Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

October 2001

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Editor
Paula Brookmire

Kids Alive Writers
Fran Bauer
Mary Kogler
Kathy Mangold
Dawn St. George

Graphic Designer
Christian J. Keene

Photographer
Richard Brodzeller

Printer
NML Graphics

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President s Letter

Did you go nose to nose this summer with Sasha, our female lion, who seemed fascinated by her new, close-up viewing window of Zoo visitors? And did you stand over the African Savanna and admire our graceful, grazing gazelles and impalas? If you haven't yet experienced our new Big Cat Encounter and Holz Family Impala Country, I invite you to visit the Zoo this fall for an exciting, intimate glimpse into the animal kingdom. Many of the African animals stay outside even in November if it's not too cold.

Thanks to the generous support of our members, we've been able to create these progressive exhibits for a refreshing new look at some of your favorite animals. Our vision for the new Zoo – as we head into our ambitious six-year capital campaign this fall – is to offer a richer, more personal level of human-animal interactions. By integrating design features such as viewing verandas, overlooks, canopies and observation windows, these environments invite people in – to see, feel and experience the animal's world more keenly. We would really like your feedback. Let us know how you feel about these new exhibits and the direction we're heading. Have we enhanced your enjoyment of the Zoo?

Speaking of feedback, we'd like to thank you for responding to our survey on *Alive* and *Wild Things*. An amazing number of you sent back your questionnaires, and they are being analyzed now. We will use your comments to fine-tune our publications and give you the kind of information you really want.

We've reached another milestone in our Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras*℠ project. We've closed field research at our three Wisconsin sites to go into data analysis, which could take up to a year. We have one more season of research in Belize. How the data breaks out will determine the recommendations we present for protecting songbird habitats and the future for millions of Wisconsin's migrating songbirds.

Every change of season brings new reasons to visit the Zoo. Be sure to use your ZooPass to enjoy the cooler weather when many animals are more active. And, of course, we have plenty of festivities planned for family fun at Halloween and during the holidays.

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

Alive

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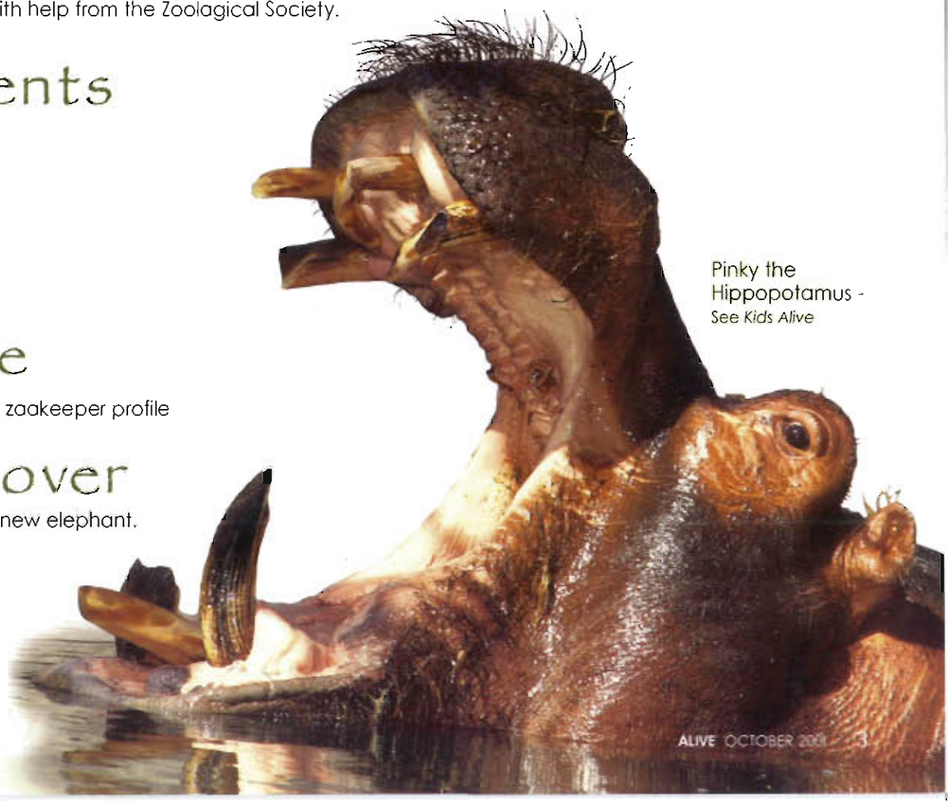
Brittony, the Zoo's new elephant.



Pinky the Hippopotamus - *See Kids Alive*

Holiday Ornament

This mother zebra and foal in pewter was designed by Port Washington artist Andy Schumann. The ornament costs $14 and is a fund-raiser for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. Call (414) 258-2333 with your credit card to order (cost includes tax and mailing) or mail in the order form inserted into this *Alive*.

Teaching a Little, Learning a Lot

BY KATHY MANGOLD

It was Day One of Matt Stadler's training for a summer internship with the Zoological Society's Education Department. The recent college grad found himself toting a gigantic ring binder bursting with information - and the feeling he was in for something hig.

Intern Maggie Hays helps children mix paint in Colorful Scientist camp.

The training lasted eight hours a day for two weeks. It covered everything he'd need to know as an intern in the Summer Adventure Camps program for children ages 2 to 14. Besides problem solving, team building and dealing with conflict resolution, Stadler and the other interns learned how to deal with homesick kids, reluctant campers, first-aid emergencies and even how to fill in a slow period on a Zoo tour with games and songs. The training was intensive because college interns play a vital role in the camps' success. They assist instructors in the classroom and with camp planning. They lead children's tours. As they work their way up the ladder, they become mentors to less experienced interns.

In the last two years, the number of children participating in summer camps has grown 15%, from 6,000 in 1999 to 7,000 in 2001. And this year's group of college interns – 22 in all – was the biggest ever, said Patty Trinko, assistant summer camp director. Thanks to funding by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Halbert & Alice Kadish Foundation and the Zoological Society, these interns are paid while they receive practical experience. "I greatly appreciated the foundation support," said Stadler. "To receive classroom experience, career counseling, and a salary is a student's dream come true."

The interns were divided into four categories on a career ladder:

- *Four college-students-to-be worked for three weeks as paid College Interns in Training (CITs). This initial level, developed in 2000, is open to students who had been camp assistants when they were in high school.*
- *Twelve college interns worked full time all summer, assisting staff instructors, leading tours, and acting as mentors to high school assistants.*
- *Three senior college interns, with two to three years of experience in our camps, returned last summer to supervise CITs and help train less experienced college interns.*
- *Three teaching assistants – students with some teaching experience who plan a career in education – led some summer-camp programs.*

Intern Matt Stadler helps children with a science experiment in Colorful Scientist camp.

This hierarchy, said Trinko, develops a "continuous cycle of mentoring." Assuring interns the chance to assume more and more responsibility keeps them coming back. It's a virtual guarantee that next year's summer staff will be better than ever.

For some students, their Zoological Society internship may be their first job in a professional setting. It's also sure to go on their resumes. So Trinko requires interns to maintain a journal. Three times during the summer, she posts a question for them to answer. An example: "How is working at the Zoo helping you get closer to your professional goal in life?" She reviews their answers and offers guidance, serving as both supervisor and guide toward personal and professional growth.

"Interns have come back and told me their journals came in handy during job interviews," she said. "They're able to express themselves better because of this preparation, and can cite specific examples from the summer that they might have otherwise forgotten."

Intern Kent Bailey and children from Senior Zookeeper camp deliver sliced apples to zookeeper Tracey Dolphin for the elephants.

Kent Bailey, now a sophomore in geography and history at Valparaiso University in Indiana, has had the full range of Zoological Society summer camp experiences. Bailey, a Whitefish Bay native, attended camps at the Zoo as a child. As a teenager, he worked as a high school assistant in the camps. Last summer he worked as a College Intern in Training, and he may return next year. "I've grown up here," he said, adding that he has spent some of the best summers of his life at the Zoo.

"I want to help teach students to respect the environment and the animals. I want them to see the world as more than the place where they live." Besides, coming back to the Zoo is like spending time with an old friend. "I go to work happy, am happy during the day and come home happy."

Back last winter when Maggie Hays saw a flyer for the internship, she knew immediately that it was for her. The Marquette University senior from Kankakee, Ill., said the description hit all her hot buttons: love of teaching, children, animals and creativity. Interviewed mid-way through her internship, she noted that camps such as Great Animals, Great Artists combined art and science and helped children learn to think outside the box. "I can't believe I'm getting paid for this. It doesn't seem like work."

Hays, who is spending her final semester as a student teacher, enjoyed learning to teach in an unconventional setting like the Zoo. "I've seen so much hands-on discovery," she said. "I've learned so many activities I can bring to the classroom."

Before his internship here, Matt Stadler worked at the Cincinnati Zoo as a zookeeper intern in the feline house and insectarium. He had graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2000 with a major in zoology. While he enjoyed the zoo setting, he wanted to be more creative. The Zoological Society internship working with children provided that opportunity with his first teaching experience.

He was amazed by how much the camps resonate with children. Combining classroom activities with tours of the Zoo makes lessons immediate and personal.

The internship showed him that he could combine his love for animal science with educating the next generation. He enjoyed assisting classroom instructors, but the best part of the day was leading the tours, which he called "the intern's time to shine." The responsibility, the feeling that he could be trusted, made him most proud. "Having responsibility is a great way to learn about it."

Matt Stadler impressed the Zoological Society Education Department so much that he was hired in September as a full-time educator teaching programs for school groups.

"I want to help teach students to respect the environment and the animals. I want them to see the world as more than the place where they live."

Kent Baily, college intern

Becoming an intern

In December, the Zoological Society's education department sends out flyers to Milwaukee-area colleges and universities promoting summer internships for 2002. Applications are due by February, interviews are conducted in March, and training begins in May. In 2001, 70 interviewed for 22 positions. For information, call Patty Trinko at (414) 256-2515 or e-mail to pattyt@zoosociety.org.

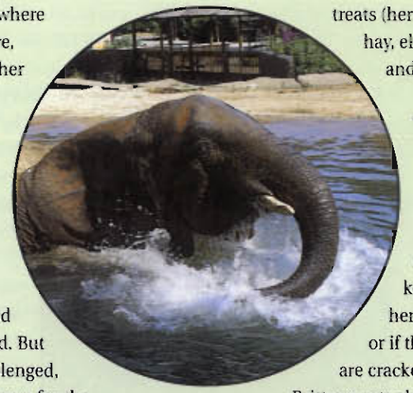
Energetic Elephant

BY FRAN BAUER

Young Brittany the elephant brings a sense of fun and excitement to her new home at the Milwaukee County Zoo. She romps, she rolls, she plays in her pool, she sprays dirt. Her older companion, Lucy, is just not sure how to take this active upstart.

Since June 8, when Brittany arrived, the two African elephants have been eyeing one another, first from the safety of their stalls, separated by two doors. Soon the two began conversing in the low rumble that passes for elephant talk. After Brittany's standard 30-day quarantine was over, they were separated by only one barred door. They could see each other, and Brittany was eager to touch and interact with Lucy, but Lucy turned her back to the younger animal.

For Lucy, 43, the transition has not been easy. She had enjoyed special attention from zookeepers after the Zoo's only other elephant, Babe, died last January. Now zookeepers also are giving attention to 20-year-old Brittany, who is getting lots of special training.



At the Greenville Zoo in South Carolina, where Brittany lived before, trainers came into her yard with her. In that kind of "open contact" training, the only way a zookeeper can be safe is by dominating the elephant, just as a lead elephant would in a herd in the wild. But leaders can be challenged, and that poses dangers for the keepers. At our Zoo, keepers train animals in "protected contact," where keepers stay behind barriers.

The goal of protected-contact training is to get animals to cooperate in their own care. For example, so that Brittany won't become upset when veterinarians need to draw blood from the back of her ear, she is trained first to present the back of her ear for a rub. Once that is familiar, a zookeeper will poke Brittany's ear lightly, simulating the small discomfort she might feel if blood were drawn. Each time, the elephant is rewarded with treats. It's a slow process, and takes a lot of time to build up trust. But because training is voluntary, the animals are more secure and comfortable, and a tremendous rapport develops between them and their keepers.

Beth Roszak, Brittany's primary trainer, first had to get Brittany to work with her voluntarily. But Brittany was quick to realize that keepers weren't coming into her stall. "She started acting like a 2-year-old who had just learned to say 'no' and wouldn't come up to us," Roszak says. When it was time for the bath she gets daily to keep her skin supple, Brittany would roam her stall. Now, says Dana Nicholson, pachyderm area supervisor, she has learned to stand motionless while being sprayed with water, knowing a treat will follow. She loves the slices of apple, carrots, pears, sweet potatoes, bananas and cantaloupe that she gets for treats (her regular diet is hay, elephant pellets and maple branches).

Says Roszak: "Brittany is fun and she's a quick learner." Upon a signal, Brittany has learned to raise her foot onto a bar so keepers can check if her toenails need filing or if the pads of her feet are cracked. Sometimes Brittany gets ahead of herself in her rush to get more treats, Roszak says. But she's soon back, trying again.

Brittany came to the United States from her native Africa at age 2, as part of an international animal exchange. Bruce Beehler, deputy Zoo director, found Brittany at the Greenville Zoo after an extensive search for a new elephant companion for Lucy. "We were very lucky to find Brittany when we did and come to an agreement on her move here, since the Greenville Zoo got another offer the very next day," Beehler says.

At about 5,000 pounds, Brittany is small for her age, and curious. So the Zoo decided to remove a step that had been built into the wall of the elephant moat (in case an animal fell in, the idea was that the elephant might be able to step out by itself). Keepers feared that Brittany might climb down INTO the moat to go exploring. Zookeepers still can put in a fold-up ironwork step, if needed for an emergency.

Brittany also was secluded behind curtains during her initial training, so she wouldn't become nervous or distracted by the public. Visitors still could watch her on a TV monitor. Brittany was so quick to adapt that the curtains soon were opened.

She's so active and inquisitive that her keepers have been giving her a variety of toys. One of her favorites is a heavy plastic ball into which holes have been drilled. Keepers fill the holes with treats such as raisins or cereals that fall out as she rolls the ball. One day while Brittany was playing with the ball, zookeepers realized her stall had gone quiet. On checking, they saw that she'd pushed one of her tusks through a hole in the ball. "She came right up to us and was very calm," Roszak says. With a few pulls and twists, keepers yanked the ball free, and Brittany was busy playing again.

Eventually, Zoo administrators hope to breed Brittany through artificial insemination. (Lucy is too old to become a mother.) Only within the last three years have elephants been bred successfully in captivity, says Beehler. Moola, an Asian elephant that used to live at our Zoo, was the first elephant to be brought to term successfully through artificial insemination. She's at Dickerson Park Zoo in Springfield, MO.

If Brittany produces babies – and Beehler is hopeful that she will – she could become the centerpiece of the Zoo's elephant program.

A Capital Idea: New Hospital

"During a summer heat wave we had a king penguin in for surgery. We had to monitor carefully to make sure he didn't overheat..."

Dr. Roberta Wallace, senior veterinarian

BY PAULA BROOKMIRE

Why does the Zoo need a new hospital? Dr. Roberta Wallace, senior veterinarian, sighs.

"Well, there was the time the necropsy room pipes burst and flooded the hallway," she says. "There was the time in winter when the pathologist did a necropsy wearing mittens because there was no heat. The Hospital has no air conditioning, except for a small window unit in the treatment-surgery room. During a summer heat wave we had a king penguin in for surgery. We had to monitor carefully to make sure he didn't overheat (he didn't). We put a 400-pound gorilla on our specialized X-ray table that's only supposed to hold 300 pounds. He broke it. Our hospital does not meet all requirements of the American Animal Hospital Association. Half of the building isn't even the Hospital. It's winter quarters for birds."

View of the existing Hospital entrance.

So, as the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo kick off a capital campaign this fall to raise about $30 million over several years to improve the Zoo, the Hospital is one of the first projects on the drawing boards. The estimated construction cost for the Hospital is $4,150,000, not including new medical equipment.

"We plan to break ground in spring 2002 and complete it by fall 2003," says Wallace, who is excited after seeing some of the proposed drawings (see sketches). The current Hospital takes up about 7,500 square feet. The new Hospital, to be built at the north end of the Zoo behind the aviary, is aiming for about 16,000 square feet.

The facility used as the current Zoo Hospital was built as an animal-holding facility and as a staging area for visiting veterinarians who worked at the Zoo part time in the 1960s and '70s, before we had full-time staff vets. These vets had their own clinics and support systems to aid in the treatment of Zoo animals. "The building is simply not adequate as a stand-alone veterinary hospital," says Dr. Bruce Beehler, who arrived in 1980 as the Zoo's first staff veterinarian. Now a deputy Zoo director, Beehler says: "The Zoo veterinary division, led by Dr. Roberta Wallace, has developed an excellent staff and first-class veterinary programs. However, it is a real challenge to maintain the high quality of clinical and preventive animal medicine within such outmoded facilities."


Zoo dentist John Scheels removes an abscess from Saba the orangutan in a non-sterile room that's also used for surgeries.

In the plans for the new Hospital are specialized wards for the animals, says Wallace. "Now we can't always separate new-to-the-Zoo healthy animals that come in for routine quarantine from sick animals because we don't have enough ward space. We hope to have a cold room for animals such as penguins, a warm room for reptiles and other animals that need warmth, stalls with pools for waterfowl, eight stalls for hoofed stock (instead of the two we have now), and a separate quarantine facility for primates that should be housed in isolation. Primates imported from outside the United States have to be isolated in quarantine for at least 30 days to monitor for diseases. Right now some other Zoo has to take our primates for the quarantine period."

The new Hospital will have a sterile surgery room and a separate room for treating sick animals, as opposed to what we have now, which is a multipurpose room. "When you do surgeries, you want as sterile a surrounding as you can get so you don't contaminate the wound," says Wallace. You don't want to be treating messy animal problems, such as tooth abscesses, in the surgery.

For those people fascinated with animal health, the new Hospital will have a public viewing area looking into the surgery and treatment areas, with graphics explaining the role of vets at the Zoo.

The number of people working in

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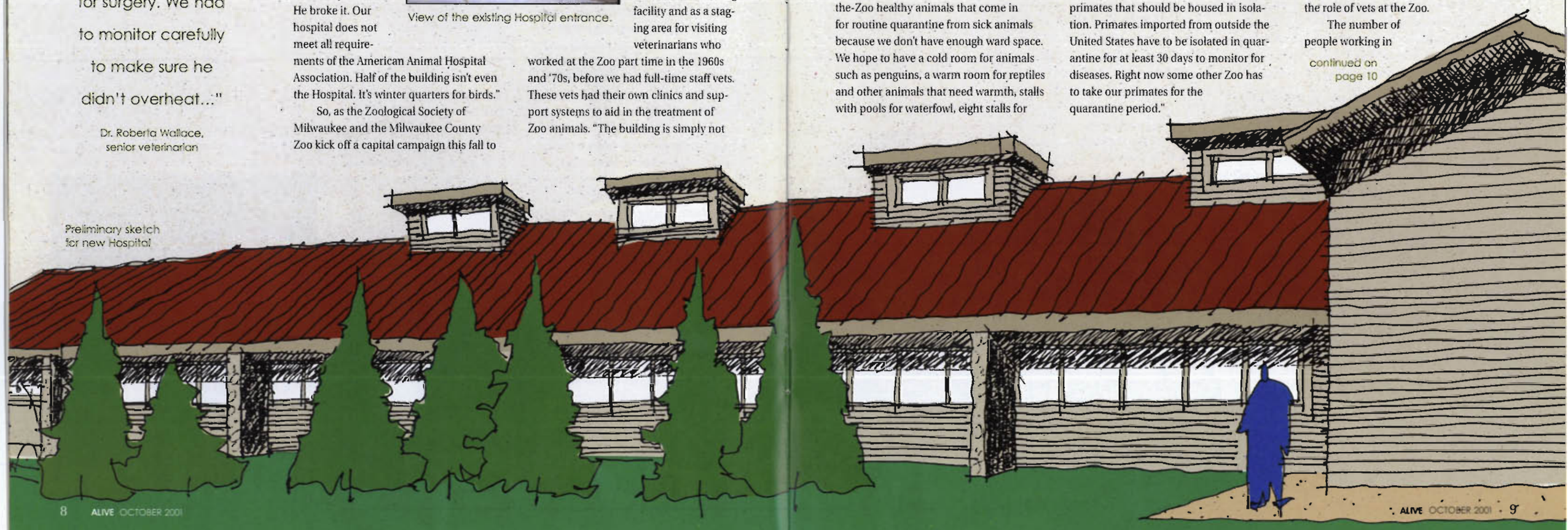

Preliminary sketch for new Hospital

Veterinary technician Joan Maurer often works in the hall because of lack of space.

the Hospital has more than doubled since it was created, if you count two veterinary residents from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine and the Zoo's veterinary technician intern. "One of the reasons the Hospital staff has expanded is to meet the increasing demands for quality animal care, to meet government regulations (animals must be examined before they are shipped out to other places), and to protect our animal collection by examining incoming animals for diseases," says Wallace. "It's an increased sophistication in zoo vet medicine."

Now the Hospital has vet residents, vet students, an intern and a veterinary technician all working in a 9-foot-square office. That space also houses the Hospital library and X-ray viewing area. Plans for the new Hospital call for dedicated offices for some of these people. There will be separate space for viewing and storing the numerous animal X-rays (radiographs) the Hospital takes, in addition to other records.

"Because we save so many tissues and medical records for future use by other zoos and researchers, we need storage space. And we're absolutely out of storage," says Wallace. "We have medical records going back to the 1930s, including important data on endangered species. One of our previous vets designed the medical-records-keeping system that is used worldwide by zoos. Our Zoo continues to be active in keeping detailed medical records, including necropsies (exams on dead animals to determine cause of death), anesthesia reports, blood analyses. We are one of the bigger zoos, and we have one of the largest computerized medical databases of any zoo in the country, including baseline normal data for many species of animals. You need to know the normal before you can recognize when an animal is sick."

The new Hospital will need new equipment, at least $350,000 worth, says Wallace. "One X-ray machine to suit our needs costs $90,000. A necropsy table that can support a large animal costs $16,000. (Our current necropsy table can't hold any animal over 150 pounds. So sometimes pathologists are down on their knees on the floor.) A decent basic ultrasound machine costs $25,000 (we have none now). A large-animal surgery table will cost about $15,000."

It's a big undertaking, but a necessary one at this stage in our Zoo's growth. Says Wallace: "I'm looking forward to having a space that will serve the animals' needs better."

Shot in the Arm

Help save animal lives by helping us outfit our new Zoo Hospital. You can give it a real shot in the arm by helping us buy new equipment to care for our Zoo's animals when they get sick.

So please call us. We'll suggest how you can contribute to the Hospital or to any part of the capital campaign. Please contact Dr. Gil Boese at (414) 258-2333.

Sketch: preliminary plan for the visitor-viewing area of the new Hospital.

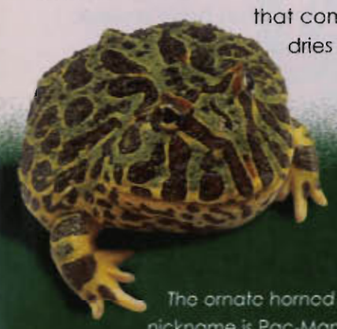
www.zoosociety.org
KIDS ALIVE
Zoological Society of Milwaukee (Wisconsin) – October 2001

Cool Hippos

Hippopotamuses live in and along the rivers and lakes of Africa. It is very hot there, and water evaporates through hippo skin quickly. So they spend up to 18 hours each day in water to cool off and avoid dehydration. At dusk, they leave the water and graze on grass along the riverbanks. Although they are big animals, hippos are not big eaters. They eat only about 90 pounds of grass each night. This is partly because they stay in the water during the day and don't use much energy.

Hippos are huge mammals with short legs and an enormous head, but they can move fast on land. Their eyes, ears and nostrils are on the top of their head and stick out above the water when the rest of their body is under water. They can stay under water for up to six minutes. They get their pinkish color from a sticky fluid that comes from their glands and dries to form a pink-colored lacquer on their skin. This fluid also protects them from sunburn. They have a big mouth. When a hippo opens its jaws wide to show its big teeth, rivals or predators back away. Hippos usually live in groups of 15-20.

The Zoo has three hippos. Pinky and Patty are the parents of Puddles, a female born in 1976. Pinky, the male, is 32 and weighs about 5,000 pounds; Patty, 31, is about 3,000 pounds. "Puddles is a bit heavier than her mom," says Dana Nicholson, pachyderm area supervisor. "So we're putting her on a diet, giving her fewer apples." Hippos can live about 40 years. Pinky spends the day in the Zoo's outdoor exhibit, while Patty and Puddles are outdoors on summer nights. When not outside, the hippos have inside enclosures heated to 70 degrees. Hippos are not outside if the temperature falls to 50 degrees or below. Zoo visitors can view them in both their inside and outside exhibits.



Horned Frog

The ornate horned frog's nickname is Pac-Man, after the early computer game character with a big mouth that ate everything. This frog has a huge head that's one-third the size of his whole body. Like Pac-Man, he will eat any animal he can fit in his mouth. He waits patiently until an unsuspecting bird, snake or mouse strays nearby. Then he lunges, capturing prey with his long sticky tongue and sharp teeth. The ornate horned frog gets his real name from the fleshy spikes above his eyes. In his native habitat in eastern Brazil or Argentina, it is hard to find him among the leaves, thanks to a complex pattern of browns and greens on his skin.

When the ornate horned frog came to the Milwaukee County Zoo last February, he was only the size of a quarter. He has more than quadrupled in size and will grow to nearly 5 inches in length. Craig Berg, aquarium and reptile curator, plans *to use this frog for education, rotating it* and other types of amphibians through a display in the Aquatic & Reptile Center, to show the variety of amphibians and their distinct body structures and ways of surviving. Ornate horned frogs are sold as pets and are not difficult to care for, Berg says, but don't touch them. The slime or mucus on their bodies can stick to your skin and cause irritation.

Australian Animals

Emu

Australia is the smallest of the world's seven continents. It is the only country occupying a whole continent, and it is surrounded by water, which makes it an island. Australia's isolation for more than 55 million years has created a sanctuary of animals and plants found nowhere else on Earth. Along with its famous marsupials, Australia is home to more than 500 lizard species and 750 bird species, 300 of which are found nowhere else. The Great Barrier Reef along the east coast is the longest and most complex living coral system in the world and provides a habitat for a wide range of marine animals.

The **emu** is the second largest bird in the world (the ostrich is the largest). Emus can stand up to 6 feet tall and weigh 65-100 pounds. Emus have long, drooping feathers that are dark brown to gray-brown. Because their wing feathers are so short, emus cannot fly. Emus have long, strong legs, so they can walk quickly for long distances. Their feet have three large toes. The female lays one egg at a time, but the male sits on the egg till it hatches. He then guards the chick for five to seven months. Emus eat only foods rich in nutrients, such as seeds, fruit and young shoots, as well as insects, lizards and small rodents. They avoid grass and leaves. At the Zoo, our five emus (three male and two female) also get high-protein pellets and crushed oyster shells in fall for extra calcium.

The **koala** has a cuddly bear-like appearance, but it is not a bear! It is a marsupial, which means it has a pouch. Koalas vary in length from 21 to 33 inches and weigh 10-33 pounds. Koalas live in trees and rarely walk on the ground. They have powerful, grasping hands and strong claws. A baby kaala is about the size of a bumblebee when it is born. The mother carries her young in her pouch for six to seven months while the baby feeds on her milk. When the baby comes out of the pouch, the mother carries it an her back. The Zoo has two koalas, R.T., a male, and Taree, a female. Koalas eat only eucalyptus leaves because this is the anly faod they can digest. The Zoo gets fresh eucalyptus leaves flown from Florida by American Airlines twice a week. Our kaalas are weighed every day, as keepers can learn if a koala is sick if it loses weight.

What's for Dinner?

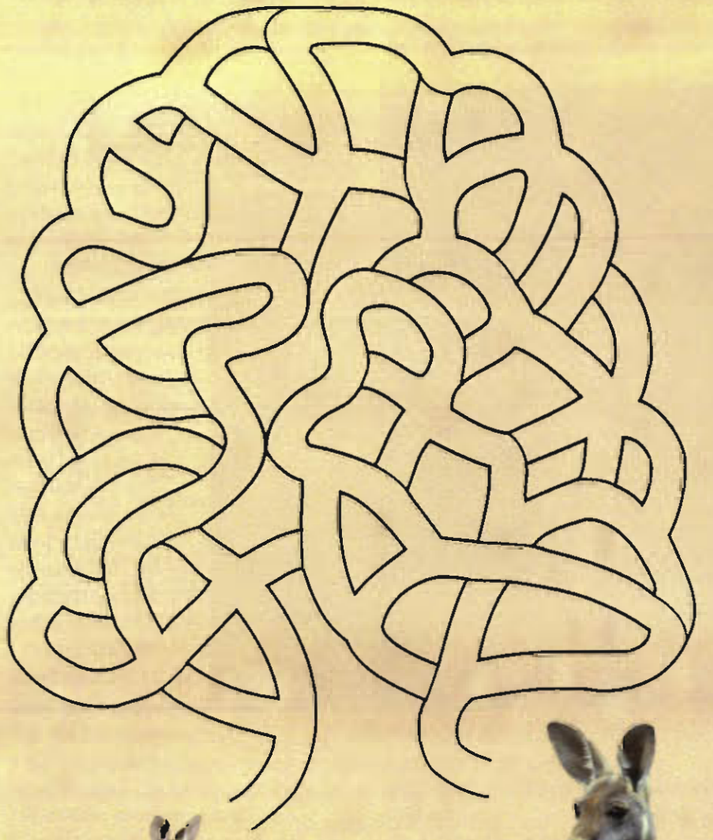
The **tree kangaroo** is also o marsupial. The Zoo has three tree kangaroos, Ren, Emily and Kiama. These small reddish-brown tree dwellers have shorter hind limbs than other kangaroos. Tree kangaroos are vegetarians.

See if you can find the names of nine foods that tree kangaroos eat: spinach, potatoes, leaves, lettuce, apples, oranges, grapes, bananas, pears. Circle the words in the Word Search at right. Words go forward or down.

A	P	O	T	A	T	O	E	S	B	C
A	K	R	V	P	U	B	Q	P	G	D
L	E	A	V	E	S	D	T	I	R	H
E	C	N	F	B	A	N	A	N	A	S
T	I	G	J	G	S	P	C	A	P	K
T	L	E	M	N	R	E	H	C	E	O
U	P	S	Q	R	A	S	S	H	S	S
C	T	U	V	P	E	A	R	S	W	Y
E	Z	A	A	P	P	L	E	S	B	C

Kangaroo Maze

The Zoo has six **red kangaroos**: Starlet, Ellie, Binnaway, Boomer and two young ones born in 2000. They are the largest of the marsupials and one of the most numerous of kangaroo species. They have short forelimbs, very long hind limbs and are adapted to hopping using their heavy long tail for balance. The male kangaroo has a russet to brick-red coat, while the female's coat is more blue-gray. When a baby kangaroo, called a joey, is born, it crawls into its mother's pouch and stays there for up to a year.



See if you can help the joey find its way back to its mother's pouch.

Red Kangaroo

Coral Reef Quest

What is the beautiful lacy fish, found in the Australia Building, that prefers warm saltwater rather than cold saltwater? This colorful fish is a maroon, or burgundy, color with white layer stripes. It is slow-moving and has venom in its dorsal spines that it uses for defense.

Answer to Spotted-Cat Quest, July 2001: 1) Jaguars have spots arranged in circular rosettes, with an added spot inside; 2) Leopards have rosettes but lack a spot inside each rosette. 3) Cheetahs have individual spots, not rosettes.

Roving the Zoo

By Kathy Mangold

It's horses one day, hippos the next and hyenas next week for zookeeper Betsy Gilgenbach. Some zookeepers work in one building all the time. Eight keepers, including Gilgenbach, rove throughout the Milwaukee County Zoo, working wherever they are needed. "You con't get bored with this job," she says. "You're never in one place long enough."

When she arrives at work each morning, she has an idea of her job for the day because the schedule is set a few weeks ahead. But if the phone rings and her boss says she's needed somewhere else, she gathers her gear, zips her backpack and heads out.

She can spend as many as three days in one spot, filling in for someone on vacation. Or she might work at several places in one day. Each day is a lesson in flexibility, she says. "You never know how to dress in winter. You bundle up, thinking you're spending the day outdoors with the bears, but you may end up in the aviary," where it's warm and humid.

The advantage is that Gilgenbach has learned how to care for about half of the Zoo's 358 species. She can adjust the water levels in the freshwater fish aquarium. She can monitor hatchlings in the aviary incubator. She knows just what zebras like to eat (apples).

Gilgenbach has been a rover for three years. Before that she spent three years as a keeper in the Small Mammals Building. She's still fond of animals there, especially Chewbacca (Chewy) the sloth. Sometimes she'll stop in to feed Chewy treats such as sweet potatoes. (See photo of Betsy Gilgenbach with Chewy.)

Last summer Gilgenbach for the first time was assigned to care for the dangerous big cats in the Feline Building by herself one evening. "It was a little nerve-wracking," she says, "but all went well." She didn't have to go into any cat exhibits because two people must be on hand when that is done, for safety.

Gilgenbach's journey to her job as zookeeper shows the importance of believing in your dreams. Before she came to the Zoo, she worked as a secretary at the Milwaukee County Children's Court, the county Mental Health Center, and the county courthouse. Her dream was always to become a zoo-keeper. It took her 15 years to reach that goal.

Zookeepers at the Milwaukee County Zoo must have at least a high school degree and a year of experience caring for animals (other than their own pets). Most keepers today also have a college degree, which Gilgenbach does not have. She felt this put her at a disadvantage when applying for zookeeper jobs.

Then came her lucky break. When Milwaukee County's Doyne Hospital closed six years ago, the county listed several jobs – including some zookeeper jobs – that county workers could apply for before the jobs were opened to others. Gilgenbach applied. She met the requirements because she had worked for a humane society (which helps animals) for a year and hod taken a year of zoology classes at the Milwaukee Area Technical College. She got the job.

"I feel very lucky to have gotten in here," she says. While luck may have been on her side, her determination and good work hobits really helped her succeed. "Even when I was working the clerical job, I took the job seriously. I came to work on time and always gave it my best." To students interested in a zoo career, she says: "If you want to do something, go for it. You've got to keep believing in yourself."

RETIREE LOVES 'JOB' AT ZOO

This is port of a series of stories on how people help the Zoo through the Zoological Society.

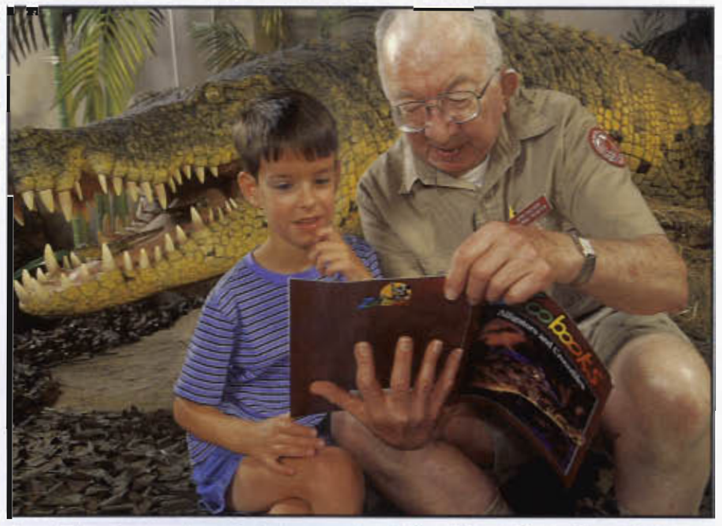
BY FRAN BAUER

On almost any weekday you can find Jerry Daleiden at the Zoo. Last summer he was regaling visitors to the white alligator special exhibit with facts about this rare creature. Or he was at a Remains to Be Seen cart filled with such animal artifacts as porcupine quills or turtle shells that invite a child to toucb and learn more. Occasionally you'll see him wielding a bathroom plunger to explain to children just how big and soft a camel's feet are.

At 74, Daleiden, a retired teacher, is still going "to work" every day doing the kind of teaching he loves most. "Children learn the best by doing," he explains. "So I love getting ideas down to a level that a young child can really look, see and know what I'm talking about."

Daleiden is just one of hundreds of volunteers who donate their time to Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary. For 26 years Zoo Priders have volunteered at Milwaukee County Zoo events, have helped raise money for the Zoological Society, have served as guides throughout the Zoo, have provided an array of educational programs and assisted with the year-round Society edZoocation workshops and summer camps, have watched over sick animals, and done much more. In a quarter-century, volunteers have donated nearly 650,000 hours.

For people like Daleiden, the opportunity to volunteer at the Zoo also has brought new meaning to life. Four years ago, Daleiden decided it was time to give up his dream home on 16 wooded acres in Franklin. He moved to an apartment at San Camillo, a retirement complex across the street from the Zoo. He quickly applied for the six-session Zoo Pride training, held twice a year at the Zoo. Daleiden was eager to share his love of nature with young children at the Zoo, as he already was doing at the Wehr Nature Center in Whitnall Park.



Zoo Pride volunteer Jerry Daleiden teaches Jeffrey D'Ambrisi, 6, of Brookfield about reptiles.

Daleiden grew up in Wauwatosa and spent his boyhood hiking in local parks and in northern Wisconsin's Vilas County, and dreaming of becoming a forester. An Eagle Scout, Daleiden followed in his father's footsteps and became a scoutmaster. Later he became a teacher, and in 1960 was the first man to earn a master's degree from Cardinal Stritch College. He went on to work at Milwaukee Area Technical College, offering intensive remedial help to students who had fallen behind academically. He retired in 1987.

Daleiden went far heyond his Zoo Pride training to prepare for volunteer work. He read every children's book on animals he could find. He wrote animal facts on note cards to refer to when he speaks. He scanned animal pictures and maps onto his computer and made visual aids for children. Initially, Daleiden devoted most of his time to assisting instructors in Zoological Society education workshops, where he was a natural at leading tours of the Zoo or helping with craft projects.

Daleiden then had surgery to replace a hip and started using hearing aids. Though he was able to keep on volunteering, he decided to give up education workshops and focus on staffing the Remains to Be Seen carts, giving short talks at the Zoo's Camel Theater, and providing information in special exhibits such as last summer's Ameritech's Reptiles: Real & Robotic featuring the White Alligator.

No two of his talks are the same, he says. Sometimes children stay just a few minutes. At other times they're held spellbound for up to a half-hour. "Sometimes they come back with their parents and repeat all the things I've just finished telling them. That makes my day."

For information on Zoo Pride, pleose call (414) 258-5667.

Shedding Light on Penguins

BY PAULA BROOKMIRE

For nine years, Milwaukee County Zoo staff have been involved in a variety of studies on the Humboldt penguin. They have traveled to Chile to study this flightless bird where it lives in the wild, and they have studied captive Humboldts at our Zoo.

"We have individually identified (using transponder chips or bands) over 1,200 wild birds in the course of the project. We have blood samples on over 900 of these," says Dr. Roberta Wallace, senior veterinarian at the Zoo. The studies - many of them partially funded by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee – have provided invaluable data on the numbers of Humboldt penguins, their genetic diversity, and the factors that affect their survival.

In 1998 about 30 penguin experts, researchers and government officials came together in Chile to look at the future of Humboldt penguins, which are considered vulnerable to extinction. Bob Lacy, a population geneticist, devised a computer program that analyzes preliminary results from the studies of penguins to predict the future viability of their population. "He determined that with the current rate of adult deaths and poor chick survivability, Humboldts would be extinct in Chile in 50 or 60 years," says Wallace.

Dr. Roberta Wallace reviews slides taken in Chile, including one on the screen of a researcher checking a penguin nest.

That may sound like bad news, but the good news is that in that time span researchers may learn enough about the penguins to keep them from going extinct. The scientists are well on their way with the research done so far.

In the early 1990s, zoos in general were looking at why the captive population of Humboldt penguins was not reproducing well. Some people speculated that it had to do with nutrition: Maybe they were deficient in vitamins E or A. Blood samples were taken on our Zoo's Humboldts. But Wallace asked: If you don't even know what is normal in the wild, you have no comparison. So, in 1992, she and other Zoo staffers went to Chile during the Humboldts' peak breeding seasons, in spring and in fall, and took blood samples of wild penguins in two separate colonies for comparison. That raised other questions.

Explains Wallace: "Here you have a bird that goes through seasonal changes, and maybe its blood characteristics change over time. My feeling was that if you sampled birds over time, you would see substantial shifts in some of these values. We found that there were very distinct changes. Starting a month before egg laying, the penguin blood parameters start showing changes. For example, calcium increases. Triglycerides increase in a very specific pattern. Vitamin A and associated compounds decrease. This has helped us determine if a penguin at the Zoo is ready to lay eggs."

On that 1992 trip to Chile, Wallace and the other researchers met Dr. Braulio Araya, a renowned Chilean ornithologist, and learned that nothing much was known about the survivability of Humboldt penguins in the wild because they weren't being studied. "That's when we came up with the idea to do a natural biology study of Humboldts at Algarrobo, off the central coast of Chile," says Wallace.

A former island near Algarrobo was chosen because it now was attached to the mainland by a breakwall and so was easily accessible to researchers. Many of the other penguin islands are too rocky and dangerous to reach by boat. Starting in 1994, Zoo staff began making twice-a-year trips to Chile in spring and fall to conduct the study. In between those trips, Chilean researchers monitored the penguin colony about every three weeks. The Chilean researchers – Dr. Braulio Araya, Mariano Bernal and Alejandro Simeone – were funded by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, which also paid for initial equipment for the study and for many laboratory tests. The Zoo paid the salaries and expenses of Zoo staff who traveled to Chile, and Windway Foundation, thanks to Terry and Mary Kohler of Sheboygan, paid their airfare. The natural biology study looked at the following:

How to determine the gender of a Humboldt: Since males and females look alike, researchers took blood samples to get a DNA sex determination, then measured physical characteristics of the same penguins. They found that beak length and other measurements could tell them whether a penguin was male or female (males generally have longer and thicker beaks).

Humboldt population in Chile: With funding from the Zoological Society, researchers did a census of Humboldts in 2000 and 2001, which counted about 29,000 in 2000 and 26,000 of the birds in 2001.

Types of nests and habitats the penguins preferred: The birds often nest in precarious coastal or island areas subject to storms, which have destroyed many penguin nests. Knowing this, researchers may be able to recommend constructing artificial nests that could be used to rear chicks successfully.

Penguin loyalty to particular nests and islands: Male Humboldts usually choose a nest site and generally return to the same site, even if a mate has died and the male has found a new mate. Female penguins, however, if they lose their mate, typically will follow a new mate to whatever nest site he chooses.

Chick survivability: Chick survival varied from season to season (with better survival rates in spring), but overall survival appeared low, especially compared to penguin colonies in Peru. On average, 63% of nests were abandoned each breeding season without eggs hatching, and among the chicks that did hatch, the mortality rate was high (at times, almost 100%). The poor survival rate was attributed to a variety of factors, including heavy

cont. on page 18

Humboldt penguin

rains in fall, an El Nino storm season in which no chicks survived (fall 1997), predatory kelp gulls eating penguin eggs, and occasional human tourists visiting the island illegally and disturbing penguin burrows.

How far penguins swim from their nesting sites: While one study of a small group of Humboldts showed that the birds spent 90% of their time within 35 km of their nesting colony, 19 penguins banded at Algarrobo were found as many as 200 to 600 km (124 to 372 miles) from the colony. (Of those birds, 18 were dead, found on beaches or in fishing nets.) Wallace and the other researchers concluded that since these birds do travel long distances at sea, conservation efforts to protect them must be directed not only at their colonies and the adjacent waters but also at their foraging and traveling ranges.

Wallace measures the beak of a Humboldt penguin.

In a separate study, the same Chilean researchers involved in penguin studies with our Zoo staff found that between 1991 and 1996 at least 605 Humboldt penguins died in gill nets.

Blood samples originally taken by our Zoo staff from the Humboldts in Chile and at our Zoo were saved and used for later studies, on avian disease and on genetic testing to determine how diverse the populations were. The results:

Genetic testing – Wallace says that data show that the North American captive population of Humboldts is about equally diverse as the wild population at Algarrobo. And of three penguin colonies sampled in the wild, each colony is equally diverse. The genetics study was carried out by geneticist Jean DuBach of the Brookfield Zoo in Illinois, with help from Kim Smith, curator of birds at the Milwaukee County Zoo. It was funded by the Conservation Endowment Fund and the Institute of Museum Services in Washington, D.C., with contributions by the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Malaria testing – Wallace gave the background for this 2001 study, which was funded by the Zoological Society and the Zoo: "A disease called avian malaria is present in North American birds. And certain species of penguins, including Humboldts, are very susceptible to malaria and can die from it very quickly. As a result, many zoos put their penguins on antimalarial medicine during mosquito season. We do it in Milwaukee from the end of May through November."

The malaria study looked at wild penguins in three colonies along the coast of Chile to see if there was a difference in penguins exposed to malaria in one colony over another. For example, would the southernmost colony, where it is wet and rainy, have more penguins with antibodies to malaria? If so, the data might provide clues as to how captive penguins could be protected. "I found that about 30% of the birds had antibodies, which meant that they at least had been exposed to the disease," says Wallace. "There was no significant difference among the three sites. Then I looked at other studies worldwide in other penguin species. In black-footed penguins, almost 80% had the antibodies." Even if this study does not provide answers on how to protect penguins from malaria, it's a good baseline study, says Wallace.

In fact, all of these studies on the Humboldt penguin provide basic data needed by researchers and policy makers before they can come up with ways to help protect the birds. More long-term studies are needed because penguins can live 25-30 years, says Wallace. Scientists need to find out what's a normal variation in breeding success and what is abnormal, caused by disastrous storms or human activities such as overfishing. They also need to discover how juvenile penguins disperse (for example, what colony do they attach to) and what is their death rate. And studies need to be done on how much fisheries are competing with penguins for the same food supply.

Besides Wallace and Smith, veterinary technician Margaret Michaels also is involved in one or more of these studies. Former Zoo staff involved include Ed Diebold, Karen Grzybowski, J. Andrew Teare and Mary Jo Willis.

Serengeti Circle

The Serengeti Circle is an exclusive group of corporations and foundations that support the Zoo and Zoological Society through grants and sponsorship of special events, exhibits/attractions, educational and conservation programs and promotions at the $2,500 level and above. For more information on sponsorship opportunities at the Zoo, please call Patty Harrigon, (414) 302-9485.

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Some Zoo visitors dress in costume for Trick-or-Treat Halloween Spooktacular, sponsored by Hershey's and Roundy's Pick'n Save. This year's event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 26 and from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 27. The some sponsors present Boo at the Zoo from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 19 and 20.

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The Zoological Society recognizes its major donors through membership in the Platypus Society. Platypus members have the option to receive exclusive VIP benefits. If you would like more information about the Platypus Society, please contact the Zoological Society's Development Director, Joan Rudnitzki, at (414) 276-0843, vmail 217.

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The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of August 21, 2001:

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

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

5-year Platypus Society Member in bold (updated each fall)

Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after August 21, 2001, will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.

Blue-crowned Mot Mot

Arrived: October 2000
Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary

The blue-crowned mot mot is notable not only for its coloring and behavior, but also for its interesting name – both the common name and its scientific name: *Momotus momota*. Try saying that fast three times. These light-green birds have a distinctive, iridescent, sky-blue patch on their crown. They're fun to watch because when they perch, the birds often swing their tails like the pendulum on a clock. They have long tails shaped like tennis rackets. They create this effect by preening their central tail feathers. A male and female mot mot arrived at our Zoo last year but did not go on exhibit right away. They are part of a captive breeding program for their species. In the wild, mot mots nest in burrows along riverbanks in rain forests, coffee and cocoa plantations, and deciduous forests of Central and South America, particularly Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago. Parts of their habitat are threatened by deforestation, but the birds are not yet listed as threatened.

Grizzly Bear

Arrived: July 12, 2001
Grizzly Exhibit in the North American Area

The lure of eating the same foods that humans do could have cost the Zoo's new grizzly bear her life if she had stayed in the wild. Out in Montana, Yellowstone National Park rangers had spotted this bear they called No. 325 several times in two years. She first was captured when she was little, raiding apple trees and hanging around houses. A bear expert put a radio collar around her neck to monitor her movements, then released her deep in the park. But she was hooked on human food, and soon was back at dumpsters eating garbage. She was always friendly, even after giving birth to two cubs. But rangers couldn't take a chance she'd turn aggressive and have to be shot. So they called Bess Frank, our Zoo's curator of large mammals, who was looking for a bear to replace the two aged grizzlies that died here last year. This bold bear was so hungry when she arrived that she came right up to the keepers to get the food they offered, says zookeeper Mike Hoffmann. Since then, she's become more shy, but he hopes she'll feast on a diet of bear chow, meat, apples, carrots and sweet potatoes, as well as the trout in her pond, to fatten herself for winter hibernation. Not until January will we know if she is pregnant (she hung out with one of Yellowstone's male bears last spring). "If she has cubs, that would be perfect for us," Hoffmann says.

Impala

Born: June 2, 2001
African Savanna Exhibit

When the sign first announced a baby impala in the African Savanna, visitors kept pointing to various gazelles, thinking one of them was the baby. That's because gazelles are so much smaller than impalas. And Chevy, the baby impala horn to Runako and Mr. Ron, was about the size of a gazelle. These two types of African antelopes both have slender legs and bodies like deer, but they're easy to tell apart. Impalas are tan and white with large ears; the females (our Zoo has three) don't have horns, but our two male impalas do. Gazelles (our Zoo has one male and three females) are smaller and have a black stripe along their side; both males and females have ridged horns. To entice the gazelles to play, frisky little Chevy engages in pronking: running at full gallop, then bouncing in the air a few times, then galloping again. The much older gazelles sometimes oblige in the morning, when they have more energy. Thanks to the new Holz Family Impala County overlook, you can get a great view of Chevy and the other antelopes, possibly even into November. They'll be outdoors unless snow falls or it gets into the low 40s. Then they go to Winter Quarters.

Vulturine Guinea Fowl

Arrived: June 5, 2001
African Savanna Exhibit

The newest type of guinea fowl to move into the Zoo's African Savanna are a stunning iridescent blue purple in color. The two stand proudly erect and walk with their heads held high, just as they would when moving through the tall grasses in their native Africa. They are the first vulturine guinea fowl to come to the Zoo, says Bob Hoffmann, who supervises the African Savanna and Waterhole, the South American and Camel Exhibits and the underground quarters where warm-weather animals winter. Though they are shaped like chickens, these elegant birds have heads that look more like a vulture's, set on long, slender necks. The two new guinea fowl had to be trained to move between their indoor quarters and the outdoor yard they share with impalas, gazelles and vultures, Hoffmann says. Once temperatures dip into the low 50s, the birds will stay inside. These fowl have a shrill call, so loud that no one can hold a conversation above it. In fact, the calls are so shrill that farmers in Africa have used vulturine guinea fowl as watchdogs, to alert them to signs of trouble, says Hoffmann. Zookeepers hope to find another female to add to this male-female couple, in hopes one of the females will breed.

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