, the conservation coordinator for BCBI, provides a first-person account of the difficult task.*

"Adaptive Management" – it's a term used in conservation to describe the fluid nature of the work: reacting to changing environmental and social conditions, reordering priorities and preparing for unforeseen circumstances. For us, it means what can go wrong, will go wrong. There is no clearer example than moving a house to Etate.

The barge carrying walls, rafters and floors from Kinshasa to Mbandaka was already 10 days late. The builders couldn't tell us when it would arrive – it was putt-putting its way somewhere along the 435-mile stretch of the Congo River.

Patrick Guislain, field projects coordinator for BCBI, and I left Etate to meet the shipment in Mbandaka. We left most of our team behind and took a small pirogue, reaching Mbandaka in a record 24 hours – only to wait.

In the meantime, we had to find someone to help us build the house once we got it to Etate. Our initial plan – to work with engineers from a partner organization – had to be scrapped when the organization left the country prematurely. With the exception of a screwdriver and a Leatherman multi-tool, we lacked the tools and skills to build a house. Who would even consider taking on such

a debacle on short notice – to put together a house that was somewhere on a boat, without a floor plan, and then plop it in the middle of the jungle? All we had was the name of a builder in Mbandaka, Mr. Jean Mbangi.

When we met Jean, he listened patiently to our story, which I timidly relayed in broken French. To our utter amazement, he agreed to help us.

For the next two days, we set about finding three pirogues large enough to carry 15 tons of house parts. In the boiling heat of the day, Patrick and I visited the ports of Mbandaka – filthy, crowded, backwater places. By the end of the day, we had found the pirogues, each around 50 to 55 feet long, 4 to 5 feet wide, and in relatively good shape. The next step was to join them together and build a large platform across them that could carry the walls and rafters.

The flotilla had to be sturdy but flexible. To get all the pirogue walls close to the same level, we distributed 15 barrels of fuel. Over the next two days, our team made pallets that conformed to the outline of each pirogue wall, functioning as separators and keeping each pirogue in line. Finally four large beams, bound with

rope to each pirogue, spanned the entire girth of the assembly, tying it together. As the final pallet went on, we spotted the barge coming upriver – a massive structure that stretched 150 yards or more.

Perfect timing!

River barges in Africa are curious sights. Draped with ragged tarps that shield masses of people from the scorching sun on deck, they carry every form of cargo, from heat-stroked goats to wandering pigs, trailer trucks, John Deere tractors and newborn babies. Our house was surrounded by families crouched in its shadows, women cooking on charcoal fires and men arranging places to sleep for the night.

I found the head man; he was eating his supper and did not take kindly to an interruption. I asked when we could receive our cargo. “Not until Monday, Madame, day after tomorrow, and you must have this paper and that authorization,” he said. We had neither. Then there would be port taxes to pay. (I should have seen that one coming.)

Then I spotted the lopsided, haphazard stack of the metal-framed walls of our house. Two were badly bent. My heart sank. Construction depended on each preformed piece fitting exactly. Already we had a problem.

On Monday, Jean Mbangi “arranged” for us to receive our shipping papers (in the traditional Congo-style negotiations) and claim our cargo. We immediately realized one wall was missing. Fortunately, it was an inside wall. We’d have to improvise.

Our next hurdle was to unload the house piece by piece and cart it to Jean Mbangi’s port where we had parked our convoy. As luck would have it, Jean found a guy with a massive flatbed trailer and



Dr. Gay Reinartz



The team worked creatively to overcome challenges, resulting in a sturdy, sustainable structure.

an old tractor. Once the tractor and trailer were in place on the dock, the process of moving each wall began.

It took 14 men to move and carry one wall at a time. A miscalculation could break a finger, hand or worse. They mostly dragged each piece, and as they did, locks and windows flew off; metal gouged and scraped the fine paneling. Patrick discovered that the walls were not put together according to our specifications: Walls that should have had windows instead had doors. Doors and windows opened the wrong way.

Early the following morning, with the help of another team of 14 men, we loaded the panels onto our pirogue barge, fitting pieces into place like a giant jigsaw puzzle. Could the barge hold the full weight without sinking? At last, the final rafter came on board. The platform held! A heartwarming cheer went up, and for the first time since leaving Etate, we allowed ourselves to believe that it might just work.

Ten of us sailed out of Mbandaka the next morning at an average speed of 4.2 miles per hour. We made sleeping quarters in the bow of the convoy and covered them with a tarp to shield us from the storms that would periodically pound us along the way. For four hot days, we tugged along through rain and shine.

On the first night, it was too dark to see the river, and our pilot asked if we could pull over for a while. Blinding heat lightning made it impossible for the pilots to see. On the third night, the pilot fell asleep at the helm, and we landed in some tree branches – no damage done.

At about 9 p.m. on the fourth day, May 3, we landed in Etate. As we approached camp, the guards and research crew were waiting on the dark shore. Gradually they caught the enormous convoy in their flashlights and let out a spontaneous, collective gasp. A cheer went up, “Delta Force One! Delta Force One!”

I gave Patrick a high-five. A 10-year wait had come to an end. Despite its bruises and gouged sides, busted locks and missing walls, Etate had a house. Adaptive Management.

*BCBI is a partner with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on the Central Africa Forest Ecosystems Conservation (CAFEC) of the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), Phase III, which is funded by USAID (the U.S. Agency for International Development).*





# January 2015

Ever vigilant, the Milwaukee County Zoo's two Damarra zebras scan their surroundings on a cool fall morning. Although zebras live in warm African climates, they do well in cool temperatures.



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
				<b>1</b> New Year's Day Zoo open 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Family Free Day at the Zoo**

The Samson Stomp & Romp commemorates Samson, the Milwaukee County Zoo's famous gorilla.

Photo by Richard Taylor

Zoo's winter hours: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends through February

Samson Stomp & Romp at the Zoo\*\*

Martin Luther King Jr. Day



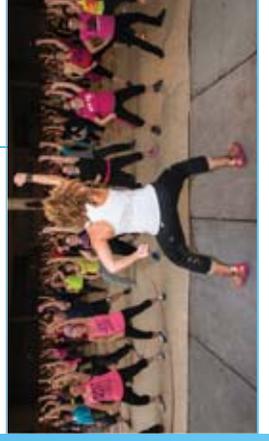
# February 2015



The Milwaukee County Zoo's California sheephead lives in the Pacific Exhibit at the Aquatic & Reptile Center. All sheepheads are born female, but some change sex later in life.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1	2 Groundhog Day celebration at the Zoo**	3	4	5 Puttin' on the Ritz,* Potawatomi Hotel & Casino, evening event	6	7 Family Free Day at the Zoo**
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17	18 Ash Wednesday	19 Chinese New Year	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo,* 6-8 p.m.



Participants sweat for the animals at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo.  
Photo by Richard Taylor



Puttin' on the Ritz is the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's black-tie and boxing fundraiser. It includes a gourmet dinner, spirits and cigars.  
Photo by Richard Taylor

\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



# March 2015



Kiama, a Matschie's tree kangaroo, munches on a leaf as her joey pokes its head out of her pouch. Kiama has had six joeys, the most of any captive tree kangaroo in North America.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Purim begins at sundown	5 Wines and Beers of the World,* evening event	6	7 Family Free Day at the Zoo**
8 Daylight Saving Time begins	9	10	11	12	13	14 Behind the Scenes Weekend at the Zoo**
15 Behind the Scenes Weekend at the Zoo**	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 First day of spring	21 Zoological Society members-only field trip to the Art Institute of Chicago*
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Breakfast & Lunch with the Bunny**
29 Lunch with the Bunny** Palm Sunday	30	31 Friends clink wine glasses during the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Wines & Beers of the World fundraiser. <small>Photo by Richard Taylor</small>				

\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



# April 2015



The large eyes of the moholi bushbaby help the tiny nocturnal primate see in the dark. Visit the Zoo's bushbabies on the nocturnal side of the Small Mammals Building.

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	<p>5 Easter</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>People of all ages enjoy pizza, mac and cheese, and ice cream sundaes during Zootastic!, a Zoological Society of Milwaukee fundraiser featuring animals and family-friendly fun. <small>Photo by Richard Taylor</small></p>	<p>1 All Fools Day (April Fools Day)</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Good Friday Passover begins at sundown</p>	<p>4 Egg Day at the Zoo**</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	
<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 Earth Day</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Zootastic!,* 5-9 p.m.</p>	<p>25</p>	
<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>A boy poses with the Easter Bunny during Egg Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo. <small>Photo by Richard Taylor</small></p>		

\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



# May 2015

A peacock woos a peahen with his vibrantly colored feathers. About 45 peafowl roam freely throughout the Zoo grounds.



Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	<p>Left: Mother's Day at the Zoo offers free admission for mothers (parking not included). Right: Kohl's Wild Theater, a partnership between the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and Kohl's Cares, returns with free conservation-themed plays at the Zoo on Memorial Day weekend. Photo by Richard Taylor</p>		<p><b>1</b> May Day</p>	<p><b>2</b> Zoological Society members-only field trip to the Brookfield Zoo*</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> Cinco de Mayo</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>10</b> Mother's Day at the Zoo**</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>
<p><b>17</b> Party for the Planet at the Zoo**</p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> Memorial Day</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>1</b> May Day</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> Party for the Planet at the Zoo**</p>
<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> The Zoo's official summer season opens, including its special summer exhibit on dinosaurs and Kohl's Wild Theater Zoo performances.</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>

\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



# June 2015



Amba, an Amur tiger, lounges in her habitat at the Zoo. These endangered animals, also known as Siberian tigers, are found mostly in Russia.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



1

Zoological Society Summer Camps begin (through Aug. 13)

2

Free admission for Zoo Pass members to the Zoo's special summer exhibit,\* 5-9 p.m.

3

Free admission for Zoo Pass members to the Zoo's special summer exhibit,\* 5-9 p.m.

4

Free admission for Zoo Pass members to the Zoo's special summer exhibit,\* 5-9 p.m.

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

Ramadan begins at sundown (in the United States)

18

19

20

21

Father's Day at the Zoo\*\*

First day of summer

22

23

24

Sunset Zoofari at the Zoo\*\*

25

26

27

Zoo Ball,\* evening event

28

29

30

Above left: Zoo Ball – the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's largest fundraiser – features elegance, dancing, auctions and animals. Photo by Richard Taylor

Right: Dads get free admission to the Milwaukee County Zoo on Father's Day (parking not included).



\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



# July 2015

Green basilisk lizards escape from predators by using their specially designed rear feet to run on water. This one resides in the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center.



**Sunday**      **Monday**      **Tuesday**      **Wednesday**      **Thursday**      **Friday**      **Saturday**

	<p>Left: For Zoo Pass members only, Kids' Nights feature music, food and animal presentations at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Here a boy finds his inner rock star as he performs with UB the Band.</p> <p>Bottom right: A golfer follows through on his swing at the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Birdies &amp; Eagles Golf Tournament fundraiser.</p>	<p><b>1</b> Sunset Zoofari at the Zoo**</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>3</b> Independence Day (observed)</p>	<p><b>4</b> Independence Day</p>
<p><b>5</b> Military Family Day at the Zoo**</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> Kids' Nights at the Zoo for Zoo Pass members,* 5-9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>8</b> Sunset Zoofari at the Zoo**</p>	<p><b>9</b> Kids' Nights at the Zoo for Zoo Pass members,* 5-9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>10</b> Kids' Nights at the Zoo for Zoo Pass members,* 5-9 p.m.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> Sunset Zoofari at the Zoo**</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>
<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> Sunset Zoofari at the Zoo**</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> Birdies &amp; Eagles Golf Tournament,* off Zoo grounds</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> Sunset Zoofari at the Zoo**</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b></p>

\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)







# September 2015



Green-naped pheasant pigeons are native to tropical rainforests of New Guinea. The Zoo has hatched 21 of these birds since 1993.

**Sunday**      **Monday**      **Tuesday**      **Wednesday**      **Thursday**      **Friday**      **Saturday**

	<p>Riders take off for a ride through the Zoo and beyond in the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Ride on the Wild Side.</p>					
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> Labor Day</p>			<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> Senior Celebration at the Zoo**</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> Family Farm Weekend at the Zoo** Ride on the Wild Side Bike Ride starting at the Zoo* Rosh Hashana begins at sundown</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b> Elephant Appreciation Day** Zoological Society members-only field trip* TBA</p>
<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> Yom Kippur begins at sundown</p>	<p><b>23</b> First day of autumn</p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p>
<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p>Seniors get free admission during the Milwaukee County Zoo's Senior Celebration (parking not included).</p>		

\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



# October 2015



Grizzly bear Ronnie and her three sons share a yard. Ronnie, a "problem bear" at Yellowstone National Park, came to the Zoo in 2001 and surprised everyone when she gave birth to triplets soon after.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Visitors enjoy bold brews and gaze at big cats during the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Zoo Brew.

Photo by Richard Taylor



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

3  
10 Family Free Day\*\*  
17 Boo at the Zoo,\*\* 6-9 p.m.  
Wolf Awareness Day at the Zoo\*\*  
24 Halloween Spooktacular at the Zoo with trick-or-treating,\*\* 9 a.m.-9 p.m.  
2  
9  
16 Boo at the Zoo,\*\* 6-9 p.m.  
23 Halloween Spooktacular at the Zoo with trick-or-treating,\*\* 6-9 p.m.  
1  
8  
15 Zoo Brew,\* evening event  
22  
29  
30  
31 Halloween

\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



# November 2015



A female moose at the Milwaukee County Zoo rests on the ground at sunrise. Moose are the largest species of deer.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1 Daylight Saving Time ends	2	3	4	5	6	7 Family Free Day at the Zoo**
8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14 Zoological Society members-only holiday field trip to Woodfield Mall and Ikea in Schaumburg, IL*
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Zoo open 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	27	28
29	30	<p>Zoo's winter hours, November 2015-February 2016: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekends.</p> <p>Far right: A male wild turkey at the Milwaukee County Zoo.</p>		 		

\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



# December 2015



A Japanese macaque, also known as a snow monkey, watches the flurries at Macaque Island.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Fantastic Forest brings the warmth of the holiday season to the Zoo.</p>	1	2	3	4	5
<p>6 Lunch with Santa at the Zoo**</p> <p>Hanukkah begins at sundown</p>	7	8	9	10	11	12
<p>13 Lunch with Santa at the Zoo**</p>	14	15	16	17	18	19
<p>20 Lunch with Santa at the Zoo**</p>	21	22 First day of winter	23	24	25 Christmas Zoo open 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	26 Kwanzaa begins
<p>27</p>	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve Zoo open 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	 <p>Breakfast &amp; Lunch with Santa is a popular Milwaukee County Zoo event.</p>	

\*Zoological Society of Milwaukee event: [zoosociety.org](http://zoosociety.org)

\*\*Milwaukee County Zoo event: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)



January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December

## 2015 Events Calendar

Zoological Society of Milwaukee  
 and Milwaukee County Zoo

### About the photographer

From a trotting hippo to a curious bushbaby, photographer Richard Brodzeller has captured the personalities of a range of animals at the Milwaukee County Zoo. A freelance photographer from Mequon, he has been taking photos at the Zoo for about 40 years, half of that time as the main photographer for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. For Brodzeller's tips on photographing animals at the Zoo, go to [zoosociety.org/animalpix](http://zoosociety.org/animalpix). There you'll also find a link to a past Alive magazine story on this photographer who has been called one of the best in the Milwaukee area.

Event dates listed in the calendar are subject to change.

A mandrill at the Milwaukee County Zoo

