

# Alive



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- Colorful Creatures in 2017 Calendar
- Family Fun at Zoo Class
- Meet the Animals of the Congo
- Keeping Animal Populations Healthy



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

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Jodi Gibson

I am honored to be the new president and CEO of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. As someone who was born and raised in Milwaukee and a graduate of Ripon College, the Milwaukee County Zoo holds a special place in my heart. Like many of you, I can remember coming here as a child. One of my fondest memories is of riding the train around the park with my brother and sister.

Today, as an adult, I look at the Zoo a little differently. I see not only an amazing educational institution, but also a cultural attraction that contributes to the economic vitality of Milwaukee. Working together, the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological

Society have created an anchor institution that makes Milwaukee a place where people want to live, work and play.

I join the organization with a unique background as I have held senior leadership positions at large organizations in the nonprofit and corporate sectors, including the country's largest hunger-relief charity and two Fortune 200 companies. While these experiences have taken me around the country, it has always been my aspiration to leverage this expertise and my passion for community service to help the community where I was born - Milwaukee.

As I've settled into my role here, I've been fascinated to learn about what the Society and Zoo do for animals and people here and around the world. In this issue, you can learn about how the Society helps all kinds of animals in the Democratic Republic of Congo (page 4) and the Zoo's participation in Species Survival Plans (page 6), which help keep animal populations thriving in captivity and the wild. Check out page 3 to see how our Education Department is bringing families together to learn about animals and conservation.

I've also been learning much more about the Zoo's marvelous animals. You can see some of our best animal photos from the past year in the 2017 calendar included in this issue. Use it to keep up with upcoming Zoo and Society events and to remind you to visit the Zoo throughout the year. I hope to see you here!

*Jodi Gibson*

Jodi Gibson  
 President & CEO  
 Zoological Society of Milwaukee

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**ON THE COVER:** A Caribbean flamingo at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Flamingos are the July animal in the 2017 calendar found in this issue.

Photo by Bob Wickland



# Educational Family Fun

The Vanden Heuvel family has just arrived at “Family Zookeeper” class at the Zoological Society’s education building, but already they are hard at work building forage boxes for the Milwaukee County Zoo’s monkeys. Together, Eric and Sara Vanden Heuvel, of Waukesha, and their three kids use pencils to poke holes in a cardboard tray, then twist bits of newspaper into the holes. Later, keepers will hide treats such as berries among the newspaper bits and give the forage box to one of the monkey species. “They’ll eat the whole thing,” Zoo Pride volunteer Jim Funk explains. “They’ll eat the paper, cardboard, everything.”

Throughout the class, the participants learn the many responsibilities of zookeepers, from training to feeding to cleaning. And the kids aren’t the only ones learning. “I think my husband and I enjoy the activities as much as the kids, especially the behind-the-scenes stuff,” says Sara. This is the Vanden

Heuvels’ first family class, but they’ve been attending other Zoo Classes for years. “It’s my birthday, and I thought it would be a really fun way to spend the day together,” Sara says.

The Zoological Society’s Education Department offers classes for children ages infant through 14 and adults, but family classes are special because siblings ages 4-14 can attend class together along with parents or grandparents. The classes are offered once or twice a quarter with a variety of themes, from places, such as Brazil or Australia, to biological concepts, such as “Who Laid That Egg?”

After the forage box project and an introduction to the topic, the families go on a tour of the Zoo. They visit the Australia Building, where they learn how keepers train animals. Family members practice “training” each other with candy as rewards. Next, they go behind the scenes in the North America area, where they prepare bedding in the moose sleeping area. “We got to go behind the moose enclosure,” Ethan Vanden Heuvel, 8, says excitedly. “The wolf came up to the exhibit fence, and a moose also came up to the fence. I got to put one of the moose’s dinner in a bucket.”

But all three Vanden Heuvel children – Ethan; Madelyn, 6; and Benjamin, 4 – say the next activity is their favorite: designing their own zoo exhibit. Benjamin and his mom work on a snake enclosure. “Mommy had a green snake, and I had an orange snake,” he explains.



Above: Benjamin Vanden Heuvel, 4, makes a forage box during “Family Zookeeper” class while his sister Madelyn, 6, looks on. Photo by Richard Taylor



Left: Ana M., 7, and sister Delaney, 4, prepare bedding for the moose during the “Family Zookeeper” class. Photo by Richard Taylor



Left: The Hua family, of Fredonia, makes Australian animals during an “Animals Down Under” family class. Photo by Bob Wickland

“We made a tree and we made some logs and a place to hide. The snakes don’t always want people seeing them.” Madelyn and her dad make a giraffe and elephant enclosure, while Ethan works on a chameleon exhibit. The children say they enjoyed the class and want to go to another family class. “I especially liked being with my family and taking some time to learn about being a zookeeper,” Madelyn says.

For Sara, family class reminds her of the days she attended “adult and child” Zoo classes with her children when they were 2 and 3. As a teacher herself, she appreciates the way the classes are grounded in learning that applies to every age level. The class made for a memorable birthday, Sara says. “We had a lot of fun because it was something we could do together. We’re really glad that it’s an option.”

*By Stacy Vogel Davis*

## FALL Family CLASSES!

The Education Department is offering two family classes in fall, “Pack, Pod and Parade: Wild Families” and “Family Explorers: China.” Visit [zoosociety.org/fall](http://zoosociety.org/fall) to check availability. Registration for Spring Classes, including the “Photo Safari” family class, starts Nov. 3 at [zoosociety.org/spring](http://zoosociety.org/spring). Classes are sponsored by Meijer.



# The Animals of the Salonga

The primary mission of the Zoological Society's Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI) is to study and protect bonobos and their habitat. But the bonobo, a rare species of great ape found only in the Democratic Republic of Congo, isn't the only animal BCBI is helping. The initiative supports a research station and patrol post called Etate in the Salonga National Park, an immense rainforest preserve that is home to a wide variety of animals. Bonobos are considered a keystone species in the Congo Basin, meaning they play a critical role in the ecosystem there. They eat fruit and pass seeds in their dung as they travel, helping regenerate the forest and keep it healthy. BCBI supports park guards with funding, education and supplies. The guards prevent poaching of many animals, not just bonobos, and protect these animals' habitat. You might have read in the winter 2016 issue of *Alive* about how BCBI is helping forest elephants in the Salonga National Park. Here are some other animal species that benefit from BCBI's work.



The tree pangolin is nocturnal, meaning it's active at night. Photo courtesy of BCBI

## Pangolins:

Found in Africa and Asia, pangolins are the most illegally traded mammal in the world. The nocturnal animals resemble anteaters but are covered in scales made of keratin, the same protein that forms your fingernails and a rhinoceros' horn. When threatened, the pangolin rolls up in a ball, using its scales to protect its soft underbelly. Unfortunately, the scales are used as folk medicine in some places, particularly China, making the pangolins valuable to poachers. They're also hunted for their meat, which is considered a delicacy. The giant pangolin and tree pangolin are found in the Salonga National Park, and both are listed as vulnerable by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Other species of pangolin are critically endangered. Tree pangolins are rare in captivity and can only be found in one North American zoo, the San Diego Zoo.

## Congo peafowl:

Like the bonobo, the Congo peafowl is found only in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The male peacock has bright blue feathers in front with dark green feathers in back and a crown of white feathers on his head. The female peahen has brown feathers in front and green feathers in back. Pairs sing duets together to bond and find each other's location. Not much is known about the species, which wasn't discovered until the 1930s. It is listed as vulnerable by the IUCN because of hunting and habitat loss. The Milwaukee County Zoo has a Congo peafowl pair and is one of the few zoos to successfully breed the species in captivity.



A Congo peacock at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Milwaukee is one of the few zoos to successfully breed the species. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

## African grey parrots:

Once common in West and Central Africa, the African grey parrot has been devastated by the pet trade and habitat loss. More than a million of these parrots have been removed from the wild in the last century to meet the demand for pets. The U.S. and European Union have banned the import of wild grey parrots, but the trade still thrives elsewhere. Many of the



African grey parrots are popular pets, but the trade has decimated the wild population. Stock photo



poached animals die in transit, so poachers have to catch many birds just to bring a few to market. The parrots are as smart as human toddlers and can form clear words and simple sentences, making them prized pets. However, they often become depressed in captivity.

### Red river hogs:

Red river hogs have highly attuned senses of sight, smell and hearing and are excellent swimmers. These traits help them find food and escape predators such as leopards, lions, hyenas and pythons. They're not endangered, but they are widely hunted in their home range of West and Central Africa. They're mainly nocturnal, resting during the day and rooting for insects, bulbs, eggs, fruit and vegetation at night. The Milwaukee County Zoo has two male red river hogs, Radish and Mango. You can find them between the elephant and hippo exhibits during warm-weather months.



Red river hogs use their fine sense of smell to root out food such as plants and insects. Photo courtesy of BCBi

### Slender-snouted crocodiles:

These crocodiles are expert predators but are quite shy around humans. Their muddy color helps camouflage them in their river home until they spot their prey – mostly fish, but also frogs, snakes and other aquatic animals. Like other crocodiles, their nose, eyes and ears line up on top of their heads so they can submerge themselves in the water while still being able to smell, see and hear what's going on above the surface. Unfortunately, the crocodiles are critically endangered in West and Central Africa. They have lost much of their habitat to human encroachment, and they're hunted for their meat and skin.

### De Brazza's monkeys:

The beautiful De Brazza's monkey has a white face and beard and an orange crest on its forehead. It lives in the rainforest and mostly eats fruit. The De Brazza's monkey is named for Italian explorer Pierre Savorgnan de Brazza. It is one of 26 species of guenon, medium-sized African monkeys characterized by striking colors. De Brazza's monkeys are not endangered, but some species of guenon are threatened due to hunting for meat and the pet trade. De Brazza's monkeys and other guenons are common in the Salonga National Park, along with other monkeys such as red colobus and black mangabeys. The monkeys are heavily hunted throughout much of their range.

*By Stacy Vogel Davis*




The De Brazza's monkey is one of many monkeys found in the Salonga National Park, but this one used to live at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller

The slender-snouted crocodile is camouflaged to blend in with logs or muddy water. Photo courtesy of BCBi





A photograph of two Humboldt penguins standing on a rocky beach. The penguins have dark brown heads and backs with white chests and necks. They are looking towards the right. The background is a blurred rocky shore.

Piper and Pasado form one of several breeding pairs of Humboldt penguins at the Zoo. Keepers hope they will eventually have chicks to help grow the Humboldt population. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

# *Keeping Animal Populations* **Healthy**

In July, Milwaukee County Zoo bird curator Alex Waier headed to Chicago for an important meeting about Humboldt penguins. In fact, you might think of the annual Humboldt Penguin Species Survival Plan® (SSP) meeting as the “penguin draft.” Participants study the new “recruits” – penguins hatched over the past year – and decide which penguins should be “traded” among North American zoos and aquariums. Waier, the SSP coordinator for Humboldt penguins, came prepared with a 73-page binder containing information about each of the 425 penguins in the program. “Bring the coffee,” says Beth Rich, deputy Zoo director of animal management and health. “It’s intense.”

Species Survival Plans are managed by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA), the accrediting agency for the Milwaukee County Zoo. If you’ve ever wondered why the Zoo got a new animal from another institution or sent one of its animals somewhere else, an SSP is often the answer. The AZA oversees almost 500 SSPs, each with the goal of maintaining a genetically and demographically healthy population of the species. This ensures that zoos will be able to exhibit these animals for generations to come. For endangered animals, it also ensures that the species will continue to exist in the tragic event that it goes extinct in the wild. About 90 species at the Milwaukee County Zoo are managed by SSPs, including nearly all the primates, many birds and reptiles, elephants, giraffes and every feline except the caracal.

Each SSP has a coordinator who is ultimately responsible for that species’ breeding and transfer plan. Waier has been the Humboldt Penguin SSP coordinator since 2010. The Zoological Society of Milwaukee’s conservation coordinator, Dr. Gay Reinartz, has led the Bonobo SSP since its creation in 1988. But the coordinator doesn’t create the plan alone. In fact, much of the work happens at the Population Management Center at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. There, experts develop and run software to analyze the genetics of each animal in the SSP. The center then evaluates potential pairings, controlling for family relationships, disease risk and other factors. For example, the center creates a matrix for each of the 19 Humboldt penguin colonies at participating institutions. The matrix shows the desirability of every potential penguin pair in the colony, ranking each pairing from one, highly desirable, to six, not desired.

At the annual meeting, the SSP coordinator and representatives from the Population Management Center look at the needs of each facility. If an animal at one facility needs a new mate, they look for a potential mate at another institution. Besides genetics, the coordinator considers factors such as the age of the animal, how far it will have to travel and the potential effect of a transfer on the animal. “Bringing a new penguin into a colony can be very stressful for the bird,” Waier says. Of course, humans can’t always control what happens when new animals are introduced. For example, if a new



penguin arrives at a zoo, he might be uninterested in his intended mate (or she might be uninterested in him), and he'll choose a different partner, Waier says. When that happens, the SSP officials go back to the Population Management Center to find out if the unexpected pair can safely breed.



Alex Waier. Photo by Stacy Kaat

Conservation and education are also important aspects of SSPs. "Much of the SSP work is focused on the animals in the zoos," says Rich, the Zoo's deputy director. "But we can't forget their counterparts in the wild." In fact, many early SSPs were created with the goal of reintroducing the animals into the wild, says Shelly Grow, AZA director of conservation programs. "Some SSPs are the reason we even still have these species, such as black-footed ferrets, the California condor and the golden lion tamarin," she says.

But reintroducing animals into the wild isn't always feasible, especially when the conditions that caused the species to become endangered haven't improved. "There are many ways that zoos and SSPs can support conservation without providing animals," Grow says. For example, the Humboldt Penguin SSP supported a long-term field study in Chile that helped researchers learn about the challenges facing Humboldt penguin chicks and propose possible solutions. Dr. Roberta Wallace, senior staff veterinarian at the Milwaukee County Zoo, helped coordinate the project. It was funded in part by the Zoological Society.

You might have noticed other SSP-related conservation efforts around the Milwaukee County Zoo. Feline keepers sell trinkets during Zoo events to raise money for Snow Leopard Trust, a conservation organization supported by the Snow Leopard SSP. Billie Harrison, Zoo area supervisor of the Aquatic & Reptile Center, is the outreach coordinator for the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake SSP. She helps create and distribute pamphlets at the Zoo and elsewhere that educate people about the massasauga, a snake that has been nearly wiped out in Wisconsin.

An SSP ensures that the commitment to conservation is shared among many institutions, Grow says. "It's not just one organization that has a curator who's really excited about an animal. As the programs evolve and new facilities or people come in or out, you're able to maintain a commitment over the long term." It also means that if your favorite animal leaves the Zoo for another home, you can take comfort knowing that the animal is helping preserve the species in captivity and in the wild. "The animal may leave, but it doesn't mean all the great work goes away," Grow says. "It continues onward."

By Stacy Vogel Davis



The Eastern massasauga rattlesnake is part of a Species Survival Plan. Billie Harrison, supervisor of the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center, is the SSP's outreach coordinator. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

## Making a Difference for Bonobos

Bonobos are the least-known species of great ape even though they are among the closest relatives to humans. In 1986, the Milwaukee County Zoo became the fourth zoo in the United States to exhibit bonobos after it received seven bonobos from the Netherlands, bringing the total at U.S. zoos to 29. Two years later, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee helped found the Bonobo SSP under the leadership of its conservation coordinator, Dr. Gay Reinartz. Today, the SSP includes 93 bonobos in seven zoos in the U.S., including 23 at the Milwaukee County Zoo, and one sanctuary in Japan. While that's a big increase from 1986, it's still a small population compared with other primate species. (For example, North American zoos hold about 350 gorillas.) Because of this, it's critical for the SSP to carefully manage the captive bonobo population and encourage more zoos to house bonobos.

Like all SSPs, the Bonobo SSP is committed to conservation in the wild. The SSP supports the Zoological Society's Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI), founded in 1997. BCBI, also led by Reinartz, protects and studies bonobos in the Salonga National Park, a huge rainforest preserve in the Democratic Republic of Congo. To learn more about BCBI, visit [bonoboconservation.com](http://bonoboconservation.com).



Dr. Gay Reinartz interacts with bonobos at the Zoo in 2004. She founded the Bonobo SSP in 1988 and also leads the Zoological Society's Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative. Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Snow leopard Tomiris rests at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Zoo sells trinkets at some special events to raise money for Snow Leopard Trust, a conservation organization supported by the Snow Leopard Species Survival Plan.

Photo by Olga Kornienko





# January 2017



Trumpeter swans Vincent and Veronica, along with some mallard ducks, gather near Lake Evinrude. The Milwaukee County Zoo participated in a successful effort to reintroduce trumpeter swans to Wisconsin. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

|                             |                                  |    |  |  |   |  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----|--|--|---|--|
| 1<br>New Year's Day         | 2                                | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6   | 7<br>Family Free Day**   |
| 8                           | 9                                | 10 | 11   | 12   | 13  | 14   |
| 15<br>Samson Stomp & Romp** | 16<br>Martin Luther King Jr. Day | 17 | 18   | 19   | 20  | 21   |
| 22                          | 23                               | 24 | 25   | 26<br>Puttin' on the Ritz,*<br>Potawatomi<br>Hotel & Casino,<br>evening event  | 27  | 28   |
| 29                          | 30                               | 31 | <br><small>Photo provided by Sam LaMalfa</small> | <br><small>Photo by Olga Korienko</small> | <br><small>Photo by Olga Korienko</small> | <p>Left: The Samson Stomp &amp; Romp is named after Samson, one of the Zoo's most famous animals, who died in 1981.</p> <p>Right: A runner stretches before the Samson Stomp &amp; Romp.</p> <p>Photo by Olga Korienko</p> |

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

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



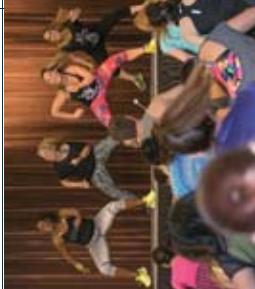



# February 2017



Onassis the giant South American river turtle swims through the Flooded Forest Exhibit in the Aquatic & Reptile Center. Estimated at more than 100 years old, Onassis is by far the oldest animal at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Photo by Bob Wickland

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

|   |                                 |                                  |  |   |  |  |
|---|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| <p>5</p>  <p>Snow leopard Tomiris enjoys a snowy day at the Zoo.<br/>Photo by Stacy Kaat</p> | <p>6</p>                        | <p>7</p>                         | <p>8</p> <p>Online registration begins for Summer Camps*</p>   | <p>9</p>  | <p>10</p>  | <p>11</p>  |
| <p>12</p>   | <p>13</p>                       | <p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> | <p>15</p>  | <p>16</p>   | <p>17</p>  | <p>18</p>  |
| <p>19</p>   | <p>20</p> <p>Presidents Day</p> | <p>21</p>                        | <p>22</p>  | <p>23</p>   | <p>24</p>  | <p>25</p> <p>Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo,* 6-8 p.m.</p>                        |
| <p>26</p>   | <p>27</p>                       | <p>28</p>                        | <p>Zumba® instructors show their moves at the Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo.<br/>Photo by Bob Wickland</p> |  | <p>A mother and daughter enjoy a workout during the Zumba® Fitness Party at the Zoo.<br/>Photo by Bob Wickland</p> |  |

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

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








# March 2017



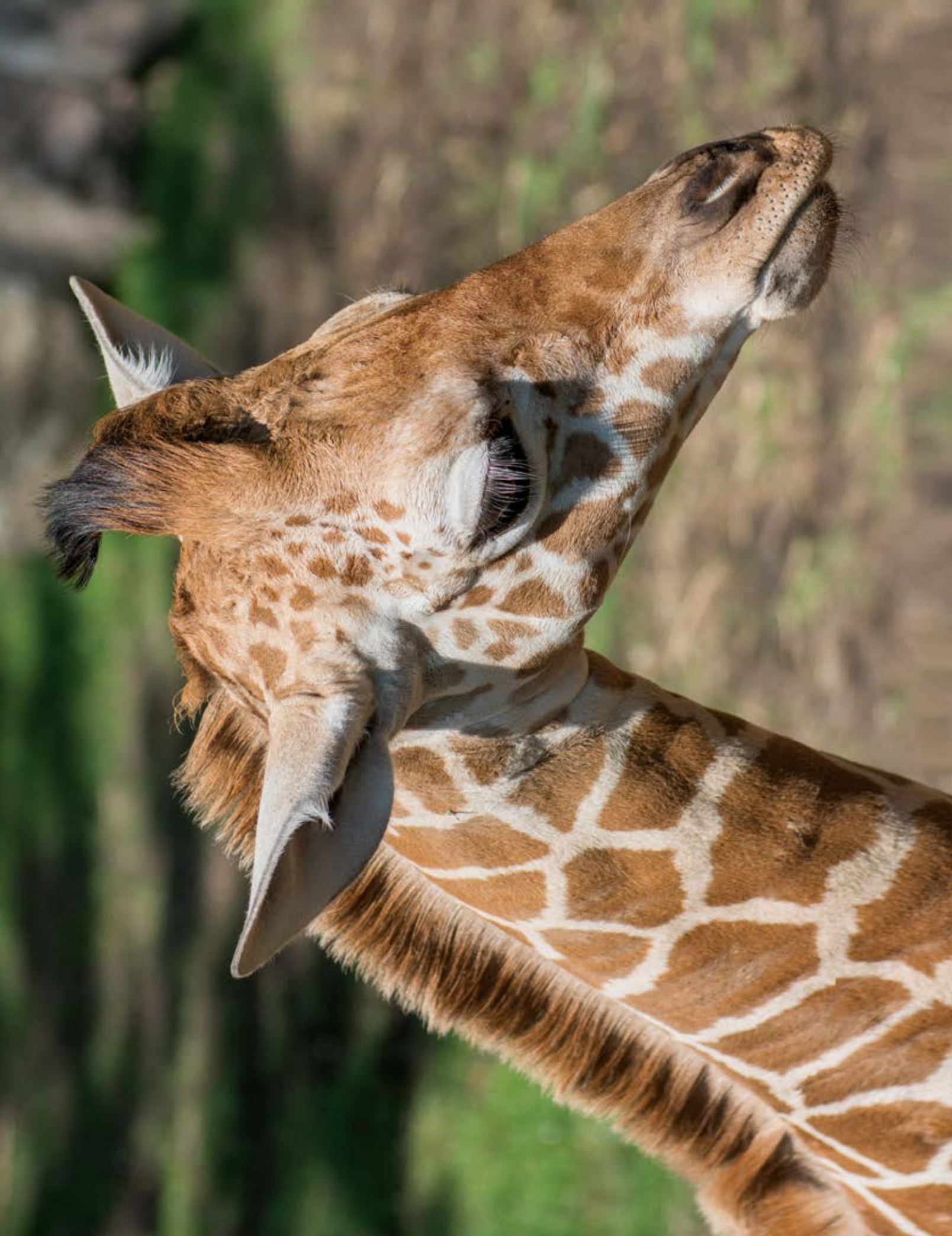
Female orangutan Rayma, left, arrived at the Zoo in May 2016. She gets along well with the male orangutan, Tommy. Orangutans face huge threats in the wild as they lose their habitats to palm oil plantations. Photo by Bob Wickland

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Sat-

|   |   |                            |           |           |                                 |
|---|---|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| <p>You can visit the train barn during Behind the Scenes Weekend. Photo by Richard Taylor</p> |  | <p>1<br/>Ash Wednesday</p> | <p>2</p>  | <p>3</p>  | <p>4<br/>Family Free Day**</p>  |
| <p>5</p>  | <p>6</p>  | <p>7</p>                   | <p>8</p>  | <p>9</p>  | <p>10</p>                       |
| <p>12<br/>Behind the Scenes Weekend**<br/>Daylight Saving Time begins</p>                     | <p>13</p>   | <p>14</p>                  | <p>15</p> | <p>16</p> | <p>17<br/>St. Patrick's Day</p> |
| <p>19</p>   | <p>20<br/>First day of spring</p>   | <p>21</p>                  | <p>22</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24</p>                       |
| <p>26</p>   | <p>27</p>   | <p>28</p>                  | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p>                       |

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

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





# April 2017



Zola the giraffe was born April 26, 2016, to mom Marlee and dad Bahatika. Her name, meaning "to love," was chosen by online voting. Her half-brother, Tafari, was born in September 2015. Photo by Bob Wickland

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

Egg Day at the Zoo wouldn't be complete without an Easter egg hunt. Photo by Olga Kornienko



Right: Zootastic, a fundraiser for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, is a family night filled with crafts, food, animal talks and entertainment.  
Photo by Mandy Matsche



**1**  
April Fools Day

**2**

**3**

**4**

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

**9**  
Palm Sunday

**10**  
Passover begins at sundown

**11**

**12**

**13**

**14**  
Easter

**15**  
Passover begins at sundown

**16**

**17**

**18**

**19**

**20**

**21**  
Passover begins at sundown

**22**

**23**

**24**

**25**

**26**

**27**

**28**

**29**

**30**

**31**  
Earth Day  
World Penguin Day\*\*

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

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





# May 2017



Trinity the Scottish Highland cow arrived at the Zoo in August 2015. She gave birth to a calf, Keira, in March 2016. Scottish Highlands are one of the oldest cattle breeds in the world. Photo by Olga Kornienko

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

|                                 |   |    |    |   |                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|---|----|----|---|---------------------------------|--|
|                                 | 1<br>May Day  | 2  | 3  | 4   | 5<br>Cinco de Mayo              | 6<br>Zoo Pass members-only field trip*<br><br>Summer exhibit, Body Worlds: Animal Inside Out, begins** |
| 7                               | 8   | 9  | 10 | 11  | 12                              | 13   |
| 14<br>Mother's Day at the Zoo** | 15<br>Online registration begins for Snooze at the Zoo* | 16 | 17 | 18  | 19<br>Endangered Species Day**  | 20<br>Party for the Planet**   |
| 21<br>Party for the Planet**    | 22  | 23 | 24 | 25  | 26<br>Ramadan begins at sundown | 27<br>Kohl's Wild Theater begins its summer season at the Zoo, with free shows daily*                  |
| 28                              | 29<br>Memorial Day                                      | 30 | 31 | <p>A Girl Scout troop poses in front of a polar bear made of recycled plastic bags during Party for the Planet. Photo by Bob Wickland</p> |                                 |  |

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

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











# July 2017



A Caribbean flamingo naps in the sunshine. Flamingos typically sleep balanced on one foot. The Zoo has a mixed flock of Caribbean and Chilean flamingos. You can tell the difference because Chilean flamingos are much paler. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



Left: The annual Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament is a fundraiser for the Zoological Society. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

The miniature train was the first attraction to open to the public at the Zoo's current location in 1958. Photo by Bob Wickland

2

3

4  
Independence Day

5  
Sunset Zoofari\*\*

6

7

8

9

10

11  
Kids' Nights at the Zoo  
for Zoo Pass members,\*  
5-9 p.m.

12  
Sunset Zoofari\*\*

13  
Kids' Nights at the Zoo  
for Zoo Pass members,\*  
5-9 p.m.

14  
Kids' Nights at the Zoo  
for Zoo Pass members,\*  
5-9 p.m.

15

16

17

18

19  
Sunset Zoofari\*\*

20

21

22

23

24  
**July 31**  
Birdies & Eagles  
Golf Tournament,\*  
off Zoo grounds

25

26  
Sunset Zoofari\*\*

27

28

29

30

31

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

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







# August 2017



A hippopotamus peeks above the water at the Zoo. Hippos' eyes and ears are at the top of their heads so they can observe their surroundings while keeping most of their bodies submerged under water. Photo by Olga Komienko

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

|   |   |           |                                    |  |  |  |
|---|---|-----------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
|  | <p>1</p> <p>A father and son enjoy a game of chess during the Snooze at the Zoo camping fundraiser.<br/>Photo by Richard Brodzeller</p> |           | <p>2</p> <p>Sunset Zoofari**</p>   | <p>3</p> <p>Online registration begins for Fall Zoo Classes*</p> | <p>4</p>   | <p>5</p>   |
| <p>6</p>  | <p>7</p>  | <p>8</p>  | <p>9</p> <p>Snooze at the Zoo*</p> | <p>10</p> <p>Snooze at the Zoo*</p>                              | <p>11</p> <p>Snooze at the Zoo*<br/>World Elephant Day**</p>                         | <p>12</p> <p>Snooze at the Zoo*</p>  |
| <p>13</p>   | <p>14</p>   | <p>15</p> | <p>16</p>                          | <p>17</p> <p>A la Carte**</p>                                    | <p>18</p> <p>A la Carte**</p>  | <p>19</p> <p>A la Carte**</p>  |
| <p>20</p> <p>A la Carte**</p>   | <p>21</p>   | <p>22</p> | <p>23</p>                          | <p>24</p>  | <p>25</p>  | <p>26</p> <p>Animal Safari*</p>  |
| <p>27</p>   | <p>28</p>   | <p>29</p> | <p>30</p>                          | <p>31</p>  | <p>Campers set up their tent during Snooze at the Zoo.<br/>Photo by Bob Wickland</p> |  |

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

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





# September 2017



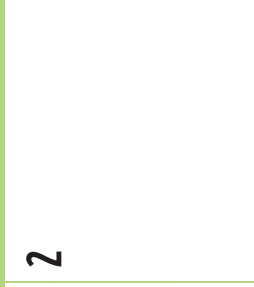
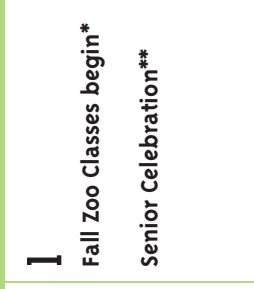
And baby makes three! Golden lion tamarins Levi, left, and Basil became first-time parents April 17, 2016, when Levi gave birth to Paisley. The family lives in the Small Mammals Building.

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

Left photo: Family Farm Weekend includes a milk-chugging contest, farmers market, pedal tractor-pull contest and more.  
Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Right photo: Riders start pedaling at the Zoological Society's Ride on the Wild Side Bike Ride fundraiser.  
Photo by Richard Brodzeller



**3**

**4**  
Labor Day

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

**9**  
Family Farm Weekend\*\*

**10**  
Family Farm Weekend\*\*  
Ride on the Wild Side  
Bike Ride\*

**11**

**12**

**13**

**14**

**15**  
**16**  
Elephant Appreciation  
Day\*\*

**17**

**18**

**19**

**20**  
Rosh Hashana begins  
at sundown

**21**

**22**  
First day of autumn

**23**  
Zoo Pass members-only  
field trip\*

**24**

**25**

**26**

**27**  
**28**  
Zoo Brew,\*  
evening event

**29**  
Yom Kippur begins  
at sundown

**30**

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

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





# October 2017



Alaskan brown bear Borealis, known as Boris, lounges on a crisp fall day. The Alaskan brown bear uses its long claws and powerful shoulder muscles to dig for roots and excavate its den.  
Photo by Richard Brodzeller

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

|    |                               |                 |  |    |   |  |   |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------------|--|----|---|--|---|
| 1  | 2                             | 3               | 4  | 5  | 6   | 7<br>Family Free Day**   |   |
| 8  | 9<br>Columbus Day<br>observed | 10              | 11   | 12 | 13<br>Boo at the Zoo,**<br>6-9 p.m.   | 14<br>Boo at the Zoo,**<br>6-9 p.m.  |   |
| 15 | 16                            | 17              | 18   | 19 | 20<br>Halloween Spooktacular<br>with trick-or-treating,**<br>6-9 p.m.               | 21<br>Halloween Spooktacular<br>with trick-or-treating,**<br>9 a.m.-9 p.m. |   |
| 22 | 23                            | 24              | 25   | 26 | 27  | 28   |   |
| 29 | 30                            | 31<br>Halloween |  |    |  |  | <p>Left photo: Boo at the Zoo and Halloween Spooktacular, the Zoo's Halloween events, include a haystack maze.<br/>Photo by Olga Kornienko</p> <p>The Zoo gets into the spirit for Boo at the Zoo and Halloween Spooktacular. Photo by Olga Kornienko</p> |

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

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





# November 2017



Imara the cheetah stares at something in the distance from her exhibit outside Florence Mila Borchert Big Cat Country. It's estimated that only 7,000 to 10,000 cheetahs remain in the wild. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday   | Thursday                      | Friday   | Saturday                      |
|---|---|-----------|---|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <p>Everyone gets free admission to the Zoo during Family Free Days. Photo by Bob Wickland</p> |  | <p>1</p>  | <p>2</p> <p>Online registration begins for 2018 Spring Zoo Classes*</p> | <p>3</p>                      | <p>4</p> <p>Family Free Day**<br/>Zoo Pass members-only holiday field trip*</p>  |                               |
| <p>5</p> <p>Daylight Saving Time ends</p>   | <p>6</p>  | <p>7</p>  | <p>8</p>  | <p>9</p>                      | <p>10</p>  | <p>11</p> <p>Veterans Day</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</p>   | <p>23</p> <p>Thanksgiving</p> | <p>24</p>  | <p>25</p>                     |
| <p>26</p>   | <p>27</p>   | <p>28</p> | <p>29</p>   | <p>30</p>                     | <p>The Zoological Society offers classes and camps year round for children up to age 14, families and adults.<br/>Photo by Bob Wickland</p>  |                               |

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

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





# December 2017



Snow covers the antlers of the Zoo's male reindeer, Eidan. Reindeer are domesticated caribou. Both male and female reindeer grow antlers. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

**Sunday**

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

Check out dozens of pine trees decorated by local youth groups at the Fantastic Forest in December.  
Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Kids can meet the big guy himself during the Zoo's annual Breakfast & Lunch with Santa.  
Photo by Richard Brodzeller

**1**  
Fantastic Forest (through Dec. 29)\*

**2**  
Family Free Day\*\*  
Breakfast & Lunch with Santa\*\*

**3**  
Breakfast & Lunch with Santa\*\*

**4**  
Breakfast & Lunch with Santa\*\*

**5**

**6**

**7**

**8**

**9**  
Breakfast & Lunch with Santa\*\*

**10**  
Breakfast & Lunch with Santa\*\*

**11**  
Breakfast & Lunch with Santa\*\*

**12**  
Hanukkah begins at sundown

**13**

**14**

**15**

**16**  
Breakfast & Lunch with Santa\*\*

**17**  
Breakfast & Lunch with Santa\*\*

**18**  
Breakfast & Lunch with Santa\*\*

**19**

**20**

**21**  
First day of winter

**22**

**23**

**24**

**25**  
Christmas

**26**  
Kwanzaa begins

**27**

**28**

**29**

**30**

**31**  
New Year's Eve

# Bring Kohl's Wild Theater to your school or community event!



Kohl's Wild Theater, the largest Zoo-based theater program in the country, travels to schools, community events and festivals within a one-hour radius of the Milwaukee County Zoo free of charge. This award-winning program uses drama, songs and puppetry to share the wonder of nature and the importance of conservation.

This school year, Kohl's Wild Theater will bring back favorites and introduce two new shows: "Aldo Leopold and the Ghost of Sand County," highlighting Wisconsin's rich conservation history, and "What We Eat," a series of skits about the importance of food to humans and animals. Different shows are available for pre-kindergarten through grade eight. Visit [wildtheater.org](http://wildtheater.org) to learn more.

Don't miss your chance to catch the wildest show in town! Kohl's Wild Theater is a partnership between Kohl's Cares and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.

