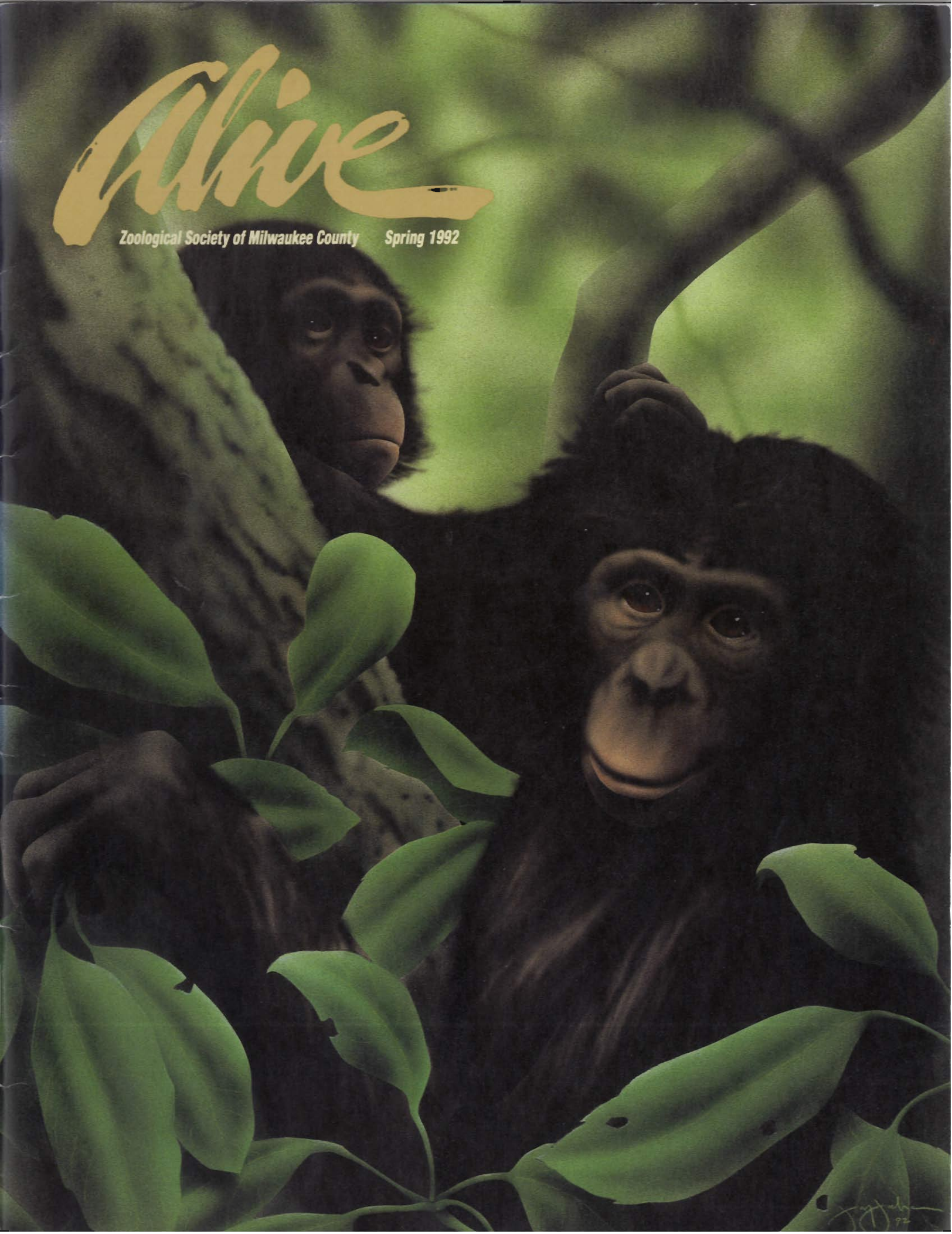


Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County Spring 1992



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1992



THANKS FOR THOUGHTS.

The end of a fiscal year always prompts some self-scrutiny—a look at where you are, where you've been, and where you're going. At the end of the 1990-91 fiscal year, we took an especially close look at this magazine. Over the last four issues, we've experimented with new story ideas, different artwork and bigger pictures. Then, in the last issue, we asked how you—our members—felt about the changes we've made. We were pleased with your response.

Because of your requests, you'll be seeing more stories on the Zoo's animals, expanded coverage of new exhibits and more timely announcements of upcoming special events. You will also continue to "meet" the people behind the Zoo and Zoological Society in the magazine's "On the Job" profiles section.

To answer the question many members asked: Why isn't *Alive* printed on recycled paper? It is. A couple of years ago, *Alive* was the first magazine in Wisconsin and one of the first in the nation to use recycled paper. Though the magazine looks much the same as it did in the late '80s, its paper content—formerly all virgin pulp—is now at least 50% recycled paper.

A few other members wondered how much the magazine costs. You'll probably be surprised to know that less than \$3 of your membership dues goes toward producing the magazine. To us, that's a reasonable price to pay for one of the few means we have of communicating with you.

Finally, I'm proud to tell you that in January, *Alive* won an award of excellence—the highest award in its category—from the Wisconsin Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. It sure was nice to bring that award back to the Society, but it means even more to hear we're doing a good job from you. After all, you are the people reading the stories in our award-winning magazine. And that's the best news of all.

Gilbert K. Boese, Ph.D., President
Zoological Society of Milwaukee County



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

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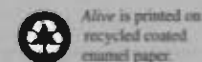
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Alive is printed on recycled coated enamel paper.



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ON THE COVER:

This image of two bonobos was painted by Jay Jocham, a Zoological Society artist endowed by Gretchen and Andrew Dawes. Limited-edition prints will be available after May 15.

Alive

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2



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- 7 APES ON THE MOVE
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- 10 BONOBO BASICS
The specter of extinction looms before the least-known of all the great apes—the bonobo. Learn what conservation organizations around the world are doing to help this unique ape survive.
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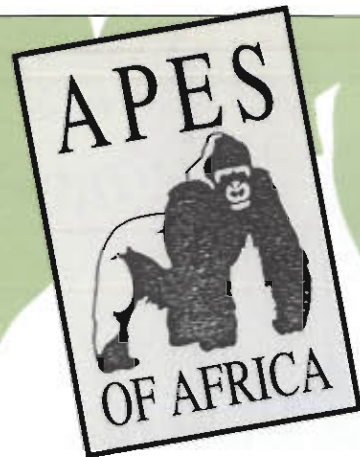


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Apes of Africa: From Start to Finish

Of all the Zoo's animals, the apes are closest to humans in form and behavior. They can stand upright like us. They have hands and expressive faces like us. They're also intelligent. It's no wonder these creatures are the ones that fascinate zoo visitors most.

Up until mid-January, going to the Zoo to see the apes meant looking at the animals in small stainless-steel, bathroom-tile enclosures—an experience sometimes mixed with fascination and pity. People didn't like seeing such big, beautiful creatures confined to such limited spaces.

Neither did the animals' caretakers. Almost three decades ago, when the Primate House was built, little was known about the true habits and social needs of gorillas and bonobos. But thanks to new thinking by zoo professionals on animal management and husbandry, how animals are exhibited and the way zoo visitors are encouraged to respond to them are changing.

Exposing zoo visitors to the magnificence of the great apes and erasing visitors' perceptions of the apes as dangerous monsters or parodies of human beings is the two-fold mission of the Zoo's newest exhibit, Apes of Africa, to open in May.

Designed to house and display a single group of gorillas and a group of bonobos, Apes of Africa took eight years to plan, over 60,000 hours (285 working days) to build and the expertise of several consultants, two general contractors and about 11 other trades to pull it all together.

The fact that so many people were involved in the planning and construction of the exhibit won't come as a surprise to

people visiting the exhibit. After all, the contractors had to fit a slice of the rain forest into only 30,000 square feet of space.

Work on Apes of Africa, the first half of the construction and renovation of a \$10.7 million primate facility, began shortly after the building's October, 1990 groundbreaking ceremony.

To design and build the apes' new home, the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County, equal funders of the building, enlisted the help of Seattle architectural firm Jones & Jones, and two Milwaukee-based construction firms—C.G. Schmidt and Schwabe Construction.

According to Jan Rafert, the Zoo's curator of primates and small mammals, the design team looked at ape exhibits at several other U.S. zoos but said Apes of Africa isn't like any of them—partly because of the construction challenges and site restrictions presented by the Zoo and Zoological Society.

"The biggest restriction was to build the building sideways from south to north—not from the bottom up—in order to make it fit between the Peck [Welcome Center] and the Primate Building," said Mark Schmidt, construction administrator with C.G. Schmidt. It took the contractors a month—



More than a dozen men—from iron workers to exterior landscapers—combine forces to get a 4,000-pound deadfall tree into the new Apes of Africa gorilla exhibit.

the building's success," Schmidt said. "They all shared tools, knowledge and motivation to get the job done." Schmidt and Schultz give the nature of the project partial credit for the team's spirit and drive. "This [exhibit] is not your ordinary industrial space; it's not just a building," Schmidt said. "It's an experience—probably the first and last project of its kind that many of our staff will ever work on."

When Apes of Africa opens, visitors will enter the exhibit through the Peck Welcome Center. The first stop will be the exhibit's 3,500-square-foot outdoor enclosure, a retreat for the gorillas in mild weather. For a closer look at the gorillas—perhaps as close as 17 feet—visitors can step outside onto a viewing terrace to observe the animals through a transparent-mesh fence.

Once indoors, visitors will make the gorilla exhibit their next stop and the bonobo exhibit their final stop. At a glance, both enclosures look similarly lush, with natural tropical vegetation and vividly painted murals enhancing the animals' living quarters. But each unit was designed differently, with the gorillas' and the bonobos' separate habits and social needs in mind.

three weeks more than usual—just to survey the location. Then, construction workers—sometimes 80 at one time—began shaping what was to become the apes' new home.

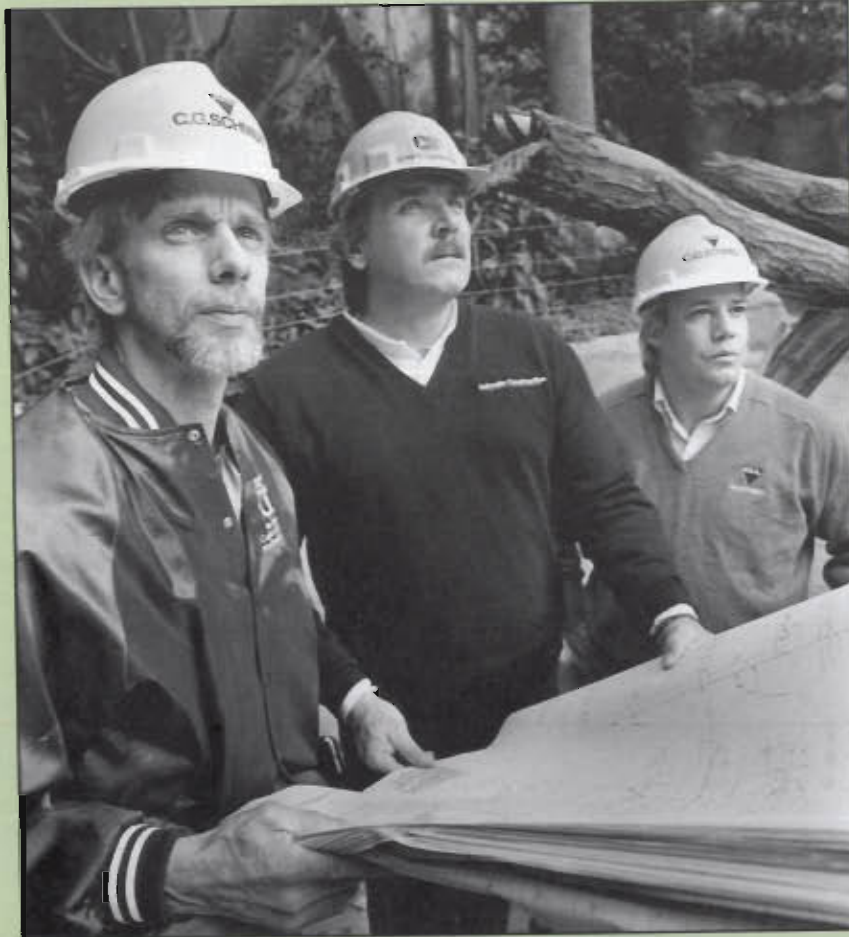
From start to finish, workers cleared from the site an acre of hardwood trees, many of which were incorporated into the exhibits as "gorilla and bonobo toys;" used 146 tons of structural steel for the building's framework; set 395 tons of precast-concrete wall panels in place; covered the building

with about a 1/2-acre of skylights; put down 375 tons of precast-concrete floor plank; used 70 tons of reinforcing steel in the building's wall and footing foundation; used 372 tons of concrete to form the interior bonobo and gorilla units; installed over 17,000 concrete masonry units; sculpted trees and root buttresses from cement; and planted about \$150,000 worth of real tropical plants—some weighing up to 4,000 pounds.

"A lot of blood, sweat and tears went into this building," said Tom Schultz, project superintendent with Schwabe Construction. "At times, we had four cranes, two track loaders, a couple of backhoes and eight other pieces of large equipment on only one acre of land—all at the same time," Schultz said. "It was like choreographing a waltz."

"The phenomenal cooperation among all the workers on the project was the key to

continued on next page



Left to right: Jan Rafert, Tom Schultz of Schwabe Construction, and Mark Schmidt of C.G. Schmidt, assess the final finish details of the gorillas' new home.

ON THE JOB

Jan Rafert, Curator
Primates & Small Mammals, Milwaukee County Zoo

Though the great apes can never hope to have enough of a political voice, Jan Rafert is a most articulate mouthpiece. With three visits to the Mountain Gorillas' native Rwanda and more than 25 years of primate care on his resume, Rafert was a perfect pick to supervise the construction of the Zoo's newest exhibit, Apes of Africa.


Passionate about his study of apes and his search for new ways to help them, Rafert tells dramatic stories of his three separate visits with the gorillas in Rwanda. About eight years ago, Rafert spent several months at the Karisoke Research Center, a protected Mountain Gorilla study area in Rwanda, assisting noted anthropologist Dr. David Watts in collecting feeding data from wild gorillas and working with Dian Fossey, celebrated researcher of the Mountain Gorilla, on her demographic studies of the gorillas and participating in the anti-poaching gorilla patrols Fossey established. For a brief time, Rafert returned to his job as primate keeper at Chicago's Brookfield Zoo and then was called back to Africa for a second time to help continue research at Karisoke, despite Fossey's death. During Rafert's third and final trip to Africa, he was accompanied by Sandy Vojik, then a fellow primate keeper at Brookfield Zoo and now, his wife and chair of the 1992 Gorilla Workshop.



APES OF AFRICA

Some plants and other vegetation in the gorilla enclosure have been strategically planted outside of the animal's 12-foot jumping range to prevent damage not only to plants but also to pipes and other parts of the exhibit. Bonobos, on the other hand, are more arboreal and require greater freedom of motion than gorillas. The design of their exhibit allows them unrestricted climbing—even on the pipes and in natural trees inside their enclosure.

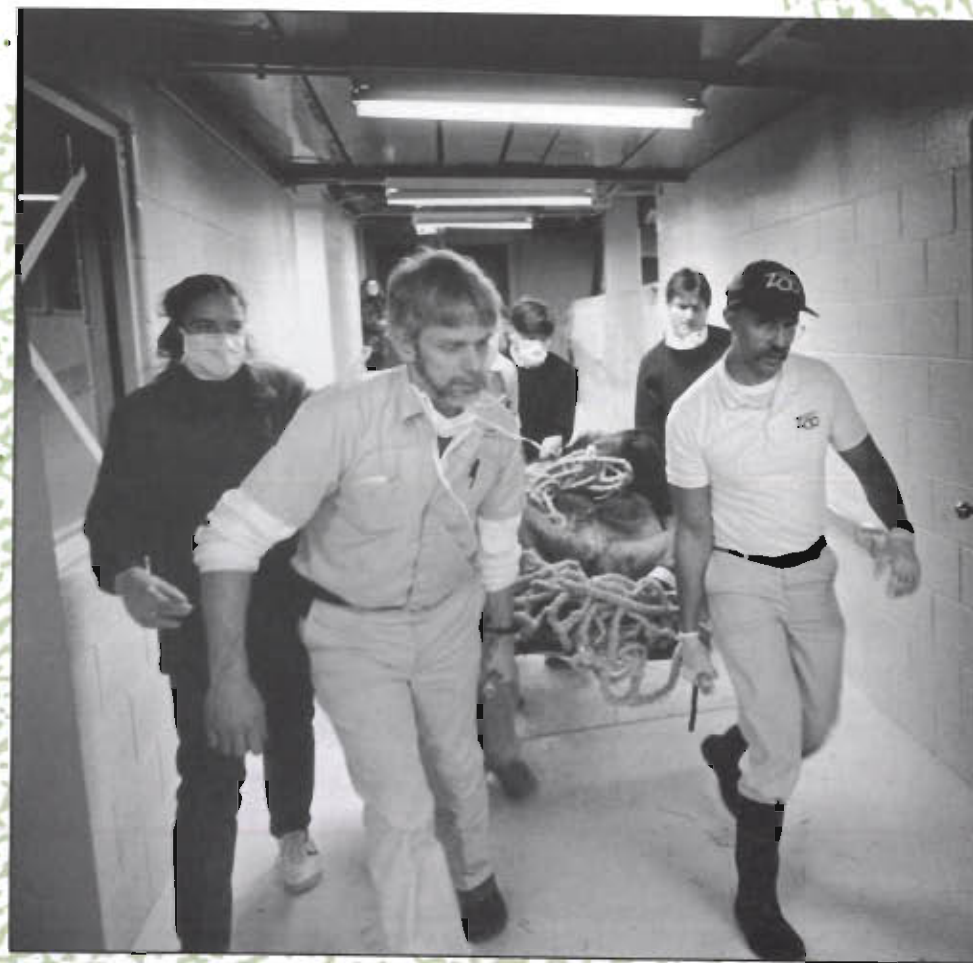
"Both the gorilla and bonobo exhibits offer the animals the opportunity to escape from public view, forage for food items, play in the sand or water and eat live plants," Rafert said. "We designed the exhibits to promote the animals' natural behavior."

From all early accounts, the Zoo, the Zoological Society and all of the people involved in the design and construction of Apes of Africa have succeeded in creating a journey of excitement and anticipation for visitors who can't wait to see what's next—a renovated Primate House, scheduled to open next year. 

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY AND THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO WILL BE HOSTING THIS SUMMER'S 1992 INTERNATIONAL GORILLA WORKSHOP, EXPECTED TO ATTRACT MORE THAN 300 PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO WORK WITH GORILLAS. SEE PAGE 9 FOR DETAILS ON HOW TO ATTEND A PUBLIC LECTURE ON THE GREAT APES BEING PRESENTED AS PART OF THE WORKSHOP.

Apes on the Move

Let's just say it wasn't anything like taking your pet to the vet. Moving the Zoo's four Lowland Gorillas from the Primate House into their new Apes of Africa home and doing complete physicals—including dental, ophthalmic and reproductive exams—on each one of them before they got there took 17 medical professionals, a dozen other Zoo staff, and eight straight hours of labor. Information gathered during the examination process will help zoo veterinarians better understand what "being healthy" means for each gorilla and identify future illness.



Jan Rafert, the Zoo's curator of primates and small mammals, leads a team of six—plus 350-pound Obsus—down the Apes of Africa main corridor. At the end of the corridor, the team carried Obsus into the gorilla holding area and placed him into his cage for the anesthetic recovery.



A zoo employee prepares to take a palm imprint from Obsus. The Zoological Society plans to mount the mold outside of the Apes of Africa gorilla exhibit so that zoo visitors can compare the anatomy of a gorilla's hand to that of their own hands.

Source: Dr. Andrew Teare, Senior Staff Veterinarian



Dr. Andrew Teare (left), the Zoo's senior staff veterinarian, assists Drs. Geanon, Kohmann and Begun (Medical College of Wisconsin and Froedtert Hospital) in performing an abdominal ultrasound on Femelle, the Zoo's oldest female gorilla.

Have a Safe Flight

The four Waldrapp Ibises currently at the Zoo would have plenty of company today had war not broken out in the Middle East a couple of years ago.

For more than a year, the Milwaukee County Zoo, along with the three other zoos—Brookfield, Lincoln Park, and St. Louis—that make up the Zoo Midwest Ornithological Association (ZOO MOA), has been awaiting the importation of 30 Waldrapp Ibises from Tel Aviv University. But the war delayed every attempt to move the birds from Israel.

"Because of disturbances associated with the war, breeding success within the colony at Tel Aviv was not as good as anticipated," said Ed Diebold, Milwaukee County Zoo curator of birds. "As a result, fewer than half of the 30 surplus birds originally offered to ZOO MOA by Tel Aviv are now available to us."

Diebold, the Waldrapp Ibis species manager within ZOO MOA, said that the four zoos had decided to delay the importation of birds until this spring to allow the birds to complete another breeding season. The impending importation of the birds from Tel Aviv initially will be funded by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County. Eventually, expenses will be shared equally by the four ZOO MOA institutions.

Among the most critically endangered bird species in the world, the Waldrapp Ibis is the subject of intense concern in the international conservation community. "With fewer than 125 breeding pairs of the species left in the wild, captive breeding of the species certainly will play a critical role in saving the species from extinction," Diebold said. Even though, as of 1990, there were over 640 Waldrapp Ibises in captivity worldwide, the captive population only recently has begun to be intensively managed.

"Until now, few detailed individual



Waldrapp Ibis

records were kept on the birds in many of the captive flocks, so we know very little about the inter-relationship of birds in the captive populations," Diebold said.

As a result of the species' tenuous status, the Captive Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) has initiated detailed studies of the species aimed at implementing a coordinated international plan to help assure the long-term survival of both captive and wild populations.

Among others, the group's initial recommendations include collecting detailed breeding data on the species, identifying all remaining wild-caught birds in the captive population, and initiating detailed genetic analyses of the captive population to determine its overall relatedness.

Diebold acknowledges that the North American captive population will be more intensively managed when—and if—the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) develops a Species Survival Plan (SSP) for the Waldrapp Ibis.

Island Natives Move to Milwaukee

Now extinct on its native island, the Guam Rail at least will survive in captivity thanks to the commitment of North American zoos, including the Milwaukee County Zoo, to preserving this rare bird. On December 27, 1991, two rails—one male, one female—were flown from Philadelphia Airport to Mitchell International Airport, courtesy of American Airlines, and finally landed in the Aviary's Guam exhibit. Sharing

the flight was a female Guam Kingfisher that died shortly after it arrived in Milwaukee. The kingfisher was supposed to have joined the single male kingfisher in the Aviary. "Unfortunately, the bird didn't

make it through quarantine," said Ed Diebold, the Zoo's curator of birds. "The kingfisher's death was tragic, especially when you consider that there are only 65 of them in the world—all in captivity; however, we won't let this stop us from moving ahead with our plans to get another female at the

Zoo and contribute to the conservation of this species." Neither the kingfisher or rail can be found in the wild because of the introduction of the egg- and bird-hungry brown tree snake to Guam during World War II. Today, an estimated 12 million snakes inhabit the island.

The Guam Kingfisher and the Guam Rail are the rarest animal species in the Milwaukee County Zoo's collection and both are managed under Species Survival Plans (SSPs) established by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA).



Guam Kingfisher

Sneak Peek: Apes of Africa

Go bananas this May! Come to the members-only premiere of the newest exhibit at the Zoo, Apes of Africa. You'll have a chance to observe the Zoo's gorillas and bonobos in their new home, enjoy West African entertainment, and learn about great apes from educational exhibits in the Peck Welcome Center. Extend your Zoo visit with a trip through the Aviary and Aquarium/Reptile House. The Flamingo Cafe Restaurant also will be open. To give you more time and more space to move through the exhibit, we've invited you to one of the two evening premieres. Watch your mail for an invitation.

Primate Presentation

Diane Doran, former director of the Karisoke Research Center, a protected Mountain Gorilla study area in Rwanda, Africa, and Amy Vedder, biodiversity program coordinator for Wildlife Conservation International, will speak on the status of the gorilla in the wild at this summer's International Gorilla Workshop. This lecture—the only part of the workshop open to the public—will be held at 8 p.m., Friday, June 12, at Milwaukee's Hyatt Regency Hotel. Advance tickets are \$4 for Zoological Society members and \$5 for the general public. Tickets will be \$5 at the door. Call the Society at 414/258-2333 for a registration form and more information. Payment should accompany registration form.

Stop In

Before May 1, the Zoological Society office will be open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Beginning May 2, office hours will be Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Please Pass the Offer

This is the time when the Zoological Society recruits new members by mail. While we try to prevent sending recruitment notices to our current members, sometimes it happens. If you receive a recruitment piece this spring, please accept our apology and pass the offer—and your Society endorsement—along to a friend.

Help Us Help You

In spring, about 90 percent of the Zoological Society's 26,500 members renew their memberships. We've upgraded our computers and added staff to be sure you get your new card in three

weeks or less. You can help us maintain this turn-around time by renewing your membership in the Society on your first notice. Renewing early will give you uninterrupted membership benefits and will help us save money and paper.

Picnic at the Zoo

June 11 is the date in June to remember. Come to the Zoo for the once-a-year Night in June Picnic—an evening at the Zoo just for members. The evening will feature entertainment, food from several local restaurants and visits with the Zoo's 5,500 wild animals!

Kids Night

Let your kids know that we've reserved the Zoo just for them on July 23 for Kids Night, a members-only event for kids and their families. Mark your calendar!

Lost Card? Expired Card?

If you've lost your Zoological Society membership card or if you think your membership has expired, call the Society before your next visit to the Zoo. Your call will save you time and money at the Zoo's admission gate.

You're Covered

Remember, member, that your membership card covers only the people in your membership category. Please save time at the Zoo's entrance gates by not sharing your card with people not covered in your membership category. Even if your category includes guest privileges, you may not give your card to a guest for his or her use, but you are most welcome to bring your friends to the Zoo as *your* guest. If you have questions about who's covered on your card, call the Society at 414/258-2333.

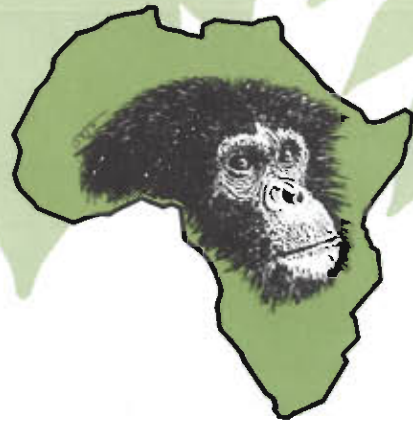
National Geographic Special

Tune in to Channel 10 on Wednesday, April 29, at 9 p.m. for "Braving Alaska," the last National Geographic special of the season. The special, sponsored by the Zoological Society, will take you into the Alaska bush, where modern-day pioneer families endure the hardship of life in the wilderness.

Other Zoos are Free

Because you're a Zoological Society member, you can get into about 140 other U.S. zoos and aquariums for free. Call us at 414/258-2333 for a list of zoos and aquariums that are part of this reciprocal arrangement.





BONOBO BASICS

When you visit Apes of Africa this May, you'll certainly recognize the large, dark animals in the first exhibit as gorillas. And when you get to the building's second exhibit, you'll probably recognize the animals inside as chimpanzees. If this is your best guess, you're close. The sociable, playful inhabitants of this exhibit actually are bonobos, a unique species of chimpanzee.

There is so little scientific information available on this rare species—partly because they live in an extremely remote, inaccessible part of Africa—that not even Webster has a definition for “bonobo.” But over the past couple of decades—and now more than ever—scientists have been committed to understanding the bonobo's natural behavior and ecology and have been developing conservation strategies to help this unique ape survive.

To study the bonobo means to learn about the country and culture surrounding it. Bonobos live in only one small region—a sparsely populated, densely forested equatorial region of Zaire, located in central Africa.

Zaire, the third-largest country in Africa, is one of the world's richest centers of biological diversity and home to the okapi, or forest giraffe, the mountain gorilla, both species of chimpanzees, the forest elephant, black and white rhino and beautiful, lush rain forests.

While rich in natural and biological resources, the economy of Zaire is poorly developed. For instance, the average annual

income for a six-person household is \$209 in U.S. dollars; there is only one doctor per 23,000 persons; the population is growing rapidly; the economy is deteriorating with rampant inflation; and political uprisings continue to threaten the tightly controlled central government of President Mobutu.

Severe economic pressures greatly threaten the remaining rain forest which contains valuable lumber, such as giant mahogany and ebony. Bonobo habitat is quickly being lost to commercial logging, mining and agricultural enterprise. And, bonobos are hunted for food and captured for pet trade, commercial entertainment exploits and biomedical research. Scientists

estimate that there are only between 15 and 20,000 bonobos left in the wild.

Though the social, political and economic pressures in most African nations preclude simple, short-term solutions to wildlife conservation, world-wide conservation organizations have been working to assist Zaire in developing long-term conservation strategies for preserving the bonobo.

Over the past three years, conservation groups have invited professionals involved in all aspects of bonobo care and conservation to international forums to discuss the need for bonobo and chimpanzee protection.



Bonobos are the victims of human degradation. Fewer than 15,000 of these rare apes remain in the wild.

Alive
For KIDS and Families

PULL-OUT SECTION

Kids! When you're finished with the games and puzzles on these pages, get out your crayons and color the animals just like in your coloring books!



Lowland Gorilla

There are three different types of gorillas: Western and Eastern Lowland Gorilla and Mountain Gorilla. The Zoo has Western Lowland Gorillas. This species of gorilla eats leaves and stems supplemented with fruit. Gorillas usually feed during the morning and afternoon and they rest during midday. At night, they sleep in nests made of vegetation, usually built in the trees or on the ground. The gorilla, one of the great apes, is the largest of all living primates. But despite their size, gorillas generally are shy and prefer to be in small groups.

F.Y.I. What is an ape?

Apes are highly developed primates. They have no tails and their arms, used in locomotion, are larger than their legs. Apes include Gibbons, Siamangs, Chimpanzees, Orangutans, Bonobos and Gorillas. The two apes featured in the Apes of Africa Exhibit are:

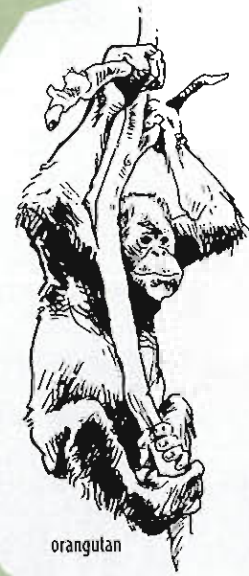
Lowland Gorilla. Male Lowland Gorillas weigh up to 500 pounds and females, up to 250 pounds. A gorilla's average height when

standing is 6 feet for males and 5 feet for females. The wild population of these endangered animals from the tropical rain forests of western Africa is unknown.

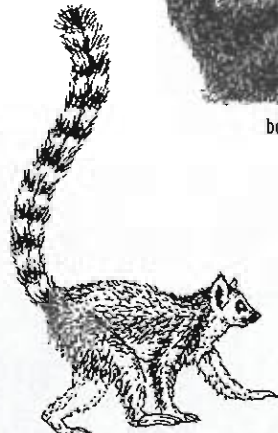
Bonobo. Bonobos are smaller than their close relative, the chimpanzee. When visually compared to a chimp, the bonobo has a distinctly rounder head that is smaller in relation to its body. A bonobo's face is flatter than a chimp's, with a less pronounced brow ridge and muzzle. Less than 20,000 bonobos may exist in the tropical rain forests of western Africa.

Primate Puzzle

Circle the primates that are considered apes.



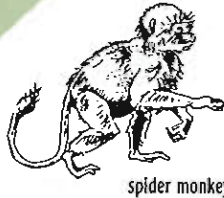
orangutan



bonobo



gorilla



spider monkey



colobus monkey

ring-tailed lemur

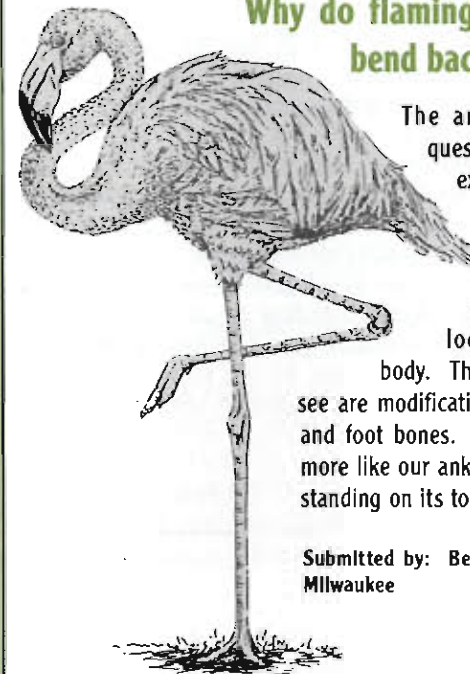
Gorilla or Bonobo?

Connect the dots to find out. Do you know where this primate lives? It lives in the West African tropical rain forest. After you have connected the dots, color in the habitat of this animal. Your connected dots will form either a bonobo or gorilla.



The Curious Corner

Why do flamingos' knees bend backward?



The answer to this question is hard to explain in words.

The bird's true knee bends just like ours, but it is located close to the body. The leg parts that you see are modifications of the lower leg and foot bones. The "false knee" is more like our ankle, so a bird really is standing on its toes.

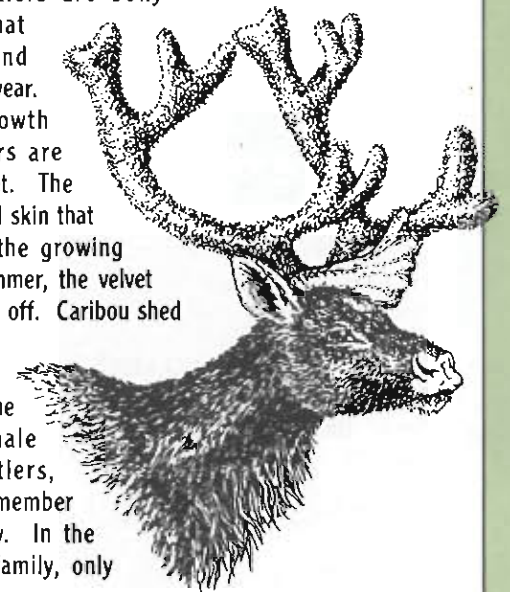
Submitted by: Becky Leichtling, age 5, Milwaukee



Why do caribou have furry antlers?

Depending on when you visit the Zoo, the caribou may have furry antlers, bony antlers or no antlers at all. Antlers are bony structures that are shed and regrown each year.

During the regrowth phase, the antlers are covered with velvet. The velvet is fur-covered skin that carries blood to the growing antler. In late summer, the velvet dries and is rubbed off. Caribou shed their antlers between January and April. Both the female and male caribou have antlers, unlike any other member of the deer family. In the rest of the deer family, only males have antlers.

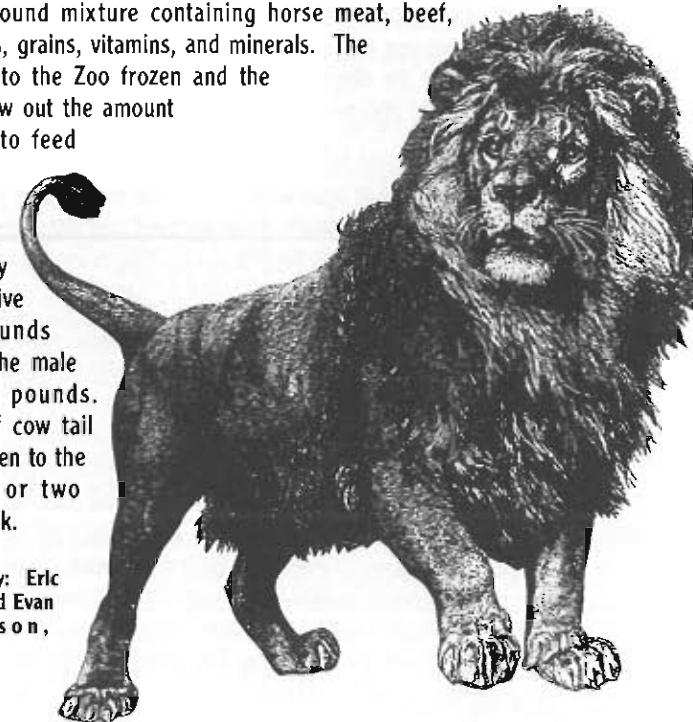


Submitted by: Kelly Mischuk, Waukesha

What do the Zoo's lions eat?

In the wild, lions eat antelope, young hippos, zebras, hartebeest, wildebeest, and other herbivorous (plant-eating) animals. At the Zoo, lions are fed a commercially prepared food called Western II. This mix contains a coarsely ground mixture containing horse meat, beef, turkey, eggs, grains, vitamins, and minerals. The mix comes to the Zoo frozen and the keepers thaw out the amount they need to feed the lions. Female lions are currently being fed five to six pounds each day; the male gets nine pounds. Sections of cow tail also are given to the lions one or two times a week.

Submitted by: Eric Coats, 8, and Evan Fredrickson, Shorewood



We want to hear from you!

If you'd like us to answer your animal questions and you're 12 years old or younger, then write to us:

Curious Corner—Alive
Zoological Society
10005 W. Bluemound Rd
Milwaukee, WI 53226

If we answer your question here, you will receive an inflatable Jungle Giraffe. The 3-foot-tall giraffe comes with fun facts.

Sources: Mary Thiry, Education Department
Kaye Lynne Carpenter, Zoo Pride

Education Programs

Summer Adventure Camps

In-person priority registration for Summer Camps is Saturday, May 2, 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Education Center. If you are coming to register on May 2, enter through the Zoo's main gate, which will open at 8:30 a.m. Tell the gate attendant, "I'm here for camp registration." Park in the lot and proceed to the Education Center. Camp forms will be available there.

For information, or if you cannot attend in-person registration, send one self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope per form needed to: Summer Camps, 10005 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226. Mail-in registrations will be processed starting May 11.

Six-year-olds who have not completed kindergarten should register for classes for ages 4-6. Six-year-olds who have completed kindergarten should register for classes for ages 6-8.

Driving You Batty (Age: 3 (with parent); June 15; July 13, 15; Aug. 5, 6) Bats aren't spooky or scary once you get to know them. Discover the true wonder of these magnificent flying mammals.

Let's Go Ape (Age: 3 (with parent); June 16, 18; July 16; Aug. 4) (Ages: 4-6; June 18, 19; July 13, 14; Aug. 6, 7) Discover the beauty of the rain forest and learn about two of the apes that live there - the lowland gorillas and the bonobos.

Ocean Treasures (Ages: 4-6; June 15, 16; July 15, 16; Aug. 3, 4) The ocean is a treasure chest of living things. We'll learn how these animals live in their watery world and visit their zoo homes.

Junior Zoo Keepers (Ages: 4-6; June 29, 30; July 6-10; Aug. 17-19) Become a Junior Zoo Keeper for the day! Learn hands-on what it takes to work at the Zoo.

Family Fun in the Summer Sun (Ages: 6+ (with family), July 18) Spend a day with your family at the Zoo exploring the animal world, picnicking, playing games and doing crafts.

Animal Athletes (Ages: 6-8; June 29, July 29, Aug. 19) Participate in Animal Olympics and find out which animal is the fastest, the best jumper, the strongest, and more.

Crafty Animals (Ages: 7-9; June 22; July 9, 20, 21, 23; Aug. 10, 13, 14) Animals always have been a favorite subject of artists. Make animal crafts and much more.

Into Africa (Ages: 6-8 & 9-12; June 22-26) Explore the mysteries of the dark continent and the animals that live there, with a special look at our Great Apes.

Go West...and East and North and South (Ages: 6-8 & 9-12; July 20-24) On the centennial anniversary of the Milwaukee County Zoo, it's time to rediscover the incredible variety of

animal life around us. From Costa Rican cockroaches to moose, Americas await us.

Venture Down Under (Ages: 6-8 & 9-12; Aug. 10-14) Australia means kangaroos, kookaburras and much, much more. Close your eyes and imagine yourself in the outback.

Birds of Prey (Ages: 6-8; June 17, July 9, Aug. 17; Ages: 9-13; June 30, July 14, Aug. 18) These unique masters of flight and hunting will have you thinking about birds in a whole new way.

Environmental Scientist (Ages: 6-8; June 15, July 6, Aug. 3; Ages: 9-13; June 19, July 7, Aug. 7) You have heard about the problems nature is facing, but how do you know it's true? Examine the Zoo's environment and perform some scientific experiments.

New Zoos By You (Ages: 6-8; July 2, 27, 30; Ages: 9-12; July 8, 28) Take a trip through time to see how zoos have grown through the centuries - from rows of metal cages to natural habitats.

Alaska - A Northern Exposure (Ages: 6-8; July 1, Aug. 18; Ages: 9-15; July 2, Aug. 19; Ages: 6+ (with family); July 25) Discover the "Last Frontier," its land, animals, people, and problems.

Lincoln Park Zoo - For Kids Only! (Ages: 8-13; July 17) Pack your bags! Well, not really. You don't even need to pack your lunch because we'll have it there. Join us for a trip to the Lincoln Park Zoo.

Career Days (Ages: 9-11, July 10; Ages: 12-14, July 1) Have you ever wanted to work at the zoo? Get a close-up look at all of the different jobs that it takes to keep a zoo running and how to prepare if the zoo is in your future.

Veterinary Camp (Ages: 9-12; July 1, 2, 27-30) Learn about veterinary careers and techniques, the difficulties of caring for the zoo's exotic animals, and ways our vets manage to keep the animals healthy.

Grown-Ups Need Summer Camps Too! (Ages: 18 and up, Aug. 8) Discover your youth all over again while exploring the Zoo and get the information that will help you share the Zoo with children in new ways.

High School Internships

Society members, age 14-17 interested in educational or biological science careers, are invited to apply for summer internships. Selected interns will spend a fun-filled two weeks assisting with educational activities. Interested? Apply by April 30. Send a note asking for a High School Internship application to: Zoological Society, Education, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

The Fabric of Friendship

Stitched into the rain forest quilt made by the women at Villa St. Francis are memories for a lifetime.

Last December, Jan Nichols, a fifth-grade teacher at Franklin's Sacred Heart School, hand-delivered 30 squares of fabric, filled with hand-drawn and -colored pictures of animals of the tropical rain forest—from parrots to monkeys—to Villa St. Francis, where the quilt was assembled.

Students in Nichols' class spent about a month sketching, coloring and learning about animals of the rain forest; and their partners at Villa St. Francis spent about the same amount of time putting the squares together as part of the Zoological Society's Intergenerational Quilt Project, commemorating the May opening of the Zoo's newest exhibit, Apes of Africa.

"The program really helped teach the kids how to work together," Nichols said. "At first, almost all of the students wanted to draw parrots; finally, we got them to explore other options, like monkeys and apes."

The Quilt Project wove new relationships among quilters, too. "This project gave our residents a chance to develop independent skills and build camaraderie with each other," said Scott Ebert, activity director for Villa St. Francis. "We even had some residents come in on unscheduled time to work on the quilt."

Residents from Villa St. Francis and students from Sacred Heart will meet for the first time at Intergenerational Days to be held this month at the Zoo. The reunion also will recognize residents from the 17 other senior centers and nursing homes and students from the 17 other schools who participated in the Quilt Project, funded by Unicare Health Facilities.

Some of the quilts made through the Quilt Project will be part of a silent auction in the Peck Welcome Center during the Zoological Society's Night in June membership picnic on Thursday, June 11. Please bid high. Proceeds benefit the Zoological Society.



Lydia (left) and Mary Sazama, residents at Milwaukee's Villa St. Francis, a community-based resident facility, sew around pictures of rain forest animals drawn by students from Franklin's Sacred Heart School as part of the Zoological Society's Quilt Project, commemorating the May opening of Apes of Africa.

As a result of these discussions, an international task force has been set up under the auspices of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The first phase of the task force's activities will focus on organizing surveys that will define the current status of wild bonobo populations and their remaining habitat and establishing protected areas and research sites.

Conserving the bonobo requires the cooperation of many people and organizations, including zoos. Zoos are committed to an international breeding program, called a Species Survival Plan (SSP), designed to manage the captive population for long-term survival and to assist conservation efforts in the wild. The SSP has been supported by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County since its inception four years ago. "Because the captive bonobo population is so small, with fewer than 90 individuals, genetic management and improved husbandry is crucial to insuring the survival of multiple generations in captivity," said Gay Reinartz, the Zoological Society's conservation coordinator.

But the most powerful conservation tool in the hands of zoos is education—the potential to educate thousands of people about the natural heritage of the bonobo. "Increased awareness can lead to increased interest in conserving the bonobo," Reinartz said. "People seldom want to conserve something they do not know or love."

BACKGROUND ON THE BONOBO'S WILD AND CAPTIVE STATUS FOR THIS STORY WAS RESEARCHED AND PROVIDED BY GAY REINARTZ, THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S CONSERVATION COORDINATOR.

S. Savage/Rumbaugh, Language Research Center, Georgia State University



A Tale of Two Trips

For years Bruce Beehler, deputy zoo director, and Elizabeth Frank, curator of large mammals, have been learning all they can about managing animals in captivity and how that

knowledge can help animals in the wild. They've participated in cooperative animal management programs among North American zoos; they've experimented with new animal management techniques at our

zoo and other zoos; and they've worked hard to improve the physical and psychological conditions of animals in captivity.

But what about zoo professionals in developing nations who have limited or no access to the advanced information-sharing systems and latest animal management technology so readily available to zoo professionals working in developed countries?

Late last year, Beehler and

Frank got a chance to answer that question by sharing their expertise with zoo professionals from two developing countries—China and

China, respectively—through the Smithsonian-sponsored Zoo Biology and Animal Management Training Program. The four-week program, conceived by Dr. Christian Wemmer of the National Zoo and co-developed by Dr. Andrew Teare, Milwaukee County Zoo senior staff veterinarian, and Charles Pickett, National Zoo ornithologist, sends a group of American zoo professionals—each with a different area of expertise—to developing countries to teach zoo professionals modern animal management and conservation techniques.

A look at Beehler's and Frank's separate experiences in zoos across the globe shows just how wide the animal management knowledge gap between

cultures really is and how narrow it can become.

Colombia

For Beehler, hiking in areas of guerilla activity, driving in neighborhoods dotted with guards and drug lords, passing by soldier-protected dams and watching areas of forest disappear for farms and timber were only sidelights of his trip to Colombia. Visiting the tropical rain forest, meeting enthusiastic zoo and wildlife professionals, and teaching for three weeks at the Cali Zoo—one of the best zoos in South America—were the real highlights of his trip.

The Zoo, located on the slopes of the Andes Mountains, is filled with lush vegetation, spacious exhibits with large yards, and healthy animals, many of which are confiscated or donated pets from the surrounding rain forests. Because almost all the animals are tropical, there are no indoor exhibits. All animals typically are exhibited at ground level inside chain-link fence enclosures.

"While we were inside the Zoo, it was fascinating to look up and see beautiful birds that weren't even part of the exhibits," Beehler said, noting that

Colombia has more species of native birds than any other country in the world. Though uncommon to Beehler, the wild birds were an ordinary part of everyday life



Bruce Beehler works with Margaret Michaels, the Zoo's veterinary technician, to draw a blood sample from Obsus, the Zoo's young adult male gorilla.

ON THE JOB

Bruce Beehler, Deputy Zoo Director
Milwaukee County Zoo

Bruce Beehler is a man with a mission: to work with Milwaukee County and the Zoological Society to make a more significant contribution to the zoological community's conservation and research efforts.

"We're presently involved in formal Species Survival Plans for 24 animal species and, with significant help from the Society, we've come a long way in educating zoo visitors through signage and other graphics in the park," Beehler said. "We've made great strides toward building a better zoo with contributions to the Capital Campaign and with the generous support of so many people, and I see it continuing."

But he also realizes that the Zoo, in its present location, is 30 years old and that some areas—infrastructure, mostly—need improvement. "If all of us can manage to balance the importance of answering phones, radios and beepers with keeping our eyes on the future, we'll be able to build a zoo that will benefit the animals and Milwaukee for decades."

for the 28 students participating in the Colombian animal management training course.

Beehler, who led the course, joined 10 other instructors from zoos across the United States to help the students—from Colombia, Venezuela, Panama, Peru and Ecuador—learn about everything from mammal, bird and reptile management to

animal nutrition to zoo visitor education.

A review of the students' five class projects on each of these topics points to the program's success. Students doing a project on reptile management, for instance, went home with an entire management plan for their zoo's reptile collection—complete with guidelines on how to handle venomous

continued on next page

ON THE JOB

Elizabeth Frank, Curator
Large Mammals
Milwaukee County Zoo

When Elizabeth (Bess) Frank stepped in as assistant general curator of the Zoo five years ago, she took a job that could potentially influence the complexion of the Zoo forever. After all, she is responsible for animals that take up most of the Zoo's space.

Deciding when to remove a tiger's birth control implant, whether to replace the Zoo's hyena group, how to get a new kangaroo from Indianapolis to Milwaukee, when to purchase a new male



Elizabeth (Bess) Frank is dwarfed by Jenny, one of the Zoo's female Reticulated Giraffes looking for a treat.

Thomson Gazelle, and how to compile the Zoo's Pachyderm Collection Plan is all in a day's work for Frank. Well, almost a day's work.

Frank's daily work schedule is intense and peppered with quandaries like these, but when she needs help, she dials any of the many friends she's made across the country after 18 years in the zoo business. "It feels good to be connected to an international community of captive and wild [animal] population managers," Frank said. "We're all working toward the one goal of preserving the animals."

snakes, how to display animals and when to request veterinary care. Other students went back to their zoos with detailed, balanced diets for several South



change in the attitudes of the native peoples they represented. "The students have such a tremendous capacity to spread to the zoo visitor the conservation messages we taught in the course," Beehler said. "Often, people don't fully understand the long-term consequences of their destructive use of the land."

China

When immersed in a culture that makes traditional medicines from animal parts and believes wildlife should be utilized, Frank knew she needed to temporarily adjust her perspective on zoos just to understand the students in her training course, held at China's Shanghai Zoo. "The Chinese tend to think of all wildlife in agricultural terms," Frank said.

Though this was Frank's second trip to China, adjusting to the Chinese way of thinking, teaching her classes through a translator, and getting used to the uniqueness of China were the most challenging parts of the trip, she said. However, the program's 40 students, from 25 different zoos throughout China—some from as far away as the Soviet border—came to the course eager to learn and willing to help



ease the Chinese-American cultural barriers.

Frank joined three other American and one Canadian course instructor to help guide the students—from zoo directors to keepers with three months to 37 years of experience—through projects on small mammal exhibitry; penguin identification, breeding and diet; chimpanzee behavioral enrichment programs; and veterinary protocol guidelines for red pandas. Through slow, deliberate translations, each part of the course was taught and learned—one message at a time—by both English- and non-English-speaking students in the course.

Since her return to Milwaukee, Frank has been working with the other American course instructors on compiling tips on communicating and living with the Chinese for future course instructors sent to the country. "We hope our manual makes the transitions we needed to make a little easier," Frank said. She also is working on getting students answers to their questions on our Zoo's snow leopards, penguins and vulture breeding programs.

Frank and Beehler agree that, despite the cultural differences both of them

faced in places thousands of miles apart, the course brought 68 people together for the ultimate benefit of animals—in zoos and in the wild. Beehler said, "When you think of what our connections to zoos across our country have meant in terms of cooperating with each other on Species Survival Plans and other projects, you can imagine what building relationships across the oceans can mean over the next several years."



Be a Primate Prider

When you come to the Zoo for the premiere of the new Apes of Africa exhibit, chances are, the people in khaki who will be answering your questions about the animals are Zoo Pride volunteers.

You can help zoo-goers learn about the Zoo's primates—from their diet to their social structure—by becoming a Zoo Pride volunteer. Volunteers who work on the Primate Committee of Zoo Pride, the volunteer auxiliary of the Zoological Society, say spending a morning or an afternoon a week at the Zoo answering questions from the public like, "How much do the gorillas weigh?" and "What are the bonobos' names?" makes volunteering at the Zoo worthwhile.

"We're especially excited about working in the new Apes of Africa exhibit," said Chris Stransky, chairman of Zoo Pride's Primate Committee. "We've waited a long time for this building to open." Stransky and her vice-chairs, Maddy Howard and Bernie O'Reilly, are longtime friends of the Zoological Society.

If you want to become a Primate Committee volunteer or join any of Zoo Pride's 24 other committees, call 414/258-5667 to sign up for this spring's training sessions. Zoo Pride needs your help!

Happy Birthday to Zoo

This year, give your children more for their birthday than cake, ice cream and party games in the kitchen by replacing your home with ours. Make the Zoo the site for your next party! Zoo Pride's Birthday Committee volunteers will put the focus on your child and make sure it's a birthday he or she will never forget. The Birthday Committee, chaired by Judy Berry, will arrange for your special child to get a personalized cake and birthday gift and for each guest at the birthday table to get a special remembrance gift. Volunteers also will coordinate a mini-Zoo tour, games and activities for your group. Call 414/258-5667 to have us help you celebrate your child's special day.

American Airlines Presents: Zoo Ball IX

Zoo Ball IX, "An Odyssey: From Stone Age to Space Age," will take you on a trip through time. To be held Saturday, June 27, Zoo Ball will launch guests from the Paleolithic Period and send them rocketing through outer space. The trip will begin inside the South American Yard with cave drinks, appetizers and a silent auction and end in the future (a laser-masked Peck Welcome Center) for a sit-down dinner and dancing. Tickets to Zoo Ball, sponsored by American Airlines, are \$175 per person. Proceeds will help renovate the Australia Exhibit, future home of the koalas. To make a reservation, call 414/258-2333.

Zoo Ball IX co-chairs (left to right) Patty Cadorin, Bill Moomey, Sandi Moomey and Paul Cadorin review artwork for Zoo Ball IX.



Anthropoid Admirers

The Zoo's gorillas and bonobos have a new home, thanks to the generous contributions of many friends of the Zoological Society. The Apes of Africa, equally funded through the Society and Milwaukee County, is part of a \$10.7 million Primate Complex and is the largest project of the \$26 million Capital Improvements Campaign. The Zoo's entire bonobo family and two gorillas, Linda and Ngajji, were donated by the Zoological Society; Femelle, the Zoo's oldest female gorilla is on loan from the National Zoo; and Obsus, the Zoo's male gorilla, was donated by James Keuhn of Wiscold. Tino, a male gorilla on loan to Salt Lake City's Hogle Park, was purchased by Ross Stearns.

Apes of Africa contributors present the new exhibit at the February fundraiser, Bon APeTite (back row, left to right): Mr. Charles Krause and Mrs. and Mr. Scott Miller; (front row, left to right): Mrs. Charles Krause; Mrs. Robert A. Uihlein, Jr.; and Mr. James Kuehn.



Sponsor Spotlight

THE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY THANKS....

Badger Meter, Beatrice Cheese, Cleaver Family Foundation, Friends of Bill Messinger, Marquette Electronics Foundation, Miller Brewing Co., Warner Cable Communications, and the Associate Board of the Zoological Society for supporting the Society's Ambassador Program (watch for more details in the next issue of Alive)

McDonald's for contributing 5,000 books on the tropical rain forest to school children studying the rain forest through Zoological Society education programs and for supporting the Zoo's Winter Wonderland Weekend.

Beatrice Cheese, Inc. for underwriting the Society's Animal Mask-grade. **Unicare Health Facilities** for sponsoring the Society's Quilt Project (see story, page 11)

Little Caesars Pizza for sponsoring Mother's Day at the Zoo.

The Platypus Society is a group of about 350 of Milwaukee's foundations, corporations and individuals that contribute more than \$300,000 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 public about the importance of conserving wildlife and the environment and conserving endangered species, call Judi Bessette at (414)258-2333.

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Christin Cleaver
Vice President,
Zoological Society of
Milwaukee County
Associate Board
Joe Goldberger
Attorney

"Our involvement in the Milwaukee County Zoological Society was a logical outgrowth of our love for animals and our belief that the Zoological Society plays an important role in

promoting conservation and educating the public.

The Society, with the assistance of Platypus members, helps to provide our entire community with access to this valuable resource through new and exciting means such as the Animal Ambassador program.

Membership in the Platypus Society is a great way to provide continuing support for the Society's mission and to participate along with the Society to insure that the Zoo continues as a valuable asset to our community."



Thomas M. Wamser
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Corporation

"Beck Carton Corporation strongly supports the Zoological Society and the Milwaukee County Zoo through the Platypus

Society for several reasons. First, we recognize the Zoo as being an integral part of our community and the importance of maintaining its growth and success. Secondly, there is a great need to continue educating the public about the significance of conservation and preservation of our wildlife and its relationship to us. Lastly, Beck Carton is proud to be part of a large group of people committed to an institution that can be enjoyed by everyone in our community while also striving to save our endangered wildlife and enhancing the lives of captive animals."

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*5-year Platypus Society Member
(updated each summer)

NEW MEMBERS

The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of March 2:

- \$1,000-\$1,499 Corporate**
Direct Marketing Concepts
Mesick, Steffes & Krueger, S.C.
- \$500-\$999 Patron**
Paul & Patty Cadarin
Ben & Lee Kordus
Frederick Ott

Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after March 2, 1992 will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.

NEW GIFT LEVELS

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

- Silver Patron**
\$2,500-\$3,499
Schwabe Construction
- \$1,500-\$1,999 Patron**
*Diane O'Connor
- \$1,000-\$1,499 Corporate**
*Helwig Carbon Products

Take a Tourmate

Be one of the first in the country to experience a Tourmate audio adventure and gather hundreds of interesting and educational animal and zoo facts at the same time. The Milwaukee County Zoo is the first zoo in North America to offer Tourmate, an electronic tour guide, to its visitors. To rent a Tourmate, visit the Zoo Gift Shop or the kiosk at the front entrance. Rentals are \$3 per person or \$2.50 per family (four or more).

100 Years of Fun

The Milwaukee County Zoo is celebrating its 100th anniversary this July, and you can help make it a spectacular success. The Zoo needs your old photos, mementos, and any interesting experiences that help tell the story of the Zoo's 100-year existence. Anything from the Zoo's early days at Washington Park to the Zoo's present-day grandeur will be considered for use in displays and exhibits documenting the 100-year history of the Zoo. All photos should be reproductions, as photos will become the property of the Zoo. Special arrangements will be made for mementos. Send your memories in writing to Kris Milo, Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

Mother's Day

Zoological Society members, invite the moms you know to go wild this Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, with free admission to the Zoo. Mother's Day is on the day after the new Apes of Africa exhibit opens to the public. All mothers with a coupon from Little Caesars will be admitted free all day. Call 414/256-5412 for sponsoring locations.

Conservation Weekend

Learn how to help the earth survive and exist at the Zoo's Conservation Weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 30-31. Many exhibits featuring a wide variety of animal and environmental conservation issues will be located throughout the Zoo. Don't miss special exhibits featuring the Boy Scouts.

Father's Day

Tell all the dads you know, too, to come to the Zoo for free on Father's Day, June 21. Call 414/256-5411 to find out where dads can get free admission passes.

Tri City National Banks presents Tunes on the Terrace

Tune in to celebration and fun this summer when the Milwaukee County Zoo and Tri City Banks present Tunes on the Terrace. Help yourself get through the long summer work weeks, take a break from your hectic schedule, and live it up with fun, food and music on these Wednesdays in July: July 8, 15, 22 and 29. A different band and musical style will be featured each week. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. Call 414/256-5412 for a list of scheduled entertainment.

Olive Garden Egg Days

Hop to the Zoo for Olive Garden Egg Days Saturday and Sunday, April 18 and 19. Activities include eggstra-special crafts, a parade and prize drawing, and an egg-citing egg hunt, co-sponsored by WMYX and WEMP. For information, call 414/256-5412.



Crowned Lapwing

Aviary

Born: February 3, 1992

The Aviary's African Savannah exhibit looks a little fuller with the birth of three Crowned Lapwing chicks within only a year of the opening of the newly renovated Aviary. The first Crowned Lapwing chick, born in December, was one of the first birds in the new Aviary to be incubated, hatched and reared while on public display. Crowned Lapwings, found in the arid regions of Africa, Ethiopia and Angola, make excellent exhibit birds because of their beauty, gregarious nature and boisterous calls.

Source: Ed Diebold,
Curator, Birds

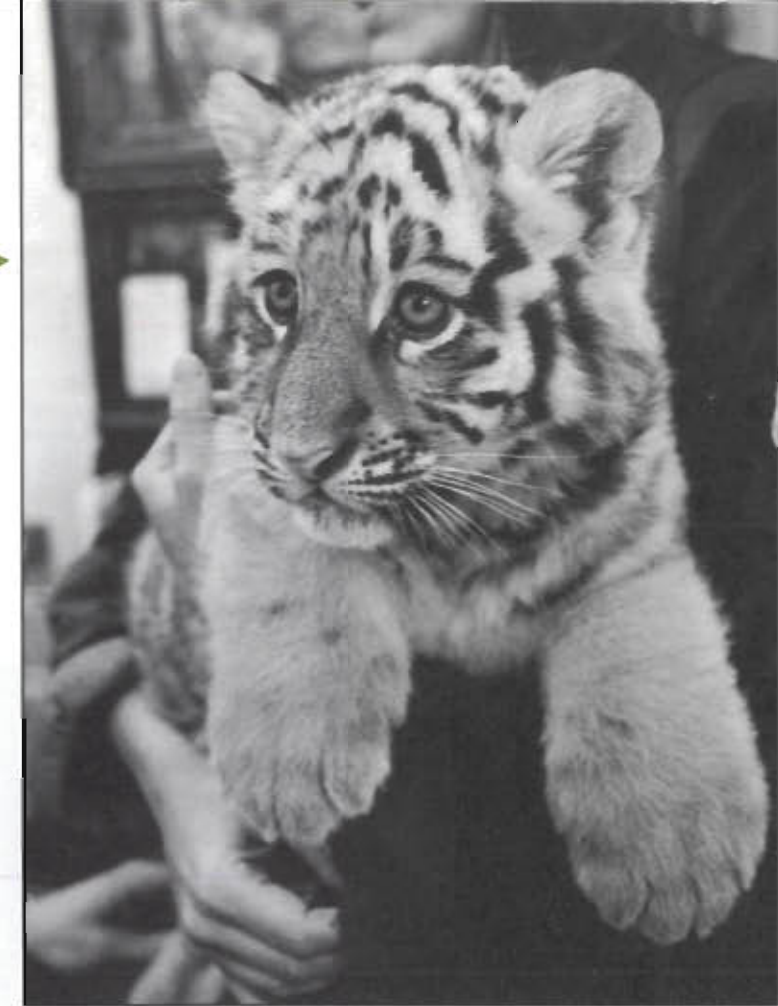
Siberian Tiger

Feline Building

Born: November 3, 1991

The bad news is that overdevelopment, deforestation and poaching in the Siberian Tiger's native Russia have reduced the number of these beautiful cats in the wild to a few hundred. The good news is that the Milwaukee County Zoo is working to save this tiger by participating in a Species Survival Plan (SSP) established to protect and manage the species in captivity. Sinda (pictured here) and her twin sister, Katiana—named after a small town in Russia—were conceived shortly after Zoo staff, according to an SSP recommendation, removed a birth control implant from their mother, Sheena, last February.

Source: Neil Dretzka, Area Supervisor, Felines



Cuban Iguana

Aquarium/Reptile Building (off exhibit, in quarantine)

Acquired: August 23, 1991

These two iguanas have a reason for looking so stoic. Many of their distant relatives back home have become extinct. The Cuban Iguana, one of the larger lizard species in the world, is prey to island dogs, cats, goats and even man, who use the iguana as a source of food. The Cuban Iguana, found mostly in Cuba and on the Cayman Islands, can only be found in captivity at our Zoo and seven others in the United States. Through the Species Survival Plan (SSP) that is being developed for all Cuban Iguanas, the Zoo will be able to make even more significant contributions toward preserving this important species.

Source: Rich Sajdak, Curator, Aquarium/Reptile



Spurred Tortoise

Aquarium/Reptile Building (winter)

Bongo Yard (summer)

Acquired: July 30, 1991

Almost as charming as the Zoo's Siberian Tiger cubs, this Spurred Tortoise, the largest African Tortoise, faces about as bleak a future. Overgrazing and overplowing continue to threaten the species' native habitat, the Sahel region of Sub-Saharan Africa, which extends from southern Mauritania and northern Senegal eastward to northern Ethiopia. Unfortunately, none of these regions has ever been selected for proclamation as a national park or reserve. During the Sahel region's dry season, the Spurred Tortoise uses its scale-covered, shovel-like forelimbs to excavate burrows for shelter.

Source: Rich Sajdak, Curator, Aquarium/Reptile



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