

# Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

October 1999



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

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President's Letter



By now, you've heard the great news about the future of Milwaukee County Zoo. Mid-July, the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County announced the culmination of 2 1/2 years of work by the Society/County Fiscal Plan Task Force. The plan that emerged 1) establishes a five-year operational budget, 2) addresses infrastructure needs at the Zoo, and 3) lays the groundwork for launching a new capital improvements campaign.

The capital campaign will fund major "bricks and mortar" projects, improving the physical appearance of the Zoo for our animals and our guests. I'm thrilled to share with you just a few new things you can expect to see at the Zoo early in the next millennium:

- a completely renovated Feline building
- improved homes for our elephants and giraffes
- an expanded Education Center that will accommodate more participants in the Zoological Society's EdZooocation workshops
- a new animal hospital
- a new African scene with underwater viewing of the hippos
- a new 4,000-square-foot Heritage Farm play area for children

The campaign also will address several things that will result in improved visitor service, including:

- two renovated concession stands
- gift-shop additions
- a glass-enclosed atrium in the Zoo's main mall
- upgraded restrooms

This campaign is vital for our Zoo to compete with other attractions for visitors and to maintain the Zoo's reputation as one of the country's most well-attended and finest zoos. Especially during these exciting times of growth, we more than ever rely on annual contributions like the ones you make toward renewing your membership each year. Through this column, I look forward to sharing the energy, excitement and progress we make toward improving the Zoo for the visitors of the next millennium.

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

Alive

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Endangered spider monkeys, plants and butterflies all may have a better chance at survival thanks to a major new project of the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., the Zoological Society's partner in conservation and education. The Foundation recently completed negotiations to purchase 6,134 acres of rain forest in central Belize to save it as a wildlife preserve, called the Runaway Creek Work.
- 8 Adventures in Thailand: Hornbills in the Canopy  
How do you help the Zoo's rhinoceros hornbills to breed? Go to the wilds of Asia to see what the wild birds do. That's just what zookeeper Craig Pelke did. After braving blood-sucking leeches, a tiger and dizzying heights, he returned to the Milwaukee County Zoo with some new ideas for breeding the birds in captivity.
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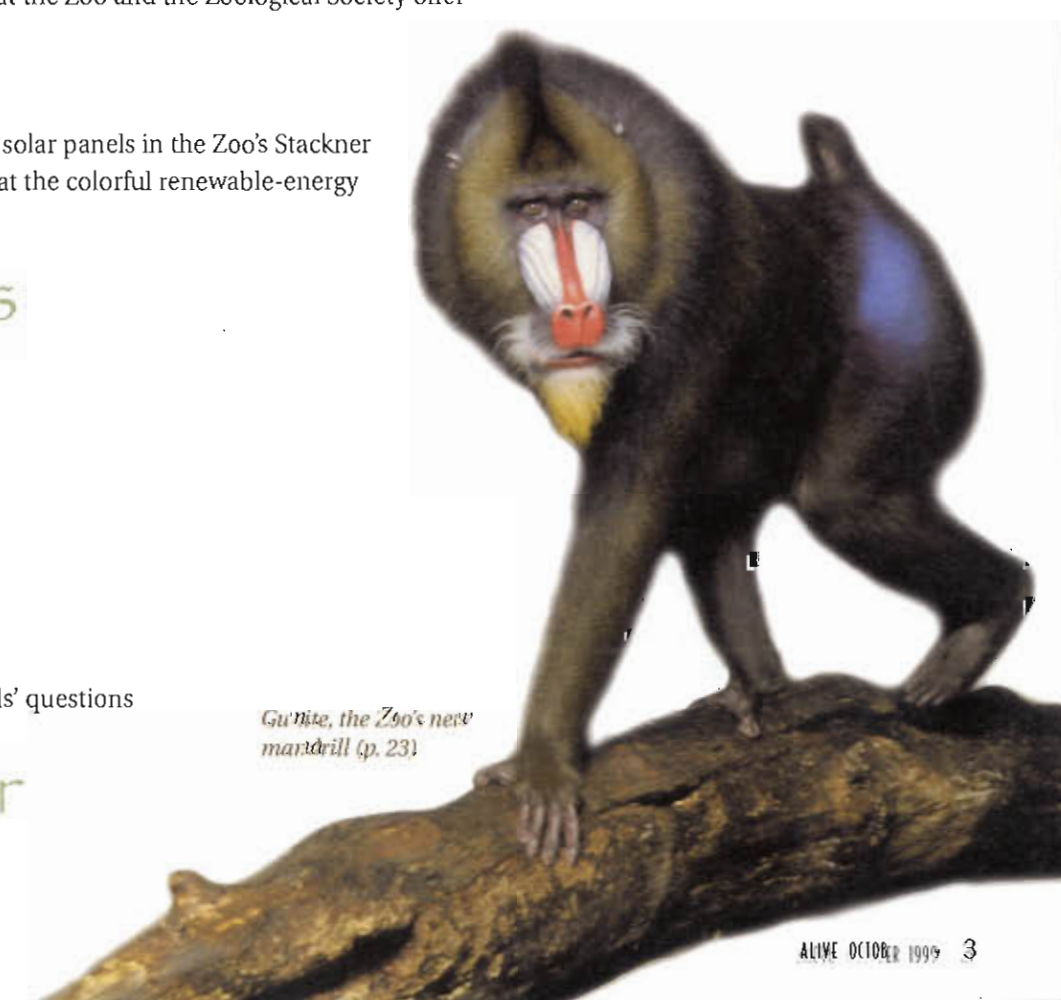
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on the cover

Rhinoceros hornbill at the Milwaukee County Zoo



This mother and baby reticulated giraffe ornament is delicately designed in pewter by Port Washington artist Andy Schumann. The ornament (or pendant) costs \$14 and is a fundraiser for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. Call (414) 258-2333 with your credit card to order (cost includes tax and mailing).



Gunite, the Zoo's new mandrill (p. 23)

# Natural History Sanctuary in Belize

In a tropical forest in the Central American country of Belize, botanist/biologist Jan Meerman sees an unusual plant out of his reach. He starts climbing a limestone karst hill to get to the plant. Footing is treacherous. He is nearly there when he falls. Despite scrapes and bruises, he heads back for the plant and reaches it to take photos.

His dedication pays off. The plant is a living fossil. In the genus *Zamia*, the plant is "one of the oldest seed plants alive. It was the food of the dinosaurs," says Meerman. "This is a species I have never found anywhere else in Belize but on this Runaway Creek property."

The property he refers to is a major new project begun by the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., the Zoological Society's partner in conservation and education. To stop a venture that planned to clear-cut the rain forest, the Foundation recently completed negotiations to purchase a 6,134-acre parcel of primary rain forest in central Belize on the Sibun River. The land is being turned into a wildlife preserve, called the Runaway Creek Work. Endangered spider monkeys and black howler monkeys live on this land, as do tapirs, jaguars, ocelots, peccaries and numerous birds. The preserve will be an important extension of a national wildlife corridor that runs 80 to 90 miles long through southern and central Belize.

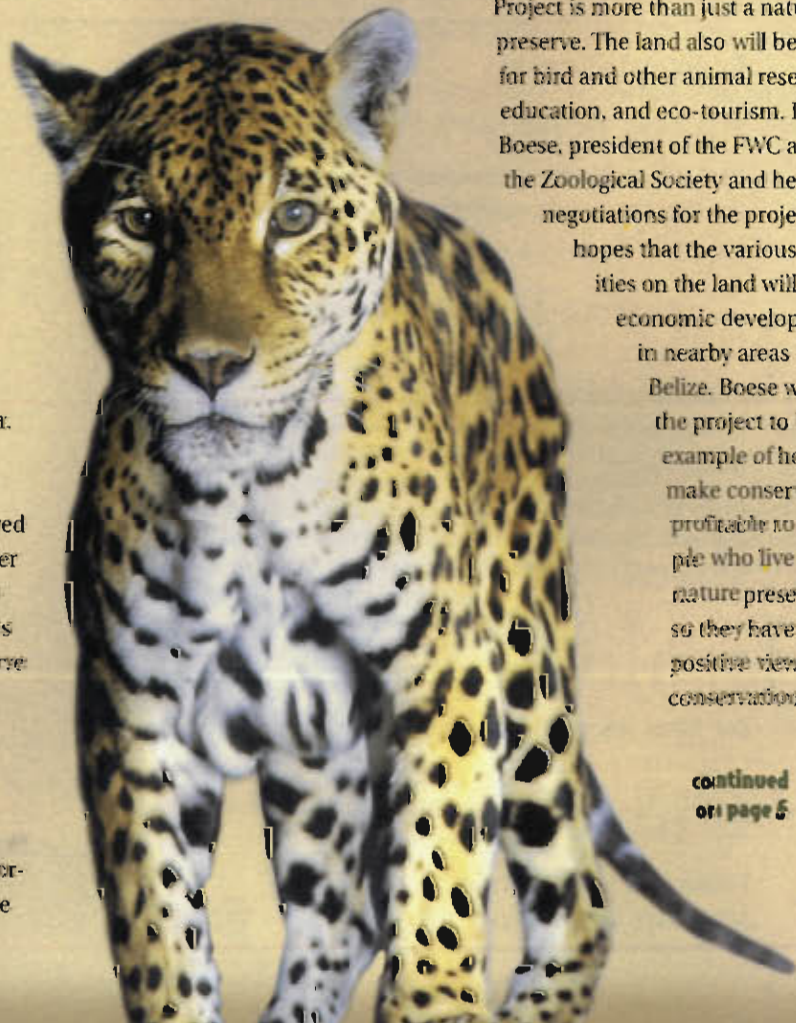
This land is especially important, says Meerman, because the

Foundation truly plans to keep it protected. Much of so-called protected areas in Belize are being destroyed, he says, because the government can't afford to maintain the areas.

"About 50% of the land in southern Belize is being affected by runaway fires," says Meerman. In the slash-and-burn agricultural technique, many wildlife areas are ruined because people can't control the fire and it spreads. When organic soil and vegetation burn away, it takes decades to replace. Soil is created from decaying vegetation, and with no vegetation, there's no new soil formation. Meerman, who has done an ecological assessment of plants and animals on the Runaway Creek Work land, adds: "Vegetation dictates what animals can possibly live on the land."

The Runaway Creek Work Conservancy Project is more than just a nature preserve. The land also will be used for bird and other animal research, education, and eco-tourism. Dr. Gil Boese, president of the FWC and of the Zoological Society and head of negotiations for the project, hopes that the various activities on the land will spur economic development in nearby areas of Belize. Boese wants the project to be an example of how to make conservation profitable to people who live near nature preserves, so they have a positive view of conservation.

continued on page 5



Zamia



The smaller map shows the Runaway Creek Work Conservancy land that is being purchased in Belize (larger map) by the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., a partner in conservation and education with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The land connects on its southern border to Manatee Forest Reserve, providing a northern extension of large contiguous protected areas for animals (shown in orange). The land also is close to the Belize Zoo, which is cooperating on bird research with the Foundation and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.



In developing countries, about the only way that areas with endangered wildlife can be protected is if the areas "pay for themselves," he says. Usually that is through tourism. But small industries also can grow up around research and education projects. The Foundation is hiring Belizeans to patrol the property and is training them to do research and be tourism guides. Next spring Boese plans to start catch-release sport fishing trips to the Sibun River near the land and to other nearby sites. By 2001, he plans to offer rain-forest and bird-watching walks on the property to tourist lodges in the area.

The FWC and the Zoological Society already have invested in Belize through a joint project called Birds Without Borders – *Aves Sin Fronteras* (see *Alive* fall 1997). This international research-conservation-education project involves monitoring birds that migrate between Wisconsin and Belize, as well as birds that live only in Belize or only in Wisconsin. The project was developed because of increasing evidence that populations of neotropical songbirds found both in Belize and Wisconsin were in decline. Vicki Piaskowski, international coordinator for the project, says, "The decline is most likely due to habitat loss by the surging human population and increasing land development that encroaches upon songbird habitat."

Birds Without Borders already has research sites at the Tropical Education Center of the Belize Zoo and the adjoining Sylvestre land, both of which are near the



Rare passionflower

Runaway Creek Work land, and at another private reserve in Belize. As part of their third year of research, Birds Without Borders' all-Belizean research staff will study birds this winter in three habitats on the Runaway Creek Work land: lowlands, karst forest and river forest. The project also involves working with private landowners in

Wisconsin who have provided research sites, helping them keep their lands hospitable to birds. A recent \$50,000 grant from the Mae E. Demmer Charitable Trust is going to finance field research in Wisconsin.

And an important educational aspect of the project involves helping school students – in Belize and Wisconsin – understand environmental issues, master the scientific method and increase their ability to use technology. The Helen Bader Foundation, Inc., of Milwaukee, has presented a three-year grant totaling \$87,279 to Birds Without Borders to help provide state-of-the-art technology to link students and researchers in Wisconsin and Belize. The grant also will help provide comprehensive teacher training to implement the program.

Acquiring the Runaway Creek Work land this year was urgent because of a proposal by a foreign company that had bought land to the east and northeast of the Runaway Creek property and cleared it for citrus plantations. It wanted to expand those plantations to the Runaway Creek land. If the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation had not moved quickly, this important wildlife habitat and corridor would have been lost.

The cost of the Runaway Creek Work land and the research projects proposed for it is more than \$1 million. The FWC already has received a substantial lead grant from the Mahler Family Foundation and a further purchase grant from Dick and Susie

Steinman, all longtime supporters of the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. The Foundation has six years to pay for the rest and currently is seeking grants. (For

more information, call Sabrina M. Bryant at 414-258-2333.)

Building on long-established connections in Belize made by the Zoological Society, the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation has developed a presence there through numerous projects, such as the Toledo Outreach Program that educates citizens about endangered plants and animals (such as the manatee) in the southernmost Toledo district of Belize. The Foundation and Society also have forged strong, working relationships with the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center, the Belize Audubon Society, Monkey Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, Chaa Creek Nature Preserve, the Community Baboon Sanctuary and the Belize government.

Sharon Matola, director of the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center, says: "The Runaway Creek Work lands provide a vital link for wildlife to travel a north-south direction minus any threat." This is the only area in this part of Belize that allows such free movement of animals from north to south, she adds.

The Runaway Creek land also is in a key location for extending protected lands farther north. The land already is linked to the Manatee Forest Preserve to the south. Animals traveling through that link can reach the central Sibun River.

As for vegetation, Meerman's *Zamia* plant is not the only rare species that grows on this land. He also has discovered an unusual passionflower found only in two countries: Belize and Honduras. It has large, heart-shaped leaves and a white flower (see page 6). "I have found it in three places in Belize, and the Runaway Creek Work property is one of them," he says. "The species still has not been described and thus does not have an official, scientific name. In Honduras it is known only from one collection. The discovery of this passionflower has led to the discovery of a butterfly previously unknown from Belize. Research that I have carried out has shown that this butterfly will lay its eggs ONLY on this particular species of passionflower."

If the land had been clear-cut, the butterfly might never have been found. And the passionflower might have disappeared entirely. Given that scientists continue to find new drugs from rain-forest plants, such as the recent discovery of a fungus that may be an insulin substitute, saving one flower and one butterfly truly could have repercussions around the world.



## On the job

Jan Meerman, researcher,  
Runaway Creek Work Conservancy Project



When Jan Meerman was a university research assistant in his native Netherlands, he found himself raising and feeding an assortment of moths as part of the European Invertebrate Survey. This presented somewhat of a problem on the weekends, when Meerman would go by train to visit his girlfriend Tineke, who lived some distance from the university.

"There were a dozen or so moths which needed to be HAND-fed with sugar water once a day," he recalls. "So they came along. And I forgot them at Tineke's apartment when I went back to campus. Several moth pupae hatched immediately after I left. So for a whole week, Tineke dutifully fed the little moths and they did well. They bred and I gained a lot of important data. Nothing could go wrong with our relationship after that."



Indeed, they eventually married, and now Tineke does much of the work on the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch and Botanical Collections that Jan and she own in Belize. This ranch will provide the butterflies for a major exhibit next June at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The exhibit, housed in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building, will feature simulated ruins of a Mayan Temple in Belize and a rain forest with an abundance of tropical butterflies.

Meanwhile, Meerman, who realized that butterflies and moths were dependent on specific plants for their survival, started focusing more on vegetation and now has become a leading botanical expert in Belize, even though his original degrees were in biology and ecology. He has done an ecological assessment of plants and animals on the Runaway Creek Work land being purchased by the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc. (see accompanying story). And he will serve as a consultant to the research projects planned for the land.

He also is writing a field guide to the butterflies of Belize and the Yucatan, and he is a consultant for the World Bank on a project preparing a vegetation map for all of Central America. He has his own business doing environmental impact assessments in Belize, and he is director of Belize Tropical Forest Studies, a non-profit organization.

Stopping in Milwaukee last June to begin planning for our butterfly exhibit next year, Meerman praised the Zoological Society and its partner, the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, for helping develop private nature preserves. "I see an increasing importance of private protected areas. Private and non-profit groups have become leaders in protecting animals and the environment. Belize doesn't have any mechanism to reward local landowners [for creating preserves] through tax breaks, but together with several environmentally conscious landowners we are working on that issue, and once such a mechanism is in place, the role of private protected areas will increase even more."

Animals such as the tapir (below), jaguar (page 4), boat-billed heron (page 5) and red-legged honey-creeper (page 7) live on the Runaway Creek Work land, as do ocelots, peccaries, spider monkeys and numerous birds. The rare passionflower (above) that grows on this land and the green *Zamia* (page 4) growing in rocks were photographed by researcher Jan Meerman.



*Adventures in Thailand:*  
**Hornbills**  
*in the Canopy*



Left: This male great pied hornbill is about to feed a chick nesting inside the cavity just below the adult's beak.

A tiger stalked him. Blood-sucking leeches chased him.

And, suspended by a rope, he conducted much of his field work seven stories above the forest floor.

Ask Craig Pelke about his three weeks in Thailand studying great pied hornbills, and he'll tell you it was nothing short of paradise.

"I felt like Indiana Jones," says the 31-year-old zookeeper from Wauwatosa. Pelke's adventures came thanks in part to a new grant program that is funded by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and open to zookeepers who submit written proposals for research.

"I think that it's a great opportunity for a keeper to go to the wild," Pelke says. For Pelke and the Zoo, the opportunity revolved around studying the habits of the great pied hornbill, a black, white and yellow bird with a four-foot wingspan that spends most of its life in the forest canopy at Thailand's Khao Yai National Park. The sprawling park covers 840 square miles and is large enough to support healthy populations of Asian elephants and tigers.



(Left to right): Pilai Pooneswad, director and founder of the Thailand Hornbill Project; Craig Pelke, Milwaukee County Zoo bird keeper; Phitaya Chuailua, Pooneswad's assistant

Under the tutelage of Thailand Hornbill Project Director Dr. Pilai Pooneswad, whose hornbill research and field work of more than 20 years is widely renowned, Pelke hoped to learn lessons that would apply to the Zoo's rhinoceros hornbill, closely related to the great pied hornbill. The great pied hornbill behaves much like the rhinoceros hornbill living at the Milwaukee

County Zoo. Rhinoceros hornbills are easily identified by the red and yellow growth, or *casque*, that protrudes from their heads.

There are 54 species of hornbills worldwide, and many species of Asian hornbills are threatened. The birds are considered an indicator species, animals that are the first to exhibit problems if the environment is threatened.

Citing habitat-loss and population pressures facing the birds in the wild and breeding challenges Asian hornbills face in captivity, Zoo Bird Curator Kim Smith says that building the captive population of the birds

through participation in its Species Survival Plan—a cooperative breeding and conservation program administered by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association—is vital to their future. "Our pair of rhinoceros hornbills has never bred," says Smith. "We need a good, stable genetic base among captive birds so that we can assist researchers who are working with birds in the wild," says Smith.

So on his field trip, Pelke set about finding clues on where and how hornbills nest—information that eventually could lead to successful breeding here.

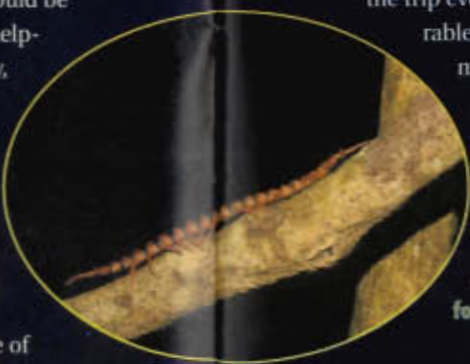
First Pelke had to find the nest of a great pied hornbill. That was no mean feat given their preference for building nests in tree trunks 100 feet above the forest floor, concealed in the thick foliage of the forest canopy. Thankfully, the great pied hornbill is not a shy, retiring bird. In fact, it sounds "like a locomotive" when it flies, Pelke reports. And the parents often bring fruit, lizards and snakes home to feed its young.

After Pelke located a nest 70 feet aloft, he had to scale the trunk using ropes and rock-climbing gear. "You had to get used to the heights," he says. "You learn to trust your rope and not to look down."

What Pelke found high above the ground surprised him and indicated to him that the Zoo would need to rethink the way it houses the rhinoceros hornbill.

One nest he found had an opening measuring just five inches. The female, before she incubates and raises the young, seals up the nest cavity so that only the tip of a bird's beak can fit through the nest hole slit. Inside, the nest is much more spacious. One was more than three feet deep. These factors—the nest's interior, its lofty perch and its narrow slit for an opening—should be taken into account in the Zoo's attempts at helping the rhinoceros hornbill breed in captivity, Pelke believes.

The lessons Pelke learned on his trip had a price in blood and jangled nerves. The first lesson he learned quickly: Move to the front of the line. Terrestrial leeches, three-inch blood-sucking beasts, found Pelke on one of his first days in the forest. Regrettably, he had been in the back of a line of



This giant centipede has a venomous bite, but is food for the hornbill.

10 people. "The leeches literally march after you," he says. "They're cued by the vibrations of people or animals that walk past."

Back at camp that night, Pelke removed his blood-soaked boots. The leeches, with teeth and a potent anti-coagulant, had bored through the fabric of his socks and feasted on his feet.

The next day, he wore tightly woven "jungle socks." "And I tried to stay at the front of the line when we hiked," he remembers.

But it was when Pelke was alone, monitoring a nest deep in the forest, that the jungle began to get really creepy.

Typically, the squawks of birds and chattering of insects create a din in the tropical forest.

"Incredibly loud," Pelke says. "Obnoxious. Deafening."

So when the forest fell silent, Pelke knew something wasn't right. "No birds, no bugs, nothing," he recalls. "Then, all of a sudden, I heard a deep growling, and I knew it was a cat. A big cat."

For the next hour, Pelke grasped a 19-inch knife and tried to stay in front of the cat, which paced and growled from deep vegetation. "They don't like to attack when they can see you looking at them," Pelke says. "He finally stopped growling and moved away."

In retrospect, the encounters with the leeches and tiger made the trip even more memorable. "You learn so much by being where the animals actually live," he says.



Zoo bird keeper Craig Pelke applies a mortar-like mixture to an existing nest hole in a tree inside the Zoo's rhinoceros hornbill exhibit. Pelke is reducing the hole to 1/4 of its original size because his research of hornbills in the wild shows that the birds prefer to enter nests through narrow openings. Next time you're at the Zoo, try to tell our rhinoceros hornbills apart. For the male, Cyrano, look for brownish-red eyes, and for the female, Roxanne, look for blue eyes.

## Agent: Spiny rat

Granted, a spiny rat isn't as glamorous as, say, a Siberian tiger.

But obscurity should not be confused with significance as Scott Mangan, a University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh graduate student in biology, has shown in his research on this small mammal. Named for the bristly hair on its back, the one-pound spiny rat may play a pivotal role in maintaining tropical-forest ecosystems in Panama.

While much is known about how clear-cut temperate forests (like those in Wisconsin) regrow, very little is known about how to restore clear-cut acres of tropical forest. What is understood, however, is that tropical trees need fungi along their roots to grow well. When trees are uprooted or clear-cut, someone or something needs to reintroduce the beneficial fungi.

Unlike spores from fungi such as mushrooms, mycorrhizal spores (spores from fungi that grow underground) cannot be dispersed by the wind. Since clear-cutting techniques used in the forest deplete the fungi, moving the spores from one location to another becomes key to maintaining the forest ecosystem.

With a student research grant from the Zoological Society, Mangan has learned that the rat may be an important link in the regeneration process. On examining the diet of spiny rats, Mangan discovered that they eat the beneficial tree fungi and thus are a probable agent for spreading fungal spores in their droppings.

When a rat disperses fungal spores, the fungus attaches to a tree's roots and increases the surface area of the root system so that the tree can collect more water and nutrients.

With a better understanding of how spores are dispersed, conservation biologists and forest managers can promote the regeneration of decimated tropical forests and preserve the threatened wildlife that they harbor.



After Mangan captured spiny rats using live traps, he examined their fecal pellets for fungal spores important to reforestation.

## Lessons From the Field:



Scott Mangan and 19 other Wisconsin graduate students who are in the forefront of research that may help save the world's biodiversity will discuss their research at a free symposium Saturday,

Nov. 13. This is your chance to meet many of the researchers you have helped to support as a society member. You can meet them, hear talks and view slides and poster displays on 20 wildlife conservation projects conducted around the globe. Hosted by the Zoological Society, which helped support their research, the symposium runs from 12:30 to 5 p.m. at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Peck Welcome Center.

The research projects range from monitoring antelope in Tanzania to protecting sea otters in California.

Other topics include:

- ways to conserve threatened species such as ornate box turtles, sandhill cranes, and gray wolves
- roles that elephants and rats play in threatened tropical forests
- strategies for restoring wetlands and woodlands in Wisconsin.

All presenters received grants through the Zoological Society's Wisconsin Student Grants in Conservation Biology program. The symposium is co-sponsored by the Milwaukee County Zoo and the Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus Ltd. Zoo admission is free for Zoological Society members with ID; County Zoo parking fee is \$6. For more information, call (414) 276-0339, ext. 305.



Scott Mangan, a UW-Oshkosh graduate student in biology, has found that the spiny rat may be a key player in maintaining tropical forests in Panama. His research was funded in part by the Zoological Society.

## Dog is dad to wolves

When the new wolf pups arrived at the Milwaukee County Zoo in July (see pup below), they had their foster dad, Joshua, with them. Joshua is a big German shepherd dog that has spent every spring of his life being a surrogate (that means substitute) dad to timber-wolf pups born at Minnesota's Wildlife Science Center. Because most of the pups are sent to zoos, they are taken away from their parents a few weeks after being born so they can get used to being around people.

But they can get a little too playful and hard-to-control without an adult animal around, says Peggy Callahan, head of the Science Center, which sent us the new pups for Milwaukee. So Peggy had 7-year-old Joshua play dad to the wolves. "Joshua is very paternal [fatherly]. He'll even give his own food to them," she says. Hurray for a great dad!



## Digging up dirt

Did you know that some students go to college to dig in the dirt? And they're doing it at the Zoo! Last spring 10 Marquette University students came to the Zoo to dig up bones in our animal cemetery. It was a great way to practice archeology, the study of people and animals that lived in the past. Archeologists often dig up earth to look for dinosaur bones or Indian villages so they can piece together history. The great part of going to the animal cemetery is that the students knew they would find bones, said their teacher, Jane D. Peterson. She is an assistant professor at Marquette. If they just went to a field somewhere, they might not find anything. And what did they find? Among other things, the curled horn of an impala, a hoofed animal from Africa.



## Holiday Animals

Some animals have been linked to our human holidays. It's hard to think of Halloween without thinking of bats and cats, spiders, and wolves (namely, werewolves). For Thanksgiving,

it's turkeys. And for Christmas, it's reindeer and camels. You can find all of these animals out at the Zoo. Here's where:

Vampire bats that eat blood live in our Small Mammals building. Spiders are found in the Aquatic & Reptile Center. Big cats are in the Feline building, and small domestic cats live in

Stackner Heritage Farm (and some live wild on the Zoo grounds). Wild turkeys live in the moose yard.

While we don't have any mythical werewolves, we do have five timber-wolf pups that play in their new exhibit, Wolf Woods. Look inside for fun facts on these "holiday" animals.

# HolidayCrossword

See if you can fill in the crossword with these animals and plants that go with fall and winter holidays:

## ACROSS

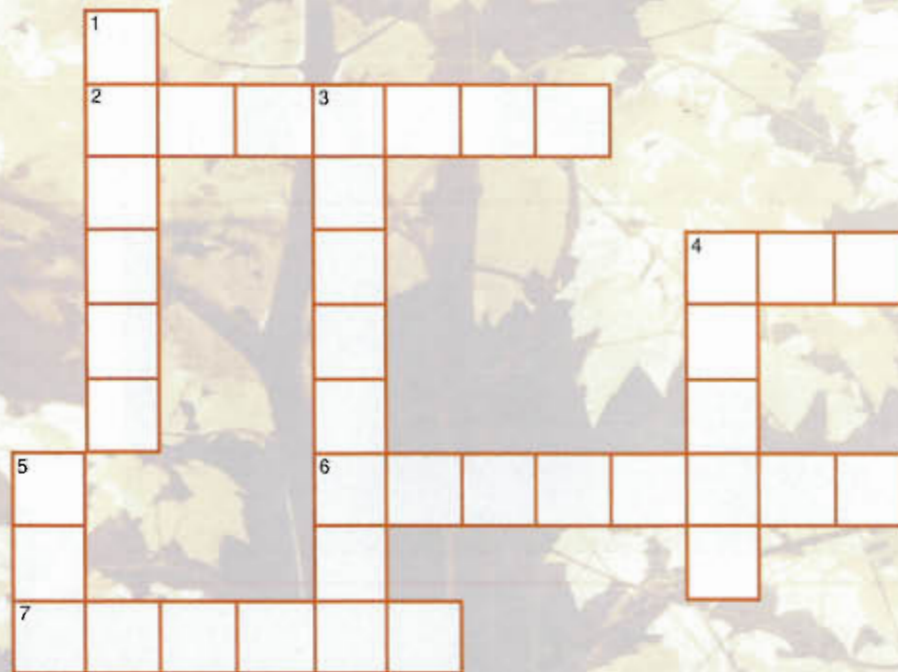
2. A large, orange fruit. You can carve its shell and use its insides for holiday pies.
4. A domesticated, meat-eating mammal good at catching mice and rats.
6. Both the male and female members of this deer family have antlers.
7. Sometimes the male is called a gobbler because of the sound it makes.

## DOWN

1. This animal has two body parts and eight walking legs.
3. This tree's needles remain evergreen.
4. A large mammal that can travel long distances without food or water.
5. This flying mammal eats insects in Wisconsin.

## WORD POOL

Bat, Camel, Cat, Pine tree, Pumpkin, Reindeer, Spider, Turkey



# HalloweenQuest

Visit the Milwaukee County Zoo and find the only true flying mammals. Put the answer in the box below. Answer to July '99 WolfQuest: The fennec fox is the smallest canid. It lives in the Small Mammals building.

Answers will appear in the January 2000 *Alive*.

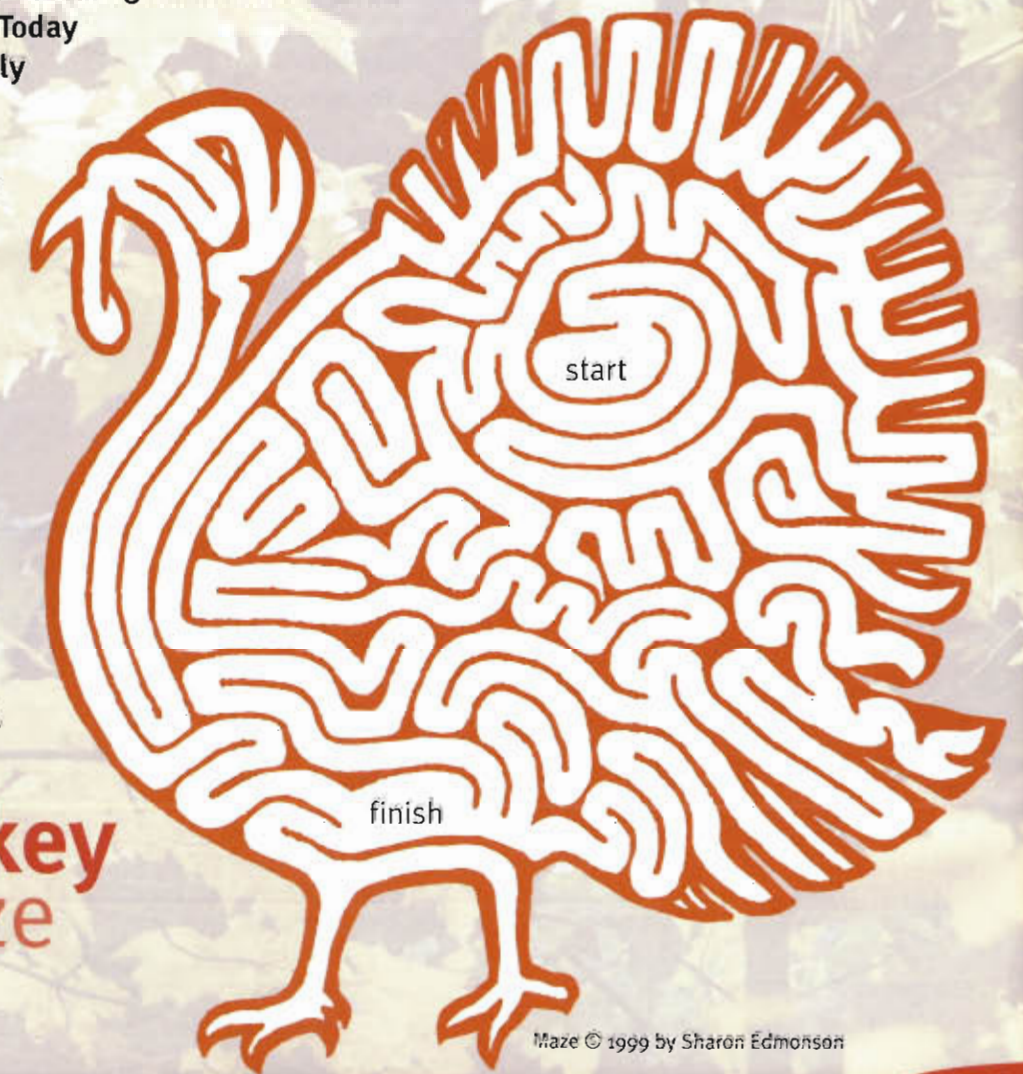
## Monster Myth Poster Contest

If you are among the creative kids who entered this contest, please look for your entry on display in the Small Mammals Building, not in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building, during the Zoo's Halloween weekends.

# HolidayAnimalFunFacts

These animals, all found at the Milwaukee County Zoo, are connected to our fall and winter holidays:

- Spiders and bats probably came to be Halloween animals because many of them are dark, quiet and a bit eerie. Werewolves are a legend from medieval Europe. Were is an Old English word meaning man, and a werewolf was half-man, half-wolf who hunted at night. Real wolves also hunt at night. Since Halloween traditionally is the "night of the dead," wolves are a likely animal to link with this holiday. Spiders, bats and wolves all have one thing in common: People have misunderstood them for years and have not realized their importance to the environment.
- Turkeys, a favorite Thanksgiving meal, are Wisconsin's largest game bird. Today, there are more than 20,000 wild turkeys in the state, but for about 70 years there were none. Turkeys had disappeared from Wisconsin by 1881 as oak forests were cut down.
- Camels are Christmas animals because in the Christian tradition they delivered the Wise Men to the manger where the Christ child was born. Today camels are highly endangered. A baby bactrian camel was born at the Zoo last summer.
- The caribou at the Zoo are cousins to reindeer. Both live in northern regions. In stories, reindeer pulled Santa's sleigh. Caribou at the Zoo stay outside all year.



## Turkey Maze

Maze © 1999 by Sharon Edmonson

# Curious Kids

**QUESTION:** Why don't some animals make noise? —Brittini Rice, Kenosha, Wis.

Almost all animals make some sort of sound, but the human ear can hear only certain frequencies. We may not hear the noise of animals such as bats, dolphins, and whales that use high-frequency sounds (a type of sonar) to locate prey or obstacles. And we might have trouble hearing the low-frequency sounds made by elephants and giraffes to locate other herd members and to communicate over long distances. Insects, which are animals, may be too small for us to hear some of their sounds, although the cricket rubbing its legs together is certainly loud enough. Simple animals such as worms don't produce any sounds from their bodies.

feed on the leaves of tall trees such as acacia trees that other animals cannot reach. How does blood get all the way up its neck to its brain? Special valves in the neck arteries keep blood flowing and at constant pressure so the animal does not faint when it raises and lowers its head. The giraffe's long neck has the same number of vertebrae — seven — as most other mammals (including humans), but the vertebrae are elongated (stretched out) and attached to one another with ball-and-socket joints.

**QUESTION:**

Birds fly during the day, but bats fly only at night. How does a bat see where it is going in the dark? —Emmett J. Wood, 4, Franklin



Bats that fly at night make a series of sounds that strike objects in the air, such as insects. They listen for these sounds to bounce back to their large ears. Then they can figure out what it is they are hearing. This reflection of sound is called echolocation. P.S. There are some day-flying bats.

**QUESTION:** Why do fish pucker their lips when they breathe? —Keavy Knauss, 9, Wauwatosa

Fish do not have lungs to breathe. They have gills and get oxygen from the water. Fish open their mouths and take in water. Fish then need to close their mouths so the water can pass out through their gills, which remove the oxygen from the water. This motion sometimes appears as though the fish is puckering its lips.

**QUESTION:** Why are flamingos pink? Where do they live in the summer and winter? —Megan Shoppach, 9, West Bend

Flamingos get their pink coloring from the food they eat. Flamingos eat many types of crustaceans (e.g., shrimp, krill). The red pigment in these crustaceans is what gives flamingos' feathers their red and pink coloring. At the Milwaukee County Zoo we have greater flamingos. In summer they are on exhibit at the pond near the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary. During winter months, the flamingos are moved to the bird-holding area at the animal hospital on Zoo grounds. The Zoo hopes to build a new flamingo building so they can be closer to their pond and perhaps come out earlier on warm spring days, then go into the building at night.



Kids! Why not make your own postcard to send in your questions. You can draw animals like us on it.



**QUESTION:** Why do giraffes have such long necks? —Adam Schmidt, 5, Menomonee Falls

The giraffe is the world's tallest animal. Its neck is long so it can

## ENTHUSIASTIC INTERNS HELP CAMPS RUN SMOOTHLY

It's been a busy morning for Amanda Schiller and Stephanie Eide. As high school interns helping out with the Zoological Society's veterinary camp, they've prepared snacks for 125 hungry campers, escorted the campers on a tour of the Zoo and calmed a scared rabbit who was being given a mock physical.

As they relax over lunch, they anticipate the afternoon's highlights, a visit from the Zoo's veterinarian and the dissection of a cow's eye, liver and heart.

"This is the only thing I wake up early for all summer," Schiller said of her two-week internship. During those two weeks, interns like this Cedarburg teen work 80 hours and interact with some 250 campers.

The Education Department's high school interns are matched up with college interns who

## EdZoocation

spend the entire summer at the Zoo. High school interns learn from their older counterparts how to prepare teaching materials before and after camp, and spend their days in the classroom supervising students and making sure everything is running smoothly.

"I just love watching kids learn," said Schiller, who is hoping to become a herpetologist (a zoologist who studies reptiles and amphibians).

High schoolers age 14 and up can participate in the program; this year, 50 high schoolers whose families belong to the Zoological Society worked as volunteer interns.

Internships allow high schoolers who are too old for most Zoological Society camps a way to stay connected with the Zoo — and the experience looks great on a resume, too.

"It's a great learning experience for them," said early child specialist Jennie Meerschaert, coordinator for the high school intern program. "Besides learning how to work with children, they learn responsibility and how to work as a team...and they're so helpful to have around."

"This is a good stepping stone for the career I want," said Eide, a 17-year-old high school senior from Brookfield who plans to major in education at college. "And I've had a blast."

Both Schiller and Eide are veteran interns — Schiller just completed her third internship and Eide has been an intern for all four of her high school summers.

"I've learned that you have to have an interest in what you do," Schiller said. "If



A rabbit appreciates the comforting arms of high school camp intern Amanda Schiller while camp participants give it a "physical."

you don't want to be here, the days can be really long."

Their enthusiasm is contagious — both have spread the word to siblings and friends who have joined them as interns or have taken classes once they've learned firsthand about the camp experience.

Their dedication is not lost on the children under their charge. Both teens have received thank-you notes and hand-drawn pictures from appreciative campers.

"Every time my internship is over, I can't wait to be back," Eide said. Eide intends to apply for a Zoological Society college internship, which will allow her to spend the entire summer — not just two weeks — working at the Zoo.

"I'd be here every day if I could," she said.

Watch your February 2000 issue of *Wild Things* newsletter for information on how to apply for high school camp internships.



High school intern Stephanie Eide works with children on the most memorable activity during Zoo Vet/Zoo Director Camp: dissecting a kidney.



# Celebrate the Holidays at the Zoo

What's Halloween without a bat, Christmas without a camel? Some animals have become inextricably linked with holidays: Santa's reindeer, Thanksgiving turkey, the Easter bunny. And so, it's only natural that the Milwaukee County Zoo would have holiday celebrations with animal-themed activities.

In fact, you may be surprised at what fun it is to venture into a darkened Zoo for Halloween evening events or to see the Zoo all lit up for Wisconsin Electric's Holiday Night Lights. Tying in to holiday events with an educational element, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee offers many children's and family workshops with holiday animal themes (see page 17). And you always can create your own holiday experience at the Zoo: Around Thanksgiving, visit the wild turkeys that live in the Moose yard. At Halloween, observe the Zoo's new timber-wolf pups to see the kinds of behavior that might have led to werewolf legends (see page 13 in *Kids Alive*). Here's a lineup of holiday happenings for the rest of this year:

## Boo at the Zoo October 22-23 evenings

*Sponsored by Hershey's & Roundy's Pick'n Save*

Visit the Zoo's vampire bats at night, if you dare. They're found in the Small Mammals building, along an eerie walk past the howling Siamang monkeys. Stop in on the way to see the spiders and snakes in the Aquatic & Reptile Center. From 6 to 9 p.m. both nights, children can visit most of the animal buildings, listen to spooky but fun ghost stories, watch ghoulish movies in the Small Mammals building, and color a paper pumpkin or scarecrow to take home. For young children, there's the Haunted Halloween Maze in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building. There will be no trick-or-treating till the next weekend, but you can purchase caramel apples for a treat. Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID; no County Zoo parking fee after 5 p.m. Call (414) 256-5412 for details.

## Trick-or-Treat Halloween Spooktacular October 29-30

*Sponsored by Hershey's & Roundy's Pick'n Save*

This is the time for trick or treating at the Zoo: from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 29, and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 30. On Friday evening, children again can trek through a jack-'o-lantern-lighted Zoo to visit their favorite wild animal (most animal buildings will be open). The trick-or-treating continues all day Saturday; plus, there will be a costume parade Saturday at 2 p.m., a variety of activities and entertainment, and a "ghost train." Free Zoo admission for Zoological Society members with ID; no County Zoo parking fee after 5 p.m. Call (414) 256-5412 for details.

## Breakfast or Lunch With Santa Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19

*Sponsored by Racine Danish Krinkles*

These popular meals with Santa in the Peck Welcome Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo fill up fast. The fee includes a meal, a visit from Santa, a gift for each child and admission to the Zoo (the \$6 Milwaukee County parking charge is extra). If you're not already on the Zoo's mailing list for this event, your chances of registering for it are extremely limited. To increase your chance of dining with Santa, please call the Zoo's Public Affairs and Services office at (414) 256-5412 to be placed on a mailing list to receive a registration form. Or write to: Breakfast/Lunch With Santa, Public Affairs & Services, Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

## Holiday Night Lights Dec. 10-12, 17-23, 26-30


*Sponsored by Wisconsin Electric*

Santa's back! And he'll be on hand to visit with children in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building from 6 to 9 each night of the event prior to Christmas Day. Every night of Holiday Night Lights, enjoy a stroll through the Zoo—aglow with tens of thousands of individual lights and more than 30 animal and holiday scenes in lights. And be sure to visit the Special Exhibits Building's Winter Wonderland, featuring (besides Santa), a Walk of Trees—50 in all, each decorated by community youth groups with ornaments and garlands of a different theme; a village lighted for the holidays by Wisconsin Electric; live, small animals associated with the winter season; Kris



Kringle's Kraft Korner for Kids; and Mrs. Claus' Bake and Craft Shoppe (all proceeds from the bake and craft sale benefit volunteer programs). Also, tour these animal buildings that will be open: Feline building, the Aquatic & Reptile Center, and the Dairy Complex. The Flamingo Cafe also will be open for meals and offer musical entertainment. The Snowball Express (the Zoo's miniature train) and Covenant Healthcare Carousel will run from 6 to 8:30 p.m., weather permitting. And you even can enjoy a horse-and-carriage ride (for a fee).

## Year 2000 Holidays

The Zoo celebrates Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, with Wanda the groundhog venturing out to see if she casts a shadow. And Egg Day is the Saturday before Easter, with an Easter hunt, a parade and other activities. Happy holidays! 

## Holiday-animal Workshops

The Zoological Society's list of workshops for children this fall includes several featuring animals connected to the holidays. See your *Wild Things* EdZooocation workshop listings in September for a complete lineup or call (414) 256-5424 for information. You also can visit our Web site for workshop descriptions, times and fees: [www.zoosociety.org](http://www.zoosociety.org) and select EdZooocation. Meanwhile, here are some holiday-related workshops that still had openings when we went to press:

- **Wolves**, Oct. 17 (for families with children ages 4-7), 2 hours
- **Monsters, Myths & Make Believe**, Oct. 23 (ages 9-12), 2½ hours
- **Monsters, Myths & Make Believe**, Oct. 28, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (a Kids Day Off workshop sponsored by the NFL Alumni Association)
- **World of the Wolf**, Oct. 29, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (a Kids Day Off workshop sponsored by the NFL Alumni Association)
- **Hangin' Out**, Oct. 15-16 (children age 3 learn about the Zoo's bats)
- **Rompin' With Rudolph**, Dec. 8, 13, 15-16 (children ages 4, 5 and 6 meet the reindeer's caribou cousins)
- **Around the World for the Holidays**, Dec. 11 for ages 6-8; Dec. 18 for ages 9-12
- **Holidays With the Animals**, Dec. 12 (for families with children ages 4-7), 2 hours



# POWERING OUR WORLD

# SOLAR ENERGY



**Electricity Today**  
 How do you flip a light switch, turn on a TV, or use a hair dryer? What if you didn't have power? How would you get along? How would you get along if you didn't have power? How would you get along if you didn't have power? How would you get along if you didn't have power?

**Electricity Tomorrow**  
 How do you flip a light switch, turn on a TV, or use a hair dryer? What if you didn't have power? How would you get along? How would you get along if you didn't have power? How would you get along if you didn't have power? How would you get along if you didn't have power?

**Electricity Used in Wisconsin**  
 How do you flip a light switch, turn on a TV, or use a hair dryer? What if you didn't have power? How would you get along? How would you get along if you didn't have power? How would you get along if you didn't have power? How would you get along if you didn't have power?

## Energizing the Zoo

Think before you flip on that light switch. Do I really need the extra illumination? Where does the electricity come from to power the bulb? Is "green power" (electricity made from renewable resources) available?

Wisconsin Electric Power Company's new renewable energy exhibit in the Milwaukee County Zoo's Dairy Complex is intended to prompt such questions and stimulate concern for our environment.

"We want to be able to show people what they can do to make the Earth a greener place to live," says Janice Melnik, public relations specialist with Wisconsin Electric, the largest electric utility in the state.

The permanent exhibit at the Zoo features a transparent, four-foot globe. Beside it are three panels, each seven feet tall, that describe renewable energy sources, including the sun, water, wind and biomass (organic material like wood). The interactive panels describe the benefits of each alternative source, such as solar power's pollution-free

production of energy and how renewable resources make electricity that is friendly to the environment.

The exhibit also features a meter that is connected to a new 800-watt photovoltaic solar system, donated by Wisconsin Electric, at the top of the hill in the Stackner Heritage Farm. The meter displays current and how much power the solar system has generated year-to-date. Part of the Zoo's Dairy Complex runs on electricity generated by the solar system.

The company dedicated the new exhibit and solar system at an event called Renewable Energy Day Aug. 1.

You can choose "green power" from Wisconsin Electric through its Energy for Tomorrow program. Emissions avoided by using green power are roughly equal to 3,500 acres of new trees or output from 5,700 sport utility vehicles per year.

*Inset Photo: Wisconsin Electric's Janice Melnik holds a baby goat against the backdrop of a new 800-watt photovoltaic solar system, donated by Wisconsin Electric, at the Zoo. Part of the Zoo's Dairy Complex runs on electricity generated by the solar system.*



- \$50,000-\$99,999**
  - American Airlines
    - Zoo Ball\*
  - Ameritech
    - Summer Special Exhibit - Dinosaurs of Jurassic Park & The Lost World
  - The Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation
    - Society Operations
  - Mae E. Demmer Charitable Trust
    - Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras*
  - Derse Family Foundation (over a 2-year period)
    - Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (Observation Deck)
  - Howard Hughes Medical Institute
    - Ed-Ops (Educational-Opportunities) Program
  - Miller Brewing Co.
    - Animal Ambassador Program
    - Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament
    - Oceans of Fun Seal & Sea Lion Show
    - Recycled Zoo
    - Zoo a la Carte
  - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
    - Zoo a la Carte\*
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    - Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras*
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  - Kimberly-Clark Foundation
    - Keepers of the Wild
  - The Ladish Co. Foundation
    - School Programs
  - M&I Bank
    - Seasonal Zoo Brochures
  - Roundy's Pick'n Save
    - Conservation Weekend\*
    - Egg Day\*
    - Family Free Days at the Zoo\*
    - Father's Day at the Zoo\*
    - Halloween Spooktacular & Boo at the Zoo\*
    - Kids Nights\*
    - March Is Frozen Food Month
    - Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride\*
    - Snooze at the Zoo\*
    - Twilight Safari\*
  - Sargento Foods Inc.
    - Dairy Farm Delight Program
    - Meet the Cow Exhibit
    - Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride
    - Summer Adventure Camps Support\*
- \$10,000-\$19,999**
  - American Zoo & Aquarium Association (Conservation Endowment Fund)
    - Salonga Survey
  - A.O. Smith Foundation
    - School Programs
  - Beneficia Foundation
    - Salonga Survey
  - Covenant Healthcare
    - Carousel
  - Direct Marketing Concepts
    - Zoological Society Membership Support\*
  - Drypers Corp.
    - Stroller Rentals
  - General Mills
    - Yoplait's Family Free Days at the Zoo
  - Golden Guernsey Dairy
    - Heritage Farm Weekend
    - Samson Stomp & Romp
    - Pancake Breakfast Support\*
  - Hershey Foods
    - Halloween Spooktacular and Boo at the Zoo
  - Krause Family Foundation
    - Spider Monkey Exhibit Upgrade
  - Light 97 WLTQ
    - Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride\*
  - Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation
    - Salonga Survey
  - Milton and Lillian Peck Foundation
    - Animal Ambassador Program
    - Education Building Expansion
  - The R.D. and Linda Peters Foundation
    - Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)
  - Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
    - Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)
- \$5,000-\$9,999**
  - American Express Financial Advisors
    - Animal Ambassador Program



The Zoological Society of Milwaukee welcomes Sargento Foods and Roundy's Pick'n Save as new sponsors of Ride on the Wild Side, held Sept. 19. Thanks to additional support from media sponsors WLTQ and CNI Newspapers, hundreds of people put their feet to the pedals to raise money for the animals during this family bike ride.

## Serengeti Circle

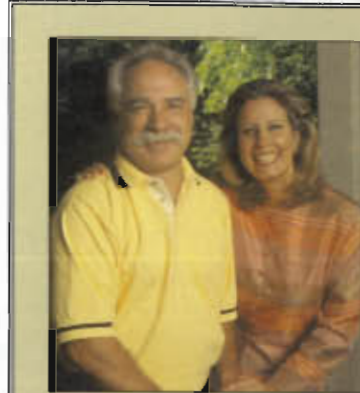
The Serengeti Circle is an exclusive group of corporations and foundations that support the Zoo and Zoological Society through sponsoring special events, exhibits/attractions, programs and promotions at the \$2,500 level and above. For more information on sponsorship opportunities at the Zoo, please call Patty Harrigan, (414) 258-2333.

- St. Francis Bank**
  - Zoomobile
- 1st City National Bank**
  - Beastly Bowl-A-Thon
  - Behind the Scenes Weekends
  - First for the Beasts Pancake Breakfast
  - Kids 'n Critters Club
  - Senior Celebration Support\*
  - Sponsor an Animal Program
  - Sunset Zoofaris
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  - Holiday Night Lights
  - Winter Special Exhibit - In See The Sea and School Curriculum
- \$10,000-\$19,999**
  - American Zoo & Aquarium Association (Conservation Endowment Fund)
    - Salonga Survey
  - A.O. Smith Foundation
    - School Programs
  - Beneficia Foundation
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    - Stroller Rentals
  - General Mills
    - Yoplait's Family Free Days at the Zoo
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    - Pancake Breakfast Support\*
  - Hershey Foods
    - Halloween Spooktacular and Boo at the Zoo
  - Krause Family Foundation
    - Spider Monkey Exhibit Upgrade
  - Light 97 WLTQ
    - Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride\*
  - Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation
    - Salonga Survey
  - Milton and Lillian Peck Foundation
    - Animal Ambassador Program
    - Education Building Expansion
  - The R.D. and Linda Peters Foundation
    - Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)
  - Wisconsin Environmental Education Board
    - Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras* (education)
- \$5,000-\$9,999**
  - American Express Financial Advisors
    - Animal Ambassador Program

- \$2,500-\$4,999**
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  - ANR Pipeline Co.
    - Summer Adventure Camps Support
  - Beatrice Cheese, Inc.
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - Briggs and Stratton Corporation Foundation
    - School Programs
  - The Chislet Company
    - Father's Day at the Zoo
  - CNI Newspapers
    - Ride on the Wild Side Family Bike Ride\*
  - Mayfair Mall
    - Annual Animal Art Competition\*
    - Zoological Society Holiday Gift Promotion\*
  - John C. & Harriet Cleaver Fund - Milwaukee Foundation
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - Cooper Power Systems-Power Systems Division
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - Fortis Insurance Foundation
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - Hartlschlegel Industries Foundation
    - Animal Ambassador Program
    - Community Center Outreach
  - Heinemann's Restaurants
    - Mother's Day at the Zoo
  - The Jerome & Dorothy Holz Family Foundation
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - The Home Depot
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - International Paper Foundation/Thlmany Division
    - Environmental Exhibit/Heritage Farm
  - Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - Marquette Medical Systems Foundation
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - Marshall Field's
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - Maysteel Foundation Ltd.
    - Wisconsin Student Grant Program
  - PPG Industries Foundation
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - Racine Danish Kringles
    - Breakfast/Lunch With Santa
  - Time Warner Cable
    - Animal Ambassador Program
  - Rene Von Schleintz Foundation
    - Wisconsin Student Grant Program
- \*In-Kind Sponsorships**

Sponsors and grantors committing dollars and in-kind gifts for events and programs after August 31, 1999, will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.

# Platypus Society



**Patty and Paul Cadarin**

*"We all have different reasons for initiating and continuing our support of the Zoological Society. Some may enjoy the wonderful children's education programs, some know that their dollars help vanishing species around the world, and some may be passionate about the Zoological Society's support of our world-class Zoo (when our children were small, their favorite zoo animals were the chipmunks!). Whatever your reason, it is important that we all continue our financial support so that all these vital programs can continue and flourish."*

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- Emmpak Foods, Inc.
- Engman-Taylor Co., Inc.
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- Klement Sausage
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- Krause Family Foundation
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- Milwaukee Direct Marketing
- Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp.
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- PBBS Equipment Corp. +
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- Vilter Foundation, Inc.
- WICOR - Parent of Wisconsin Gas and WICOR Energy

- Wauwatosa Savings Bank
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- Western Lime Corporation
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5-year Platypus Society Member in bold (updated each fall)

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\* Members who have made in-kind gifts of products or services

Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after August 17, 1999, will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.



## NEW MEMBERS

The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of August 17, 1999:

### CORPORATE III \$2,000-\$2,499

Tucker Anthony Cleary Gull

### PATRON II \$1,500-\$1,999

Abby O'Dess & Bill Hein

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## NEW GIFT LEVELS

The Zoological Society thanks the following members for their increased levels of giving:

### GOLD PATRON \$5,000-\$9,999

Mr. James Steinman

### SILVER PATRON I \$2,500-\$2,999

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### PATRON I \$1,000-\$1,499

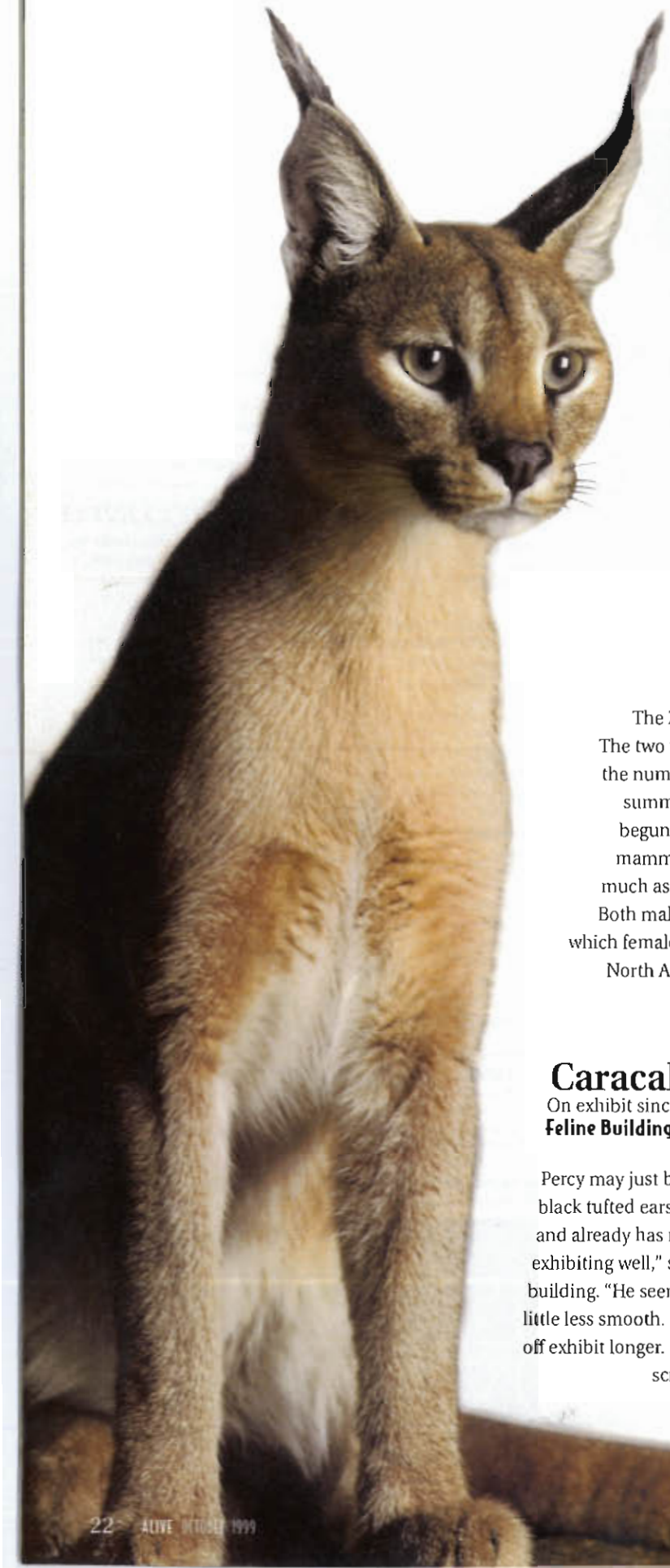
Judy Van Till

## STEERING COMMITTEE

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- Linda L. Grunau
- Paul Hinkfuss
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- Jeffrey Siegel
- Judy Stathas
- John Steiner

The Platypus Society is a group of about 385 Milwaukee-area foundations, corporations and individuals that contribute more than \$444,000 annually to the Zoological Society. If you would like to join this group in helping the Society uphold its mission of supporting the Zoo, educating the community about wildlife and the environment and conserving endangered species, call Joan Rudnitzki at (414) 276-0843.

## What's Gnu



### Caribou

Babies born May 22 and May 26, 1999  
**Reindeer Yard**

The Zoo's two new caribou are moving quickly from infancy to adulthood. The two young males, born at the Milwaukee County Zoo in spring 1999, raise the number of the caribou herd to five, including three older females. By mid-summer the little bulls were continuing to nurse a bit, but they already had begun eating food pellets and other forage, says Bess Frank, curator of large mammals. "They're doing very well," she adds. A caribou hulk can grow to as much as seven feet long and four feet high and weigh as much as 700 pounds. Both males and females grow antlers, the only North American deer species in which females have antlers. "Caribou" is a Native American word used to describe North American deer. The same species in Europe and Asia is called reindeer.

### Caracal

On exhibit since July 17, 1999  
**Feline Building**

Percy may just be the coolest cat in town. He's a caracal, a brownish-tan cat with black tufted ears. He arrived from Pretoria, South Africa, in June with his mate, Mary, and already has made Milwaukee his home, much to the delight of Zoo visitors. "He's exhibiting well," says Valerie Werner, a keeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Feline building. "He seems to have adjusted." The transition for Mary (not pictured) was a little less smooth. She's reluctant to eat when people are around, and so she was kept off exhibit longer. On their native turf—open areas of woodland, savanna and acacia scrub—caracals eat birds, rodents and other small mammals. The 25- to 40-pound cats possess remarkable leaping abilities that allow them to snare birds in midair.

### Mandrill

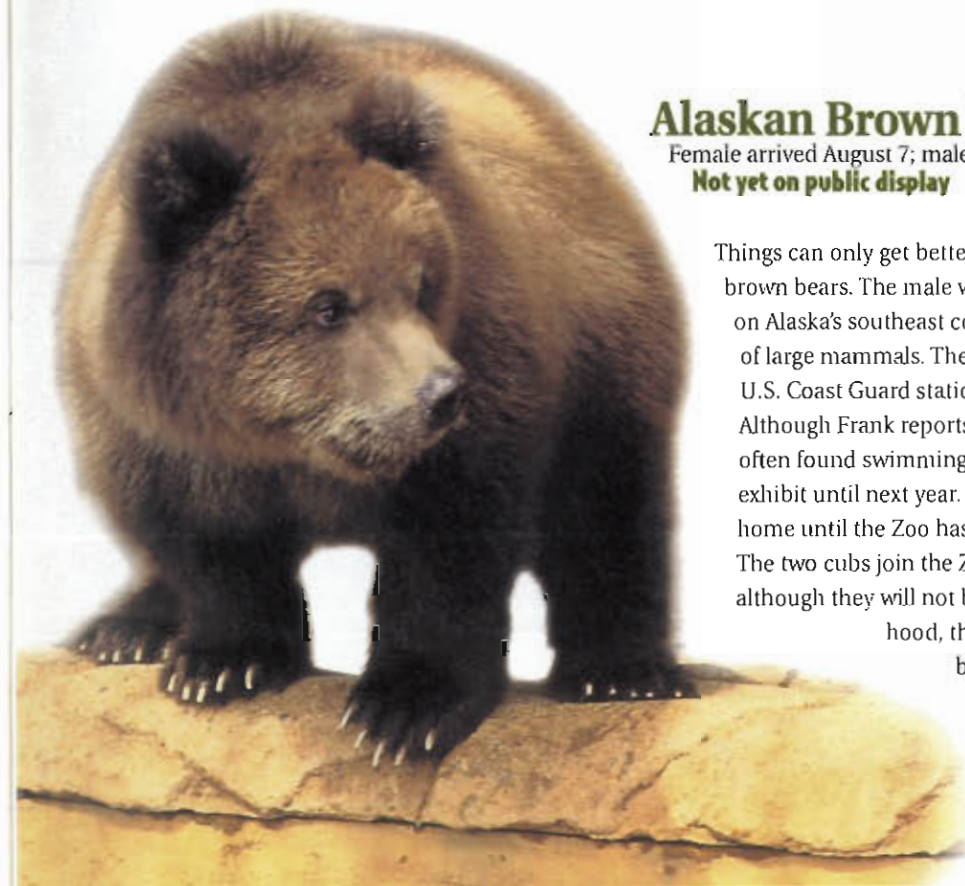
Arrived May 14, 1999  
**Primates of the World**

It's a good thing that the 9-year-old mandrill Gunite finds the Milwaukee County Zoo to his liking. "More than likely, he'll spend the remainder of his life here," says zookeeper Jim Richard, adding that this species of baboon can live as long as 40 years. Native to west-central Africa, mandrills are the largest of all monkeys, and the males are known for their vividly colored faces and red noses. Gunite came here from the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, where zookeepers named him after the term for the artificial rock work found in many zoo enclosures, Richard says. Gunite joins three female mandrills, and Zoo officials hope that he will mate and produce offspring, since mandrills are an endangered species. So far, the "girls" seem to like him, says Richard. In the wild, a dominant adult mandrill may mate with several females in his harem.

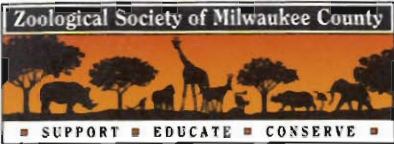


### Alaskan Brown Bears

Female arrived August 7; male arrived May 21, 1999  
**Not yet on public display**



Things can only get better for the Milwaukee County Zoo's newest Alaskan brown bears. The male weighed just 19 pounds when he arrived from Yakutat on Alaska's southeast coast. "He was an orphaned cub," says Bess Frank, curator of large mammals. The female cub was found rummaging in a Dumpster at the U.S. Coast Guard station on Kodiak Island, on Alaska's south-central coast. Although Frank reports that the two young bears are "very active youngsters," often found swimming and playing in their holding area, they will not be on exhibit until next year. They cannot go into the moat surrounding their future home until the Zoo has the budget for a fall-protection net to put in the moat. The two cubs join the Zoo's other Alaskan brown bear, 22-year-old Jane, although they will not be in the same exhibit. By the time they reach adulthood, the cubs will weigh about 500 pounds. Alaskan brown bears range in color from yellow to nearly black. Pictured here is Aurora. (The Zoo also has a female polar bear named Aurora.)



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Zoological Society members  
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Milwaukee County Zoo:

Hershey's &  
Roundy's Pick'n Save present

**Boo at the Zoo**

October 22 & 23

6-9 p.m.

and

**Trick-or-Treat Halloween Spooktacular**

October 29, 6-9 p.m.

October 30, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Wisconsin Electric presents

**Holiday Night Lights**

Dec. 10-12, 17-23, 26-30

6-9 p.m.

