



Alive

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Giant Bugs Come Alive This Summer

A Rainy Day at the Zoo

Helping Animals All Over the World

Interns Get On-the-Job Training



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

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At the Zoological Society, we obviously care a lot about animals. But we also care about people, especially the many people our organization touches. In fall, the Zoological Society joined the Milwaukee County Zoo as a host site for Project SEARCH. This program allows young adults with developmental disabilities to become interns for the Zoo and Society, giving them real-world job experience and helping them learn vital skills such as time management, problem-solving and handling social interactions in the workplace. We are proud to participate in this program with the Zoo and thrilled with the results so far. You can read more about Project SEARCH on page 4.

That's not the only way we develop career skills in young people. Check out page 14 to read a story about Katie Klestinski, who will join our Education Department this year as a Zoo Summer Camp instructor. Klestinski grew up going to Zoo Camps and spent two years as an intern with the Education Department. She says her internships here helped her achieve her goal of becoming a kindergarten teacher. (By the way, it's not too late to sign up for Zoo Camps - visit zoosociety.org/summer to learn more.)

You will also find plenty of animals in this issue, including bugs (page 3), penguins (page 9) and lions (page 15). Check out page 12 for a world map noting many of the places where the Zoo and Zoological Society work to conserve animal species. You can even enjoy pictures of a rainy day at the Zoo on page 6. We hope to see you often at the Zoo this spring and summer, whatever the weather!

Caroline V. Krider

Caroline V. Krider
 Zoological Society Board Chairman

Alive

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On the Cover: A silver-spotted skipper butterfly photographed at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Photo by Bob Wickland



HONEY,

WE SHRUNK THE ZOO VISITORS

Imagine you've been shrunk to the size of a speck barely visible to the naked eye. Nearby, you see a seven-spot ladybird raising its wings, a red-tailed bumblebee sucking nectar from a daisy, a Say's firefly lighting up the sky. You notice every spot on a Madagascan sunset moth and every hair on a Mexican red-kneed tarantula. This summer, you can experience that for yourself – without the fear of, say, being eaten by an emperor scorpion – at the Milwaukee County Zoo's special summer exhibit on bugs.

BUGS! Larger than Life, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, features 13 animatronic insects and arachnids (spiders and scorpions) that have been enlarged anywhere from 60 to 200 times their normal size. The exhibit runs May 28 to Sept. 5. It was created in 2013 by Billings Productions, Inc., the same company that created last summer's dinosaur exhibit. Billings realized many zoos had created dedicated spaces for its dinosaur exhibits, and it wanted to offer another way to use that space, says Robby Gilbert, Billings director of exhibit displays. It asked zoos and conservation organizations for ideas. "Giant insects always stayed near the front of the list, so we developed the exhibit with help from several zoos. We asked for help with creatures that would best represent things that people want to see."

The company chose bugs from around the world, focusing on ones that are especially colorful, unique or just plain cool. For example, bombardier beetles spray burning chemicals from their backsides. In the Billings exhibit, the robotic beetle shoots water. When it came time to choose a lightning bug, the planners had lots to choose from. "There are 2,000 types of lightning bugs

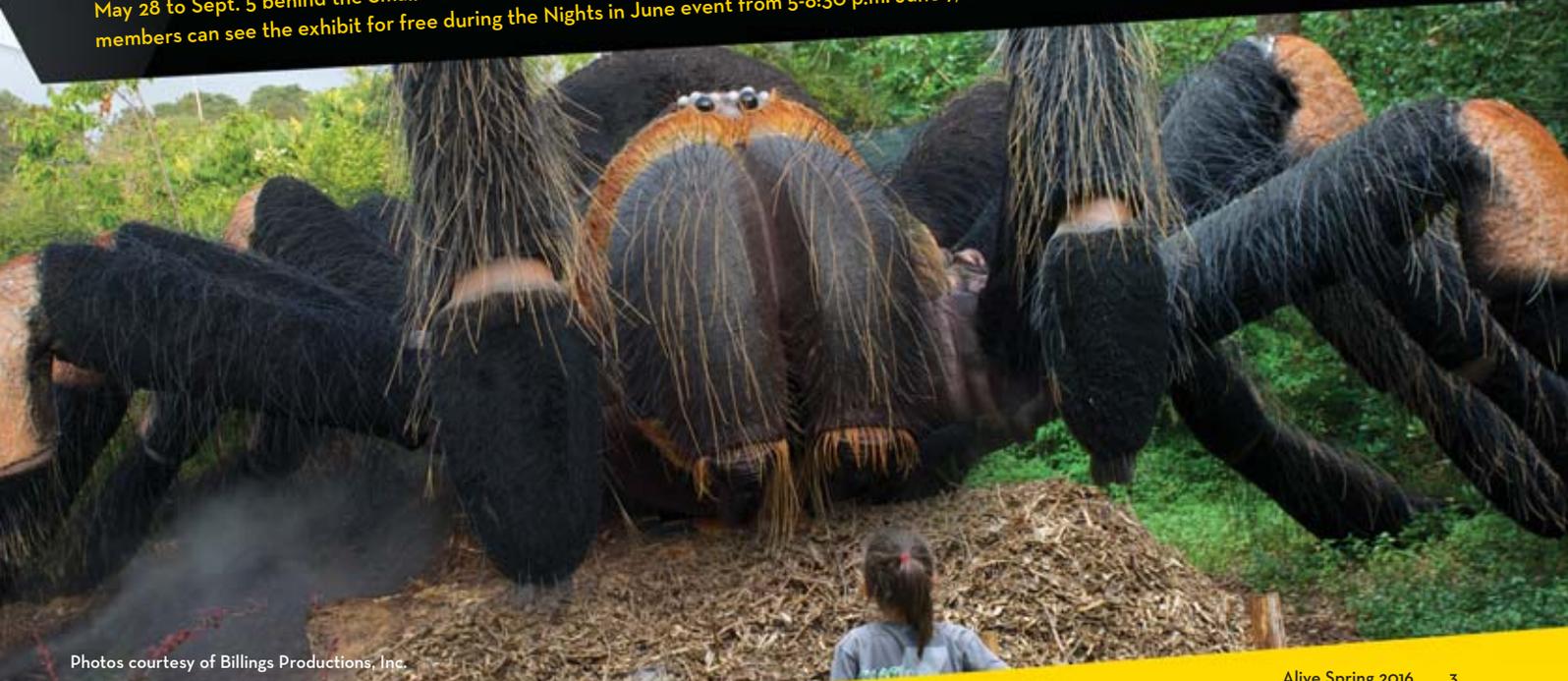
found all over the world," Gilbert says. "They have different ways they light to differentiate themselves from other species. Some males actually flash as if they're females to get rival males out of the way." The company eventually built a Say's firefly that comes with a battery visitors can activate by turning a crank.

Unlike dinosaurs, the bugs in this summer's exhibit are still around today. This means designers had more information to work with but also faced more pressure to get the details exactly right, Gilbert says. "We really did have to look harder and closer to make sure our sculptures were accurate." They reached out to entomologists, or bug scientists, and when possible ordered specimens they could examine under a microscope. "We actually have a couple of tarantulas in our office now as pets," Gilbert says.

The Zoo is working hard to make sure the exhibit is exciting and informative, says Jourdain LaFrombois, Zoo special programs coordinator. "We're working to create an experience that's going to make you feel as though you're shrinking as you pass through," he says. Kohl's Wild Theater actors will entertain crowds at the exhibit daily. The exhibit will even offer an augmented reality component, allowing people to use their smartphones to see the giant bugs moving in their natural habitats. "It winds up being an eye-opening experience for the kids," Gilbert says. "You see all these features that you can't see with the naked eye."

By Stacy Vogel Davis

IF YOU GO: BUGS! Larger than Life, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, runs May 28 to Sept. 5 behind the Small Mammals Building. Admission is \$2.50 per person. Zoo Pass members can see the exhibit for free during the Nights in June event from 5-8:30 p.m. June 7, 8 and 9.



SETTING THEM UP FOR **Success**



2015-16 Project SEARCH interns and their coaches.

It's a warmer-than-usual January day at the Milwaukee County Zoo, but Dan Saubers isn't outside enjoying the fresh air. Instead, he's in a garage painting carts white, green and black as a member of the Zoo's grounds crew. "It's not bad painting, because you can always learn new things," he says. On colder days, Saubers might put down salt or plow snow from the walkways. "I like being outside seeing the animals and seeing little kids running around, having a good time."

Saubers, 19, of Brookfield, is getting a taste of work at the Zoo this year as one of 12 interns with Project SEARCH, a program that helps people with developmental disabilities acquire job skills and employment. The Milwaukee County Zoo, together with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, became a host site for the program in fall 2015.

The transition from school to work is tough for any young adult, but people with developmental disabilities face particular challenges, says Shelly Niebler, Project SEARCH instructor at the Zoo. "They might struggle with managing social interactions in the workplace," she says. "They might struggle with accuracy and speed in certain tasks, time management, problem-solving and decision-making." Project SEARCH allows participants ages 18-24 to work on those skills. Interns go through three 10-week rotations in different areas of the Zoo and Zoological Society, such as food service, animal buildings, education and administration.

They work 20-25 hours per week and attend a classroom component before and after work each day.

Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Wisconsin approached the Zoo about starting a Project SEARCH site after receiving a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, says Christine Schulz, Goodwill manager of supported employment and community access services. "We were looking for an employer that is community-minded, diverse and different from what was already offered," she says. Project SEARCH was developed at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 1996, and many of the existing sites are hospitals. The Milwaukee County Zoo is only the second zoo in the nation to participate and one of 14 sites in Wisconsin. "The Zoo has such a great presence in the community," Schulz says. "It really made sense." Project SEARCH succeeds through a collaboration among several partners, including educational organizations, local school districts, vocational rehabilitation services, long-term support organizations and a supported employment provider. The Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) #1 provides the classroom component and educational coaching while the Wisconsin Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Health and Human Services provide the vocational counseling and funding support.

Left to right: King Hall organizes materials in the Zoological Society Education Department. Mikayla Malewicki prepares food for the animals in the Aquatic & Reptile Center. Dan Saubers washes dishes. Terra DeBruin keeps the windows clean in the U.S. Bank Gathering Place.



The Zoo already offered opportunities for people with developmental disabilities to work as seasonal employees, but Project SEARCH takes it a step further, says Zoo Director Chuck Wikenhauser. “I really think it’s important that if you want a job, you’re able to find a job that fits your abilities,” he says. “This gives us an opportunity to train people and really make a difference in their lives by helping them find meaningful work.”

Brandon Johnson, 23, of Milwaukee, says he learned a variety of skills in his first rotation with the Zoological Society by helping with mailing, customer service, cleaning and other office tasks. “It was a lot of interesting work in areas I wasn’t familiar with,” he says. Saubers says he learned to be efficient and productive during his first rotation in food service. “You should always be busy and figure out what needs to be done. Don’t just stand around – always do something.” Just being around other employees lets the interns practice social interaction and observe appropriate workplace behavior, Niebler says. “We’ve seen huge improvement in the skills and behavior in the work setting.”

The interns are assets to the Zoo and Zoological Society as well, says Robin Higgins, Society vice president of communications, marketing and membership. “We are an inclusive organization, and the program helps our staff understand that everybody can use different skills to move the organization forward.” She described one intern who was quiet and shy when

she began, yet asked to speak to the whole department on her last day to say good-bye and thanks. “I was so proud of her,” Higgins says. Cindy Gray, membership services supervisor, says working with the interns has taught her patience and opened her eyes to what people with disabilities can accomplish. “It’s very rewarding to see their self-confidence building,” she says.

Project SEARCH doesn’t end with the nine-month internship. Vocational coaches from Goodwill will help the interns with job placement afterward and can coach them for up to six months when they start new jobs. In Wisconsin, Project SEARCH has placed 87 percent of participants in successful employment, defined as 16 hours per week or more of paid employment in an integrated workplace. This year’s interns already are thinking about what they want to do when the internship ends, and it’s clear their experiences at the Zoo have influenced them. Johnson says he’d like to work in a mailroom or stockroom, while Saubers wants to continue to work outside. “They will bring the skills and work ethic they’re learning here to their next employer,” Schulz says. “This program is setting them up for success.”

By Stacy Vogel Davis

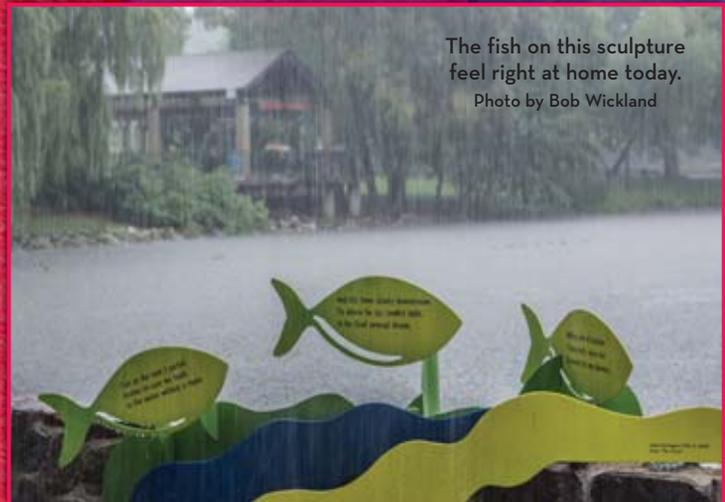
A Rainy Day at the Zoo

Kids know there's nothing more fun than splashing around in the rain on a warm summer day. And there's no better place to do that than the Milwaukee County Zoo! The Zoo can be a lot of fun in the rain, says Chuck Wikenhauser, Zoo director – just make sure to bring your rain boots. “We have lots of opportunities for puddles around here,” he says. “No matter what the parents say, the kids always jump right in.”

The Zoo is less crowded on rainy days. Many of the animals – including birds, fish, reptiles, primates and big cats – are found indoors, so you can take shelter if it starts pouring. And you'll see plenty of animals outside, too – they know that a little rain won't hurt them! Plus, a rainy day is a great excuse to pull out a silly animal-shaped umbrella.



Miles R., 3, of West Bend, brought his rain boots and a ducky umbrella for a rainy day at the Zoo. Photo by Bob Wickland



The fish on this sculpture feel right at home today. Photo by Bob Wickland



African elephant Brittany enjoys the refreshing rain. Photo by Bob Wickland



A family visits the Bactrian camels. Photo by Bob Wickland



A peacock takes shelter from a downpour.
Photo by Bob Wickland



The Wolfgram family of West Bend came prepared with animal umbrellas. Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Giraffes enjoy a gentle shower, but visitors might prefer umbrellas to keep their heads dry. Photo by Bob Wickland

Rain is good for the Zoo and you, too!

The Milwaukee County Zoo has four rain gardens on the grounds.

Rain gardens are basins filled with sandy soil and native plants designed to absorb as much rainwater as possible. The gardens act as filters to remove pollutants. They allow rainwater to return naturally to the water table instead of flowing into storm sewers. And they're pretty, too!

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



The Zoo's 'Hidden' Library



Julie Radcliffe (foreground), interpretive graphic artist for the Zoological Society's Creative Department, shows Mary Kazmierczak a sign that will be displayed at the rhino exhibit.

Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Zoo and Zoological Society librarian/information specialist Mary Kazmierczak shows off books in the Zoo's library. Photo by Richard Brodzeller

mammals and oversaw the library until her retirement in 2007, the library is also notable because “not many zoo libraries have professional librarians, and most zoo libraries usually focus only on their own animal collection. Our Zoo's library is international in scope.”

Shai Ben Ami, from Jerusalem, Israel, visited the Zoo's library in 2013 while working on his thesis for his master's degree at the University of Regensburg in Regensburg, Germany. “My topic was the history of European and American zoos,” he says. Ben Ami, now the aquarium education project manager at The Jerusalem Biblical Zoo, says the Zoo's library had an “incredible” historical collection. “Your library was well organized, well cared for and very helpful.”

The library is used by Zoo staff and the Zoological Society's Creative Department. (It's open to the public by appointment.) When the Creative Department

Lisa Orr was in her third year of a doctoral program in the department of psychology at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland when she traveled to Milwaukee and stayed for a year in 2011 and 2012. “I was studying bonobo gestural communication,” says the California native. “I needed documents about bonobos based on their breeding, medical and behavioral history.” It turned out the best place to obtain such information was at the Milwaukee County Zoo's library, located in the farm area.

“The Zoo is more than a place to see animals,” says Mary Kazmierczak, librarian/information specialist for the Zoo and Zoological Society of Milwaukee. “Thanks to our library, we're also a valuable research resource for zookeepers, students and academics all over the world.” Orr, who now lives in Portland, Ore., agrees. “I found lots of amazing documentation. It was my first time doing research at a zoo and I was pleasantly surprised by how large the library was.”

The Zoo's library was established in 1988. It's not uncommon for zoological institutions to have libraries, but the Milwaukee County Zoo's is larger than most. It has more than 5,000 books covering topics such as veterinary medicine, animal husbandry, animal behavior, zoo design, horticulture and much more. According to Bess Frank, who was the Zoo's curator of large

develops signage for animal exhibits, the information must be scientifically accurate. Kazmierczak uses the print and electronic resources of the library to research the information that will end up on a new sign. Once the sign is designed, she checks it for any factual and grammatical errors before it is printed.

Danielle Faucett, supervisor of the Zoo's Winter Quarters, says she visits the library to “look at anything that might further my understanding of the animals in my care or to get ideas to improve their care.” Staff members don't even have to physically visit the library to use its services, Kazmierczak says. “Veterinarians, zookeepers, Zoological Society educators and even Zoo Pride volunteers email or telephone me to ask that I look for journal articles, book chapters and other published material on a topic.”

Kazmierczak is more than a librarian; she's also an author. In 2014, Zoo Pride member Darlene Winter was approached by Arcadia Publishing to write a book about the history of the Milwaukee County Zoo as part of its “Images of America” series. She asked Kazmierczak and Frank to help write the book. Kazmierczak also recently put the library catalog online and has started to digitize and catalog the library's archives. No doubt as time goes on the Zoo's library will become an even bigger resource that will continue to help Zoo staff and researchers.

By Zak Mazur

Penguins + Pennies =

BIG Problem



Photo by Richard Brodzeller

An X-ray image of Liberty the Humboldt penguin taken in October 2015 reveals several coins in her system. Coins and other items thrown in the Humboldt penguin pool can be dangerous to the penguins.

It's exciting to find some extra money someplace unexpected – except when that place is a penguin's belly. In recent X-rays of the Humboldt penguins at the Milwaukee County Zoo, veterinarians found 52 cents – two quarters and two pennies – inside penguin Liberty and 9 cents – a nickel and four pennies – inside Piper. Unfortunately, that's fairly common, says zookeeper Heather Neldner. "We usually have at least one penguin with something in them when we X-ray them each year," she says.

The Humboldt penguins are often the first animals you see when you enter the Zoo. Visitors feel the thrill of getting close to the penguins, experiencing the sights, smells and sounds of the delightful birds. But that also means visitors can get close enough to throw things in the exhibit. Neldner has found screws, toys, food and lots of coins in the pool. "Just like small children or pets, penguins will often play with things they find, and sometimes the items end up being swallowed." It's dangerous for a penguin to swallow foreign items because the items can choke or poison them. Pennies are particularly dangerous because they usually contain zinc. The penguin's strong stomach acid dissolves the penny, which can lead to zinc poisoning and, if left untreated, death.

The Zoo performs X-rays on the penguins every year at the Animal Health Center. If a coin is found, the staff conducts an endoscopy. This involves putting a penguin under anesthesia and inserting a tube down its mouth into its stomach, says Dr. Roberta Wallace, senior staff veterinarian. The tube has a flexible, fiber-optic camera, helping the veterinarian find the coin, and a grasper that allows the veterinarian to grab it.

Next, the penguin's blood is tested for toxins. Luckily the Zoo found the coins in Liberty and Piper last fall before too much zinc entered their bloodstreams. If that's not the case, the staff starts chelation, injecting medicine into the penguin's muscle that binds with the zinc and allows it to be excreted. The process is painful, Neldner says. "It would be like us getting a tetanus shot every day for a week," she says. "They have to be kept away from their friends while being treated and can't go swimming in the big pool. They often don't want to eat because they don't feel well, and they certainly don't like me during this time because I have to help with their treatments."

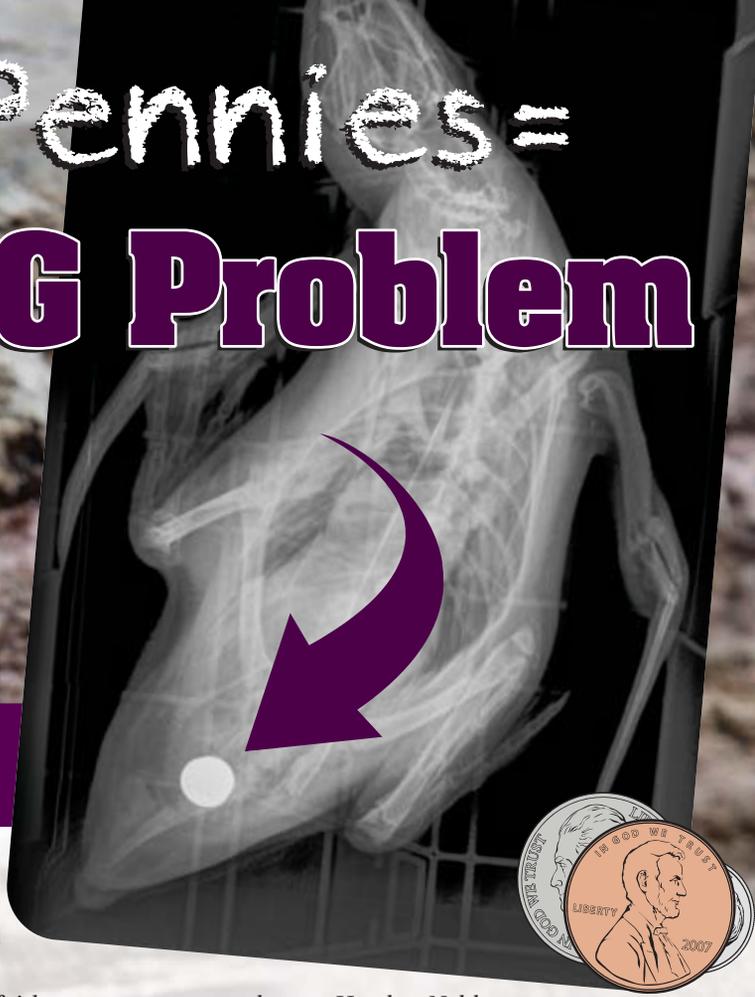
The Zoo has tried to make people aware of the problem. The Zoological Society's Creative Department created signs warning people of the danger of penguins swallowing coins, and Zoo Pride volunteers spend as much time as possible talking to visitors in front of the exhibit. Still, people continue to throw things in the pool, Neldner says. "It's frustrating," she says. "I wish people could understand that it's not a simple thing to get coins out of a penguin, and they don't feel well for many days afterward."

By Stacy Vogel Davis

Be Kind to the Birds

When you visit the penguins and other birds at the Zoo, you're a guest in their home. When you treat the birds as you would like to be treated, they feel more comfortable and show you more of their true selves, allowing you to fully enjoy their beautiful colors and songs.

- Be as quiet as possible.
- Don't bang on the glass or chase the birds (including the geese and peafowl on the grounds), as this causes them fear and stress.
- Don't whistle at the birds. Even if they whistle back, they don't necessarily like it. They might be defending their territory or their mates from a perceived threat.
- Don't ever enter the Flamingo Yard or throw things in any exhibit.
- Don't feed the peafowl, geese or other animals roaming the Zoo grounds.



Clothespin Bugs

A clothespin makes a good base for a bug body. Here are instructions to make a clothespin caterpillar, dragonfly and butterfly. What other kind of bugs can you create?

Caterpillar: Glue colorful pom-poms onto the clothespin to make a fuzzy caterpillar. Glue two googly eyes on the front pom-pom. (It makes a handy note-holder!)

Dragonfly: Decorate the clothespin with markers. Bend pipe cleaners in the shape of wings and attach them to the clothespin. Try bending the pipe cleaners different ways to make different wing shapes. Wrap a smaller piece of pipe cleaner around the top of the clothespin to create antennae.

Butterfly: Put a paper coffee filter over a piece of newspaper or paper plate. The filter will be your butterfly's wings. Decorate the filter by dipping the end of a washable marker into a cup of water and touching it to the coffee filter to create a watercolor effect. Use as many colors as you want. Let the filter dry for a few minutes, then pinch it in the middle (you'll have to scrunch the filter a bit) and clip the clothespin around it. Spread out the wings on either side of the clothespin. Decorate the clothespin with markers and add pipe cleaner antennae.

Hint: You can glue magnets to the backs of any of these projects and hang them on your fridge.



Up to 90 percent of all living things on Earth are insects. Entomologists, scientists who study bugs, have identified more than 1 million insect species, and some believe there might be as many as 10 million species around the world. That doesn't even include spiders, which aren't insects but arachnids. You can learn more about the fascinating world of bugs at BUGS! Larger than Life, sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, May 28 through Sept. 5 at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Insect Snacks

You're probably familiar with ants on a log - celery spread with peanut butter and raisins representing ants. But you can make other insects using celery and peanut butter, too.*

Flying insect: Spread peanut butter over celery and insert two pretzels for wings. You can use small pieces of pretzel for antennae and mini-chocolate chips for eyes. If you're making a bee, use chocolate frosting or hazelnut spread to make the black stripes.

Snail: Spread peanut butter over the celery and place an apple slice on top. Again, use pretzel pieces for antennae and mini-chocolate chips for eyes.

*Allergic to peanut butter? Use cream cheese instead.

Butterfly Feeder

Butterflies love to visit gardens with colorful flowers. You can attract butterflies by hanging a feeder like this one from a tree or garden hook.

You will need:

Pie plate or plastic planter saucer (Recycle a used one if you can!)

Hole puncher

Yarn, string or plastic lanyard

Scissors

Colorful pony beads

Cut-up fruit (the riper, the better)

Wire or a twist-tie from a bread bag (optional)

Directions:

1. Punch four holes at even intervals around the pie tin or planter saucer. Punch a couple of holes in the bottom using a pen to drain rainwater.
2. Cut four pieces of string, yarn or lanyard about 3 feet long each.
3. Insert one string or lanyard through one of the holes and pull it about halfway through. Grab both ends so it forms a two-ply string.
4. Insert both ends of the string through a bead. Add as many beads as you want. Make colorful patterns or use letter beads to spell your name. Remember, butterflies are attracted to bright colors!
5. Repeat at the other three holes around the perimeter of the tin or planter.
6. Tie the ends of all the strings together in a knot, making sure that the tin or planter lies flat. If you used lanyards, use wire or twist-ties to reinforce the knot.
7. Put cut-up fruit in the feeder and hang it over a tree branch or garden hook. Butterflies like fruit that is overripe or rotting. Try putting bananas that are starting to spoil in the freezer and taking them out when you're ready to put them in the feeder.

Additional option: Butterflies love sugar water. Add one part sugar to four parts water and boil it on the stove until the sugar dissolves. (Ask for a grown-up's help.) After the water has cooled, soak a sponge in it and put the sponge in the feeder. Store the remaining sugar water in the fridge to use later. You can find lots of other tips for attracting butterflies by searching online, but remember to ask a parent before you go on the Internet.



Supporting Conservation Worldwide

Churchill, Manitoba, Canada

Polar Bears International:

Several Zoo and Society staff members have traveled to Churchill to work with the conservation group Polar Bears International. Most recently, zookeeper Kara DeLanty acted as an in-field ambassador in 2013 and 2014, educating tourists about the dangers facing polar bears.



Grand Cayman Islands

Grand Cayman Island Blue Iguana Conservation:

Zoo staff members Stacy Whitaker and Joan Maurer regularly travel to Grand Cayman to study and protect the endangered Grand Cayman blue iguana. Maurer assists with health exams of iguanas before they're released to the wild and works with wild and captive adult iguanas, while Whitaker helps monitor how the population is doing through surveys and tracking.



Peru

Humboldt Penguin Observation, Punta San Juan Reserve:

In July 2012 Heather Neldner, an aviary keeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo, joined a team of observers to ensure that Humboldt penguins were not disturbed during guano harvests. Guano (penguin feces) is a nutrient-rich fertilizer used in farming. Neldner and her colleagues created a "penguin blind" so the penguins could walk from their nesting areas to the beach without seeing the workers nearby.



Chile

Humboldt Penguin Population Research:

The Zoological Society has funded long-term research on Humboldt penguins in Chile, including an annual census of the entire Chilean penguin population for 10 consecutive years. Dr. Roberta Wallace, senior staff veterinarian at the Milwaukee County Zoo, helps coordinate the studies. She and other researchers discovered that heavy rains flood or wash away the penguins' dirt burrows at the main study island, causing many chicks to die. The team installed artificial burrows made of plastic barrels to try to alleviate the problem.



If you're a regular reader of *Alive*, you're probably familiar with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee's flagship conservation program, the Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI). But the Democratic Republic of Congo isn't the only place where the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County Zoo support conservation. Here are places around the world where we're working to protect wildlife.

Story by Zak Mazur

Milwaukee, Wis., United States

Milwaukee Ape Heart Project:

Assessing and treating heart disease has become a growing concern for institutions caring for great apes. Dr. Vickie Clyde and Dr. Roberta Wallace, Zoo staff veterinarians, work with local cardiologists and sonographers to assess cardiac function in bonobos, orangutans and gorillas at the Zoo. Zoological Society funds recently purchased an electrocardiogram machine for the Zoo's Animal Health Center to help in this effort.

Migratory Bird Projects:

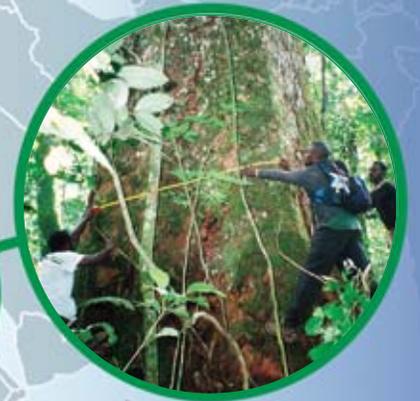
Since 2001, 182 species of birds have been documented on Zoo grounds. Funds from the Zoological Society and the Zoo have been used to adhere decals and other distractions to windows to reduce deadly bird collisions. Other projects include nest boxes, hummingbird feeding stations and bird banding.



Jamaica

Jamaican Iguana Project:

Thanks to Zoological Society funding, Dawn Fleuchaus, area supervisor of North America and Australia, travels to Jamaica yearly to monitor nesting sights of the critically endangered Jamaican iguana. She returns later in the year to collect hatchlings and get them ready to be released into the wild or sent to a local zoo for a head-start program.



Grenada

Grenada Bank Tree Boa:

The Zoo works with researchers from the Milwaukee Public Museum and St. George's University in Grenada to study the species, including demographics, parasites and baseline blood parameters. Future studies will use DNA analysis to identify subspecies.

Grenada Coral Reef Study:

Craig Berg, the Zoo's aquarium and reptile curator, and Billie Harrison, area supervisor of the Aquatic & Reptile Center, monitor coral reefs in Grenada yearly in partnership with Wisconsin Lutheran College. They compare the long-term health of the reefs in protected areas to areas that don't receive protection.

Grenada Frog Study:

The Grenada frog population has been decimated owing to an invasive frog species and a frog-killing fungus called chytrid. Zoo staff members helped create a Conservation Action Plan for the frog and continue to monitor the population.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Bonobo & Congo Biodiversity Initiative (BCBI):

Headed by Dr. Gay Reinartz, the Zoological Society's conservation coordinator, BCBI has worked since 1997 to study and protect bonobos in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Salonga National Park, home to the country's largest bonobo populations and a stronghold for threatened forest elephants.

South Africa

Addo Elephant National Park:

In 2009 the Zoological Society supported zookeeper Erin Dowgwillo's research trip to the Addo Elephant Park in South Africa. Dowgwillo collected feces to analyze hormone levels in female elephants and rhinos, helping keepers learn how to breed these animals in captivity. The project also helps Addo staff manage the elephants and rhinos and protect rhinos from poaching.



Coming Full Circle at Zoo Camp

For the longest time, Katie Klestinski kept a portfolio in her basement of art she created while attending Zoo Camps as a child – until her mother recently did some cleaning and tossed it. But that's OK, because Klestinski will be back at Zoo Camp this summer. After two summers as an education intern with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, she's preparing for her first summer as a camp instructor. "It's fun to come full circle," she says.

Both of Klestinski's parents are teachers, and she always wanted to be a teacher growing up. Her internships with the Zoological Society, which runs Zoo Classes and Camps, helped her achieve that goal, she says. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse with a teaching degree in December 2014 and is completing her first year as a kindergarten teacher at Kluge Elementary School in Milwaukee. There was no question she would apply to be a camp instructor with the Zoological Society this summer. "I feel a personal connection to the program," she says. "I know how awesome and engaging and fun the classes were for me, so to be able to give that to other children is amazing."

Klestinski, who lives in Brookfield, first applied for a Zoological Society internship during her freshman year of college, but she wasn't selected. Patty Trinko, assistant education director, encouraged her to get some more experience with children and apply again. (Incidentally, Trinko also taught Klestinski's art camps.) She did just that, working at the YMCA for three summers, and was accepted into the Zoological Society program in 2014. "It was so exciting to see that my hard work paid off," she says. She had more hard work in front of her. Education interns are required to work toward specific goals and learn new skills, such as leading class segments and supervising high school assistants. "The program forced me to learn how to manage a classroom," Klestinski says. "It gave me all the resources I needed to hone those skills." Interns keep journals and receive intensive mentoring from the Education Department staff.

The Zoological Society believes the internship program improves its offerings while also developing strong educators who will take what they've learned into the

community, Trinko says. "We help the interns develop their skills in a safe environment with a lot of mentoring support," she says. "Year after year, we hear from interns how this program has changed their lives." Klestinski showed obvious promise as an educator, Trinko says. The staff praised her enthusiasm in the classroom while encouraging her not to be afraid to show her more reflective and serious side. "We saw her develop into a true professional and knew we wanted to hire her as a camp instructor."

With her perspectives as a camper, intern and now teacher, Klestinski understands the value of Zoo Classes and Camps. "I know how much learning loss happens in summer. This program combats that in a fun and engaging way." Classes offer a good balance of instruction, activities and time touring the Zoo, she says. "The Zoological Society provides the structure, but the kids don't feel like they're in school." Klestinski will teach classes for children ages 4 through 7, and she even gets to lead "Oodles of Art," one of the camps she attended as a kid. "I love the Zoological Society too much to work anywhere else this summer," she says.

By Stacy Vogel Davis

Katie Klestinski will be a Zoo Camp instructor for the first time this summer after two education internships with the Zoological Society. Photo by Stacy Kaat



SIGN UP FOR Summer CAMPS

Spots still remain for the Zoological Society's 2016 Summer Camps, sponsored by Penzeys Spices. Visit zoosociety.org/summer for more information.

Photo by Richard Taylor



Friendship Helps New Lionesses Adjust

Moving to a new place can be tough, but it helps to have a friend with you. That's certainly true for the Milwaukee County Zoo's new African lionesses, Sunny and Amali. The girls arrived from the Seneca Park Zoo in Rochester, N.Y., in winter. They were understandably nervous at first, but they took comfort in each other's company, snuggling and grooming each other often. "Lions are more social than other cats," says big cat keeper Amanda Ista. "Having someone to go through it with helped them adjust to their new home."

The lionesses aren't related but were raised together. They were born within a day of each other in March 2013, Sunny at Seneca Park and Amali at the Bronx Zoo in New York City. Both had to be hand-raised because their parents couldn't care for them, so Amali was sent to Seneca Park to live with Sunny and her male littermate. "They're bonded – they act like they're sisters," Ista says.

Sunny and Amali shied away from the indoor exhibit when they first arrived in the big cats building, occasionally poking their heads out but mostly hanging back in their off-exhibit quarters. Each day they came a little farther into the exhibit and stayed for a longer time. Soon they were lounging in the exhibit as if they'd always been there. Recently, Amali slept in the center of the exhibit while Sunny sat alert at the window watching a group of children. One child put her hand on the window, and Sunny pawed at the glass. "She's such a ham," Ista says. The lionesses seem to enjoy watching visitors and the other animals in the building. Sunny has shown particular interest in Francisco, the 1-year-old jaguar across the way.

In the wild, lions typically live in prides with one or two males, five or six females and their young. The Zoo hopes to eventually create a "mini-pride" around Themba, the Zoo's male lion. But for now the new lionesses will remain separate from Themba and his mate, Sanura. You can tell the new lions apart because Amali has darker "teardrop" marks near her eyes. Zoogoers will enjoy getting to know these girls as they mature.

By Stacy Vogel Davis

Basil, a male golden lion tamarin, arrived at the Zoo in fall. Photo by Richard Brodzeller



Golden Lion Tamarins Make a Good Pair

The new golden lion tamarin couple at the Milwaukee County Zoo seems to be a perfect match. The male, Basil, arrived at the Zoo's Small Mammals Building in fall. Keepers introduced him to Levi, the Zoo's female tamarin, and things went well from the start, says Rhonda Crenshaw, area supervisor for small mammals. "They got along immediately. They acted like they'd known each other for 10 years."

In the wild, these tiny monkeys with flaming gold hair typically live in Brazil in family groups consisting of a breeding pair and its offspring. In captivity, they are part of a Species Survival Plan® (SSP) managed by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. SSPs are created for captive animals that are endangered in the wild. The SSP leaders decided Levi should have a mate because she is genetically valuable, so Basil was sent from the Kansas City Zoo. When he arrived, zookeepers introduced the two monkeys with mesh between them. "They would look at each other and 'talk' back and forth," Crenshaw says. After a few days, the keepers put them together in the exhibit.

Although the two monkeys get along well, they're not always near each other, Crenshaw says. "Every now and then they like to sit together, but they also like to do their own thing," she says. "They're not a can't-live-without-each-other couple." Nor are they exactly alike. Basil tends to be shy and reserved, while Levi acts tough but can also be skittish, Crenshaw says. "She'll be up in your face but then run away." Basil has a long tail, while Levi has a short tail, making them easy to tell apart.

The zookeepers and SSP managers hope the couple will have babies. The Zoo hasn't had a baby golden lion tamarin since 2008. If Levi does get pregnant, she will give birth after 125-130 days. Hopefully a baby will soon complete this new family.

BUGS! LARGER THAN LIFE

sponsored by Sendik's Food Markets, will bring giant animatronic versions of bugs from all over the world to the Milwaukee County Zoo this summer, but these bugs were found right here at the Zoo.



Photos by Bob Wickland