

# Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County SUMMER 1997



*[Signature]*  
© 1997

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER**



If you missed the June members' premiere of our major summer exhibit, Ameritech's Mechanics of Nature—the first exhibit to premiere in the brand new Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building—don't let the rest of the season pass without experiencing it. It's a tremendous opportunity for kids and adults to discover how real animals work by exploring the biomechanics of complex animal robots. I am delighted to see how the exhibit is exciting children, especially, about science and technology. With inspiration from exhibits like this one, kids can begin to look forward to future careers as engineers or scientists. The Zoological Society is proud to join our major sponsor, Ameritech, and the Milwaukee County Zoo in sharing this compelling interactive exhibit with people of all ages.

Another program that is generating an equal level of excitement outside of the Zoo is Roundy's Pick'n Save's Care For Critters. For the first time since its inception in 1994 as a school program, Care For Critters is making an appearance at more than 125 festivals and fairs across southeastern Wisconsin, introducing people to raptors, a vulture, macaw and snake. On behalf of the countless children and adults who are learning why these animals are important and how we can help save them, the Zoological Society sends its gratitude to Roundy's Pick'n Save for making the programs possible.

Finally, before your family wraps up its plans for summer, please remember to visit the Zoo in August for the members' premiere of the updated Australia Building (your invitation is enclosed), renovated with funds from donors to our 1996-'97 Annual Appeal. And, if you haven't already, greet our pair of African wart hogs. The hogs—here courtesy of Wisconsin Electric—will depart Milwaukee September 30.

Gil 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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# Alive

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by Jay Jocham

# Reaching out With a Message



"Dear Kerry: Thank you for coming to our class. I liked touching the zebra skin. I didn't know that turtles could get so big. And I also didn't know that white sharks had so big jaws. How come elephant hair is so hard? Ostrich eggs are big. Thanks for the picture [of our class with the shark jaw]."

— Alex, a third grader at Butte des Morts School in Menasha, Wis.

## Keepers of the Wild

Alex was among 2,000 children in Fox River Valley schools that Kerry Scanlan, a Zoological Society educator, visited last spring. Her teaching trips to more than 80 classrooms in 31 schools were part of a Zoological Society program called Keepers of the Wild, sponsored by Kimberly-Clark.

Dressed in safari clothes and toting animal artifacts such as skulls, shark jaws and animal skins, Scanlan taught the basics of animal classification to third, fourth and fifth graders. Underlying her talk was the theme that humans and animals all are linked in the big environmental picture. By understanding animals, we learn how we all fit into the natural order of things — and how a change in one species can affect the others.



Keepers of the Wild is only one of several programs that the Zoological Society has developed to reach thousands of children and adults with a message of understanding the science of animals and the importance of conservation.

In the last few years, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County has been reaching out into the state with its educational offerings. We've brought programs to Madison, the Fox River Valley, Manitowoc and other areas. In metropolitan Milwaukee, our programs have been presented at libraries, schools, shopping



Left: Robert and June Case of Menomonee Falls and their

6-year-old son, Ryan, try the obstacle course at a May Zoological Society Family Camp in Poynette.

Morrison Lutheran Grade School in Greenleaf. The Keepers of the Wild program, by the way, has included three extensive, animal-science curriculum units produced by the Society and sponsored by Kimberly-Clark.

"Since not everyone can come to the Milwaukee County Zoo, we take the resources to them. And we work cooperatively with other zoos and animal centers in the state to maximize all our resources."

The response from the public has been very favorable. Kerry Scanlan's Keepers of the Wild presentations, for example, were rated excellent by an overwhelming majority of the teachers she visited, with such comments as:

"We greatly appreciate your efforts in presenting these mini-workshops for the students who are so far from the Zoo." — a teacher from Zion



Kerry Scanlan, wearing an Australian hat, explains animal artifacts to girls at Emmeline Cook Elementary School in Oshkosh as part of the Keepers of the Wild program.



Birds in a Roundy's Pick'n Save's Care for Critters program draw a crowd at Mayfair Mall on April 19. The Zoological Society program will be at fairs and festivals this summer.

Among other outreach programs that the Society has taken out into the state are family camps at Mackenzie Environmental Education Center in Poynette, north of Madison. About 20 families participated in the May 3 and 4 sessions, which included playing games to learn about nature, taking pond-water samples, making family



crests with nature themes, and going on a scavenger hunt of the senses. Families also visited Mackenzie's animal exhibits, featuring bison, wolves, bobcats, otters, eagles, etc. The next sessions are July 26 and 27, with an overnight option July 26.

## Adventures with Animals

Adventures With Animals children's education workshops held in Chilton, Madison, Manitowoc, Oshkosh and Poynette are another outreach program presented for the first time this summer. Some of the same animal-science workshops that are offered by the Zoological Society during the year at the Milwaukee County Zoo — such as Animal Olympians and Spiders, Bugs and Butterflies — will be taught by Society educators using the resources of animal facilities such as the Kaytee Avian Education Center in Chilton. Other cooperating centers are Mackenzie, the Lincoln Park Zoo in Manitowoc, the

Menominee Park Zoo in Oshkosh and the Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison.

These workshops are for children ages 4 to 12 who may live too far away to come to the large selection of summer camps that the Society offers at the Milwaukee County Zoo. The camps cost \$17 to \$20, with discounts for Zoological Society members (the Society has numerous members living outside of the Milwaukee area).

## Care for Critters

Normally you see a Red-Tailed Hawk only when it's soaring far overhead. But thanks to more than 125 Zoological Society Care for Critters programs, sponsored by Roundy's Pick'n Save, this summer you can become transfixed by the hawk's piercing eyes from just a few feet away.

Care for Critters is a Society outreach program that started in 1994, bringing animals into schools. This last year it expanded to libraries and shopping centers, and this summer, to festivals and church fairs.

continued on next page



Tracy Cole shows a Red-Tailed Hawk to (from left) Joey, Melissa and Debbie Bertnick of Waukesha and Jessica Warfel of New Berlin. The hawk is in the Roundy's Pick 'n Save's Care for Critters programs presented by the Zoological Society at summer festivals.

#### ON THE JOB Tracy Lynn Cole, naturalist/wildlife education presenter

Afraid of snakes? Yes she is, admits Tracy Cole, a professional animal handler who teaches people to respect wildlife and not be afraid of predatory animals.

But Tracy is getting over her fear fast. Almost every day this summer she has to handle a bullsnake and explain to audiences that the snake is not poisonous, even though the bullsnake has a rattler similar to a rattlesnake. It's all part of Roundy's Pick 'n Save's Care for Critters program, run by the Zoological Society. And Tracy is a great teacher.

"If I can get over my fear, then anyone can," she says.

Tracy has learned the snake myths that she now tells audiences not to believe, like the myth that snakes are slimy. In a sandbox experiment, she has an audience member rub his hand in sand to see how much sticks to it (a good coating). Then she puts the bullsnake in the sand and almost no sand sticks. Snakes are dry. And, Tracy adds, snakes also don't attack unless really provoked. "That's why rattlesnakes have rattlers."

Tracy's real love is birds, and most of the animals in the Care for Critters program are birds: a Barn Owl, Turkey Vulture, Red-Tailed Hawk, Military Macaw and Screech Owl.

"My grandfather used to take me out all the time to watch birds," she recalls. "From as early as I can remember, I wanted to work with animals." A native of Cambridge in Ontario, Canada, Tracy became a junior forest ranger and later an animal-health-care technician. In 1994 she came to St. Louis, Mo., to be an intern (and later a full-time wildlife education presenter) with World Bird Sanctuary, the organization that puts on birds of prey shows at the Milwaukee County Zoo and that also provides animals and educators such as Tracy for the Zoological Society's Care for Critters programs.

This summer Tracy will be presenting several shows weekly at church fairs and numerous festivals. Call Renee at (414) 258-2333 for a program near you.

Two naturalists, Tracy Cole and MaryLynn Conter, give audiences a



chance to observe close up the hawk, two owls, a turkey vulture, a Military Macaw and a bullsnake. The program explores issues facing these animals in the wild and teaches audiences, especially children, what they can do to help save animals and their environments.

For example, they suggest that city dwellers put out nest boxes for screech owls. And they can avoid buying tropical parrots such as macaws, which are endangered because of illegal animal trade. Their message is one of understanding and respect for animals.

"We're both grateful for the opportunity to present this program. Without the help of Roundy's Pick 'n Save and the Society, it wouldn't be possible for us to bring our message to children and adults," says Tracy Cole.

The audiences are grateful, too. As the principal of Mill Valley School in Muskego commented: "The children were spellbound for 40 minutes watching and listening to the presenters. Your generosity in offering the program helps not only educate the children but the adults working with our children as well."



Among other Society outreach programs are Animal Ambassadors and Discovering Dairy, which, combined, reach about 6,000 grade-school students. These programs include educator visits to schools and school visits to the Zoo. Other outreach projects include slide presentations to senior centers and civic groups by Zoo Pride volunteers.



## Scintillating Science at Summer Camps

Computers. Microscopes. Video cameras. Night scopes. Mechanical animals. Alien visitations. Special effects. A flying garden. The Zoological Society's Summer Adventure Camps, sponsored by Little Caesars, are entering a brave new world of science at its most exciting.

"Science has really taken on a whole new look this year," says Mary Thiry, the Society's director of education. "Our summer camps are more interactive with more special effects and technology. And we've added many new workshops."

Children will be doing real-life experiments, creating an outdoor butterfly garden, dissecting animals on computer, hunting down alien species, and taping a wildlife movie.

There are new science camps inspired by children's movies and TV: Pumbaa's Safari (from "The Lion King") and Hog Wild, which will study the Zoo's visiting wart hogs; Zoolinky Dog Story, which will show 3-year-olds the real animals seen in "Toy Story"; 101 Disguises (from "101 Dalmatians"), which explores animal camouflage; Z Files (from TV's "X Files"), which investigates alien plant and animal species; It's a Mystery with Wish-Bone the dog (from the PBS show with Wish-Bone the dog as Sherlock Holmes).

There's an exciting new solar-energy camp, Fun in the Sun, in which kids make a snack in a solar oven, build solar-powered animals, do thermal experiments and make sun photos.

Speaking of photography, the Shutterbugs camp returns this year, but added to it is a videotaping camp called Lights, Camera, Action. With camcorders, children will make a travel film, a wildlife movie and an animal-action flick.

The intersection of art and science is explored not only with photography, but also with camps such as Wildlife



Photography camps include Shutterbugs and the new Lights, Camera, Action moviemaking workshop.

Masterpieces, which combines animal anatomy with sculpture, painting and drawing. The popular Brush With Nature camp is back, but with more classes added. And a new four-day camp called Colorful Scientist has children combining the curiosity of science with the beauty of art. Children study the surface tension of water with a colorful, floating-chalk experiment; they make crystals and invisible paint; they explore cohesion by making birds that stay dry in water.

For the first time, a Society summer camp will show the connection between music and science. In a camp called African Culture and Crafts, kids will make their own musical instrument as they learn about native crafts from specific African habitats such as savannas and rain forests.

Marine Biology, a returning camp, gets a boost from new technology. Interactive computer stations in Ameritech's Mechanics of Nature exhibit, featuring The Robot Zoo, allow children to learn how nerve firing induces a robot squid's jet propulsion. Computers in the Zoological Society's new Living and Learning Lab allow children to dissect a

fish on computer. And lab high-tech microscopes give them a chance to examine fish scales. The popular Veterinary Science camp will benefit from some of the same technology.

And with help from a University of Wisconsin Extension master gardener, children ages 10 to 14 are creating an on-going butterfly garden at the Zoo all summer long. It will be next to the Raptory Theater in Stackner Heritage Farm. Meanwhile, children in the Z Files camp are putting up traps for a less desirable flying creature, the gypsy moth. The nature-safe traps use natural pheromones (air-borne hormones) to lure any tree-damaging moths that venture into this area.

Also new are Night Crawler camps. Children ages 9 through 11 who camp overnight in the Society's Education Center will get a chance to use night-vision scopes, to create their own firefly "Morse Code" and to study constellations.

Thanks to many sponsors, who have provided equipment and technology, the Zoological Society camps and workshops are sparking children's interest in science and conservation.

## The Mechanics of Nature

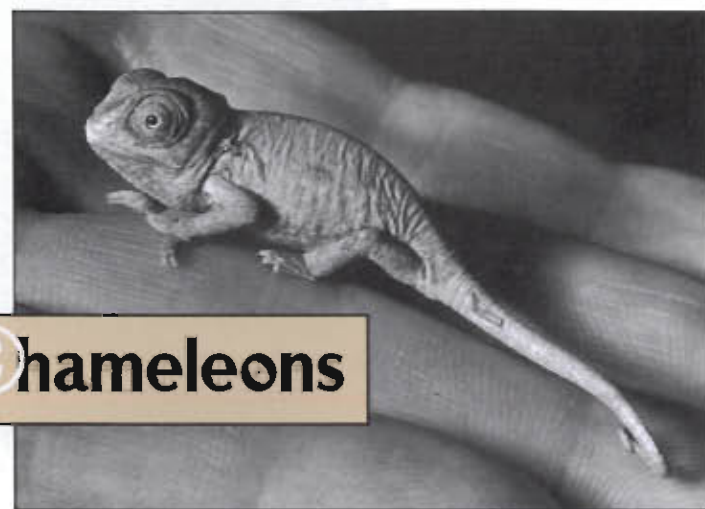


**H**ere's a fun activity to do with the kids this summer. Stop in to see the eight robot animals visiting the Zoo through September 14. Their mechanical parts, along with creative interactive displays, will give you a good understanding of how the real animals, such as the chameleon, move and eat and adapt to their environments.

Then visit the Zoo's real chameleons, giraffes, rhinos, and bats. You'll notice a lot more about the animals. Below we give you even more details about these animals' adaptations. Why does the giraffe have so much saliva, for example? Why don't we have a squid at the Zoo, and why does its cousin, the octopus, make a better exhibit animal? Why can't we use wood in the rhino exhibit? And what do bats eat if they don't eat insects?

Ameritech's Mechanics of Nature, which features a national traveling exhibit called The Robot Zoo, is in the new Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building. The exhibit admission price is \$1.50. Of the eight robot animals, four have real counterparts at the Zoo: the bat, chameleon, giraffe and rhinoceros. The robot house fly and robot grasshopper have counterparts that roam free at the Zoo, and probably in your back yard. The Zoo doesn't have a platypus or squid to compare with the robot ones, but the robot squid is a lot like the Zoo's octopus.

## ANIMALS: Robot & Real You Can Learn From Both



### Chameleons

Think of camouflage? Think of chameleons. These quick-change artists can switch their skin color and patterning to match their surroundings. The Zoo's veiled chameleons change skin patterns in a way that keeps you from seeing them as a solid silhouette.

They have another way to camouflage themselves that we may not notice at first. Their body shape is very reminiscent of a leaf. If you look at the body from the side, it's very broad and leaf-shaped; from the top it looks very thin. "One of the things that they do when they are fearful is rock their body back and forth slowly, like a leaf would sway in the wind," explains Craig Berg, curator of the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center.

Yet another camouflage adaptation is the chameleon's turret-like eyes, which rotate in many directions independently of each other so the chameleon doesn't have to move or turn its head while searching for prey. Its long tongue can zap an insect in an instant, without body movement.

Because chameleons spend most of their time in trees, their feet are adapted to

Ameritech's Mechanics of Nature exhibit focuses on how animals adapt to their environment. The veiled chameleon, for example, camouflages itself with a change in skin pattern.

walk on twigs, says Berg. "Two fingers are fused on one part of the hand and others are fused on the other part, and they are 180 degrees opposable. That's perfect for grasping something but not for walking on flat ground." Their prehensile tail also can grasp branches.

### Squid & Octopus

Squid and chameleons have a few things in common. "The method that squid and octopuses use to extend their arms and that the chameleon uses to extend its tongue are the same," says Berg. It's a hydraulic-fluid mechanism. The animal tightens muscles in the tongue or tentacle, which compress internal fluids, which are forced quickly in one direction. Also, squid can change skin color like some chameleons can.

The Zoo does not have squid, says Berg, because they need room to roam, we don't have a large enough tank and our sharks would eat them. A giant squid,



Two girls add parts to a model of a platypus as the robot giraffe looks on. The Robot Zoo, part of Ameritech's Mechanics of Nature exhibit, gives children hands-on ways to see how animals move and function.

### Giraffes

The Zoo has four giraffes, a male, Kio, and three females: Melinde, age 14; her 9-foot-tall baby, Rosza, born last September; and Rahna, 5, from Colorado's Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.

The giraffe's height is its main adaptation to the wilds of Africa. "They don't have any competition for food because they're so tall," says Beth Roszak, a pachyderm zookeeper. They eat the branches of the tall acacia tree. "Having a long neck and legs helps them to cool off quickly. They don't have to wallow in water like other large mammals," she says. "And the adults are vulnerable to predators only when they lie down and when they drink."

The giraffe's primary predators are lions and hyenas, which mainly attack calves. "Mothers try to protect the calves by kicking," says Roszak. They can kick in any direction: front, back, sideways. And they're very fast. "They can decapitate a lion with a kick."

Among the giraffe's other adaptations

which can grow to 60 feet, would eat the small sharks.

While squid constantly move through the ocean, the octopus settles in one rocky area, then searches for food and brings it back to its home, says Berg. Because the octopus lives in a small area, it adapts well to living in a zoo tank.

Female octopuses don't live long, however. They reproduce at about age 3, then die about four months after depositing eggs. A female giant Pacific octopus that came to the Zoo in May '96 deposited her eggs in July and then lived many months longer than expected. She was still alive in May '97.

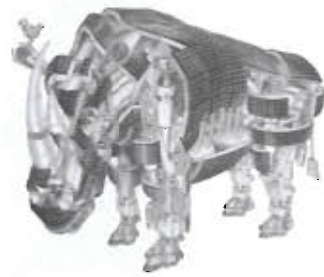
continued on next page

are a patchwork coat, which hides it in the tree line; an 18-inch-long tongue with a blue-black part that protects it from sun and with thick saliva that protects it from acacia thorns; and great eyesight, for seeing predators and calves a half-mile away.

## Bats

The robot bat eats a robot fly, but the Zoo's bats eat fruit or, in the case of vampire bats, blood. The Zoo has about 50 straw-colored fruit bats from central and South Africa, about 100 mountain fruit bats from western Uganda, and about 50 vampire bats from Mexico and South America.

The bat's main adaptation is echolocation: At night bats send out high-pitched noises that "echo," or bounce off, prey, allowing the bat to judge the distance to its food.



The black rhino's main survival adaptation is its intimidating size.

## Rhinoceros

Wood wouldn't last long in a rhino exhibit because rhinos rub against things to sharpen their horns. "They're about 3,000 pounds [3,500 for the male], and so everything has to be heavy-duty concrete and steel," says Dana Nicholson, pachyderm zookeeper. The rhino's main adaptation is its size, he says. Only the elephant

is larger. So the rhino can intimidate predators, and it also can run very fast, up to 20 mph in very short spurts. Rhinos like to eat shrubbery, and they have very massive molars.

The Zoo has three black rhinos: Pombe, age 16 months, and its mom, Barley, and dad, Brewster.

## ON THE JOB JoAnn Marten, Summer Camps Coordinator

JoAnn Marten is excited about the teaching potential of the robot animals visiting the Zoo this summer. She thinks they will bring alive ideas such as a bat's echolocation system (see above story) and a squid's jet propulsion.

Marten, who coordinates Zoological Society summer camps sponsored by Little Caesars, is delighted to have computer technology and mechanical robot animals to show how animals move, hunt for food and communicate. This will be available through Ameritech's Mechanics of Nature exhibit, featuring The Robot Zoo, sponsored nationally by Silicon Graphics and Time magazine.

Marten is teaching Talk to the Animals, which focuses on animal communication, with a visit to the robot grasshopper and the robot bat. Previously, she taught bat echolocation with ping-pong balls bounced off a wall. "The interactive robot bat exhibit will show echolocation electronically. It will be able to show it in purer form," she says. "Then when we go look at the real animals, the kids will understand."

She also teaches Marine Biology, which will visit the robot squid to see how it jets through water.

A former elementary schoolteacher who has worked both with gifted children and the learning-disabled, Marten joined the Zoological Society's Education Department last November. She has a strong interest in science and the environment.



## KIDS!

When you are finished reading this page, get out your crayons and color the animals, just like in your coloring books.

# Alive

for kids and families

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUMMER 1997

PULL-OUT SECTION

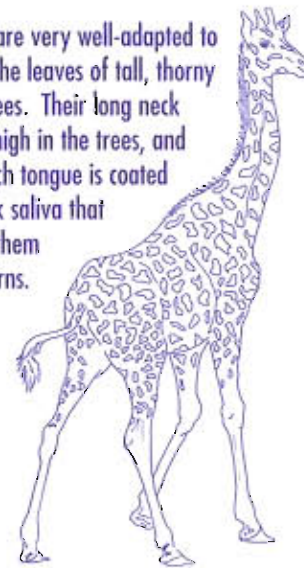
## Compare Robot Animals and Real Ones



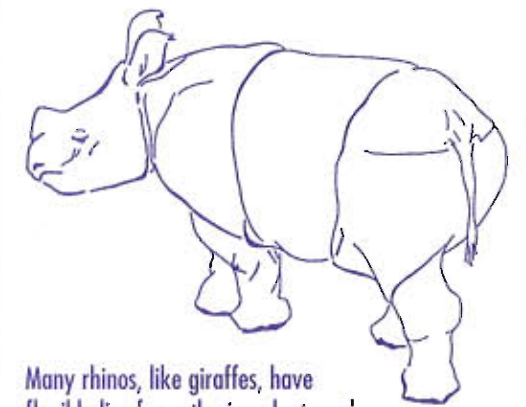
This summer, visit Ameritech's Mechanics of Nature, featuring The Robot Zoo. You'll see eight robot animals with mechanical parts that show you how animals move. Then spend some time visiting the real animals, from a giraffe to a bat. You'll find more information on pages 8-10.

## Giraffes & Rhinos

Giraffes are very well-adapted to feed on the leaves of tall, thorny acacia trees. Their long neck reaches high in the trees, and an 18-inch tongue is coated with thick saliva that protects them from thorns.



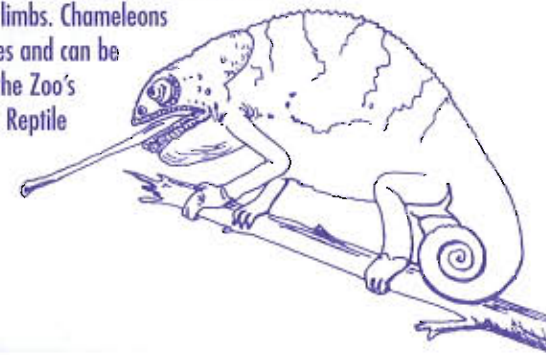
Giraffes and rhinos can be found in the Zoo's African areas.



Many rhinos, like giraffes, have flexible lips for gathering plants and twigs. Rhinos also have specialized stomachs to help digest tough plant matter.

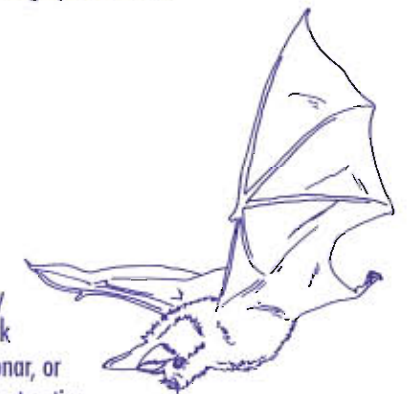
## Chameleons

The chameleon has a prehensile tail (just like spider monkeys), which acts like a hand or foot, clasp onto tree limbs. Chameleons are reptiles and can be found in the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center.



## Bats

Night bats like the vampire bat can find their way around in the dark using a type of sonar, or sound echoes. Insect-eating night bats use sound waves to help find food. Most bats have specialized clawed feet to help them hang upside down while resting. Come to the Small Mammals building at the Milwaukee County Zoo and you can see dozens of vampire bats and fruit bats hanging upside down.



# CREATIVE KIDS

Kids who are members of the Zoological Society drew some great wild animals when they were at the Zoo in May for the premiere of Wisconsin Electric's Wart Hog Exhibit. Here's a sampling:

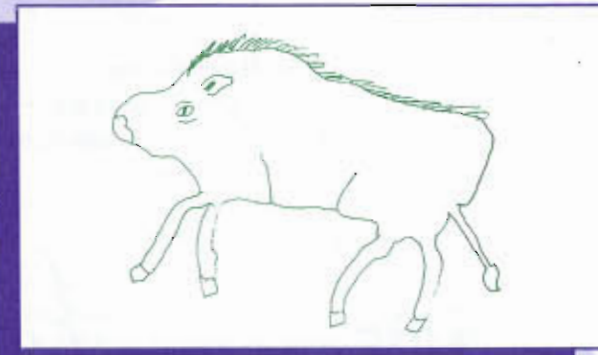
**CHAMELEON**  
By Rebecca  
Janssen, 10, of  
Waukesha



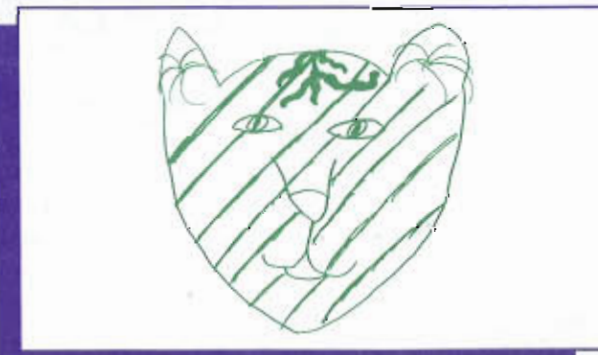
**WART HOG**  
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## Animals of Summer

This summer children attending Little Caesars' Summer Adventure Camps at the Zoo will learn about many animals featured in today's ALIVE magazine. If you still have not signed up for these camps run by the Zoological Society, you can register by phone, using a credit card. Call (414) 256-5424 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## A LION NAMED LEONERD



The continent of Africa is full of interesting animals like the lion. I am going to tell you a story about a lion named Leonerd. Leonerd was a cub who no one liked. He was so sad. So one day he ran away! But when the other lions realized he was gone, they were sad they had been mean to him. So a little girl cub found him and brought him back. When he grew up, he was the leader of the lion pack.

Picture and story by  
Hannah Marquardt, 9, of Milwaukee

## CURIOUS CORNER

**Kevin McInerney, Age 10**

Dear Kevin,  
To answer your question "How do chameleons change colors?" we consulted an excellent book entitled *The Amazing World of Animals* by Taylor. It says: "In the skin of the chameleon there are special cells containing bits of color pigment. The bits can either spread out within the cell (increasing the depth of color) or clump closely together (making the color lighter). The movement of the pigment bits is controlled by hormones in the lizard's body, the nervous system and the animal's temperature. What is more, the pigment cells are also themselves sensitive to light. You might say that, to some degree, a chameleon can see with its skin!"

**Katelyn Herzog, Age 11  
Milwaukee**

Dear Katelyn,  
You wrote: "I wanted to know if tigers could live without their stripes?" To answer your question, we asked Neil, the supervisor of felines. He said: "Tigers would probably find life difficult without their stripes. Tiger stripes provide camouflage, and other tigers would probably find it difficult to recognize them without their stripes."

**Mandy Pagel, age 12  
Waukesha**

Dear Mandy,  
You asked: "How do koalas survive in the Milwaukee County Zoo?" They come from warm climates and eat very few kinds of eucalyptus leaves. You're right! Koalas come from a warm area of Australia, and they are fussy

about the eucalyptus they eat. To give our finicky friends the eucalyptus smorgasbord they demand, the Zoological Society funds a eucalyptus forest in Boyton Beach, Florida, and has arranged for eucalyptus to be flown from there to Milwaukee twice weekly, courtesy of American Airlines. Presently the koalas are indoors in a climate-controlled building. The Society and the Zoo are creating a Koala Walkabout, which will open in August. This will allow the koalas to go outside during our brief Wisconsin summers.

**Allison Krause, age 4  
Milwaukee**

Dear Allison,  
You asked "What is a wart hog?" Well, a wart hog is a mammal from Africa. It got its name because it is a member of the pig (hog) family and has bumps on its face that look like warts. It is brownish-gray in color and can weigh up to 265 pounds. If you come to the Zoo with your family before September 30, you can see a visiting male and female wart hog pair in Wisconsin Electric's Wart Hog Exhibit.

**Karisa Kent  
Kenosha**

Dear Karisa,  
You asked: "Why do elephants have big ears?" Elephants have big ears to help keep them cool. Inside their big ears are large blood vessels. When an elephant flaps its ears, it brings cool air in contact with the blood vessels, and the blood is cooled. According to the *ZooBook Magazine* entitled *Elephants*, the ears of an African elephant weigh 110 pounds each. The Zoo has two female African elephants.

### Dear Curious Corner Questioners:

Thanks for all your questions. We hope more of you can join in the fun. Send your questions to:

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

Your exploring partner,  
*Dr. Marisa Zoology*

???



Color in the animals, cut apart the cards and you are on your way to creating your own animal-card collection. (Note: Don't cut out the cards until you've read the backside of this page.) All the animals in this series are animals you can see at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

### MOLLUSK

## GIANT PACIFIC OCTOPUS



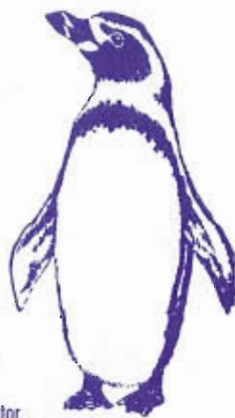
**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Octopus dofleini*

Octopuses are very intelligent invertebrates with highly developed brains and excellent vision. They are renowned escape artists. Their tentacles allow them to grip prey, crawl about the sea floor, and move heavy objects. Their average arm span is 10-12 feet, and they weigh around 50 pounds. This species is found throughout the northern Pacific Ocean.

- STATUS:** Stable
- DIET IN THE WILD:** Crabs, clams and fish  
**ZOO DIET:** Fish
- FUN FACT:** Their eight sucker-covered tentacles are strong and flexible. They swim by moving their webbed arms or by "jet propulsion," sucking in water and squirting it out. They are known to change color instantly, which helps camouflage them, transmit their moods, and confuse enemies.

### BIRD

## HUMBOLDT PENGUIN



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Spheniscus humboldti*

All species of penguins live south of the equator. While we think of them as cold-weather birds, in their northern range, near the equator, they live in hot, coastal deserts where it can reach 100 plus degrees. A penguin cools itself by raising its flippers, fluffing out its feathers, and pumping blood into vessels near the surface of its skin.

- STATUS:** Highly endangered; fewer than 20,000 remain in the wild
- DIET IN THE WILD:** Phytoplankton, zooplankton and anchovies  
**ZOO DIET:** Fish
- FUN FACT:** Penguins have up to 300 feathers per square inch, which is very important for insulation. Their black and white colors protect them from predators — from above and below. Penguins' white bellies match the sky. Black backs help them blend into dark waters below.

### MAMMAL

## PORCUPINE



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Erethizon dorsatum*

The porcupine is a heavy-bodied, short-legged animal that may be seen lumbering through the forest or hunched into what appears to be a large black ball high in a tree. Porcupines are most active at night.

- STATUS:** Stable
- DIET IN THE WILD:** Buds, small twigs, and the inner bark of trees; also, fruits such as apples.  
**ZOO DIET:** Bananas, apples, raisins, peanuts, and monkey chow.
- FUN FACTS:** Their bodies are covered with long sharp quills that they use in defense against predators. The quills have barbs that can attach the quill to any potential predator that comes into physical contact with the porcupine. However, contrary to popular belief, a porcupine is NOT able to shoot its quills.

### MAMMAL

## CALIFORNIA SEA LION



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Zalophus californianus*

Sea lions have tiny earlobes and are part of the "eared seals" family. They are found throughout the western coast of North America. They are both night and daytime feeders.

- STATUS:** Stable
- DIET IN THE WILD:** Fish  
**ZOO DIET:** Fish, except at the Zoo they do not have to catch the fish.
- FUN FACTS:** They can close their nostrils when under water. Adult males are called bulls and adult females are cows. They use their rear flippers to walk on land and their front flippers to push their bodies through the water.

### CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

## Wolves and the Road

Gray wolves face many menaces as they slowly re-enter portions of their former range in the cool, dark, pine-scented forests of Wisconsin's North Woods.

Disease has taken its toll. Illegal hunting, too, has taken a number of these predators. But the automobile may be the wolf's No. 1 enemy. Indeed, seven of the 13 wolf fatalities in Wisconsin in 1994-'95 came from collisions with vehicles.

With the expansion in recent years of U.S. Highway 53 (U.S. 53), northwestern Wisconsin's primary north-south link between Eau Claire and Superior, questions arose about its impact on wolves. The road, as it turns out, slashes across a main thoroughfare for wolves traveling between Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Researchers had documented that wolves had been crossing one part of the road, a stretch of 44 miles between the communities of Trego and Hawthorne. That section was scheduled to be widened from two to four lanes. What was less certain was at what points the animals bolted across the blacktop.

Enter Jacqueline Frair.

A graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Frair, with the help of a conservation grant from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, set out to study how wolves dealt with a major highway cutting across their paths.

"We know that accidents with cars are one of the leading causes of death of

wolves in Wisconsin," Frair said in a telephone interview from Fairbanks, Alaska, where she is working this summer. "At different periods in Wisconsin's wolf recovery history, canine parvo virus killed a number of them as did illegal poaching. But auto accidents now seem to be killing a lot of them.

"I don't think it's a matter of accidents wiping them out. But there are so



Photo by L. B. Rogers, courtesy of Wisconsin DNR

### Eastern gray wolf

few wolves in Wisconsin that each accident is significant."

Tracking the wolves proved to be tedious. It meant cruising the highway's shoulder at about 5 mph looking for tracks in the snow where wolves approached the highway and countless hours of tracking radio-collared animals. "Crossings do not occur frequently and with my other required work it was nearly impossible for me to find them," she said.

But the Zoological Society grant, Frair says, allowed her to expand the search greatly by covering all of her travel expenses and allowing her to triple her

sample size. "The grant also helped give several student volunteers a chance to take part in a research project. It was really a great experience for everybody."

One of the more remarkable findings of the U.S. 53 Wolf Study was a wolf mother who set up housekeeping within earshot of the roar of trucks on U.S. 53. The wolf, tracked by an electronic collar placed on her in Minnesota, was found to be moving for several days in a small area about one-quarter mile from the highway. The wolf ended up establishing a den and raising pups within a mile of the road.

"Researchers suspected that wolves could put up with a lot," Frair says. "But people think that they can live only in remote areas. That's probably because those are the areas where they've been allowed to live. We always thought that they were capable and adaptable." Though unable to generalize from a single observation, Frair says she is just now starting to see that they're certainly not limited solely to those remote areas.

Frair is still analyzing her research data and plans to complete a report for her master's thesis. Her report will help to assess effects of highway expansion on wolves in the area, aid in planning future highway modifications in wolf country, and perhaps attest to the adaptability of Wisconsin wolves.

### GEOGRAPHY



Probable range of gray wolves in Wisconsin



# Why Rescue the Rattlers?

It's not easy being a timber rattler, particularly in Wisconsin. The winters are long, the accommodations are scant, and when you finally find time to relax in the sun, you're liable to be targeted by hunters.

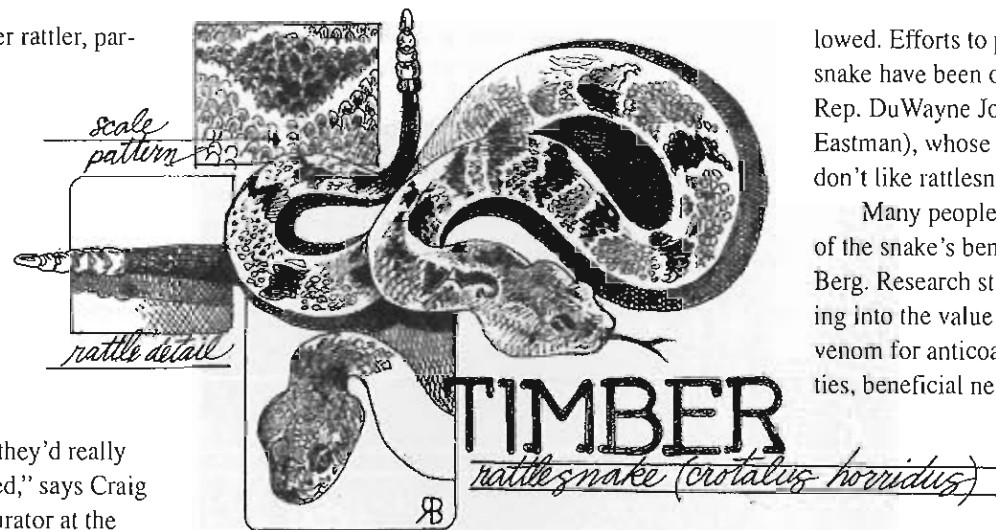
Not to mention the fact that when some people see you, all they can do is shriek.

"All things considered, they'd really rather lie there and be ignored," says Craig Berg, Aquatic and Reptile curator at the Milwaukee County Zoo. "It's not like the movie 'Anaconda.' They're not out looking for humans."

While there's nothing we can do about Wisconsin winters, there is plenty that we could—and some argue, should—do to make life a little more bearable for the timber rattler.

To those, like Berg, who study the rattlesnake in Wisconsin, its dwindling numbers are alarming. Census studies that once found 100 timber rattlers in a given area now turn up 10—and sometimes only one. These small colonies may be below the level required to maintain a viable population.

Nationally, the timber rattler's woes have been eased in 15 of the 27 states where it is found. In those 15 states the reptile is protected and hunting is banned. The snake, which subsists primarily on rodents, is particularly vulnerable in its northern range, where the shortened breeding season limits its populations. Minnesota, Michigan and Illinois, for example, protect it. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering the timber



lowed. Efforts to protect the snake have been opposed by Rep. DuWayne Johnsrud (R-Eastman), whose constituents don't like rattlesnakes.

Many people are unaware of the snake's benefits, says Berg. Research studies are looking into the value of snake venom for anticoagulant properties, beneficial neurological effects, heart

medications and for its protein-de-

stroying abilities, which might be used to fight disease. Rattlers also eat a lot of rodents, which can spread disease. The dreaded hantavirus, spread by rodents, re-

rattler for federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. Although the rattlesnake is listed as a species of special concern in Wisconsin, hunting still is al-



**Rich Sajdak, a former curator at the Milwaukee County Zoo, uses a snake hook to capture a timber rattlesnake in Grant County to check its health. He and Gary Casper (back) of the Milwaukee Public Museum regularly survey rattlesnake den sites in Wisconsin. Snake research is a combined effort among experts from the Zoo, the museum, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.**

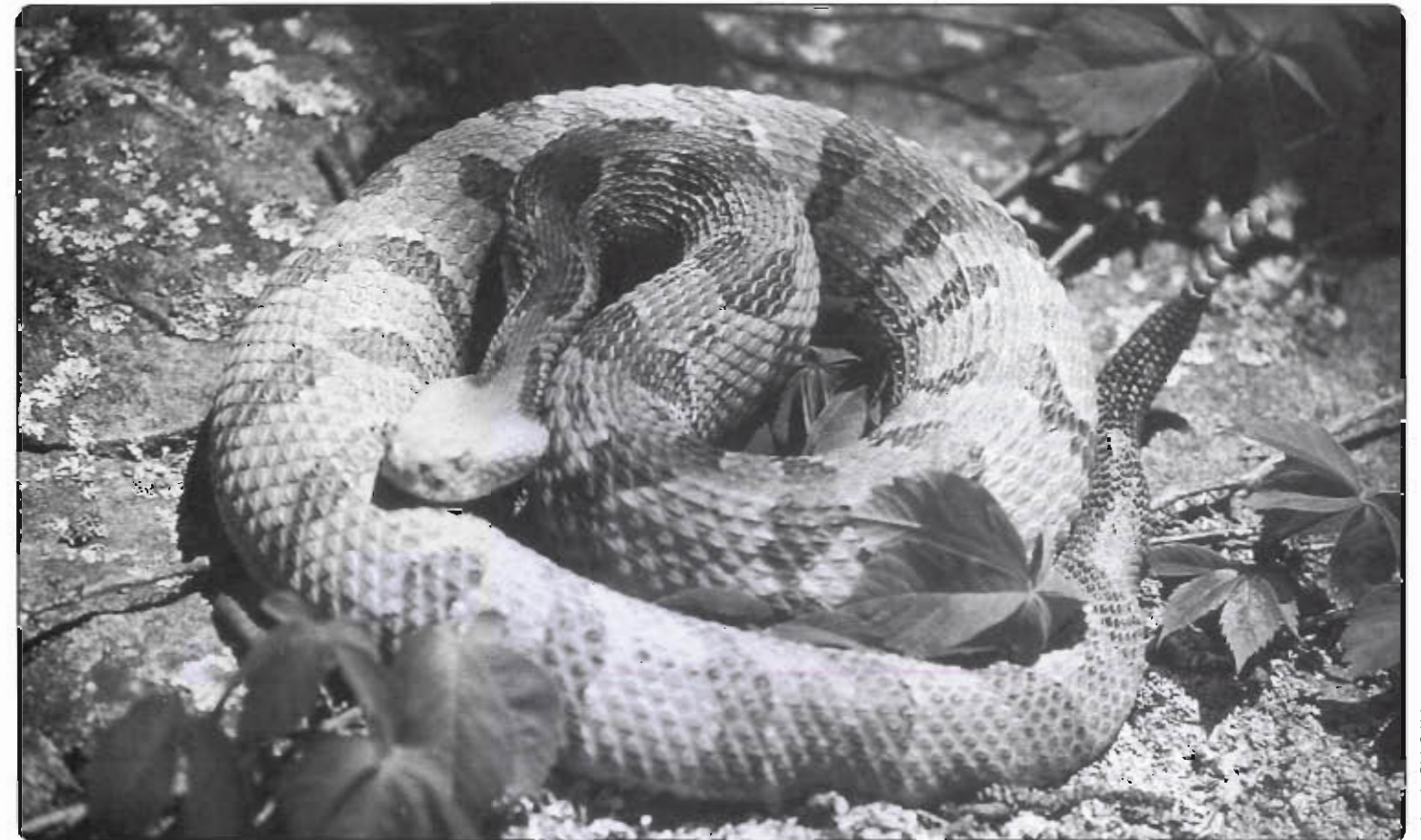


photo by Rich Sajdak

cently appeared in Wisconsin. Hantavirus first showed up in the southwestern U.S. in an area where rattlesnake roundups were common, Berg notes.

Also, people overestimate the danger of rattlers. Despite the fact that only one human death has been recorded from a timber rattler bite in the state since 1900, says Berg, the reptile had a bounty on its head in Wisconsin until 1973. But the chances of the average citizen dying from a timber rattlesnake bite is one in 40 million. Compare that, he says, with more than two deaths per year from motor-vehicle collisions with deer.

"If you know what these snakes are and understand them, you're not very likely to get bit by them," Berg says. "Most people who are bitten are handling, prodding or trying to kill them. And timber rattler bites on livestock are extremely infrequent, too."

Before European settlement, the snake was found in 29 states. In Wisconsin, the banded snake typically



photo by R. J. Jantzen

**Above:** A timber rattlesnake grows up to three feet long and sports wide, often uneven horizontal bands. Young snakes may have an auburn stripe down their backs, but it fades as they age.

**Left:** Researchers use nail polish to mark a snake's rattle.

lived in the generally inaccessible, rocky outcroppings of the Mississippi and lower Wisconsin Rivers, where local populations of 100 or more snakes were common. Persecution, development and limited reproduction have slashed its numbers, squeezed its range and slowed its recovery.

Yet snake hunting continues as markets demand their skin for hat bands, belts and boots. Their freeze-dried heads, rattles and meat also are sought after in the U.S. and abroad.

Females preparing to give birth to live young are particularly vulnerable as they sun themselves on rocks to absorb heat. Generally solitary animals, the males and juveniles typically will head off to hunt in river-bottom land, where they are hard to locate, leaving females grouped in open areas. Hunters often take impregnated females, further limiting the snake's reproductive capability.

*continued on next page*

Habitat destruction, too, imperils the timber rattler. "They're very restricted in their habitat," Berg says. "They live in rocky outcrops, not in the areas where people usually live. But in the last few years, it has become fashionable to have houses on those bluffs." Construction has meant destruction of prime timber rattler real estate.

Sadly, for the timber rattler, it isn't capable of doing much to replace its number in Wisconsin. Says Berg: "Their reproductive potential is not very high here." In Wisconsin, largely due to long hibernations and short summers, it takes 9 to 11 years for a female timber rattler to become sexually mature. Even then, she may breed only once every three or four years, for a lifetime total of three or four times.

"The reason it takes them so long to reproduce here, on the northern extent of their range, is that the breeding season is so short," Berg says. "Generally speaking, they'll leave their dens in May and return in October, sometimes as early as late September."

What can be done to help save the timber rattler?

Berg suggests joining forces with Gary Casper of the Milwaukee Public Museum. Casper is spearheading a petition drive to have the timber rattler deemed a threatened species under state law. Doing so would eliminate snake hunting and provide some protection of its essential habitat. Casper is gathering signatures of Wisconsin residents in hopes of convincing the State Natural Resources Board, which meets in late summer, to protect the timber rattler. But there is opposition in the Legislature.

For more information, contact Gary Casper, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 Wells St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53233. Or contact your legislators to see how you can help. The Wisconsin Legislature offers a toll-free hotline staffed during business hours. The number outside the Madison area is (800) 362-9472, or, in the Madison area, 266-9960.



**ON THE JOB** Craig Pelke, Zookeeper

Craig Pelke was a toddler when he set his sights on a career.

"When I was 4 years old I was telling people that I was going to be a zookeeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo," says Pelke, who got his wish in November 1996. "I've always loved animals, and I knew this is where I wanted to be."

Pelke, 29, a native of West Allis, is a roving zookeeper. One day might find him working with the big cats, another with reptiles.

Before taking the job here, Pelke worked at a wildlife park in Arizona and was a member of the Arizona Herpetological Association. The association had a relocation program for venomous snakes, and Pelke helped capture them — not a task for the faint of heart. But it's not dangerous if one takes proper precautions, says Pelke. Snakes would rather slither away than strike. "We'd usually just find them sunning themselves. They generally weren't posing a threat."

Pelke has sympathy and respect for western Wisconsin's timber rattlesnake, whose dwindling numbers concern wildlife experts. Left alone, the timber rattler should cause no problems for humans, he says. He suggests that hikers in rattler areas familiarize themselves with the snake's rocky habitat and try to avoid it. If you do encounter a timber rattler, give it a wide berth. "Get a feel for its approximate size," he says. "In general, a snake can strike only about one-third of its entire length."

## SERENGETI CIRCLE

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

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Sarita & Roy Warshawsky

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Ron & Bobbie Amann  
Architects III  
Daniel & Linda Bader  
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Bay Group Staffing Ltd.  
The Begun Family  
Esther I. Bloom  
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William, Jr. & Priscilla Chester  
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John Steiner  
Anne Tynion

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

+ Members who have increased their level of giving by 10% or more in 1996

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

Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after May 27, 1997 will be recognized in the next issue of ALIVE.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of May 27, 1997

**CORPORATE I (\$1,000-\$1,499)**  
Church Metal  
Erie Manufacturing Co.

**PATRON (\$500-\$999)**  
Dick & Mary Duveneck  
Dr. Kay M. Elsen  
Thomas N. Harton  
IBM Corporation  
Dominic Lychwick  
Dennis & Deborah Walders

**NEW GIFT LEVELS**  
The Zoological Society thanks the following members for their increased levels of giving:

**CORPORATE III (\$2,000-\$2,499)**  
Tri City National Bankshares

**PATRON III (\$2,000-\$2,499)**  
Michael Fitzpatrick

**CORPORATE II (\$1,500-\$1,999)**  
Gary F. Miller, Inc.

Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after May 27, 1997 will be recognized in the next issue of ALIVE.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Richard L. Schmidt, Chairman  
William Abraham, Jr.  
Robert M. Anger  
Linda L. Grunau  
Paul Hinkfuss  
Jerry Hogan  
Dr. Leander R. Jennings  
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Bernard J. Peck  
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Barry S. Sattell  
Andrew T. Sawyer, Jr.  
Judy Stathas  
John Steiner  
Anne Tynion

The Platypus Society is a group of about 400 Milwaukee-area foundations, corporations and individuals that contribute more than \$425,000 annually to the Zoological Society. If you would like to join this group in helping the Society uphold its mission of supporting the Zoo, educating the community about wildlife and the environment and conserving endangered species, call (414) 276-0843.

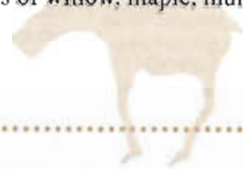


◀ Moose

North American Yard

Born: May 14, 1997

The most common question near the Zoo's North American Yard is: Where are the moose calves? Ever since the two babies were pictured in the newspaper, people expect to see them walking around the yard. But they like to hide in the grass. "When they lie down flat, they look like a couple clumps of dirt," says Daron Graves, North America area supervisor. "But they're usually within 10 feet of Mother." When they do stand, they're all legs, says Graves. Their mom, Melrose, also has made headlines, when she was captured in the Boston suburb of Melrose and when she came to Milwaukee to live. And their dad, the late Bullwinkle (a.k.a. Tundra) was popular with zoo-goers. He was nearly 11 when he died earlier this year, a long life for a captive moose. "Moose grow fast," says Graves. "They should weigh 40 to 50 pounds by late July." And they need wood to supplement their Zoo diet. "We feed them leafy branches of willow, maple, mulberry and poplar."



Snow Leopard Cubs ▶

Feline Building

Born: March 28, 1997

Congratulations to Sabu and Jade, proud parents of three of the Zoo's newest arrivals. Sabu gave birth March 28 to one female and two male snow leopard cubs. "It's the sixth litter for Sabu and the fifth for her and Jade," says Chris John, a zookeeper for the cats. Snow leopards, which come from the remote, high-mountain regions of central Asia, are an endangered animal. But Sabu's line is doing well in captivity. Sabu's mom and grandmother both were born at this Zoo. Three of Sabu's six litters have been triplets, and her grandmother also had triplets. Sabu's newest triplets are growing fast. Two months after birth, one male weighed almost nine pounds, the female weighed nearly eight and the other male weighed less than five pounds. "The one male is really pretty small," John says. "But we don't want to call him a runt. We just think of him as our 'little guy.'"



Calendar

See the enclosed issue of your WILD THINGS newsletter for more details on all these events and more!



JULY

9, 16, 23, 30 & AUGUST 6

SUNSET ZOO FARIS  
Sponsored by Tri City National Bank



Relax and enjoy an evening of free music as you picnic at the Zoo or wander among the animals. Reduced admission rates (free for Zoological Society members). Call (414) 256-5412 for more details.

15, 17 & 18  
KIDS NIGHT MEMBERS ONLY

Sponsored by Jays & Roundy's Pick'n Save

Kids, bring your parents to a great family fun night at the Zoo. Enjoy dancers, gymnasts, singers, stilt walkers, Wisconsin Electric's Wart Hog Exhibit and Ameritech's Mechanics of Nature exhibit for free, and feast on kids' favorite foods. Look for your invitation in the mail.

21 - AUGUST 6  
ADVENTURES WITH ANIMALS - SUMMER WORKSHOPS OUTSIDE METRO MILWAUKEE

Sponsored and taught by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, these workshops for children ages 4 to 12 will be held in five other zoos or animal centers. Topics range from "Come Fly With Me" to "Spiders, Bugs and Butterflies." Workshop dates are: Madison, July 8 & 21, Aug. 4; Manitowoc, July 11; Oshkosh, July 16; Poynette, July 28,



AUGUST

2-5  
MEMBERSHIP PREMIERE OF THE KOALA WALKABOUT



Join Quilpie and Dajarra, the Zoo's koalas, as they experience their new outdoor exhibit for the first time. See the renovated Australia building. Look for your invitation in the packet that this *Alive* and *WILD THINGS* newsletter was mailed in.

7  
TWILIGHT SAFARI  
Sponsored by Welch's & Roundy's Pick'n Save

All our animal sponsors, including members of the Kids 'n Critters Club, are invited to visit with zookeepers to learn more about the animals they sponsor and get a behind-the-scenes look at the animal buildings.



Zoological Society Family Camps at Mackenzie Environmental Center in Poynette will run again July 26 & 27.

continued on other side

## Hartebeest

African Waterhole

Arrived: November 24, 1996

Shujaa, the Milwaukee County Zoo's sole hartebeest, is set to sojourn to the sunny South this fall to breed on St. Catherine's Island off the coast of Georgia. Hartebeest are large, swift African antelope whose shoulders lay much higher than their hindquarters. Shujaa, Swahili for "hero," is one of only about a dozen hartebeest currently living in the U.S., according to Elizabeth Frank, the Zoo's curator of large mammals. All of the U.S. hartebeest will be joining Shujaa on the island. It's doubtful that Shujaa will return to Milwaukee, Frank says. The animal is expected to depart sometime in October, when the weather is cool enough for him to make the trip. Frank urges Zoo visitors to catch a glimpse of Shujaa. "Hartebeest are very handsome animals," Frank says. "And there aren't many in U.S. zoo collections."



## Bongo

Between African Savanna and Hippos

Born: May 16, 1997

Consider yourself lucky. Every year for the last several years has seen a new adult bongo or a bongo birth at our Zoo. That's fortunate for us, considering explorers of the bongo's native Africa didn't even discover this animal until the early 1900s. Because bongos, reddish-brown antelope with spots and stripes, live in areas of dense vegetation and keep to restricted areas, they are difficult to spot, says Dave Sorensen, pachyderm area supervisor. "They are also very secretive animals." Though nobody knows for sure how many bongos are left in the wild, they are endangered, Sorensen says. The baby male bongo pictured here was born to Mom Hiari and the late Kingsley. Sorensen says yet another baby bongo is on its way, thanks to Kingsley, who impregnated Meru, the other adult female in the bongo yard, three days before Kingsley died.



See the enclosed issue of your WILD THINGS newsletter for more details on all these events and more!

continued from other side

### AUGUST

#### 8 & 9

#### SNOOZE AT THE ZOO

Sponsored by Milwaukee's Pickles & Roundy's Pick'n Save

Camp out near the animals on the shores of Lake Evinrude. This



Excited about their camp-out at the Zoo are Snooze at the Zoo co-chairs (from left) Josh Hooten, Laura Flatley, Martin Steren and Danny Flatley.

safe family camping adventure includes Zoo entrance and parking, a picnic dinner, entertainment, free tickets to Ameritech's Mechanics of Nature exhibit, a morning wake-up call by the sea lions and geese and a continental breakfast courtesy of McDonalds. After breakfast, campers may spend the rest of the day exploring the Zoo. For price and registration information, call Laura Lewinski at (414) 258-2333.

#### 14-17 A LA CARTE

Sponsored by The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Enjoy some of the best food and entertainment Milwaukee has to offer — all in the park-like setting of the



# Calendar

Summer 1997



FOR YOUR REFERENCE

### OCTOBER

#### 2 & 3, 30 & 31 KIDS DAY OUT

Sponsored by NFL Alumni Association

There's no need for a baby sitter or special child care arrangements while kids are off school during public and private teacher conventions. Kids ages 6-11 can spend their days off at the Zoo enjoying Zoological Society workshops that include tours, hands-on learning activities, environmental games and lunch. To register children for these workshops, call the Society's Education Department at (414) 256-5421.

#### 4 FIELD TRIP TO BROOKFIELD ZOO IN ILLINOIS



Join other Zoological Society members for a fun-filled day at the Brookfield Zoo in Brookfield, Ill. The tour includes continental breakfast prior to departure from the Milwaukee County Zoo, transportation on Lamer's motor coaches; admission to the Brookfield Zoo, its dolphin show and its Children's Zoo; a ticket on the Zoo tram; and beverage and snack on the return trip. Cost: \$35 per person, less for seniors and children ages 3-11. Call (414) 258-2333 for details or see the registration form in WILD THINGS.

#### 29

#### SENIOR CELEBRATION

Sponsored by Aurora Health Care

If you're 60 years or older, come to the Zoo for a free day of animal bingo, free health screenings, entertainment and box lunches. To reserve and purchase a senior box lunch, call (414) 256-5428.

### SEPTEMBER

#### 13 & 14 HERITAGE FARM WEEKEND

Sponsored by Golden Guernsey

Celebrate harvest time in the Zoo's farm filled with fun activities and learning for the entire family, 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Zoological Society memberships are valid. For more information, call (414) 256-5412.



#### 14 THIRD ANNUAL RIDE ON THE WILD SIDE

Sponsored by West Allis Memorial Hospital

Gear up for the wildest ride in town! This family-oriented bike ride includes a 2-mile kids' route through the Zoo and 15- or 25-mile routes starting at the Zoo. Kids and adults

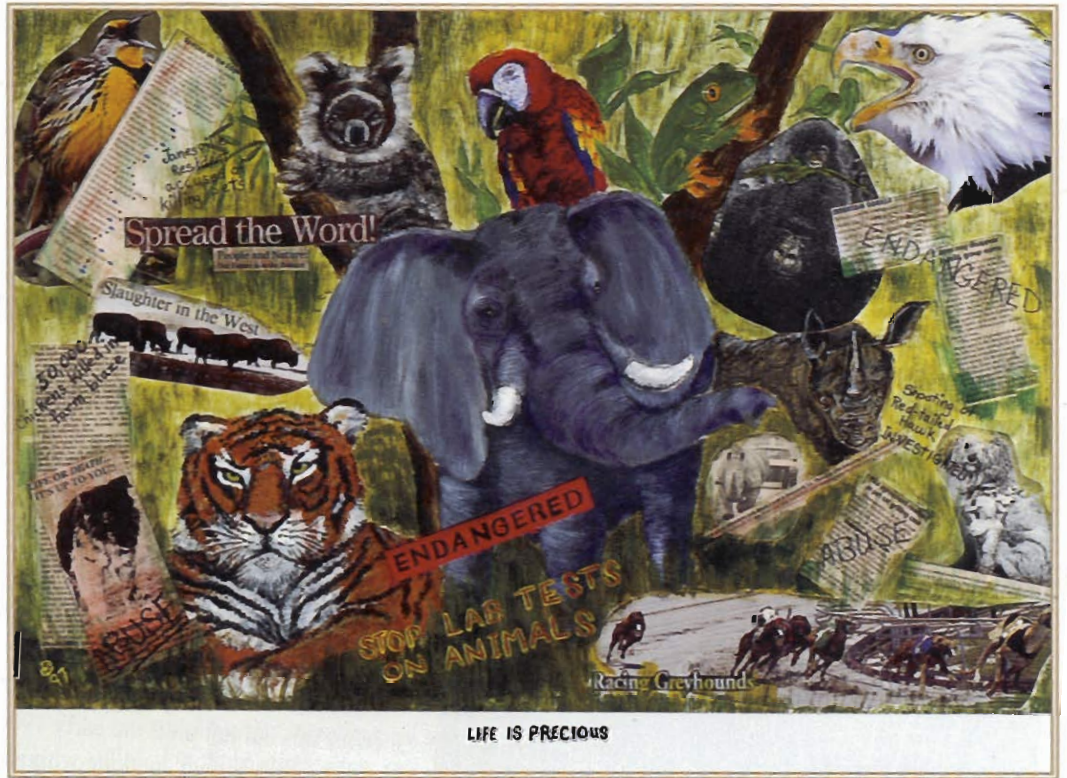


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**MOVING?**  
**PLEASE LET US KNOW!**



**Third Annual Animal  
People's Choice  
Art Competition**

This acrylic collage by Diane DeMerchant, a freshman at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, was one of four top award winners in the Third Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition sponsored by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and exhibited at Mayfair Mall in Wauwatosa.