

# Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County

Summer 1998

Zoo Pride





# PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Every summer challenges the Zoo and Zoological Society to deliver the high-quality Zoo experience that our visitors and members have come to expect. And every summer, a very important, dependable group of people band together to aid us in meeting this challenge: our terrific volunteers.

Last year, more than 600 people ages 15 to 90+ volunteered almost 53,000 hours through Zoo Pride (the Zoological Society's voluntary auxiliary), enthusiastically helping with special events, assisting with our EdZoocation workshops, watching animals and recording their behavior, guiding tours, etc. This spring's six-session training just added 40 more volunteers to the ranks of khaki-clad people you're bound to see on the Zoo grounds this summer.

The Zoological Society and Zoo also benefit from the time and skill of our community leaders, who serve on the Zoological Society's Board of Directors or Associate Board and work behind the scenes to make spectacular successes of fund-raisers like the American Airlines' Zoo Ball, Miller's Birdies & Eagles Golf Outing and Snooze at the Zoo, sponsored by Roundy's Pick'n Save and Milwaukee's Pickles.

We couldn't deliver the present level of service, quality programs and perennially popular events without volunteers. I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to every volunteer who has so generously and selflessly offered his or her dedication, talent, creativity, enthusiasm and time to help us face the challenges of this summer and beyond. Volunteers are vital to what we are and the mission we represent.

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



The mission of the Zoological Society is to support the Milwaukee County Zoo, to 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

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 3



page 4



page 8



page 12

## FEATURES

- 4 SOUTH AMERICAN CONNECTION**  
Whether it's following penguins up slippery rocks or searching for elusive monkeys in thick jungle, Zoo staff have had fascinating adventures while conducting research or teaching in Brazil, Chile and Peru. Their adventures give them a better perspective on their jobs in Milwaukee and add to the international reputation of our Milwaukee County Zoo.
- 8 FINE-FEATHERED SPACE**  
Come to the Zoo in August to greet the colorful residents of the new Wong Family Pheasantry, guaranteed to add a flavor of the northern Asian highlands to the Milwaukee County Zoo.
- 12 ELEPHANT EDUCATION**  
Milwaukee County Zoo elephant keepers share how they're changing the way they interact with the largest animals at the Zoo.



The Zoological Society's popular wild-animal programs now are reaching thousands of people each year, in schools, libraries, shopping centers, summer festivals and church fairs. This summer Care for Critters programs, sponsored by Roundy's Pick'n Save, will feature rain-forest animals, including four parrots, two owls from South America and a red-tailed boa. Naturalist MaryLynn Conter gives audiences a chance to observe the animals close up and to focus on the world's ecology. For a schedule of free public programs this summer, call the Zoological Society at (414) 258-2333 or see your July Wild Things newsletter.

## DEPARTMENTS

- 2 President's Letter
- 10 Edzoocation
- 11 Conservation Chronicles
- 15 Serengeti Circle
- 16 Platypus Society
- 18 What's Gnu

## PULLOUT PAGES

- A Animals of the Asian Continent
- B Creative Kids
- C Curious Corner
- D Junior Scientist Collectible Animal Cards
- E Bring Otters Back
- F Kids 'n Critters Club
- G&H Calendar of Events

## FRONT COVER

"Babe," African Elephant



# South American Connection

When you come to the Milwaukee County Zoo and see animals from other parts of the world, have you ever thought about what it would be like to visit those animals in the wild places where they live? Well, many of our Zoo staff do visit animals on other continents, often doing research or teaching. This gives them a better perspective on their jobs here at home, and it also adds to our Zoo's international reputation.

We have strong ties with South America. Deputy Zoo Director Bruce Beehler coordinated an international zoo biology and animal management class in Colombia. Elizabeth Frank, curator of large mammals, did an exchange with the curator of mammals at the Sao Paulo Zoo in Brazil. Ten Zoo staffers have conducted penguin research in Chile. Other staffers have led educational tours to Ecuador, Peru and the Galapagos Islands. And there's more. Come along with us on a trip to three countries where our Milwaukee staff recently had fascinating experiences.

## Studying penguins in Chile

Margaret Michaels was nervous. The boat she was traveling in from the coast of Chile to a nearby island didn't seem all that sturdy. The penguin-inhabited island they were approaching didn't look boat-friendly. She kept remembering a Chilean researcher who had been tossed by a wave against a similar island in an attempted landing a few years before. Was this all a bad idea?

But the penguins were so near. And the research she had traveled to Chile to do was important. A veterinary technician at the Milwaukee County Zoo, Michaels was studying Humboldt penguins for disease



Zoo staff have been studying Humboldt penguins along Chile's coastline for five years.

and also for genetic diversity. The more genetically diverse these threatened penguins are, the better their chances for survival. And the more zoos know about penguin genetic diversity in the wild, the better they can ensure that diversity in captive penguins.

The fisherman maneuvering the boat did a great job of getting the researchers on shore. Once there, they discovered a certain sculptural beauty to the place, rocky crags against blue sky, the silhouette of the mainland in the distance. "The island was honeycombed with penguin nests," said

Michaels: holes under rock outcroppings or burrows in the dirt.

While boating to this island of Puniuil was a new experience for Michaels, she and her colleague,

Milwaukee County Zoo senior veterinarian Roberta Wallace, had been down to Chile several times before doing penguin research 600 miles north on an island near Algarrobo that has a land bridge to the mainland. Twice a year since 1994 Wallace or Michaels and other Milwaukee County Zoo staff have traveled to Algarrobo off the central coast of Chile to study Humboldt penguins during their twice-a-year breeding seasons: May / June and September / October.

Traveling to any of the islands by boat is always a challenge, said Wallace, which is

why they chose Algarrobo. "The islands are steep and rocky, and it's hard to land the boats. You can't go out just any day. The ocean is a lot rougher than it looks." Walking over the slippery rocks is tricky, especially in the rain. Yet it's amazing to watch these flightless penguins climb up steep cliffs every day to their burrows. "They're really quite agile."

Spring 1997 (which was winter in Chile) was the most difficult year of the five-year study. Spring is the rainy season, but last year saw torrential El Nino rains, with huge storms coming in every 36 hours, said Wallace. "The only way we could dry our clothes was over a fire." And the penguin burrows they were studying were washed away. They originally had counted more than 200 nests. By the end of their four-week stay, there was only one nest left, away from the shore, with one adult bird and two chicks.

The year-round penguin study is sponsored by the Milwaukee County Zoo but overseen by well-known Chilean ornithologist Dr. Braulio Araya. In addition to the twice-yearly Milwaukee team's visits,



By measuring a penguin's bill length and dividing it by bill depth, researchers hope to develop a formula for determining gender.

Chilean researchers check the penguins every two weeks. Their work is funded by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, which also paid for initial equipment for the study and for many laboratory tests. The

Zoo pays the salaries and expenses of the Zoo staff who travel to Chile, and Windway Foundation, thanks to Terry and Mary Kohler of Sheboygan, pays their airfare. [The study Margaret Michaels was doing in Puniuil is part of a two-year project analyzing blood samples from the penguins to check for genetic diversity. That study is sponsored by the Brookfield Zoo in Illinois.]

The results so far have shown a surprisingly low number of avian viruses among the penguins, said Wallace. Also, data indicate that male penguins usually choose a nest site and generally return to the same site, even if a mate has died and the male has found a new mate. Female penguins, however, if they lose their mate will follow a new mate to whatever nest site he chooses.

Besides Wallace and Michaels, other current Zoo staff who have been to Chile for the research include curator of birds Kim Smith, aviary area supervisor Ellen Saksefsky, Aquatic & Reptile Center area supervisor Karen Grzybowski, avian keeper Craig Pelke and Bruce Beehler. Three of the original project founders who have moved on to other zoos also still actively participate in the Chilean research. And staff from other zoos have helped, too, if they could pay their own way.

## Helping the zoos of Brazil

Craig Berg, curator of the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center, speaks Portuguese, the main language of Brazil. This largest South American country also is home to some of the most interesting amphibians in the world, including the

colorful poison arrow frog. So Berg jumped at the chance to go to Brazil last November for three weeks to teach a zoo biology course for 24 Brazilian zoo curators and veterinarians.



Poison arrow frogs, on display at the Milwaukee County Zoo, are native to Brazil.

The goal of the ongoing zoo biology program — sponsored by the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the National Zoological Park in Washington, D.C., five participating US zoos that sent instructors, as well as their Brazilian partners — is to bring some of the latest animal-management techniques and technology to zoos with fewer resources and to reinforce collaborations between US and Brazilian zoos. The last such course that was taught in Brazil, in 1987, had profound effects.

"Instructors who had been down there 10 years ago giving the same course noted that many of the improvements that have occurred in the zoos in Brazil since that time stemmed directly from that course," said Berg. "Our purpose was to bring them up to date with newer concepts such as operant conditioning [see elephant story on page 12] and behavioral enrichment [creating more stimulating environments for animals]. We also wanted to bring them equipment. In Brazil they operate under

continued on next page



much lower budgets than we have. The cost of building a facility is much lower, but the cost of equipment is much higher."

The Zoological Society of Milwaukee got involved by contributing \$2,500 for equipment to take down to Brazil for



The Santos Aquarium in Brazil has a good relationship with our Zoo, and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee has donated equipment to Santos.

Aquarium), which gets 780,000 visitors a year because it is near the 17-million-population Sao Paulo metropolitan area, the third largest in the world. Berg plans to visit that aquarium again next winter, with the goal of helping keepers there plan exhibits

for poison-arrow frogs and other amphibians. He also will take photos of amphibian habitats in Brazil's coastal rain forest to use as guides for future Milwaukee County Zoo exhibits. (We currently have poison arrow frogs and other Brazilian frogs on exhibit.)

For 1999, Berg hopes to participate in an exchange that would bring Andrea Maranhão, the veterinarian at the Santos Aquarium, to Milwaukee and send Berg to Santos again to help them set up exhibits. The International Partnership of Museums, which sponsors such exchanges, currently is

seeking money to fund the trips. Milwaukee County Zoo staff already have done exchanges with staff from the Sao Paulo Zoo (which is where the November '97 zoo biology course was held).

Veterinarian Maranhão, by the way, sends her thanks to Zoological Society members for the filtration equipment: "That high-tech equipment will be extremely important in improving new filter systems here at the Aquario de Santos."

Researchers did lab work in these boats on Peru's Tapiche River. They slept in tents along the river bank.



## Searching for monkeys in Peru

Imagine spending \$2,500 to travel to the backwaters of the Amazon River in Peru to suffer biting ants, black flies that leave welts, spiders dropping on your head, thorns tough enough to rip your clothes or arms, crushing humidity, 14 hours a day in your tent just to avoid the bugs, no contact with the outside world and only one other person who speaks English: a researcher who doesn't talk much.

Yet that's just what Clay Ecklund did for a month last summer. Ecklund, trained as a zookeeper but currently working in the Zoo's stockroom, has wanted to do animal research for a long time. In March '97 he saw an ad asking for zookeepers to help conduct a census of monkeys along the

Tapiche River in northeastern Peru. He had to pay his own way and travel straight through for 3 1/2 days, but by June he was sitting in a tent on the shore of the Tapiche watching pink and gray dolphins play in the water.

Sponsored by the Detroit Zoo with statistical assistance from the Dallas Zoo, the research census was conducted between March and July 1997 by Suzi Leonard. Ecklund was one of five US zookeepers working with her, each one spending about a month in Peru.

They were looking for 15 species of monkeys said to be in the area but spotted only nine species, 2,211 animals in all. The most common were squirrel monkeys, followed by red nakari and red howlers.

"However," writes Leonard in her field report, "the drama of the data lies not in the numbers but in the peculiar patchwork of species distribution. For instance, within the approximate 25-kilometer-square area that has been surveyed, titi monkeys are limited to the left bank of the Tapiche while monk sakis are limited to the right bank, except for an island that in 1957 was on the right bank and now has moved to the left due to a change in the river course."

This suggests that waterways are natural barriers limiting primates to confined areas, which may make them more vulnerable to disease, predators and food compe-



Researchers in Peru were looking for tamarins (particularly mustached and saddleback tamarins). Cotton-topped tamarins are in the Milwaukee County Zoo.

tion. "Most primates can't swim, unlike humans," notes Gay Reinartz, conservation coordinator for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee. In Africa the rare bonobo great ape is found only south of the long Congo River.

Suzi Leonard, Ecklund and other researchers are concerned about the survival of monkeys. "It is illegal to hunt monkeys in Peru," says Ecklund. "Peru has some great wildlife laws. They're not enforced at all. I saw people selling jaguar paws on the street in the city of Iquitos. I saw police walk right by." Leonard adds: "When we arrived in the study site in March, the local community had five dead howler monkeys in their three homes."

In the end, all these international projects have one overall goal: conservation of

animals that are endangered — from Chilean penguins to Peruvian primates. As the coordinators of the "Zoo Biology, Husbandry and Management Training for Brazilian Zoos" wrote in their description for the Brazil project:

"We believe that the transfer of knowledge (from US curators to the Brazilians) is most likely to empower Brazilian zoos to become significant forces for shaping attitudes regarding the environment and wildlife, and ultimately the conservation of the wealth of biological diversity in Brazil."





# Fine-Feathered Space

Pheasants, birds of a most florid feather, once again will emblazon the aviary's grounds. Named in honor of the late Joe Wong, founder of Wong's Wok restaurants, the Wong Family Pheasantry will bring a flavor of the northern Asian highlands to the Milwaukee County Zoo. The pheasantry, under construction this summer and scheduled to open in August, will play host to three species of pheasant and one species of crane in a secluded, wooded setting, says Kim Smith, the Zoo's curator of birds.

The open, wire-mesh enclosure in which the pheasants will live year-round is being built between the exit of the Herb & Nada Mahler Family Aviary and the old penguin exhibit. It is on the site of the former pheasantry, which had to be demolished when the aviary was remodeled. Care will be taken to leave pine trees and shrubs undisturbed. "It should have the feel of northern Asia," Smith says. "We want it to look much like their natural habitat of a higher altitude; so we're leaving as many of the pines there as we can."

The Zoo has obtained the pheasants for the exhibit from a breeder in central Wisconsin, Smith says, noting that the birds already will be acclimated to living in a harsh climate. "All of these pheasants are winter-hardy," Smith says. "They're already used to being outside all year." Cranes, however, are migratory birds. They will have the benefit of warm, indoor quarters for the winter months.

All told, there will be nine pheasants and two cranes in the exhibit. A premiere of the exhibit for members of the Zoological Society will be held on August 20 during the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's A la Carte food festival.

Here's a sneak preview of the Wong Family Pheasantry's colorful new residents:

## Demoiselle Crane

The demoiselle crane, which ranges through Europe and northwestern Africa, will spend its summers on display in the Wong Family Pheasantry and the rest of the year off-exhibit. All gray with a long white plume on top of its head, the demoiselle crane is a small, elegant species.



## Golden Pheasant

At three to four feet in length and one to two pounds, this striking bird is among the smaller pheasants. But what golden pheasants lack in size, they make up for in style. The males boast brilliant gilded and crimson feathers. The birds, native to central China, have been introduced as game animals in other parts of the world.

## Satyr Tragopan

Unlike some pheasants, this bird has a completely feathered head. It bears a red "cap" atop its mostly black head. Native to the Himalayan Mountains, the Satyr Tragopan is found in woodland habitats at elevations of 8,000 to 10,000 feet.



## Silver Pheasant

The silver pheasant is found in the highland forests of southern China, amid bamboo and brush. The long-tailed, speckled silver pheasant generally travels in groups of three. The bird is memorialized in Chinese poetry and painting.





## EDZOOICATION

### Kids Days

"That's the best-tasting dirt I had — and the best-tasting worms!" said 6-year-old James Sugar of New Berlin. He was attending an all-day class at the Zoo during his school's spring break and had just finished a snack called "soil cake."

No, we are not feeding kids dirt, said Zoological Society educator Kerry Scanlan. The snack actually was chocolate pudding with crushed chocolate cookies and a 3 1/2-inch-long gummy worm buried deep in the pudding cup, she explained. The snack symbolized the important role that worms play in aerating soil and decomposing plant matter so new plants can grow. The class, called "Nature's Janitors," featured vultures, hyenas and other creatures that naturally clean up the environment.

Little James' enthusiasm was typical for the children attending the various Kids Days Off workshops sponsored by the NFL Alumni Association and taught by Zoological Society educators October through April. "I liked the whole day," he said.

The Zoological Society started holding all-day Kids Days Off workshops about eight years ago as a way to help parents when children were out of school during teachers' conferences, said Mary Thiry, the Society's education director. "Kids Days Off workshops teach kids about animals and conservation, all in a safe setting so the kids aren't home alone. The value to the parents is that they don't have to find a baby sitter, and they can be assured that they have their children in a quality educational environment."

One parent, Jeanne Sherer of Milwaukee, said of the workshops: "I just like to provide interesting and fun things for my kids, and this certainly fits the bill." Her 5-year-old son, Holden, attended four workshops in the last year, and her 8-year-old, Michael, took one.

Lynn Schulz of Menomonee Falls, a parent of two, said of the workshop her 6-year-old son, Alex, attended in spring:

"I think it's excellent value for the dollar. We don't get to the Zoo very often. So this gets the kids out here."

In recent years the Society's Education Center, which conducts all the children's classes at the Zoo, has expanded its offerings to Christmas break, spring break and



Children got to pet a porcupine during Unhuggables, an October 1997 Kids Day Off workshop sponsored by the NFL Alumni Association. In March 1998, during Animal Olympics, they touched a giant tortoise shell.

other days off that school districts schedule during the winter.

About four years ago the NFL Alumni Association, a charitable organization of former football players who sponsor children's programs throughout the greater Milwaukee area, came on board as the sponsor of Kids Days Off workshops.

"Without the sponsorship, we would not have been able to expand the program or offer scholarships to low-income families," says Thiry.

During the 1997-'98 school year, 1,144 children participated in the following Kids Days Off workshops: Unhuggables (porcupines, etc.); Colossal Animals; Christmas Islands (exotic animals from tropical islands); Snowy Survival (snow leopards, wolves, etc.); Animal Olympics (animal champions); Ocean Adventures (sharks and coral reef creatures); Paws, Jaws & Claws (on bears); and, of course, Nature's Janitors.

John Eckerstorfer of West Allis likes the workshops because they have kids visit animals on exhibit at the Zoo, and his boys get to see animals not found in Wisconsin, such as sharks. He added: "They provide alternative sources of learning and introduce the boys to nature and other environments."

His 8-year-old son, Ian, was excited about Nature's Janitors because, he said,

"We got to search in the woods for different kinds of bugs. And we found a dead opossum with flies and maggots all over it." He learned that even though some people consider maggots rather gross, they are valuable "janitors" in getting rid of rotting material.

You will find a listing of Kids Days Off workshops for the 1998-'99 school year in your September issue of *Wild Things* newsletter, which should arrive in the mail

late August or early September. Among the classes will be Journey Around the World (for ages 6-8), a series of classes, each focusing on animals from a specific continent. Classes are \$20 for Zoological Society members (\$25 for non-members) and are open to children ages 6 to 12 and to 5-year-olds in kindergarten. Before and after care also is available.

### KIDS!

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



# Alive

## pullout pages

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUMMER 1998

for kids and families

## Animals of the Asian Continent

The Asian environment is rich with a variety of habitats and wildlife. The southern rain forests, the vast Himalayan Mountains, the central Gobi Desert, the temperate forests and the cool grasslands known as steppes contribute to this continent's diversity. Here are some Asian animals that are on exhibit at the Milwaukee County Zoo and their native areas in Asia.

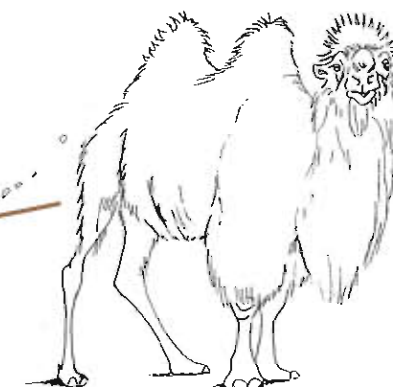


### Asian black bears

from the Himalayan Mountains live in the forests on lower mountain slopes.

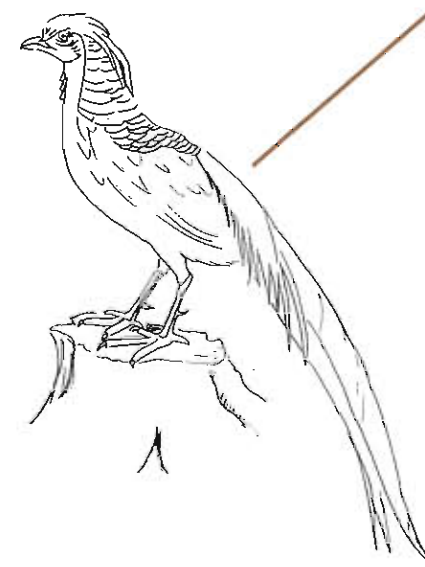
### Bactrian camels

from the Gobi Desert can live in very high and very low temperatures.



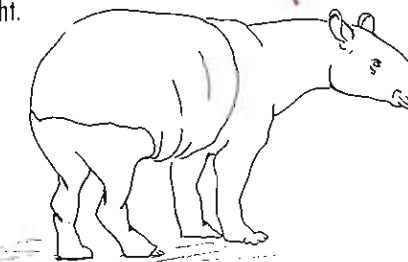
### Golden pheasants

live in the temperate forests and grasslands of central China. Golden pheasants will be on exhibit in mid-August 1998 in the Wong Family Pheasantry.



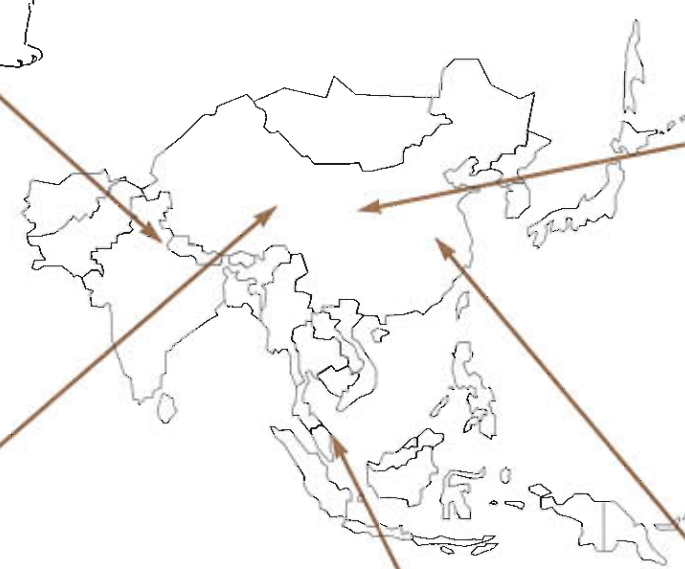
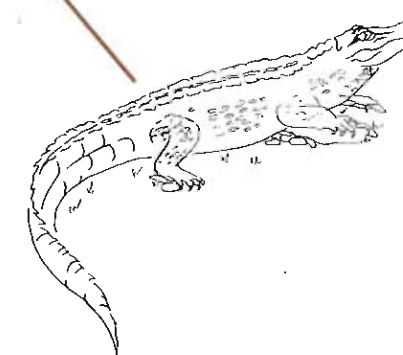
### The Malayan tapir

is found in the rain forests of Malaysia. This animal is very timid and comes out mainly at night.



### Chinese alligators

inhabit only the lower marshlands of China's Yangtze River.





# CREATIVE KIDS

Hoofed animals are the subject of these children's drawings. Most of the children attended a Zoological Society Drawing Workshop, which taught them animal observation and sketching.



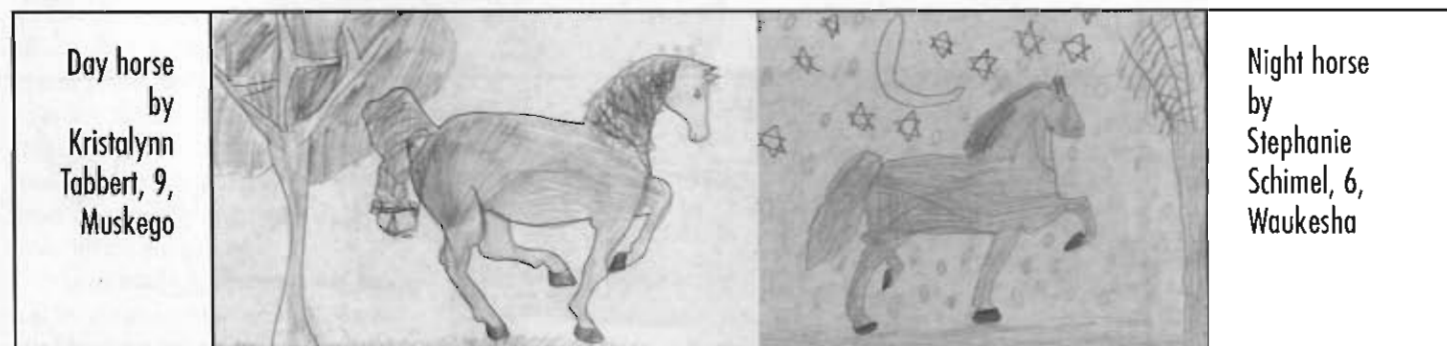
Zebra  
by Therese Katrosits, 12,  
Saukville



Cape eland  
by Elizabeth Rohde, 10, Waukesha



Zebra  
by Dan Duyser, 11, Wauwatosa



Day horse  
by  
Kristalynn  
Tabbert, 9,  
Muskego

Night horse  
by  
Stephanie  
Schimel, 6,  
Waukesha

## Going Batty Game

The scientific name for the order of bats is *Chiroptera*. How many new words can you make from these words: *Chiroptera* are batty. To get you started, we provided one example. Did you know that there are more than 950 different species of bats and that they are found in almost every habitat? The only places where you don't find bats are the Arctic, Antarctic and the highest mountains.

*Chiroptera* are batty

rope \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## CURIOUS CORNER

**Maria Fotsh, age 5**  
Brookfield

Good question: "Do daddy kangaroos have pouches like mommy kangaroos?" Kangaroos are marsupials, animals that have pouches to carry their babies. Only female (mommy) kangaroos have pouches. When a baby kangaroo is born, it is so little that it cannot live outside of its mother's body. Fortunately, it does not have to because its mother has a pouch, or pocket. The baby crawls into the pouch and drinks milk until it grows large enough to go out into the world.

**Derrick Schoening**  
Wilson Elementary School, Neenah

I'm glad you asked: "How do owls turn their heads around?" Owls don't actually turn their heads all the way around. Even though their necks are very flexible (owls have 14 vertebrae in their neck while humans have only 7), owls can turn their heads only about 270 degrees. A full circle is 360 degrees. Sometimes it looks like they turn their heads 360 degrees because they turn so quickly, but as soon as they reach the stopping point, they often turn the head the other way.



**Gina Muscato, age 11**  
Germantown

"How do you get all of the food for all of the animals in the Zoo?" you asked. Each animal species on Earth has developed its own eating habits through time, adapting to its environment. Some animals have an adaptation that allows them to digest fiber; most of these animals eat only plants and are called herbivores. Other animals (such as

humans) can eat and digest both plants and other animals; they are termed omnivores. Still others eat only animal flesh and are considered carnivores. The Zoo offers

many examples of each type of animal. Therefore, many different diets are needed to keep the animals healthy.

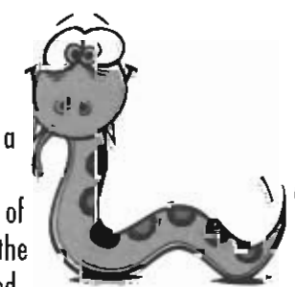
Such a variety of animal food must be bought from many suppliers. For example, we buy plant food such as lettuce and apples, as well as most animal pellet food, from a Milwaukee-area company. Cow tails (which help keep feline and wolf teeth clean and healthy) are from a company north of Milwaukee. Most of the meat comes from Nebraska. Eucalyptus leaves for the koalas are flown in twice a week fresh from a plantation in Florida, thanks to American Airlines. The food then is stored in a building at the Zoo called the commissary. Each day zookeepers order food for their animals, and a truck from the commissary delivers it to each area of the Zoo. The cost of feeding all the Zoo animals is more than \$365,000 a year.

For the last several years, Rouny's Pick'n Save has helped the Zoological Society pay the entire grocery bill.

**Austin Meier**  
Trinity Lutheran School, Oshkosh

Here's an interesting question: "How do snakes eat things bigger than their heads?" The bottom jaw of a snake is not like ours. It is loosely attached to the rest of its head. Even the front of the bottom jaw can be separated.

This gives it the ability to open its jaw very wide and swallow food that is bigger than the snake's own body.



## Dear Curious Corner Questioners:

Thanks for all your questions. I look forward to hearing from more of you this year. Send your questions to:

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

Your crazy-about-animals friend,  
Dr. Kerisa Zoology





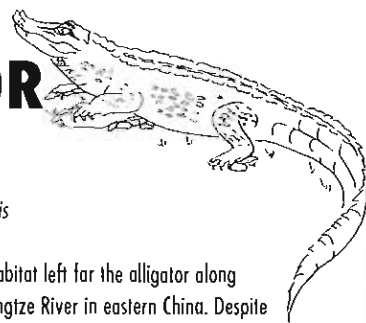
# JUNIOR SCIENTIST

## COLLECTIBLE ANIMAL CARDS

Color in these Asian animals, cut apart the cards and add them to your animal-card collection. (Note: Don't cut out the cards until you've read the backside of this page.) All animals in this series are on exhibit at the Zoo (or will be soon).

### REPTILE

## CHINESE ALLIGATOR



Scientific Name: *Alligator sinensis*

Today there is almost no natural habitat left for the alligator along its historical range of the lower Yangtze River in eastern China. Despite legal protection, the few remaining wild alligators still are being hunted.



**STATUS:** One of the most endangered crocodylian species



**DIET IN THE WILD:** Small mammals, fish, birds, reptiles (especially turtles), amphibians

**ZOO DIET:** Smaller mice (approximately 15 each, twice a week)  
Occasionally small fish (capelin)



**FUN FACTS:** Alligators grow throughout their life, although the rate of growth slows with age. On average, alligators grow up to 6 feet long, but ancient Chinese texts suggest that once they grew much larger — before humans hunted them and invaded their habitats.

### BIRD

## GOLDEN PHEASANT



Scientific Name: *Chrysolophus pictus*

This beautiful bird lives at high altitudes in the rocky foothills among bamboo scrub. It avoids thick woodland, wetlands, and open country. In England, where it has been introduced, it favors dense forest plantations and may be found in mixed woodland.



**STATUS:** Stable



**DIET IN THE WILD:** Leaves and shoots of shrubs (especially low-growing bamboo), rhododendron flowers, beetles and spiders.

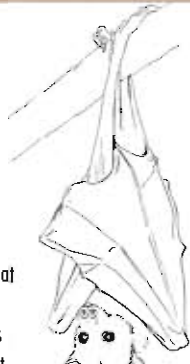
**ZOO DIET:** Game bird pellet, chapped grains, occasional insects



**FUN FACTS:** When displaying his plumage, the male utters a loud hiss. The bird is shy. Much of its life in the wild remains a mystery. The female is a speckled brown, and the chick has creamy yellow and red-brown down.

### MAMMAL

## INDIAN FRUIT BAT



Scientific Name: *Pteropus giganteus*

The Indian fruit bat finds its way through the dark not by sound, as insect-eating bats do, but by sight and smell. Its eyes are far larger than those of most bats and look more like the eyes of nocturnal primates. It lives in tropical forests and swamps, mainly in coastal areas. Where it does live inland, the bat is seldom found far from water.



**STATUS:** Threatened



**DIET IN THE WILD:** Fruit (chewing to get the juice and spitting out rest), pollen and juice of various tree flowers.

**ZOO DIET:** Primate/Bat salad, bananas, orange juice



**FUN FACTS:** For the first few weeks of its life, the newborn bat clings to its mother, even when she flies from the roost to feed. Fruit-eating bats pollinate flowers and distribute their seeds. They sometimes drink sea water, possibly to get minerals lacking in their sugary diet. During the day they are noisy and active.

### MAMMAL

## ASIAN BLACK BEAR



Scientific Name: *Ursus thibetanus*

Because the Asian black bear has been hunted for its fur and meat, its numbers have been greatly reduced throughout its range. It is found in mountain forests and areas covered with brush throughout a very wide range stretching from northern Iran through Afghanistan, Pakistan, the Himalayas, and China into eastern Siberia, Japan, and Southwest Asia.



**STATUS:** Endangered



**DIET IN THE WILD:** Animal flesh (often carrion), fruits and nuts (especially mulberries and acorns).

**ZOO DIET:** Spectrum Omnivore Pellets, carrots, apples, oxtails.



**FUN FACTS:** A cub is born without fur and with its eyes closed, but the warmth and safety of the den and mother's rich milk give it a good chance of surviving the first months. Cubs usually are born in winter and come out of the den with Mom in May. A cub may stay with her up to two years, but if she comes into heat (is ready to mate) by summer, she forces the cub to fend for itself.

# Otters Ought'a Have a Home

## BRING OTTERS BACK TO THE ZOO AND GIVE THEM ROOM...WITH A VIEW!

We're two-thirds of the way to our goal of \$150,000 for the Zoological Society's 1997-'98 annual appeal. The money is going to build a new water exhibit in the Small Mammals building so we can bring North American river otters back to the Milwaukee County Zoo. Please help us. Donate \$100 or more, and your name (or the person you are making the donation in honor of) will be listed here in *Alive*. Donations are 100% tax-deductible. We wish to thank all the individuals and corporations who have contributed so far. Donations made by April 20 are recognized below. If every household among our members gives just \$5, we will reach our goal!

Abraham, Tom & Sandy  
Amidzich, Helen\*  
Arzbaecher Family  
Baker, Jessica L  
Bardeen, Ann  
Bares, Mr & Mrs Thomas  
Barlow Family, Greg  
Blom, Esther I\*  
Bloodgood, John & Sharon  
Borkowski, James & Laurie  
Brossmann, Fred & Marge  
Buebendorf Family  
Bydynkowski, Leona  
Carson Pirie Scott  
Foundation  
Claire/Annie & Caroline  
Colloton, Maribeth  
Cook, Courtney & Councor  
Cretser, Mark & Liuda  
Crispell, Elvin & Nancy  
Danly, Dorothy & George  
Davidson, Helen M\*  
Demmer, Lawrence E  
Dignan, Christine M  
Doern, David & Jeannie  
Doucette Family, Bob  
Dreyer, Jackie & Chris  
Dunn, John & Margot  
Dziengel, Dakota

Elswick, Don & Nelda  
Fifield, Tom & Marilyn  
Arzbaecher Family  
Fleck, Janet & David  
Folsch Foundation, The  
Geraets, Thomas J  
Gettel, Katie & Sarah  
Giesige Family, The  
Goell, Dr William S  
Gonter, Gary & Terry  
Haebig, Kimberly  
Hansen, Sherry & Lance  
Harper, Caroline Shepley  
Heumann, Spot & Sheba  
Hulstedt, Jan & Lauren  
Jenk Architecture-Design  
Johnson Family, Grant A  
Johnson, Richard & Mary  
Johnson, Scott & Kelly  
Juhasz, Paul\*  
Kamasky, Tom & Ann  
Kane, Jason P  
Karol, Barbara  
Kautzer, Jeff & Dawn  
Kemp, Janet A  
Kleewein, Tom  
Kohler, Martin E  
Lancaster, Emily M

LeMahieu, Richard G  
Leedom, Nanette\*  
Lewis, Lyndsay P  
Ley, Maral M  
Lieberman, Jay & Joan  
Lockwood, Cherie A  
Lupton, Joe  
Lychwick, Jeanette\*  
Mackie, B Marlene  
Makovec, Tony & Barb  
Makowski, John & Audrey  
Mazzeo, My Uncle Bill\*  
Meyers, Jean & Ralph  
Montgomery, R Lawrence  
NML - Annuity Department  
Neff, Miss M Lucille  
Nelton, Emma Elise & Alex  
Nichols Family, Asher & Sue  
Petersen, Paul & Patricia  
Peterson, Jane E  
Pfanerstill, Larry &  
Christine  
Phelps, Dr Carlino & Dr

Piering, Grace\*  
Pollack, Robert  
& Jeanne  
Poremski, Tod & Nancy  
Powell, Lucille  
Pryor, Ken, Kim, Kate, Kelly  
QLC Inc  
Raffel, Chris & Bob  
Rankin, Geoffrey  
Rarick, Tom & Wendy  
Richardson, Frank & Chris  
Richio, Eileen\*  
Robinson, Don & Stephany  
Roth, Judith & James  
Rymut Family  
Schaefer, Gary & Jean  
Schloegel, Jean & John  
Schmeling & Family, Greg  
Schneck Family, The  
Schultz, Angela  
Schuster Family, Michael S  
Schwabe, James J\*  
Schwartz Family, The Joh  
Seidel, Bob\*  
Simeth, Steve & Denise  
Sisters of Holy Nativity  
Skolf, Jerry & Laura  
Smith, Allison M & Dale R  
Smith, Jane & Curt

Speaker, Jamie & Chris  
Steinman, Dick  
Steinman, James A  
Stringer Family, The Chip  
Thomas, James  
Timm, Johnathan Emil  
Tomazevic, Bob & Jan  
Toth, A J\*  
Van Deuren, Roselie  
Vohl, Robert R & Rosie  
WI Student Assoc Vet Tech  
Wacker, Edward J  
Wagner, Robert A  
Wendorf, Ken, Carol, Kris, Kurt  
Whately, Amy Lynn  
Williams, Pam & Dave  
Wisconsin Festivals Inc  
Wright, Steven A  
Wyckoff, Imogene M  
Yanke, Sandy  
Young, Jeffrey A  
Youngquist, Claudia & Jim  
Zdroik, Dennis & Robin  
Zellmer, David & Dorothy  
Zero Zone Inc  
\*Memorials



**YES!** I want to bring river otters back to the Zoo!

Please accept my gift of:

- Other: \_\_\_\_\_  \$50  \$100  \$500  \$1,000 Donations are 100% tax-deductible
- \$30  \$75  \$250  \$1,000

Donors of \$30 or more will have their names permanently displayed near the otter habitat in the Small Mammals building. Donors who give \$100 or more will receive additional recognition in upcoming issues of *ALIVE* magazine. Donors of \$250 or more will receive an invitation to a special VIP preview, and those donors at the \$1,000 or higher levels also will receive the opportunity for special recognition in the Small Mammals building.

Please list the name to be printed on the recognition sign and/or in *ALIVE* magazine. If this is a gift or memorial, please list the name of the person you're honoring below and complete the information to the right: (Feel free to make copies of this form for multiple gifts.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Maximum number of characters, including spaces, is 25.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to **ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY** or charge my:

- Visa  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Acct.# \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Honor a friend or relative with a Gift or Memorial Acknowledgment:**

- Gift  Memorial

Send a gift card/memorial acknowledgment to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_



# the best deal in town! Kids!

Do you love animals? Then join the wildest club in town and get a deal that can't be beat. Join the Zoological Society's Kids 'n Critters Club for only \$10 a year, and you get a whole bunch of animal fun. Thanks to Tri City National Bank, which sponsors the club, here's what you get:

First of all, as a club member you help sponsor an array of animals at the Zoo. So you get your name put on a sponsor board at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Stackner Heritage Farm, where many of your 18 sponsored animals live. You have your own clubhouse and your own quarterly newsletter called *FOOTNOTES*, filled with fun mysteries, animal facts and science activities. You also receive the Zoological Society's *Wild Things* newsletter, and our quarterly *Alive* magazine filled with animal articles.

To help you learn more about your sponsored animals, we give you an animal-information booklet when you join the Kids 'n Critters Club. You also can earn eight free patches, featuring animals from deer to chipmunks, by exploring the Zoo and filling in activity sheets with animal questions. And children who sponsor animals through the club are invited to bring their families to the Zoological Society's annual August Twilight Safari for animal sponsors, where you go on behind-the-scenes tours and talk with zookeepers about your favorite animals.

But there's more! Each member gets a club membership card, a Kids 'n Critters Club button, animal stickers and a birthday card from your sponsored animals.



Kids from Kenosha's Forest Park Elementary School visit the Kids 'n Critters Clubhouse.

Children who figure out the Secret Surprise puzzle in their *FOOTNOTES* newsletter can tell the answer to a Zoo Pride volunteer in the Zoological Society office or at the Kids 'n Critters Clubhouse and get a special treat. (The clubhouse, by the way, is next to the primate kiosk just south of Monkey Island. It is staffed a few days a week by Zoo Pride volunteers from Memorial Day through Labor Day.)

To join our Kids 'n Critters Club, fill out the form on this page and mail it with a \$10 check to: Zoological Society, 10005 W. Blue Mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

## KIDS 'N CRITTERS CLUB APPLICATION

Kids 'n Critters Club Kid: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 BIRTHDAY (month/day) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donor's Name (if different) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gift Card Message \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send packet to \_\_\_\_\_ Recipient \_\_\_\_\_ Donor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send renewal to \_\_\_\_\_ Recipient \_\_\_\_\_ Donor \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cost to join is \$10 per child. Enclosed is \$10 per child, for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please send this form with check or money order, payable to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, or charge the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my:  
 Visa  MasterCard  American Express  Discover  
 Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mail to: Kids 'n Critters Club  
 Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, 10005 W. Blue Mound Road,  
 Milwaukee, WI 53226

The best deal yet? This summer kids can join the Kids 'n Critters Club for free or at half-price thanks to Welch's and Roundy's Pick'n Save. Send in five UPC symbols from any Welch's product with this form, and one child gets a free membership to the Club. Or, join the Club for only \$5 by sending in three UPC symbols from Welch's products.

To comply with WI Statute Section 440.455, a financial statement of the Zoological Society will be provided upon request.



ALL SUMMER

### Ends September 27

**Ameritech's Bats: Masters of the Night** visiting indoor exhibit in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building (behind Monkey Island). Cost: \$2.00. Crawl through a bat cave, become a bat scientist, enter an upside-down house and see the way a bat sees. Explore the mysteries and myths of these night creatures.



### Ends October 10

**Roundy's Pick'n Save's Care for Critters** programs, presented by the Zoological Society, give people a chance to meet live rain-forest animals, from a tropical Macaw to a red-tailed boa, and to learn what endangers these animals. Numerous programs will be presented at summer festivals and church fairs through Oct. 10. No charge beyond festival admission prices. (See *Wild Things* July newsletter for a schedule.)

JULY

### July 8 - August 5 Tri City National Bank presents Sunset Zoofaris

Come to the Zoo Wednesday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. to visit any of the animal buildings as well as the petting ring in Stackner Heritage Farm. Enjoy music ranging from blues to country on the patio of the Flamingo Cafe. (In bad weather, the bands will be in the Peck Welcome Center.) **Admission to the Zoo is**

# Calendar

Summer 1998

See the July *WILD THINGS* newsletter for more details on some of these events.

### 27

#### Miller Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament

This ninth annual golf event raises money for the Zoological Society. Held at the Ozaukee Country Club, Mequon, tee off is at 12:30 p.m. Call (414) 258-2333 for information.



David Frassetto of Milwaukee holds up his daughter, Nadine, 7, to view birds in the Zoo Hospital during Twilight Safari '97. Left: Corey Dineen, 10, and his sister, Kelly, 6, of Cedarburg enjoy Kids Night '97.

**free for Zoological Society members.** For non-members, admission for Sunset Zoofaris is half-price (\$4 adults, \$3 children ages 3-12) or \$15 per car-load, whichever is cheaper. And there is no parking charge! Here is the band lineup: July 8 - Blues musician Jim Liban & his band; July 15 - This is This, a band playing '80s music; July 22 - Bobby Way & the Wayouts, '50s & '60s music; July 29 - Honky Tonk Heroes, a country band; Aug. 5 - Jim Liban & his band.

### 14, 16, 17

#### Jays and Roundy's Pick'n Save present Kids Night MEMBERS ONLY

From 5:30 to 10 p.m., all entertainment, activities and food will be geared to kids. View the new Birds Without Borders — *Aves Sin Fronteras* bird-observation deck, presented by the **Derse**

#### Family Foundation.

Use spotting scopes to view songbirds around Lake Evinrude. Signs tell you about the Birds Without Borders program. Kids Night also features free music and free animal programs, from the Roundy's



Pick'n Save's Birds of Prey Show to Animals in Action programs on gorillas, orangutans, etc.

AUGUST

### 6

#### Welch's & Roundy's Pick'n Save present Twilight Safari ANIMAL SPONSORS ONLY

This evening event takes animal sponsors behind the scenes in the Zoo's animal buildings to hear talks by zookeepers and Zoo Pride volunteers.



For your  
reference

# Calendar

Summer 1998

14 & 15

## Milwaukee's Pickles and Roundy's Pick'n Save present Snooze at the Zoo

The Zoological Society's annual camp-out includes a picnic dinner, group campfire, entertainment, breakfast, and free tickets to Ameritech's Bats: Masters of the Night exhibit. After breakfast, campers can explore the Zoo. For details and information on discounts, call (414) 258-2333.

20-23

## Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's A la Carte at the Zoo

Sample food from a variety of Milwaukee-area restaurants as the Zoo extends its hours till 10 p.m. for these four days. Enjoy musical entertainment. View the premiere of the **Wong Family Pheasantry**, a new exhibit of three northern China pheasants and a Demoiselle crane (see story on page 8). The pheasantry is next to the Herb and Nada Mahler Family Aviary. Call (414) 256-5412 for details.

## SEPTEMBER

4

## Aurora HealthCare's Senior Celebration

Special entertainment, animal bingo, free health screenings, and box lunches are all part of this Zoo event. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., people age 60 and older with identification get into the Zoo free, while Zoological Society members get in free at any time. (Parking is \$5 cars, \$12

buses.) Programs listing the day's activities will be available at the Zoo entrance mall. Senior box lunches can be prepaid and reserved by calling (414) 256-5428. For more details, call (414) 256-5412.

16, 19, 23, 26, 30 & Oct. 3

## Zoo Pride orientation

Get to know the Zoo really well. Take the six-session Zoo Pride orientation class. Zoo Pride is the Zoological Society's voluntary auxiliary, a cadre of people age 15 to 90+ who serve as Zoo guides, help with special events, aid our EdZooation workshops, etc. Last year they volunteered 52,765 hours. New volunteers must attend all six sessions (18 hours) to graduate. For more information, call the Zoo Pride office at (414) 258-5667.

12-13

## Golden Guernsey's Heritage Farm Weekend

Come to the Zoo for harvest fun: tractor pulls for kids (see photo), games, demonstrations of butter making, egg hatching and even a farmer's market. Call (414) 256-5412 for details.

13

## 4th Annual Ride on the Wild Side

This family bike ride starts at the Zoo, with your choice of three routes, including one for younger children. Includes continental breakfast, snacks, T-shirt and more. Call (414) 258-2333 for details.

See the July  
*WILD THINGS* newsletter for  
more details on some  
of these events.

## OCTOBER

8 & 9, 29 & 30

## NFL Alumni Association presents Kids Days Off

When kids are off school during public and private teacher conventions, let them continue to learn at the Zoo. Children ages 6-12 can attend all-day Zoological Society workshops that include tours, hands-on learning activities, crafts and games. To register, call the Education Center at (414) 256-5421. (See page 10)

17 & 18

## Zoological Society members premiere of river otters

Watch for your invitation to the premiere of the Zoo's new North American river otters exhibit in the Small Mammals building.



James Ricco of Milwaukee enjoys the tractor pull.

## CONSERVATION CHRONICLES

### Notes FROM the FIELD

Sitting on a slim platform, surrounded by 15 elephants in an African forest, Erica Cochrane recalls a time when, as she says, "Elephants held no particular interest for me. Now they most certainly represent a mystique and inspiration for me."

What changed for Cochrane, a University of Wisconsin-Madison researcher who has spent nearly two years in the forest of eastern Africa following elephants, is her suspicion that these large mammals might play a significant role in the life of forests.

"When I first began developing my research ideas, I was interested in finding out how forests in Africa were being affected by losing large mammals," says Cochrane, who received help from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee to pursue her research on how the world's largest land mammal affects its environment. "In the Tropics, large mammals may play a critical role in tree regeneration through seed dispersal. However, little is known about the role of these large animals in creating or modifying forests.

"The bulk of research on elephants has focused on their negative effects—how they destroy trees and convert woodlands into grasslands," Cochrane says. "Very few people have looked at the roles that elephants play in forests, both negative and positive."

Cochrane determined that the best way to understand what elephants do in a forest, where they are seldom seen by humans and dangerous to encounter on foot, is to investigate signs of their activities: browsed trees and the heaps of dung they leave in their wake.

By placing indigestible markers on the putrid-smelling fruit of the balanites tree—a staple of the elephants' diet—Cochrane can see how far from the parent tree the animals carry and drop the tree's seeds. It's not glamorous work. Cochrane follows elephant paths and retrieves fruit markers

from dung. The smell of the balanites fruit can linger on one's hands for more than a week, and a single elephant can drop 17 piles of dung in a day.

But such research reveals that elephants perform major ecological roles in the forest as seed dispersers and as "disturbance agents," says Cochrane. The mere act of an elephant walking through the forest and choosing certain trees to browse on

*"This award was a great inspiration to me, that somebody actually believed in my research ideas."*

can create small openings and allow sun to seep in and nourish small trees. "These microclimates that elephants create may be critical to the regeneration of certain trees," she says.

Another key question she hopes to answer: What happens to the forest ecosys-

tem if elephants are eliminated through hunting or poaching? This is not an academic question. It already has happened in many of Africa's forests. In Fort Portal, Uganda, where Cochrane was interviewed by phone, she said that Kibale National Park, where Cochrane conducts research, once had a healthy population of more than 600 elephants. Now, after decades of civil strife, there may be fewer than 100.

Zoological Society members, she notes, have played a key role in fostering her research.

"When I first started applying for grants, the very first one I received was from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County through its Wisconsin Conservation Student Grant program," Cochrane says. "This award was a great inspiration to me, that somebody actually believed in my research ideas."

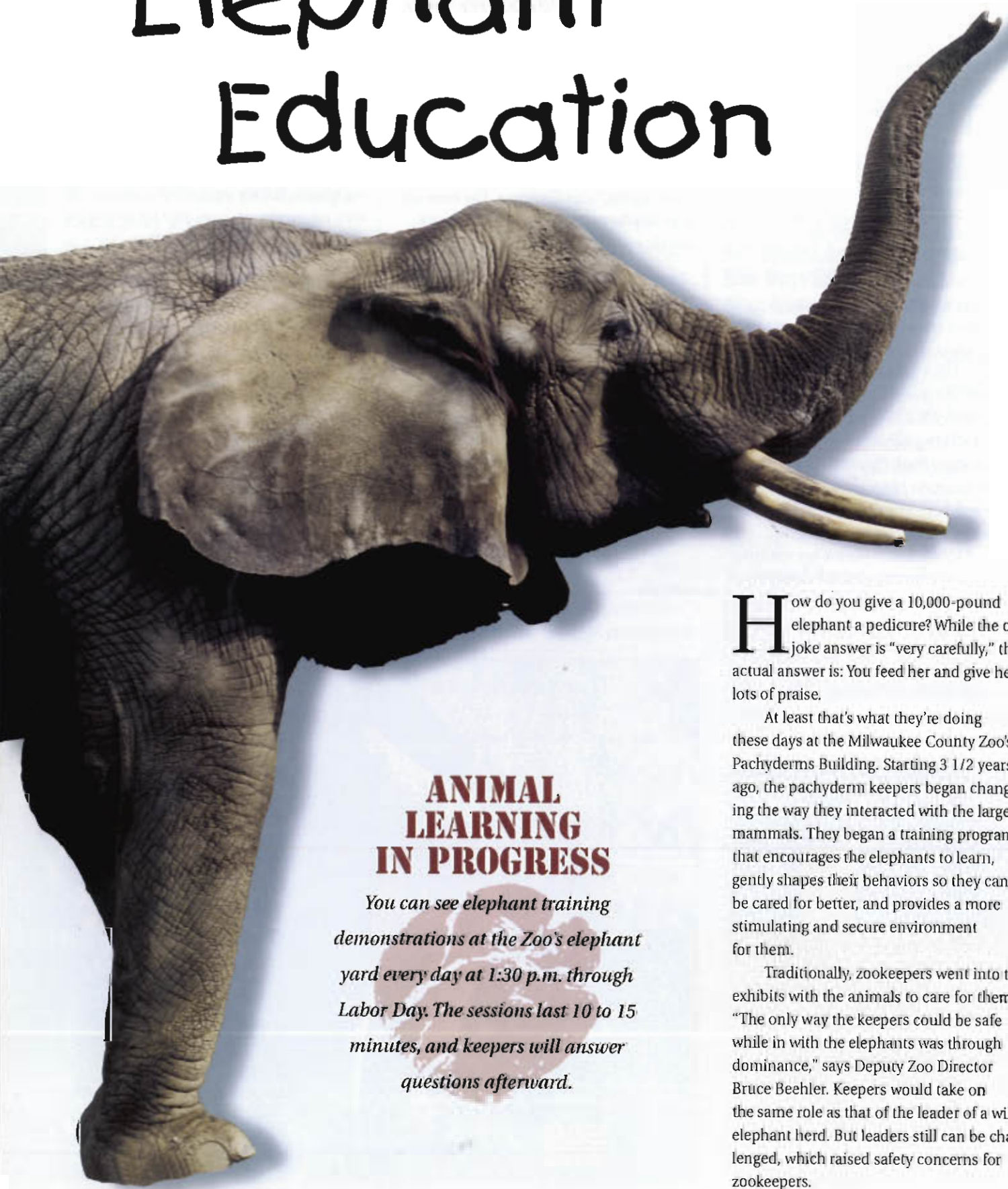
Today, grants from the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, the Zoological Society's partner in international conservation education efforts, allows Cochrane to continue her research.



Photo courtesy of Erica Cochrane



# Elephant Education



## ANIMAL LEARNING IN PROGRESS

*You can see elephant training demonstrations at the Zoo's elephant yard every day at 1:30 p.m. through Labor Day. The sessions last 10 to 15 minutes, and keepers will answer questions afterward.*

**H**ow do you give a 10,000-pound elephant a pedicure? While the old joke answer is "very carefully," the actual answer is: You feed her and give her lots of praise.

At least that's what they're doing these days at the Milwaukee County Zoo's Pachyderms Building. Starting 3 1/2 years ago, the pachyderm keepers began changing the way they interacted with the large mammals. They began a training program that encourages the elephants to learn, gently shapes their behaviors so they can be cared for better, and provides a more stimulating and secure environment for them.

Traditionally, zookeepers went into the exhibits with the animals to care for them. "The only way the keepers could be safe while in with the elephants was through dominance," says Deputy Zoo Director Bruce Beehler. Keepers would take on the same role as that of the leader of a wild elephant herd. But leaders still can be challenged, which raised safety concerns for zookeepers.

Today the Zoo's two elephants, Babe and Lucy, are cared for in a "protected contact" program in which there is always a barrier (bars, moat, etc.) between elephants and keepers. So to get close enough to the elephants to check their ears or trunk or feet, keepers have been teaching Babe and Lucy to cooperate in their own care by placing a foot up on a bar for nail trimming, for example. This method incorporates a psychological technique called operant conditioning, which slowly shapes animal behavior by rewarding them every time they take an action that will help the keeper. First they might learn to raise a foot, then to put it on a bar, then to let keepers trim nails.

It's a slow process. "It takes a lot of time to build up that trust that the animals need," says Carol Deer,\* who started the protected-contact program with the elephants in January 1995 (and later moved on to other areas of the Zoo).

Because all of the training is voluntary for the animals, it creates a strong feeling of security. They feel more in control and are more comfortable. "As a result, the keepers and elephants have developed a tremendous rapport," says Beehler.

The main goal of the training program has been to get animals to take an active part in their health care, rather than be upset when veterinarians need to draw blood or zookeepers need to check their teeth. For example, to prepare an elephant for having blood drawn, the first step is to train her to present the back of her ear, where blood is drawn. Next, a keeper gets the elephant accustomed to having the whole back of her ear rubbed. After many days of increasing the pressure, the keeper will poke behind the ear till the elephant feels a small amount of discomfort, as she would with a blood draw — all the while rewarding her with apples or other treats.

The elephants have learned a special language that directs them to help the keepers. (See Elephant Dictionary box.) To present the ear, the keeper might simply say: EAR.

"Elephants need a lot of care in captivity because they don't walk in continuous search for food, water and safety, as they do in the wild," says pachyderm keeper Tracey Dolphin.\* "We need to give them baths. We need to do foot care. We need access to all parts of their body. We need to look in their mouth, check their tusks, examine their skin condition. We also need to get them moving around for exercise. With operant conditioning, the care of the elephants has improved because there's more consistency and trust with keepers."

Adds Beehler: "This allows us to do procedures that normally would require anesthesia, without stress to the animal. This program also provides both mental and physical stimulation for the animals."

For Babe, the new program has been a turning point. You would think that the Zoo's biggest animal would be anything but timid. Not so. "Babe was aptly named. She's a big baby," says Beth Roszak, a pachyderm keeper. "Anything new is especially scary to her. Her ears fly out, her tail bends, and then the trumpeting starts."

For example, there was the arrival of the two wart hogs in spring '97. The pair took up residence in the yard next to Babe and Lucy. The first day Babe was so upset that she put her front legs up on the wall between the yards and used her trunk to spew dirt at the wart hogs, trumpeting her dislike for these interlopers.



**Dave Sorensen and Dana Nicholson (kneeling) work together to care for the feet of Babe, the Zoo's largest animal.**

She can express herself at the most inopportune times. During a TV interview last year, Tracey Dolphin was interrupted loudly when both Babe and Lucy started having tantrums. They were running around the elephant yard, spinning around, trumpeting, flaring their ears. The cause? A truck drove by pulling a souvenir cart.

With the new training program and the elephants' new security, their whole state seems to be more relaxed, says Dolphin. This last spring, when trucks worked next to the elephant yard paving the pathways with asphalt, Babe didn't get upset. And she has increased making a noise somewhat like a cat purring, a vocal sign of contentment.

Lucy, the smaller of the Zoo's two elephants, is more easygoing than Babe, which has allowed Babe to dominate her. Babe sometimes hits Lucy with her trunk or pushes against Lucy. The combination of Lucy's submissive status and her laid-back personality has been a challenge for zookeepers, who have needed to find ways

*continued on next page*



to motivate her to take an interest in the new training.

Keepers got help from recent renovations in the Pachyderm Building. After 25 years of sharing one stall, Babe and Lucy now have their own stalls. This allows keepers to give each elephant individualized attention. In addition, when the elephants are trained together, says Dolphin, "we try to control Babe so she doesn't interfere with Lucy. As a result, we've seen Lucy's confidence building. She seems more eager to learn."

Zookeepers Dolphin, Roszak, Dana Nicholson, Ray Hren,\* Rick Schweitzer and Pachyderm Area Supervisor Dave Sorensen all work together to care for and train the elephants. Foot care, for example, has been developed to a fine art over several decades at the Zoo. In March Sorensen, speaking to the first North American conference on elephant foot care and pathology, presented a paper detailing techniques that keepers

have found effective in elephant foot care. Even with continuous care, the Zoo's Asian elephants (the last two left in 1995) seemed to be more susceptible to foot problems, but the African elephants have not had any serious foot problems, notes Bruce Beehler. "Training allows us to keep the feet in good condition," he says.

Training isn't limited to the elephants. The pachyderm staff also uses positive reinforcement to condition giraffes, rhinos and bongos. Rahna the giraffe learned to accept an ultrasound machine so they could confirm her pregnancy. And keepers regularly draw blood samples from the rhinos for reproductive studies without having to anesthetize them.

Eventually, the pachyderm staff plan to have training programs for all the animals in the building, including Himalayan black bears and the new wart hogs. "But it is the elephants, with their great adaptability and capacity to learn, for which we have the highest hopes," says Dave Sorensen.

*\*Isn't it interesting that three of the zookeepers who have been in the Pachyderm Building have names that are spelled or sound like animals? Tracey Dolphin (who also has worked with marine mammals), Carol Deer (whose zookeeper husband, Randy Deer, supervises the Zoo's farm), and Ray Hren (pronounced wren).*

## Elephant dictionary

Keepers estimate that the Zoo's elephants know at least 25 words, probably more. Here are some common ones they have learned to respond to. All of these words get the elephant to move a part of its body so that keepers can do health checks or take care of the animal better. When the elephant cooperates, she is rewarded with verbal praise, gentle touches and food treats. (Kids, if you try to shout these words to the elephants, they will ignore you. Elephants are smart. They recognize the zookeepers who have a special trusting relationship with them.)

**TARGET** - Touch forehead to a bamboo pole that is used as a target pole held by the keeper. (Using a target object helps the animal learn quicker. Keepers also use a clicking device to link the desired behavior with a reward.)

**HAND** - Rest trunk in the keeper's hand

**FOOT** - Bring foot forward to touch a target pole, so top of foot can be examined

**PAD** - Bring foot backward to touch a target pole so foot pad can be examined

**EAR** - Touch ear to a target pole (if target is to the left of the elephant, it touches its left ear to the pole)

**BIG EARS** - Bring both ears forward to show the full size of the ears (in the wild this would mean the elephant was highly alert)

**MOUTH** - Open mouth

**LEAN IN** - Move parallel to bars of exhibit so keepers can check skin on either side of body

**TRUNK** - Lift trunk above head, so keepers can get access to the mouth for a check on teeth, etc.

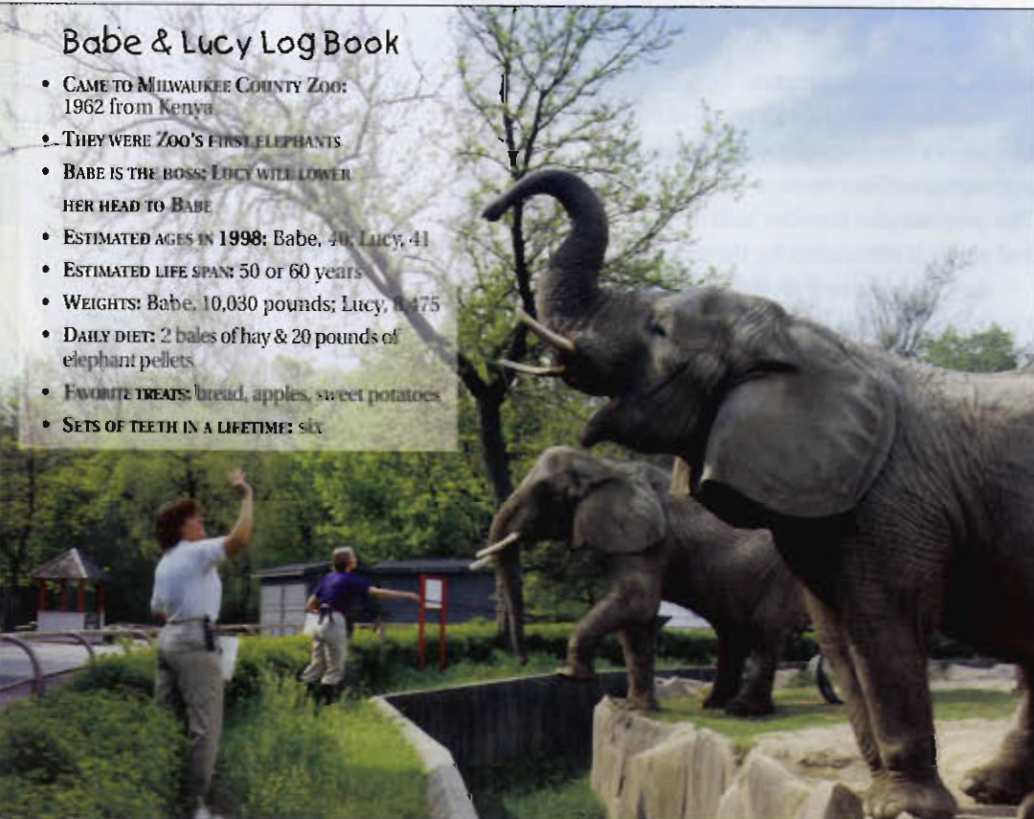
**STAND ON IT** - Bring one foot to rest on a bar so keepers can do foot care

**TURN AROUND** - Turn 90 to 180 degrees so keepers can get access to the animal's back end

**SHIFT** - Shift from one stall to another

## Babe & Lucy Log Book

- **CAME TO MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO:** 1962 from Kenya
- **THEY WERE ZOO'S FIRST ELEPHANTS**
- **BABE IS THE BOSS; LUCY WILL LOWER HER HEAD TO BABE**
- **ESTIMATED AGES IN 1998:** Babe, 40; Lucy, 41
- **ESTIMATED LIFE SPAN:** 50 or 60 years
- **WEIGHTS:** Babe, 10,030 pounds; Lucy, 8,475
- **DAILY DIET:** 2 bales of hay & 20 pounds of elephant pellets
- **FAVORITE TREATS:** bread, apples, sweet potatoes
- **SETS OF TEETH IN A LIFETIME:** six



Tracy Dolphin (background) and Beth Roszak train the Zoo's elephants outdoors daily but stay on the safe side of the moat.

## 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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Since 1994, Miller Brewing Company has sponsored Recycled Zoo, an annual conservation-education project coordinated by the Zoological Society. This year, 4,000 children from 14 scout troops, 25 4-H Clubs and 80 elementary schools made recycled animals that were a zoo within a zoo from mid-May through June.



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*"I represent the Robert K. and Joyce R. Cope Foundation in supporting the Zoo. Membership offers so many opportunities to contribute each year to the dynamic programs on the Zoo grounds and to the conservation, education and outreach programs that reach beyond its border on Blue Mound. We enjoy previewing new exhibits, the family picnics, the Zoological Society camps and the camaraderie of the Platypus Society's special events. All offer an opportunity to meet with other enthusiastic Zoo supporters. Also important to us is the able staff charged with organizing and executing the programs and events. We find the Zoo a vital organization to enrich the community as well as a fitting tribute to the memory of the Cope Family."*

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The Platypus Society is a group of about  
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uphold its mission of supporting the Zoo,  
educating the community about wildlife  
and the environment and conserving  
endangered species, call Joan Rudnitzki at  
(414) 276-0843.





## WHAT'S GNU

### King Vulture Chick

Hatched: March 27, 1998

South American Yard

This roly-poly king vulture chick was named after roly-poly Gilbert Brown of the Green Bay Packers when zookeepers learned that the chick — the first king vulture born at the Milwaukee County Zoo — couldn't lose enough weight in his egg. All bird eggs need to lose 12% to 15% of their initial weight to hatch normally, says Kim Smith, curator of birds. "Gilbert lost only 6% of his egg weight and had to be helped out of his egg by us at hatching." Since his parents, Bobbie and King Tut, didn't incubate their egg properly, aviary staff artificially incubated and hand-reared the chick using blinds and a vulture puppet to prevent imprinting on humans. Smith says that a mirror near Gilbert helps remind him that he's a South American rain-forest bird and not a North American ballplayer. Gilbert's original down is now being replaced by white feathers. In midsummer he meets his parents for the first time in the South American outdoor exhibit, where he will be on display periodically.

### African Wart Hogs

Pachyderm Mall (next to elephants)

Arrived: April 23, 1998

Excuse Bibi and Bwana (Swahili for female and male) if they're a little skittish.

After all, as the newest additions to the Milwaukee County Zoo's permanent animal collection, they're busy getting used to their new surroundings, says Bruce Beehler, deputy zoo director. About 2 years old and 100 to 150 pounds each, the pair, donated to the Zoo by Zoological Society members Michael and Elinor Guzniczak this spring, already have the appropriate warts and tusks that are the hallmarks of wart hogs. These natives of African savannas and steppes should reach full adult size—about twice their current weight—in a couple of years.

"Ultimately, we hope that Bibi and Bwana adjust to Milwaukee and raise little hogs of their own,"

Beehler says. (This pair, by

the way, is not the same as the

pair that made a temporary visit to the Zoo last summer.)



### Western Lowland Gorilla

Arrived: September 12, 1997

Stearns Family Apes of Africa

Even gorillas have to go to summer school. For Hodari, the Milwaukee County Zoo's 3-year-old western lowland gorilla, the lesson seems deceptively simple: Act like a gorilla. But Hodari, who was rejected by his father at a zoo in Cincinnati, had to be hand-raised by humans. Now, he needs to learn how to socialize with his own kind. So far, so good, says Jan Rafert, curator for primates. "He's doing real well," Rafert says of his pupil. "He's a very playful youngster. Basically, he's in Milwaukee because we've had success introducing hand-raised gorillas into gorilla groups." Slowly, Hodari will begin mixing with the Zoo's five other gorillas. He'll be on and off exhibit through the summer.



### Jersey Heifer

Stackner Heritage Farm's Dairy Barn

Born: March 31, 1998

At birth she was as petite and adorable as a baby deer, but Minnie — named for her diminutive size — has bulked up in just a few months and will weigh up to 1,000 pounds. Besides a steady diet of alfalfa and bagged granola-like food, Minnie gets daily doses of affection from Zoo staff and visitors. "Minnie's very sweet," says Pat Lepianka, Stackner Heritage Farm attendant. "She comes when you call her name and loves to have her chin scratched." Representing the smallest of all dairy breeds, this Jersey heifer (female calf) will live at the Zoo with her 5-year-old mother, Trish, indefinitely. Minnie will start giving milk when she's about age 2, after she has her first calf. "To start milking, cows need to have a calf," Lepianka explains. Average Jerseys produce five to six gallons of milk a day to a Holstein's 12 gallons a day, but the Jersey's milk is superior, with more butterfat and protein. Then why are 90% of Wisconsin's cows Holsteins? "People are watching their weight and want lower-fat milk," Lepianka says.





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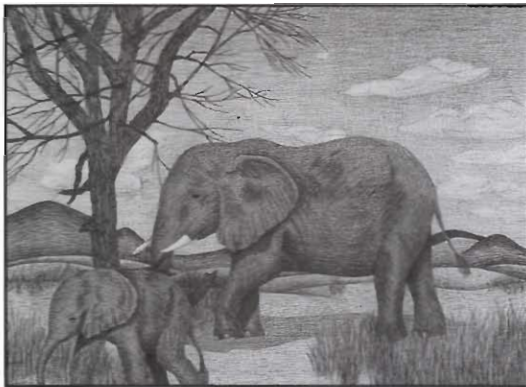
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## Fourth Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition

These are the four winning artworks in the Zoological Society's 1998 Fourth Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition, sponsored by the Robert K. & Joyce R. Cope Foundation. The artwork was on display at Mayfair Mall May 19-31, 1998. Students won \$100 and got a Zoological Society membership, which includes a year's free admission to the Milwaukee County Zoo.

**Ananda Morningstar of Milwaukee, from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Fine Arts** ▼



**Jodeana Radtke of Medford, from Wisconsin Lutheran College** ►



**Travis Ernst of Grafton, from Blue Sky Educational Foundation** ◀



**Brian Koehler of West Allis, from Cardinal Stritch College** ▲