

Alive



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

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President's Letter

It's time for a special thank you to some of our major sponsors. We're pleased that one of our long-term sponsors, Northwestern Mutual Foundation, has signed on as the sponsor of our summer special exhibit, Butterflies 2003: Return to the Mundo Maya (see page 12). This is the Maya-themed exhibit we created in summer 2000. This exhibit is back with all your favorite tropical butterflies plus some new ones, such as the white morpho. Northwestern Mutual also will be back for the fourth summer in a row as the sponsor of the Zoological Society's Playhouse Raffle.

This summer marks the 14th year that Miller Brewing Company has sponsored our July golf tournament. In addition, Miller has been sponsoring the Oceans of Fun Seal/Sea Lion Show for many years. Miller Brewing Company also has been a longtime supporter of our Recycled Zoo and Animal Ambassador education programs.

Roundy's Pick'n Save has been a terrific sponsor of our Care for Critters free outreach programs that send Zoological Society naturalists with live animals to schools, libraries, church fairs and summer festivals. Roundy's Pick'n Save also helps sponsor numerous events at the Zoo.

U.S. Bank (formerly Firststar) has been a great supporter of our winter special exhibits and of education programs connected with them, including this year's When Crocodiles Ruled (running through April 27). These indoor exhibits draw people to the Zoo during cold weather.

We break ground this spring for our new Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center, thanks to a major Capital Campaign gift from the Bernard and Miriam Peck Foundation. The Peck family has been a longtime supporter of the Zoological Society, making possible the Zoo's Peck Welcome Center.

Along with other longterm sponsors – American Airlines; the Jerome & Dorothy Holz Family Foundation; SBC Foundation; Mercedes-Benz; M&I Bank; St. Francis Bank; and Tri City National Bank; and all those in our Serengeti Circle and Platypus Society – these major supporters are invaluable to our mission.

We still are seeking naming sponsors for our new Animal Health Center, which opens in fall. We need a sponsor for the overall building and for several inside areas (such as the public-education area).

In these challenging economic times, we appreciate the commitment of major corporate and foundation sponsors to our mission. Making each visit to the Zoo a quality experience, improving the lives of the animals, promoting conservation, and bringing education programs on wildlife and the environment to a broad audience – these are worthy goals that our community leaders endorse. They know that the end result will be a higher quality environment for all of us.

Dr. Gil Boese,
President

FEATURES

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Part 2: Two "animal men" who spent more than 30 years caring for Zoo animals, then retired, are now back as Zoological Society tour guides – with plenty of stories.

6 More Changes Ahead

As the joint public-private Capital Campaign for the Milwaukee County Zoo moves ahead this year with a new Animal Health Center and conservation education center, look for even more changes.

12 Bringing Back the Butterflies

One of the most popular special exhibits returns to the Zoo June 14 through Sept. 28. Immerse yourself again in a mist-filled forest of tropical butterflies during Northwestern Mutual Foundation's Butterflies 2003: Return to the Mundo Maya.

18-27 Annual Report

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee's Annual Report appears in the back half of *Alive*. It's our chance to thank members and other contributors for their terrific support.

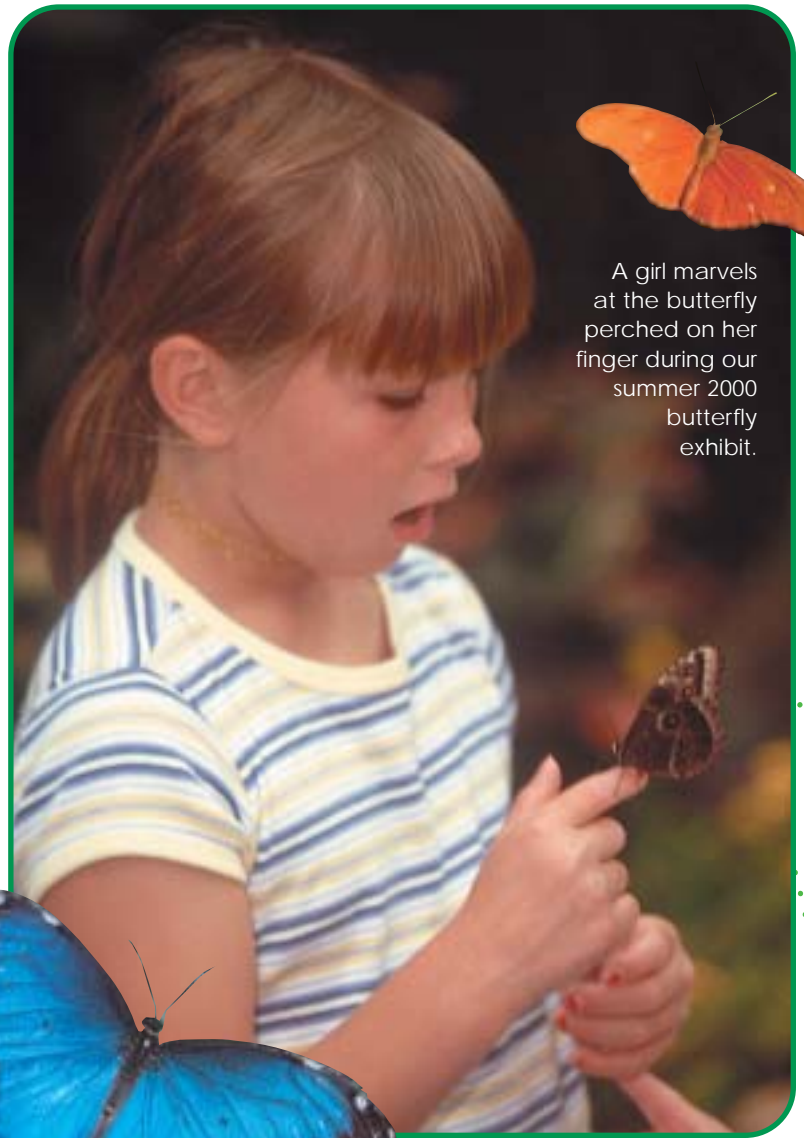
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Kids *Alive*

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On the Cover: Tropical butterflies in our summer exhibit: The Holstein at top; clockwise from bottom, the zuleika, the Julia, blue morpho, *Euptoieta hegesia*, malachite, postman (see page 12). Photos by Richard Brodzeller, Jan Meerman and George Cassidy.



A girl marvels at the butterfly perched on her finger during our summer 2000 butterfly exhibit.



No July *Alive*

To maintain the programs you have come to expect from us and remain fiscally solvent in an uneven economy, the Zoological Society again will drop one issue of *Alive* magazine, in July, as we did last year. Look for your next issue in October. Meanwhile, keep up on animal news and coming events by checking your issues of *Wild Things* newsletter, published six times a year.



You might call them Sam the gorilla man and Bob the camel guy. These are the animals most associated with long-time zookeepers Sam La Malfa and Bob Hoffmann. Both men are retired, but they love the animals so much that they have returned as Zoological Society tour guides extraordinaire.

Bob, with 37 years at the Zoo, and Sam, with 31½ years, have great stories about their experiences with some of the largest mammals in the Zoo's collection. For 17 of his 30 years working with apes and monkeys, Sam La Malfa was the main caretaker of Samson, the Milwaukee County Zoo's most popular gorilla. Bob Hoffmann spent 30 years working with African, Asian and South American animals, most of which go below ground for winter in an area called Winter Quarters. Both men became supervisors of their areas, Sam in Primates and Bob in Winter Quarters.

"I'm a Tarzan fan," says Sam La Malfa. "He was my hero. Tarzan and the apes. I knew I wanted to work at the zoo as a kid. I was thrilled to get that opportunity, especially with the apes." Sam even dressed up once as Tarzan for a parade in the Zoo.

Of all his memories of Samson the gorilla, Sam most recalls the games they used to play. "Samson was about 15 when I started at the Zoo. (Samson died at age 32.) When you work with the gorillas, they become your friends."

In the holding area behind Samson's exhibit, Sam put in plenty of toys for the gorilla (burlap sacks, boxes, tires, etc.). Sam was separated from Samson by just one set of bars. Once there was a strip of burlap in Samson's area that had slipped through the bars and was partly on Sam's side of the bars. Recalls Sam: "So I slowly start to pull my end of the burlap strip till most of it is on my side. Samson reaches down, grabs the end of it, whips it in to his side, and, playfully, beats his chest and vocalizes, like he is the winner. Then he pushes the strip through to my side again and again. This goes on for almost 30 minutes, till I have to leave." From then on the burlap game was one that Samson liked to play.

Samson also liked to "play" with Zoo visitors. He'd wait at the back of his exhibit until a crowd gathered around the window. Then he'd rush forward and bang on the window, and the visitors would gasp and jump back a few feet. Samson loved it.

One of the highlights in primates was to accompany Sintang the orangutan to China. Born in Madison in 1981, Sintang, a male, came to Milwaukee but could not stay here because there was not enough space. The San Francisco Zoo bought Sintang to give to San Francisco's sister city, Shanghai, China. Sam went

Animal men

By Paula Brookmire



along to reassure Sintang. "Apes need to have someone familiar with them when they undergo a transition," says Sam. "During the trip, which took 2½ days due to delayed flights, the orangutan would stick his arm out the window of his crate and put it around my shoulder and whimper. I spent five days in China to settle in the orangutan. I was pleased to leave him there. They had an island for him and a female orangutan companion. My interpreter was a teacher and for years after my visit he sent me cards every Christmas with a picture of Sintang."

Sam La Malfa is also a docent at the Milwaukee Public Museum, where he often takes visitors past the skeleton of his old friend Samson. The skeleton is in an exhibit called Sense of Wonder at the top of the staircase leading to the first floor.

For his first seven years at the Zoo, Bob Hoffmann worked in a variety of areas. “When I worked in the Aquatic & Reptile Center, they had freshwater dolphins, and I really liked that ‘cause I got to go in scuba diving with them.” Among his other memories:

- An Egyptian goose from Africa that we had in the savanna yard got out one day, and it was seen on the Zoo Train’s railroad tracks. Another keeper and I chased this goose with nets down the tracks. We always referred to it as the wild goose chase.

- The Zoo got a call one summer that there were a couple of flamingos over on the golf course at Lincoln Park. Another keeper and I went there and talked to some of the golfers, who said, “The last time we saw them they were heading north.” We never saw them again.

- One time in winter Gobi the camel was out in the middle of the yard in a fresh snowfall. He stood up on his hind legs to reach some branches and he slipped and fell into the cush position, with legs folded under him. He looked around to see if anyone saw him. He felt embarrassed, I think.

- There was a fire in the Children’s Zoo and some of the goats died. There was a survivor, and it was named Cinders. I asked if I could take it to my children’s classrooms. Back in those days you could do that. It was only 6 weeks old, and it imprinted on me (mis-took Bob for its parent).

I took it quite often to classrooms.


- When I was a new keeper, I saw the bull elk get its antlers caught in a watering hose. I was surprised to see all the old-timers standing around, unsure what to do. Here comes George Speidel, the Zoo director then. He got a butcher knife, sliced the hose and freed the elk.



Above: Sam La Malfa holds a painting he did of Samson the gorilla and is surrounded by other pictures of the popular gorilla.

Left: Bob Hoffmann rides a camel out of the Zoo on his last day of work, July 18, 2002.

Opposite page: La Malfa feeds a peanut to Mandara the gorilla, age 3. Hoffmann nuzzles a camel.

Today Bob not only works at the Zoo for the Zoological Society, but, he adds, “I still visit other zoos while on vacation.” Can’t get enough of those animals. 



Veterinary Technician Margaret Michaels (left) and Dr. Roberta Wallace, senior vet, help Lhasa the snow leopard after transporting her, under anesthesia (insert), from the Feline Building.

MORE CHANGES AHEAD

Why is it important to keep improving the Zoo and expanding our facilities? The answers are very practical ones: With a large demand in the community for science education, we're running out of space in our Education Center for our popular animal-science and conservation workshops. To meet new federal environmental, health and quarantine standards for animal health care, a new hospital is required. The heart of the Zoo – our striking predator-prey exhibits that made headlines when they were built 50 years ago – now need updating. The larger animals such as the giraffes and elephants need more exhibit area in which to roam. The Zoo's Stackner Heritage Farm (once called the Children's Zoo) is more than 30 years old and has to upgrade to meet the needs of today's children. The Zoo's entrance needs redesigning to improve traffic flow and prevent backups. And so on.

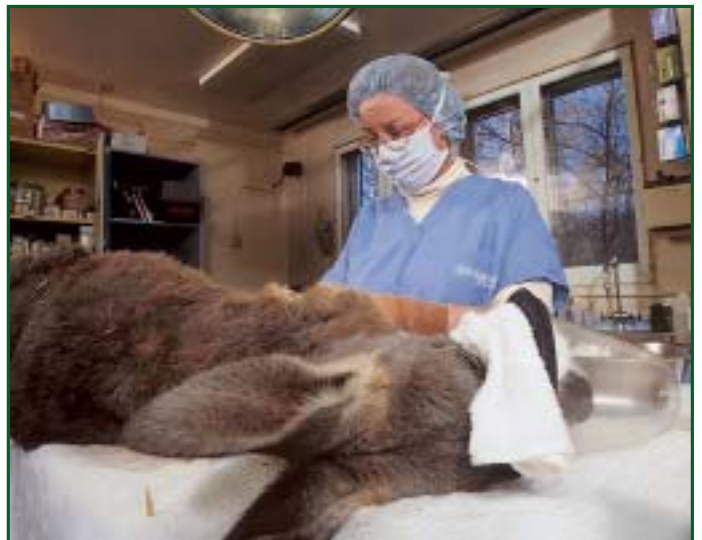
So we're happy to report that the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County are making progress on their joint, public-private capital campaign for the Zoo. Three projects already have been completed. A second Zoo restaurant, the new Lakeview Place, was built next to Lake Evinrude. In 2002 a new Japanese macaque holding facility and remodeled island exhibit were completed, thanks to a kickoff gift from Carl and Ruth Gosewehr and to our Annual Appeal donors. In 2001 we saw the completion of the Holz Family Impala Country remodeled impala and bongo exhibits, thanks to a gift from the Holz Family Foundation. That same year the new Big Cat Encounter, with remodeled outdoor exhibits and viewing windows for the lions and cheetahs, was finished, thanks to our Annual Appeal donors. Cheetahs are the predators, and their exhibit overlooks the impalas, their prey; these exhibits were the first predator-prey area to undergo remodeling and is a preview of what is to come.

Thanks to recent financial commitments from major donors, board members, friends and members at large, we can report the following status for the other projects that are a part of multiyear capital campaign to raise \$29,628,500, with \$14.8 million of that coming from the Society:

- A new 16,000-square-foot Animal Health Center will be completed by fall 2002 with double the space of the previous Hospital. The Zoological Society is funding the exhibits in the visitors' education area in the center as well as providing the construction management service. The veterinary staff, shown on these pages helping Zoo animals, will move into the new facility over the summer.

- The more than \$3 million Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center will break ground in spring 2003 and open in 2004, thanks to a major gift from the Bernard and Miriam Peck Foundation.

- The design phase for a new Feline Building is getting under way, and the goal is to open the remodeled building in 2005 with increased space for the animals, indoors and out. This will include remodeling of some of the other predator-prey exhibits. The Society is assisting Milwaukee County in funding the design.



Dr. Vickie Clyde operates on a red kangaroo.

- As part of the design project for the Feline Building, preliminary designs are being done for the neighboring Giraffe Exhibit (due to open in 2006) and Pachyderm Building (due to open in 2007). The Society is providing funding for these projects.

- Planning soon will start for an upgraded Heritage Farm and a new pedestrian atrium at the Zoo's Main Mall.

We're still seeking donors to assist in the total funding of these and other projects, including naming sponsors for the new Animal Health Center. The Society appreciates all the sponsor support as well as the contributions from individual donors to our Annual Appeal (see back page). "We're going to make it all happen," says Dr. Gil Boese, Zoological Society president.

All these upgrades will help us in our mission of conservation, education and support of the Zoo (see next page).

Q: WHAT DO WE HELP CONSERVE?



ANIMALS!

Today's zoos and zoological societies are focused on conservation. They're doing field research, often in other countries. For example, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee is doing field research on the endangered bonobo in Africa, conducting bird research in Belize and Wisconsin, and supporting Humboldt penguin research by our Zoo staff in Chile. We are studying ways to help endangered animals breed and to provide better medical care for animals in captivity. The Zoological Society funds conservation projects at the Zoo, in Wisconsin and internationally.

Left: Dr. Clyde fashions a collar for Starbuck the fruit bat so that it won't keep chewing through the cast on its broken leg.



Q: WHO DO WE SERVE?

CHILDREN!

"It's fun to learn about animals that you can see here at the Zoo," says Alyssa Lee Pon-Franklin, 12, of Waukesha. She was one of more than 7,000 children who attended Zoological Society Summer Camps last year. "I like the hands-on learning," she adds.

ZOO VISITORS!

Nearly 1.3 million people visit the Milwaukee County Zoo each year and get to see exotic animals that aren't native to Wisconsin. Many of these animals, such as the Guam kingfisher, are endangered, and the only place one can view them is in captivity. The Zoological Society supports these animals, maintains and improves exhibits, and supports a graphics department that creates the messages about conservation throughout the Zoo.



Kids ALIVE



South American Animal Safari

This summer you can spot some Central and South American butterflies at the Milwaukee County Zoo. They'll be indoors in a special exhibit called **Butterflies 2003: Return to the Mundo Maya**, sponsored by Northwestern Mutual Foundation. Get ready by testing your animal-spotting skills with our South American Animal Safari game. Read the sentences describing each animal at the Zoo. Then use your safari skills to match the animal description with its picture, and draw a line between the two.



◆ **Blue morpho butterfly:** This rain-forest creature has brightly colored, iridescent wings that look blue in the light. The wings stretch about 6 inches across when open. This insect eats fruit juices and nectar.

◆ **Alpaca:** This four-legged animal is a relative of the camel, but it doesn't live in a desert. Instead, it lives in the Andes Mountains in South America where its furry coat helps keep it warm.

◆ **Capybara:** With short hair, small ears, and a little nose, this critter looks like a giant guinea pig. It is, in fact, the largest rodent in the world. It likes dense forests near lakes, streams, and marshes. Capybaras can be clumsy on land, but they are very talented swimmers and divers.

◆ **Tapir:** This bulky-looking, four-legged creature has round ears, tough skin, and hooves. It also has a protruding snout that is very flexible.

◆ **Sloth:** This pokey animal moves so slow that sometimes algae grows on it. The green algae helps the sloth camouflage itself in the forest.

◆ **Military macaw:** This brightly colored bird is mostly green, with a red forehead, and blue back and rump. Its tail feathers are mostly brownish-red but are tipped with blue, like its wing feathers. This bird has a powerful hooked beak.

◆ **Kinkajou:** A relative to the raccoon, this small, big-eyed animal is active at night. It has a nearly 5-inch tongue and a long tail that wraps around tree branches in the rain forest. Like a prairie dog, the kinkajou can stand on its hind legs.



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Answers:

1. Sloth, 2. Alpaca, 3. Tapir, 4. Capybara, 5. Kinkajou, 6. Blue morpho butterfly, 7. Military macaw.

the Butterfly Life Cycle

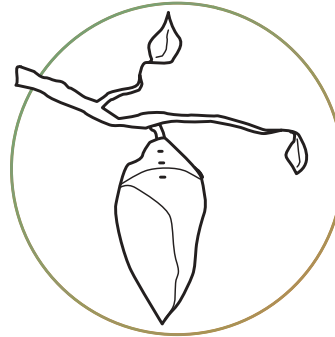
A butterfly goes through four stages in its life. Those stages are listed below. Pictured at right are what each stage looks like. Fill in the blanks below each picture using the **blue** word from the stage it represents. Color the pictures when you are finished.

Stage 1: The adult butterfly lays an **egg**.

Stage 2: A **caterpillar** hatches from the egg.

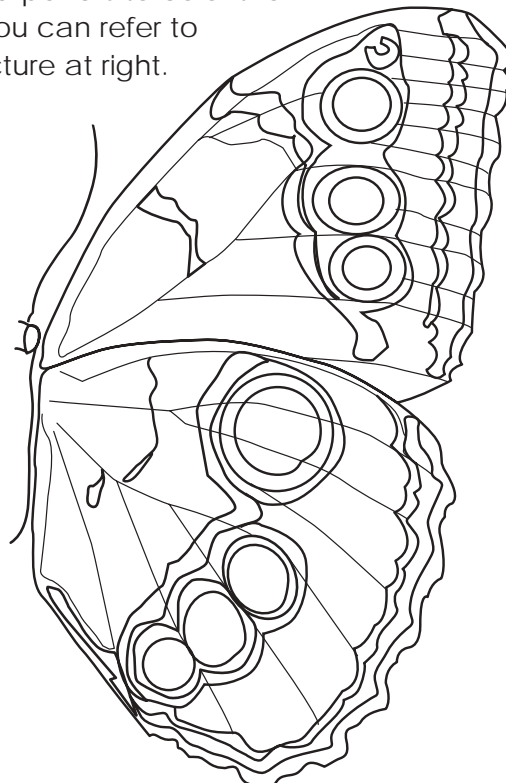
Stage 3: The caterpillar forms a **chrysalis**.

Stage 4: A **butterfly** emerges when full-grown.



the Blue Morpho Butterfly

From the top, a blue morpho's wings look blue. When the wings are folded up, however, the underside looks brown and tan and white. You'll see wavy lines and circles that look like eyes. Below is an outline of the underside of a morpho butterfly wing. Use a pencil to draw the other half of the butterfly and wing. Remember that the wings of a butterfly look exactly alike! Use your brown, tan and white markers or colored pencils to color the butterfly. You can refer to the picture at right.



Learn more about the blue morpho butterfly by visiting the Zoo's summer special exhibit,

Butterflies 2003: Return to the Mundo Maya,

presented by
Northwestern Mutual
Foundation.

(See the story on page 4.)



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By Paula Brookmire

If you're looking for zebras, tigers, owls and cows at the Milwaukee County Zoo this summer, you will find them in an unexpected place. That's because zebras, Isabella tigers, owls and Holsteins are all butterflies from Central America. They'll be in the summer special exhibit, **Butterflies 2003: Return to the Mundo Maya**, presented by Northwestern Mutual Foundation.

We're bringing back one of our most popular exhibits: a fluttering of tropical butterflies amid a rain-forest setting with Maya "ruins." The exhibit premiered in summer 2000. A new highlight this time will be a display of colorful festival masks from Guatemala, collected by Dr. Gil Boese, Zoological Society president and creator of this exhibit. Butterflies from Belize will be part of the exhibit since many of the pupae will be supplied by the Green Hills Butterfly Ranch in Belize. The Society has supported research there by Jan Meerman and his wife, Tineke Boomsma. Meerman, a biologist and botanist, is a consultant for the butterfly exhibit.

Within the mist-filled climate of this indoor exhibit, you can view the brilliant orange Julia butterfly (*Dryas julia*), the iridescent blue morpho (*Morpho peleides*), the delicate glasswing (*Pteronymia cottyto*) with see-through wings, the postman (*Heliconius erato*) with lipstick-red patches on each wing, the

bright yellow sulfur (*Phoebis philea*), and the elegant green malachite (*Siproeta stelenes*).

If you're lucky, you may catch a glimpse of the elusive, large white morpho (*Morpho polyphemus*) from El Salvador that some people call the ghost of the rain forest.

The blue morphos will be much more common in the exhibit, and they also like to land on you, especially if you're wearing bright colors. "They're very people-friendly," says MaryLynn Conter Strack, exhibit supervisor. "So are the julias and the owl butterflies." The owls (*Caligo memnon* and *Caligo uranus*) have owl-like eye spots on their wings.





Watch out for the Isabella tigers (*Eueides isabella*) with their striking yellow and orange stripes on a black background. You can't miss the zebras (*Heliconius charitonia*), which have Zebra-like pattern of yellow stripes on a black background. And the Holsteins...well, they have their own story.

Holsteins are black and white dairy cows popular in Wisconsin. The name originally comes from an area of Germany. When visitors to his butterfly ranch kept asking Jan Meerman what that black and white butterfly was, "we jokingly named it the Holstein," he says. "The name has stuck."

Holstein butterflies are particularly interesting, says Meerman, because they have developed a complex relationship with two plants: a rare passionflower (*Passiflora pittieri*) and a rain-forest vine (*Psiguria warscewiczii*) with tiny orange flowers. The butterflies need young passionflower shoots on which to lay their

eggs so that the caterpillars that hatch can feed on the young leaves (the larger leaves are too poisonous). The passionflower, however, can go months between putting out young shoots. Most butterflies live only weeks.

So how does the Holstein butterfly get around this dilemma? It finds a way to survive for up to six months! How? Instead of eating fruit nectar, this butterfly learns to eat pollen, which has more protein and allows it to survive much longer. It especially likes the pollen on the *Psiguria* vine. The vine, in turn, relies on the butterfly to pollinate it by visiting many vines. For more information on this fascinating story, visit the Web site <http://biological-diversity.info/index.html>.

The Holstein is only one of about 50 species of butterflies on exhibit at the Zoo this summer. Because pupae emerge at different times, 15 to 20 species will be on view at any one time. You can watch them emerge at the three pupae cases. If you stand still, butterflies often will land on you. The record number that landed and stayed on a visitor's hat during the 2000 exhibit was eight, says Conter Strack. She notes that if you want butterflies to

land on you, don't use insect repellent or sunscreen and wear clothes with reds or yellows. The best time to visit is when the Zoo opens, at 9 a.m., when the butterflies are most active. When you're done and have exited the building, you can put on insect repellent or sunscreen for the rest of your Zoo visit.

"One of the things I enjoy most about the exhibit," adds Conter Strack, "is the look of astonishment on the faces of people who are entering for the first time." You come out of a cave into a light-filled garden of colorful jewels, dangling from leaves, resting near your feet, fluttering in the air. There's always something new to see.

Butterflies

You'll See in the Exhibit

Numbers correspond to pictures

Four animal-named butterflies common in the exhibit:

4. Zebra (*Heliconius charitonia*)
6. Holstein (*Heliconius sapho*)
3. Isabella tiger (*Eueides isabella*)
5. Owl (*Caligo memnon*)

Most common in the exhibit:

- Glasswing (*Pteronymia cottyto*)
- Postman (*Heliconius erato*)*
- Malachite (*Siproeta stelenes*)*
- 2. Blue morpho (*Morpho peleides*)
- The zuleika (*Heliconius hecale*)*
- The Julia (*Dryas julia*)*

Less common:

7. The Queen (*Dannus gillipus*)
8. Mosaic (*Colobura dirce*)
1. Sulfur (*Euremia proterpia*)

*Shown on the cover

On the Wing

Butterflies 2003: Return to the Mundo Maya

Presented by Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Milwaukee County Zoo's Otto Borchert Family
Special Exhibits Building

Free members' premiere: June 11-13
during Nights in June

Open to the public: June 14-Sept. 28

Exhibit cost: \$2

Tips for visiting:

- Don't wear insect repellent
- Don't wear sunscreen
- Wear reds or yellows
- Visit in the morning when butterflies are active
- Visit several times this summer to see different species



Photos by Jan Meerman and Richard Brodzeller



Saving Butterflies

By Sandra Whitehead

With about 18,000 butterfly species known worldwide, the extinction of one may not seem significant. But it could have tremendous, unforeseen consequences, says Katherine Beilfuss, a graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She received a nearly \$2,000 grant from the Zoological Society to study regal fritillary butterflies.

This species is dwindling, and her work could help to save it from extinction.

“I think it was scientist Paul Ehrlich who said that many rivets could pop off an airplane without consequence, but that eventually a rivet would pop off that would send the plane down.

You never know which is the crucial rivet. We need to be careful about each species,” says Beilfuss. “We don’t know exactly what its role is in the web of life. We can’t predict what other relationships will be disrupted if it is lost.”

Regal fritillary butterflies once flourished in the prairies of southern Wisconsin. Today only a thousand or so of the monarch look-alike remain in the state. In 1998, Wisconsin listed the regal fritillary as endangered.

Its demise may be a warning to us, says Beilfuss. “It’s like a canary in a coal mine. Its decline means that something is wrong

in its (prairie) community.” Historically, prairies covered 2.1 million acres across the southwestern part of the state. The rich prairie soil has been turned into farmland. Now less than one-tenth of 1% of the original prairie acreage is left.



Above: Katherine Beilfuss reaches for a butterfly at the Zoo. Left: Marking a regal fritillary butterfly



With such a drastic loss of habitat, we need to learn what it will take to save the remaining scattered patches of prairie and the wildlife there, says Beilfuss. So she set out to discover what conditions would be best for the health of the regal fritillary. In the summers of 1999 and 2000, she studied regal fritillaries at two 80-acre sites in Iowa County. She found these butterflies appeared more frequently and in greater numbers in areas with less shrub cover and more wildflowers, especially purple ones. Regal fritillaries love nectar.

Beilfuss also studied their dispersal and movement by capturing, marking, releasing and recapturing these butterflies at seven sites near the border of Iowa and

Dane Counties. Beilfuss and about 40 volunteers, ranging from teenagers to retirees, made numerous trips to the sites in the morning hours, when butterflies fly a bit slower. They scooped them up in nets and marked them by coloring in a white dot on the underside of a hind wing with a marking pen. Then a sliver marker was used to write a number on the dot.

To avoid traumatizing the captured butterflies, each was put in an envelope and placed in a cooler. “When chilled, they are

less likely to bolt wildly when released. They fly more like butterflies that had not been caught, an important consideration in a study trying to document ‘normal’ behavior. We could put them on a flower, and they’d perch until they warmed up. We also got to take a good look at them,” she says.

In 359 captures, 222 individual regal fritillaries were marked, 192 males and 30 females. “You can tell them apart because the females are bigger,” explains Beilfuss. Also the markings on the underside of their wings are distinctive. Both have two rows of spots. On the female, both rows are pearly white. On the male, one is white and the other is orange.

Beilfuss’ results have practical implications, she says. They show land managers what to do to support the comeback of regal fritillaries and enhance remaining prairies: plant more wildflowers (especially purple flowers) and remove shrubs, for a start.

“It has been a tremendous experience for me,” says Beilfuss. “I feel I have really contributed something meaningful.”



Goldenback Woodpeckers

Arrived: December 12, 2002

Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary

Green Aracaris

Arrived: December 12 & 19, 2002

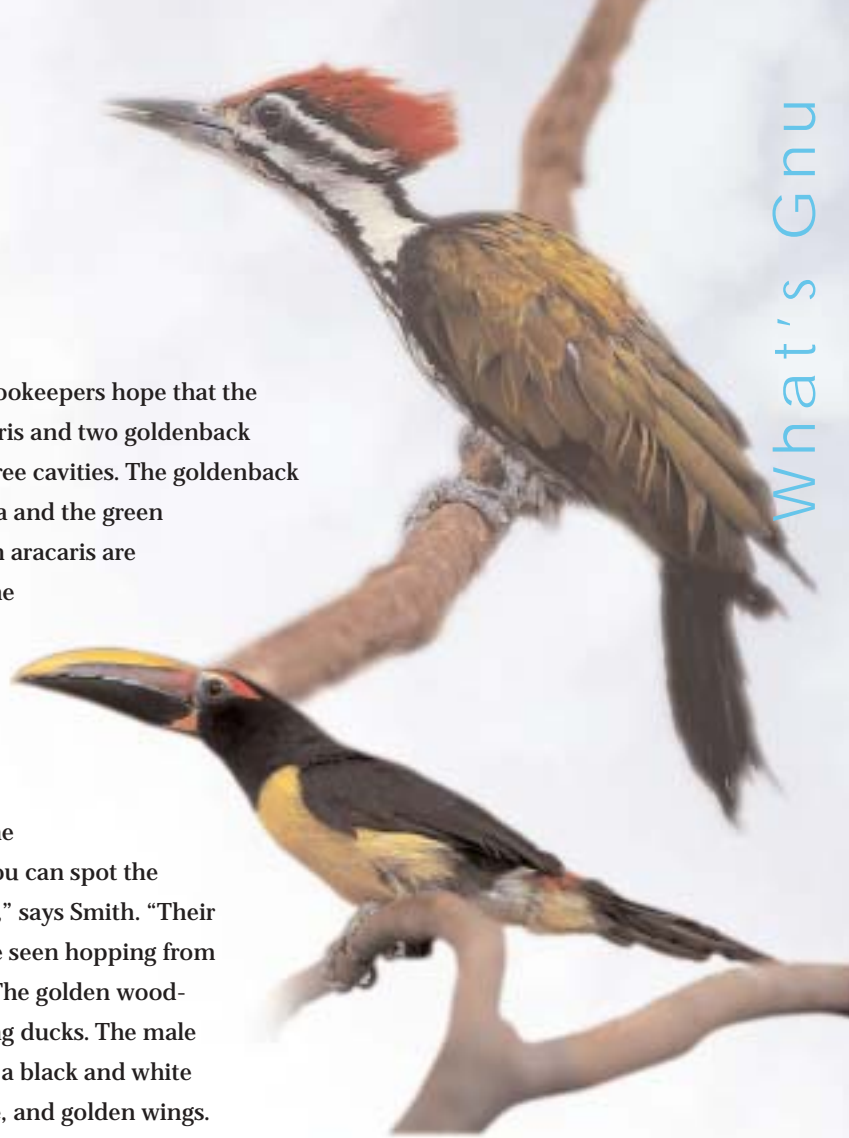
Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary

Love is in the air in the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary. Zookeepers hope that the two new couples that arrived in December – two green aracaris and two goldenback woodpeckers – will breed. Both pairs of birds like to nest in tree cavities. The goldenback woodpeckers will get a palm log to excavate for a nesting area and the green aracaris will get a long box to simulate a nesting cavity. Green aracaris are threatened, and the Zoo has had success breeding them in the past. “It will be nice to have a pair again,” says Bird Curator Kim Smith. Goldenback woodpeckers are not endangered, but they are being used as a model species for learning about breeding habits of more endangered species.

Green aracaris, about 10 inches long, are related to toucans and, like toucans, have long bills. You’ll find the aracaris in the South American Tropic exhibit with the wattled currasow. “You can spot the aracaris by looking toward the tops of the trees in the exhibit,” says Smith. “Their yellow-green plumage blends into the leaves, but they can be seen hopping from branch to branch.” Look for their large, yellow-topped bills. The golden woodpeckers are in the Asian exhibit with the white-faced whistling ducks. The male goldenback woodpecker has a bright red plume on his head, a black and white

face, and golden wings.

The female is slightly less colorful with mostly black and white coloring.



What's Gnu



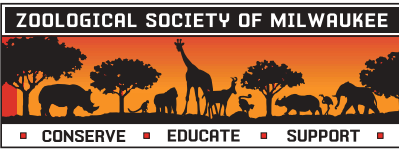
Goeldi's Monkeys

Arrived: October 9, 2002

Small Mammals Building

Two new swingers in the Milwaukee County Zoo's Small Mammals Building are cute little Goeldi's monkeys. These black and brown monkeys grow only to 10-12.4 inches (25-31 cm) long. “They look like mini-gorillas, with silkier hair,” says Area Supervisor Nina Schaefer. The male, Dana, and female, Friday, are the only two of these endangered monkeys at the Zoo. The last one at our Zoo lived to a ripe old age of almost 20. In their native habitat of South America, Goeldi's monkeys eat spiders, frogs, lizards, and snakes; at the Zoo they dine on fruit, leaves, and insects. Despite their tiny size, these creatures can make a lot of noise. In the wild they protect themselves by staying in large groups. If predators approach, Schaefer says, “they're screamers.”

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