

# Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County Winter 1993



**CHAIRMAN'S LETTER**



**ZOO SUPPORT.**

The last seven years of growth at our Zoo happened because in 1986, a group of community leaders had a vision...a vision that included new buildings, updated exhibits and more educational graphics. These leaders were willing to commit \$13.5 million to a \$26 million Capital Campaign to make sure their vision changed the way people experienced the Zoo.

Seven years later, more than ten new or renovated buildings and exhibits have emerged: Polar Bear and Sea Lion underwater viewing exhibits; the Dairy Complex and the Stackner Heritage Farm; the Dolphin Theater, which has since become the site of the Oceans of Fun Sea Lion Show; the Dairy Council of Wisconsin's Education Center; the Peck Welcome Center; the Taylor Family Humboldt Penguin Exhibit; renovated Aviary and Australia Buildings; and Apes of Africa.

Thanks to the generous contributions of many benefactors of the Zoological Society and matching support from Milwaukee County, all these improvements promise animals more naturalistic habitats and provide zoogoers with more educational opportunities. Though the Society celebrated its last payment of its pledge to the Capital Campaign in fiscal 1991-92, we still look forward to debuting Primates of the World in May and completing the renovation of the Aquarium/Reptile Building in 1995.

We also look forward to supporting a number of projects in the 1992-93 fiscal year that are consistent with our Zoo support, wildlife education and conservation mission. The Board of Directors agreed to raise \$335,000 to cover the cost of feeding the Zoo's animals, including the koalas; maintain and upgrade educational exhibits in the Dairy Complex; fund several Zoo conservation and research projects; and support student interns working in the hospital and aviary. And more.

We're only able to make all of this happen because of you. Thank you for your support.

Leander R. Jennings, Chairman  
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.*

**1991-1992 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

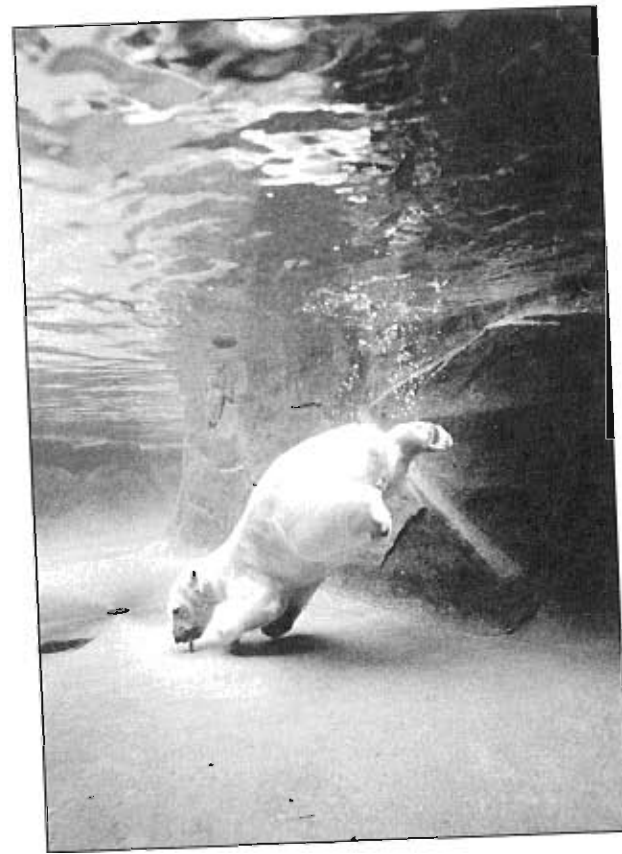
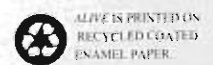
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page 4

**ON THE COVER:**  
This image of one of the Zoo's arctic wolves was painted by Jay Jocham, a Zoological Society artist endowed by Gretchen and Andrew Dawes. More than 40 of Jocham's paintings, including originals of many covers of this magazine, will be on exhibit in the lobby of Milwaukee's 100 East Building, 100 E. Wisconsin Ave., April 24-May 15. Watch your April issue of *Alive* for more details.

# Alive

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 1

**FEATURES**

- 4** A CAPITAL SUCCESS  
A look at how the Zoological Society's \$13.5 million investment in the Zoo's \$26 million Capital Campaign has indelibly changed the face of one of Milwaukee's treasures.
- 6** FOOD FOR THOUGHT  
From monkey chow to ground chicken, animals at the Zoo eat a lot. And the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County is picking up the tab. Here's a look at what, how and why our animals eat what they eat.
- 8** A DAIRY GOOD EXPERIENCE  
The Dairy Council of Wisconsin and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County are making sure that almost every first grader in the Milwaukee area knows how milk gets from the cow to the kitchen table.
- 12** ELK AND THE ECOSYSTEM  
A UW-Madison student's research into the dynamics of elk prey in Yellowstone National Park is helping improve conservationists' efforts to save endangered grizzly bears and possibly gray wolves from extinction.

**DEPARTMENTS**

- 2** Chairman's Letter
- 10** Edzoocation
- 11** Memberandums
- 14** Conservation Chronicles
- 15** Support Snapshots
- 16** Platypus Society
- 18** What's Gnu
- 20** Special Events Calendar



**Pull-out Section: For Kids and Families**

- a** F.Y.I.: What is a Ruminant?
- b** Activity Page
- c** Curious Corner
- d** Education Programs



page 8

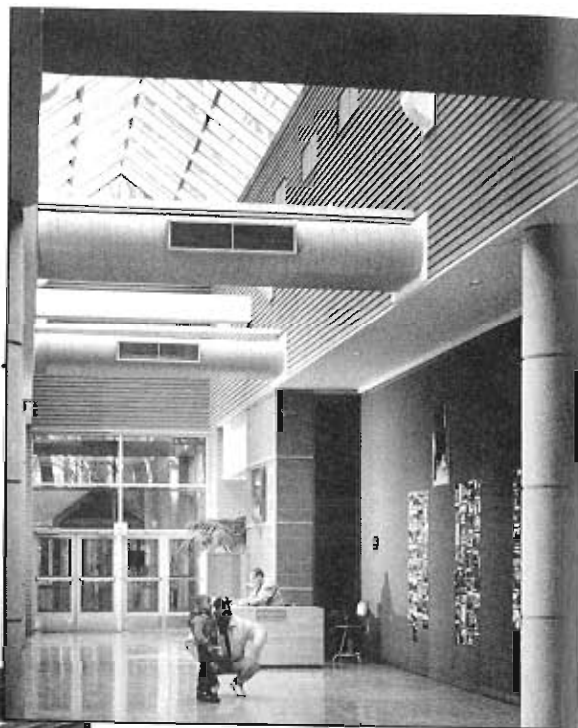
# A CAPITAL SUCCESS

Seven years. Compared to the 100-year history of our Zoo, it's a blink. But the buildings and exhibits that have been built or renovated over the past seven years as part of the Zoo's \$26 million Capital Campaign—jointly financed by the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County—have indelibly changed the face of the Zoo and the entire Zoo experience.

Here's a look at what's happened with the dream our community leaders had for the Zoo just seven short years ago:

## DOLPHIN PROJECT

**June 1986.** This summer, the Zoo became a summer home for two Atlantic bottle-nosed dolphins and a California sea lion, thanks to a gift from the Journal Company.



The project was the first completed as part of the Capital Campaign. In 1990, the Zoo began exhibiting only sea lions in the 250,000-gallon pool year-round and offering to Zoo visitors an Oceans of Fun Sea Lion Show, courtesy of Miller Brewing Company. The show runs year-round, weather permitting.

## POLAR BEAR UNDER-WATER VIEWING

**July 1986.** Zoogoers can get nose-to-nose with polar bears swimming under water during a visit to this exhibit. Three 8 x 3-1/2-foot windows separate Zoo

guests from the bears and 65,000 gallons of water. The water is filtered five times an hour to keep the water clean and clear.

## DAIRY COMPLEX & STACKNER HERITAGE FARM

**May 1987.** Designed to celebrate America's dairyland, the Dairy Complex gives Zoo visitors an up-close look at cows and an introduction to Wisconsin's dairy industry. The complex, located in the renovated Stackner Heritage Farm (formerly Children's Zoo), features interactive educational exhibits on the dairy industry, a Dairy Store, and a cow barn—all housed in a restored 1896 octagonal barn.

## PECK WELCOME CENTER

**July 1988.** The Peck Welcome Center was the first facility built as part of the Capital Campaign's plan for a Core Zoo, or several interconnected buildings designed to make the Zoo a year-round, weather-independent facility. Other buildings that will be part of the Core Zoo are Apes of Africa, Primates of the World (to open in spring), and the Aquarium/Reptile Building



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Polar Bear Underwater Viewing, Dairy Complex Milking Demonstration and Peck Welcome Center. Zoological Society Chairman Lee Jennings (left) and Milwaukee County Executive Tom Ament in an exhibit under construction as part of the Primate Building renovation.

## SEA LION UNDER-WATER VIEWING

(to open in 1995). The upper level of the Peck Welcome Center features an exhibit and meeting hall, multi-media theater and book store; and the lower level houses the Zoo library, administrative offices, and headquarters for Zoo Pride, the volunteer auxiliary of the Zoological Society.

American coastal habitat, the exhibit includes built-in nesting burrows, an automated sand system, a state-of-the-art heater, and 15,000 gallons of water.

## EDUCATION CENTER

**August 1988.** More than 200,000 school children, teachers, individuals, families and volunteers each year learn the importance of wildlife and our environment, thanks to the Dairy Council of Wisconsin's Education Center. Located in the Stackner Heritage Farm, the Center features a resource center, an exhibit room, administrative offices and three classrooms in which components of Zoological Society educational workshops are taught.

## TAYLOR FAMILY HUMBOLDT PENGUIN EXHIBIT

**May 1990.** Because of this exhibit, connected to the boardwalk leading to the Peck Welcome Center, the Zoo has been able to expand its breeding and propagation programs for the endangered Humboldt Penguin, and Zoo visitors have been able to watch the penguins swim under water. Designed to replicate the penguins' South

## AUSTRALIA RENOVATION

separate bonobo and gorilla enclosures, and outside is a 3,500-square-foot enclosure to which gorillas and mandrills can retreat in warm months.

**August 1992.** The renovated Australia Building opened last year to celebrate the arrival of two koalas, Dajarra and Quilpie, from the San Diego Zoo. The renovation includes new exhibit murals, a panoramic wall mural and educational graphics.

## PRIMATES OF THE WORLD

**May 1993.** The original Primate Building, built in 1957, is under renovation and is scheduled to open to the public May 8. The building, which will complete the Primate Complex, will be home to Diana monkeys, spider monkeys, orangutans, colobus, mandrills and siamangs.

## AQUARIUM/REPTILE RENOVATION

**Spring 1995.** When the renovated Aquarium/Reptile Building opens in two years, it will be the second of two anchors of the Core Zoo and will mark the end of the building phase of the Capital Campaign.

So, where do we go from here? Only the leaders in this community who dream big dreams know.

*In October, the Zoological Society celebrated the payment of its final pledge toward the Society's \$12.5 million commitment to the Capital Campaign.*

## AVIARY RENOVATION

**May 1991.** Immersed in the homes of 75 species of birds in six different habitats, hundreds of thousands of zoogoers have visited the Aviary since its 1991 face lift. The building features extensive propping and educational graphics, elaborate murals, vegetation representing 50 plant species from around the world, and strung piano wire that separates visitors from the birds.

## APES OF AFRICA

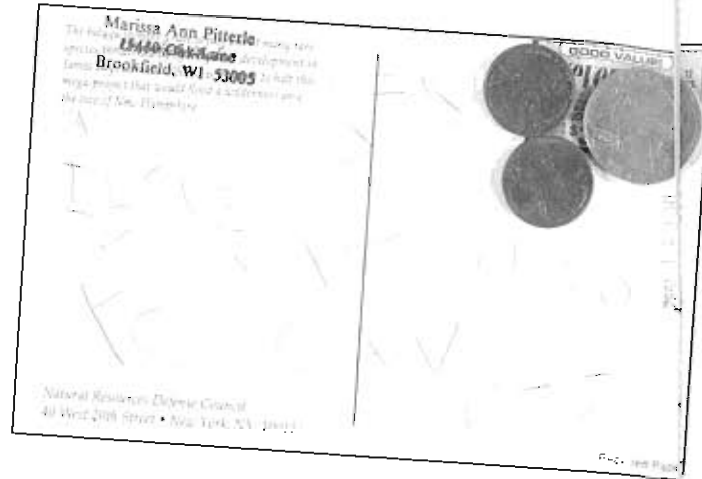
**May 1992.** Since Apes of Africa opened, the Zoo's five Western Lowland Gorillas and four Bonobos have relished their naturalistic, tropical rain forest home at the Zoo. The facility, which is part of the Primate Complex, features over 10 semi-truck loads of tropical foliage, floor-to-ceiling rainforest murals, sculpted concrete dirt banks and tree roots, buttresses and trunks, and educational graphics. Within the 30,000-square-foot building are two

# FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In October 1992, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County agreed to fund the Milwaukee County Zoo's \$335,000 animal food budget. This story highlights what the animals eat, who decides what they eat, and how even the most finicky animals are fed.



Imagine eating bread, bananas and meat—morning, noon and night—every day for the rest of your life. Now imagine that every other mammal on earth was eating the same thing.



This is about how exciting the menu got for Zoo animals just a few decades ago. But over the last 15 to 20 years, finely tailored diets for different species have taken shape, thanks to increased animal information sharing among curators, keepers, veterinarians and commissary staff.

"When we decide what to feed our animals, we try to provide a diet that will keep the animals healthy and enrich their lives in captivity," said Roberta Wallace, Zoo staff veterinarian who manages the commissary and all animal diets. "And, we try to find food that tastes good to them."

What "tastes good" is relative.

Take cats, for instance. They get a special commercially prepared meat mixture of beef, liver and horse by-products, finely ground bone, dried egg and cereal products, brewers dried yeast and lots of vitamins and minerals. Feline keepers swear by it and veterinarians say it's supposed to be good for them, but sometimes the cats just won't bite.

Val Werner, feline keeper, said that she and other feline keepers will try just about anything to make food inviting to the Zoo's finicky felines. "Sometimes, we'll blend an all-meat diet into the cereal and egg mixture to make it more palatable or we'll doctor the meat up with cottage cheese, ground chicken or extra ground beef," Werner said. "On special cuts of meat, we'll even take the meat off the bone for them."

It costs \$2,100 per year to feed this 8,000-pound elephant about 1-1/2 bales of hay per day, elephant chow, and assorted elephant treats—apples, carrots, sweet potatoes, green peeper, onions and watermelons.

Brookfield's Marissa Ann Pitterle, 5, is helping the Zoological Society purchase food for the Zoo's animals with her contribution. Her postcard reads, "Dear Zoo, I love your animals. You can feed them with this money."

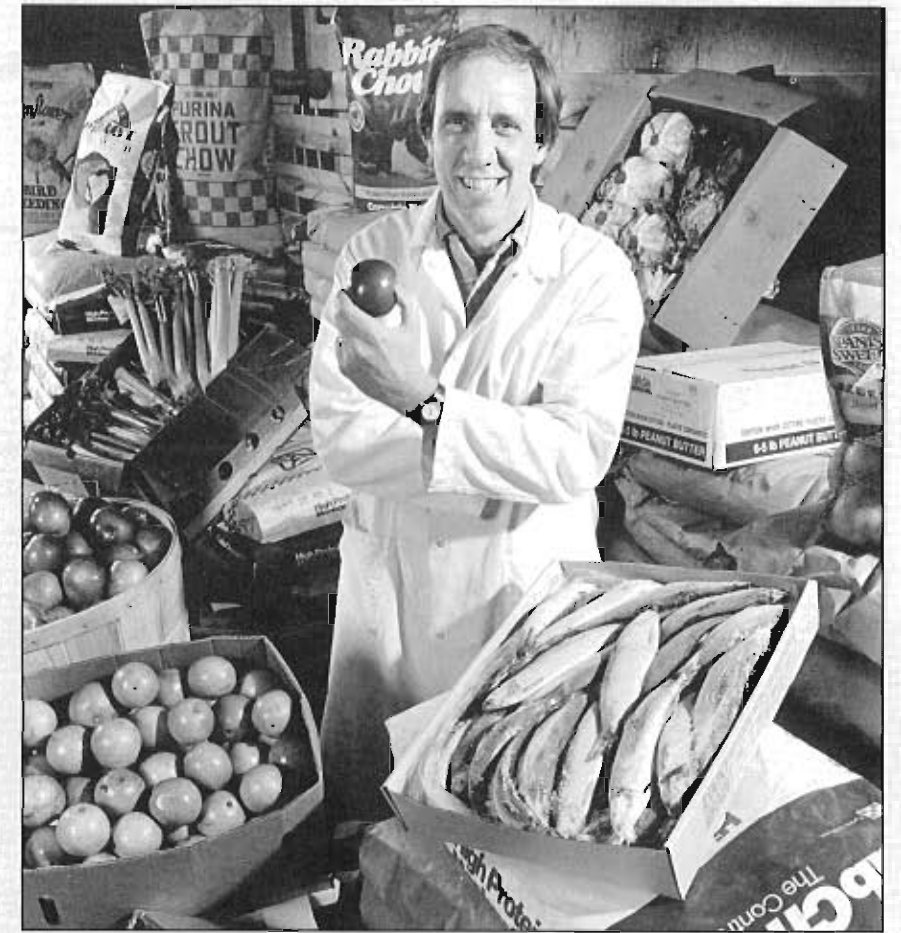
If a cat is sick or if the weather is hot and humid, some cats, especially the Siberian Tigers and Snow Leopards, demand only the best in presentation and palatability. "We'll add moisture—special juices—to the meat just to make it look good, or if the animal rejects a thawed piece of meat, we'll refrigerate it until feeding time to keep the meat extra cool," Werner said. "We'll basically do whatever it takes to get the animals to eat."

Cleaning their plates is rarely a problem, however, for animals in the Small Mammal Building, but Area Supervisor John Wightman said that he and his staff frequently "do a little extra" to make the animals' dining experience a stimulating and nutritionally balanced one. The fennec foxes, for example, look forward to their monthly live cricket chase. "The crickets add a little extra to their daily canned food-and-meat diet," Wightman said. Otters, too, get wheat germ mixed into their meat so they get the calcium they need.

Many other Zoo animals, though requiring special-order diets, are much less demanding. Monkeys, for instance, get daily diets of monkey chow made of ground corn, soybeans and cracked wheat. Moose get a specially formulated moose chow. Emus and ostriches get ratite chow, or food for flightless birds. Other birds get gamebird chow. Cows get cow chow. Etcetera.

"Zoo animal nutrition has come a long way," Wallace said. "We're fine-tuning our diets as animal tastes change and as we learn more about their nutritional needs."

If you'd like to help feed an animal at the Zoo, call the Zoological Society at (414) 258-2333.



Bill Groth winds up a morning of filling food orders for the Zoo's 5,600 animals.

## ON THE JOB

Bill Groth, Commissary Area Supervisor  
Milwaukee County Zoo

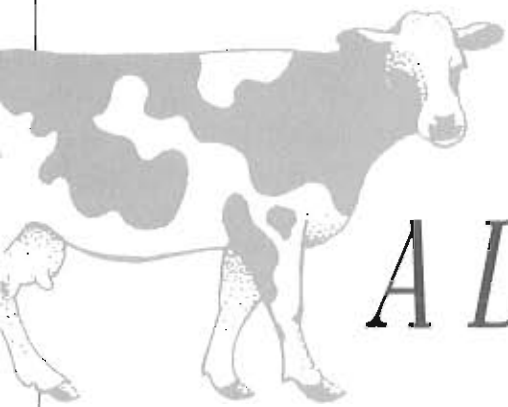
Bill Groth is on the phone again in his office, tucked away in a part of the Zoo visitors rarely see, this time with a caller who wants to donate a half-semi load of lettuce to the Zoo. He turns it down. "Sometimes, people think our animals eat a lot more than they really do," Groth said.

Each day, Groth handles some 20 calls from people who want to donate food for the animals, vendors who want to sell food for the animals, and keepers who want to change food orders for their animals.

He seems to have the right temperament for the role of Zoo food ambassador—an unflappable manner and a healthy respect for the Zoo's veterinarians, who manage the animals' diets, and keepers, who implement the Zoo's feeding program.

Part of Groth's job is to fill food orders and hay and bedding requests from each beat, or animal area. That means ordering all the food requested by keepers—meat, fish, vegetables, fruits, breads and bird food; checking the food for freshness; and arranging for the food to be distributed to the beats. He also coordinates orders for supplies, from brooms and brushes to floor stripper and soap.

With eight years as commissary area supervisor and 14 years as a keeper, Groth believes in making sure the Zoo's animals get their favorite meals...when they want them. "Shopping for them is a lot harder than shopping for my own family," he chuckled.



# A Dairy Good Experience

**A**mong Paris Blathers' school assignments this semester was a trip to the Zoo to learn about cows as part of a dairy education program for first-graders, sponsored by the Dairy Council of Wisconsin and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County.

cattle for a short talk on the dairy industry from Delores Brewster, a naturalist with Milwaukee Public Schools.

"What makes this cow a mammal?" she asks the students, each one of them bending over the railing to get a better look at the cows. "Fur," the kids chorus.

For the answer, Brewster leads the children into the barn's modern milking parlor, where Earl Conte-Morgan, an attendant in the Stackner Heritage Farm, demonstrates the milking process. For five minutes, the children, with eyes glued to the milking cow, watch how the specialized milking machine pumps the milk from the cow to nearby refrigerated storage tanks. And from there, to the store.

In the complex's Dairy Store, the kids line up to get an ice cream cone and take a place on bleachers for a talk on milk processing by Zoo Pride volunteer Blanche Packee, one of about 45 volunteers who work on the program. From Packee, the children learn big words for first-graders: clarifying, pasteurizing, homogenizing and packaging.

"The children's visit to the Zoo really broadens their experience," said Georgia Wright, a preschool program coordinator with the Zoological Society who supervises the Discovering Dairy program. "Being at the Zoo gives the kids the unique opportunity to see domestic animals and exotic animals in the same place.

"Many of these kids wouldn't have a chance to get out to the Zoo without this program. They hear about things like the rainforest and the environment, but they're so abstract. The Zoo is one of the few places in Milwaukee where they can see what they're learning about."

When Discovering Dairy started in 1988, one year after the Dairy Complex opened, the Zoo visit was the only element of the program.

Since then, the program, which reaches about 5,000 first graders every year, has expanded to include Georgia Becker, a Zoological Society educator who goes into the schools to introduce students to cows,

mammals, dairy products and the dairy industry before the children visit the Zoo.

"We really appreciated having Georgia in class before we came to the Zoo," said Heidi Sojkowski, a teacher from 37th Street School. "The material she presented really complemented what we're doing in science and helped prepared the kids for their trip to the Zoo."

During her half-hour in the classroom,

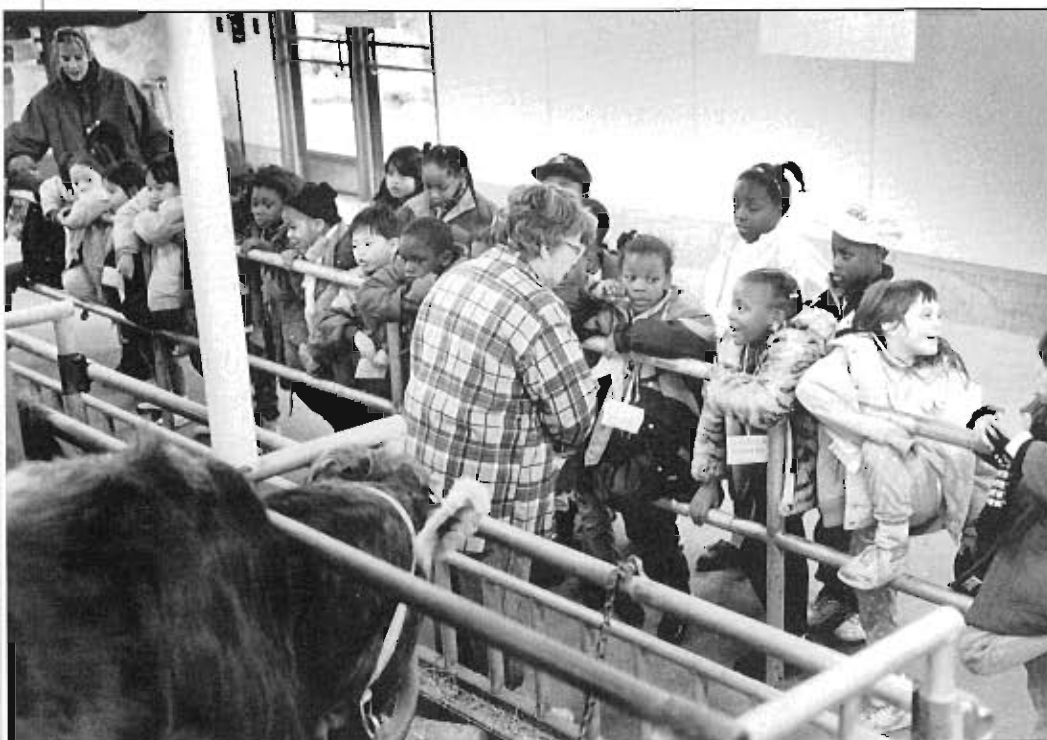
Becker got the kids involved in building a farm using a flannel board and flannel animals (this was Paris' favorite part); used yogurt containers, ice cream cartons and cheese packaging to show foods that are made with milk; used Flossie—not a real cow but an "office cow"—to show why cows are mammals; and then led the kids in a dairy rap song.

"Getting the word out to kids about

how milk's calcium can build strong bones and teeth is so important to us," said Charlene Leach, nutrition education consultant with the Dairy Council of Wisconsin. "The song really helps us reinforce the importance of milk in our diets."

In the classroom, Becker also spent some time talking about dairy safety. "This

*continued on next page*



First-graders from Milwaukee's 37th Street School get an introduction to cows at the Zoo from Milwaukee Public Schools naturalist Delores Brewster.

Before her Zoo visit, Paris, who is seven and lives in Milwaukee, hadn't spent much time around animals, much less cows. "I just knew a little bit about the farm and cows before I got here," Paris said.

"Here" is the Dairy Complex in the Zoo's Stackner Heritage Farm. Inside the complex's huge octagon barn is a modern cow barn, where Paris and her classmates stand before six different breeds of dairy

"What does the cow have on its head that you have on yours?" she asks. "Ears," the children respond.

"How does the cow eat?" Brewster asks. The children didn't answer so readily. "The cow eats his food and doesn't chew it...he chews his cud," Brewster said. "Did you know that the cow drinks five gallons of water to make one gallon of milk? How does the cow give milk?"

Georgia Becker, Educator  
Zoological Society

## ON THE JOB

So many children never get a chance to see a real cow or learn how milk gets to the kitchen table. But Georgia Becker is working hard to change that.

Since January 1992, Becker has made cows and kids her business. With help from the Dairy Council of Wisconsin and the Zoological Society, she implements the in-school part of a dairy program that touches the lives of almost every first grader in the Milwaukee area.

The program, called Discovering Dairy, takes Becker into the schools to teach about 5,000 students a year about the dairy industry and the importance of milk.

"Many days I come away from the schools realizing just what a common experience it is for us adults to see a cow," Becker said. "For these kids living in the city, coming to the Zoo and seeing a cow is a remarkable experience."

For Becker, introducing cows to kids uniquely blends her love for working with children with her love for working with animals. "I'm constantly working in an environment where both kids and animals are equally important," Becker said. "This has got to be the cream of teaching...every teacher's dream. No attendance records to keep. No lunch counts. It's just me, the kids, cows, and a committed corps of first-grade teachers who deeply care about their students."

With a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and a teaching certificate for grades one through six, Becker seems an unsuitable candidate to bear a moniker like Cow Lady. But she's earned it. With udder pride.



Georgia Becker gets help building a felt farm from Kenyon Hines, a first-grader at Milwaukee's 37th Street School.

is a standard part of my talk," Becker said. "The children need to know why we should refrigerate milk and other dairy products and not pour milk left in a glass back into the bottle."

"Georgia generates a special enthusiasm among the kids so that they can't wait to get out to the Zoo," Leach said.

When the kids from 37th Street School did get out to the Zoo, they weren't disappointed.

**HOME-MADE ICE CREAM**

Here's a recipe for ice cream that you can make at home.

**What You Need:**

- 1 3-pound coffee can with lid
- 1 13 oz. coffee can with lid
- Ice
- Rock salt
- Medium-size mixing bowl
- 1 egg
- 1-1/3 cups whole milk
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2/3 cup whipping cream
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

**What You Do:**

1. In medium-size bowl, beat egg until foamy. Gradually add sugar and beat until thickened. Add milk, cream, vanilla and salt. Chill thoroughly.
2. Partially fill 13 oz. coffee can (half full) with chilled mix. Place lid on can.
3. Place the 13 oz. coffee can inside the 3-pound coffee can. Surround with ice and rock salt (use 4 parts ice to 1 part salt).
4. Place lid on outer coffee can.
5. Tip container onto its side and roll back and forth briskly for 20-25 minutes. You may have to add more ice.
6. Enjoy.



**School Programs Get Face Lift**

More hands-on involvement with artifacts at the Zoo. More science- and conservation-oriented workshops for older youth. More education in science and ecology for teachers.

This is what more than 100 teachers from schools in southeastern Wisconsin said they wanted from the Zoological Society's Education Department. And, since September, it's exactly what they've been getting.

Thanks to many months of brainstorming among members of Zoo Pride's Youth Education Committee and the Zoological Society's education staff:

o School children at the Zoo on guided tours are getting a chance to reach into Safari Bags and learn the exact length of a giraffe's tongue by measuring a shoelace, learn the size of an ostrich's eye by holding a golf ball, and discover what a cat's tongue feels like by touching a strip of Velcro. "Adding the Safari Bag component to guided tours really makes the animals real to the kids," said Chuck Matoush, the Zoological Society's school program coordinator. "Instead of passively looking at animals along the tour, the kids can now actively discover them."

o High schoolers are getting a chance to go on Zoo tours that not only give them a better understanding of the purpose of zoos but also supplement what students are learning in biology class. "We're emphasizing the importance of getting high schoolers actively involved in producing or creating something with the knowledge they've gained from our programs," Matoush said.

o Teachers are getting access to education programs at the Zoo that can serve as components of conservation education curricula taught in school. Teachers also are benefiting from greater assistance from the Zoological Society in teaching topics like endangered species, continental and tropical rain forest animals, and the environment in new and fun ways.

"How to deliver education programs to children and teachers that give both a better understanding of animals and science is a dynamic process," said Mary Thiry, director of education and graphics with the Zoological Society. "Good programs are simply the result of good ideas and experimentation. Our programs can only get better."

For a brochure on winter school programs, call (414) 256-5421.



Allana Schwiesow, 7, stuffs the gills of a fish with a vitamin supplement as part of the Zoological Society's education program, Kids' Day Out, held during October's Wisconsin State Teachers' Convention.



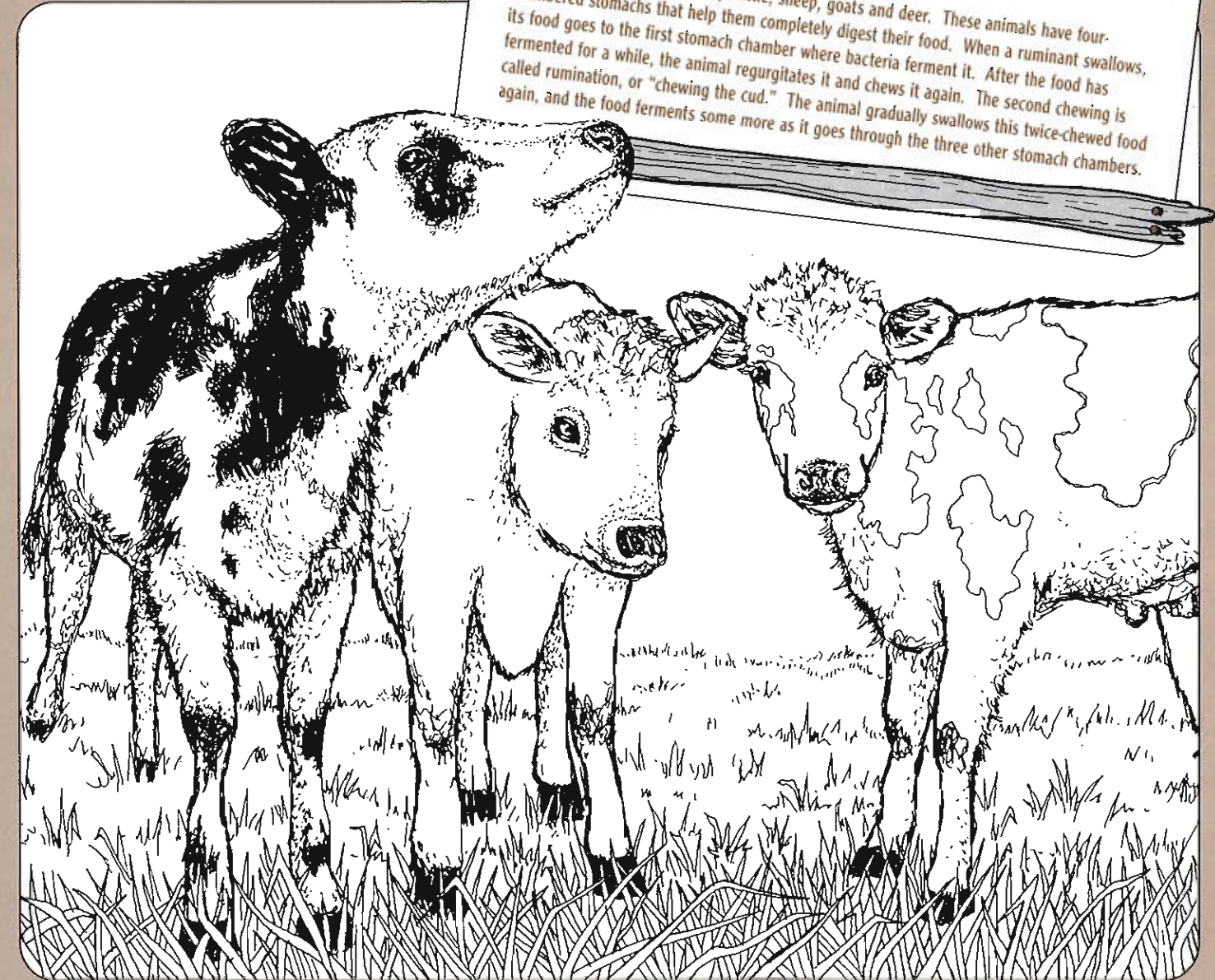
*Alive*  
For KIDS and Families

PULL-OUT SECTION

**Types of Cows**

**F.Y.I. What is a Ruminant?**

Ruminant animals include dairy cattle, sheep, goats and deer. These animals have four-chambered stomachs that help them completely digest their food. When a ruminant swallows, its food goes to the first stomach chamber where bacteria ferment it. After the food has fermented for a while, the animal regurgitates it and chews it again. The second chewing is called rumination, or "chewing the cud." The animal gradually swallows this twice-chewed food again, and the food ferments some more as it goes through the three other stomach chambers.



**Holstein**

More than 90% of the dairy cattle in the United States are Holsteins. These familiar black-and-white cows produce more milk each day than any other breed of dairy cattle. A healthy Holstein cow in her prime will produce about 10 gallons of milk every day. There is also a red-and-white breed of Holstein.

**Brown Swiss**

The Brown Swiss is one of the oldest breeds of dairy cattle and may have been established in Switzerland during the Bronze Age. Brown Swiss cows produce high-quality milk and are well known for their hardiness, which helps them adapt to a variety of climates.

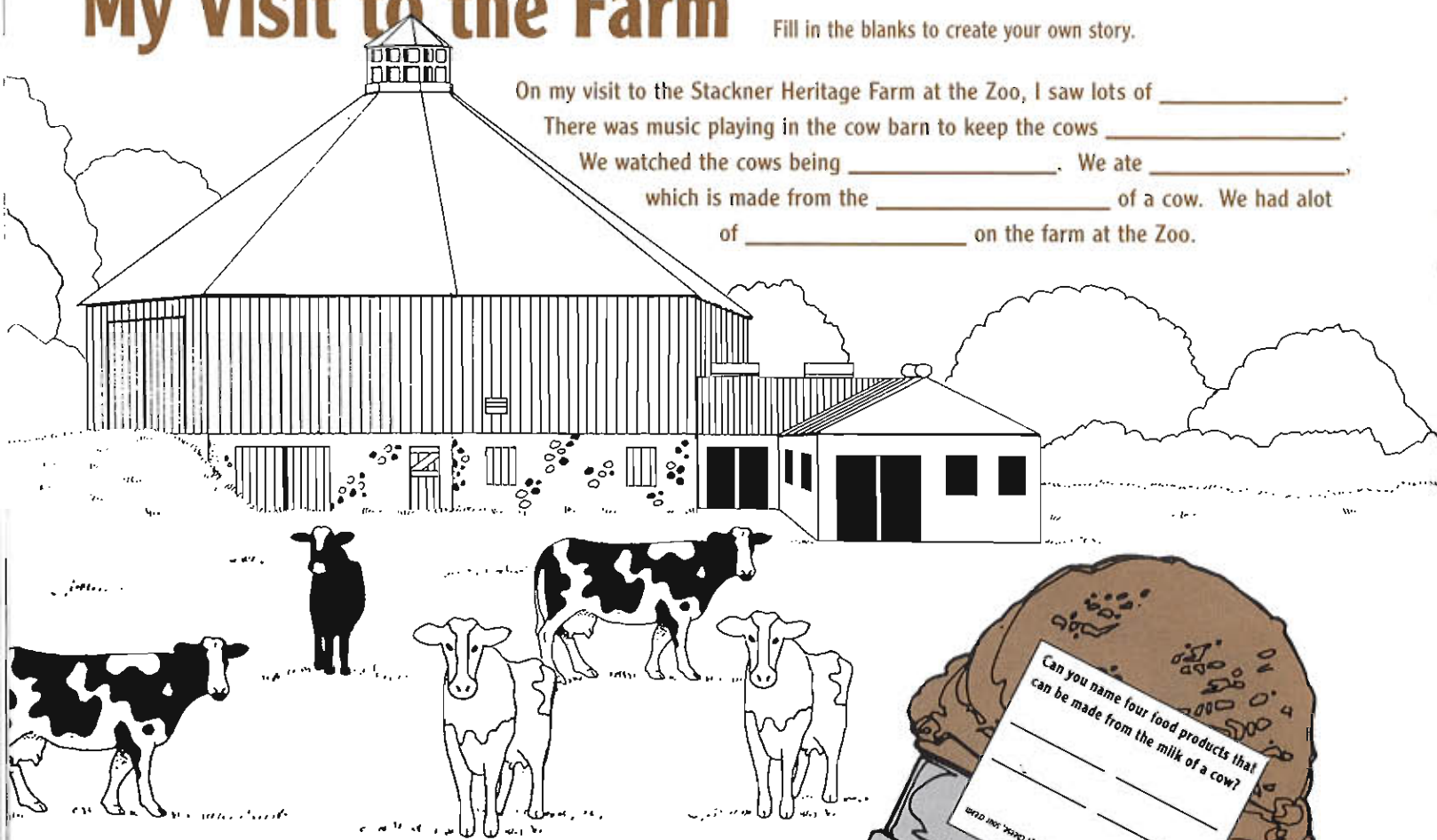
**Guernsey**

Guernsey milk has a very high percentage of butterfat. This makes it ideal for the production of cream and ice cream. Guernsey cattle were established on the Isle of Guernsey in the English Channel and were first brought to the United States in 1831.

# My Visit to the Farm

Fill in the blanks to create your own story.

On my visit to the Stackner Heritage Farm at the Zoo, I saw lots of \_\_\_\_\_.  
 There was music playing in the cow barn to keep the cows \_\_\_\_\_.  
 We watched the cows being \_\_\_\_\_. We ate \_\_\_\_\_,  
 which is made from the \_\_\_\_\_ of a cow. We had alot  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ on the farm at the Zoo.



## Word Scramble

Unscramble these mixed-up words.

1. TELSOIHN \_\_\_\_\_

2. TRIESPZDEU \_\_\_\_\_

3. LKMI \_\_\_\_\_

4. ESEHCE \_\_\_\_\_

5. DEDRU \_\_\_\_\_

6. ICLCMUA \_\_\_\_\_

8. RIDAY \_\_\_\_\_

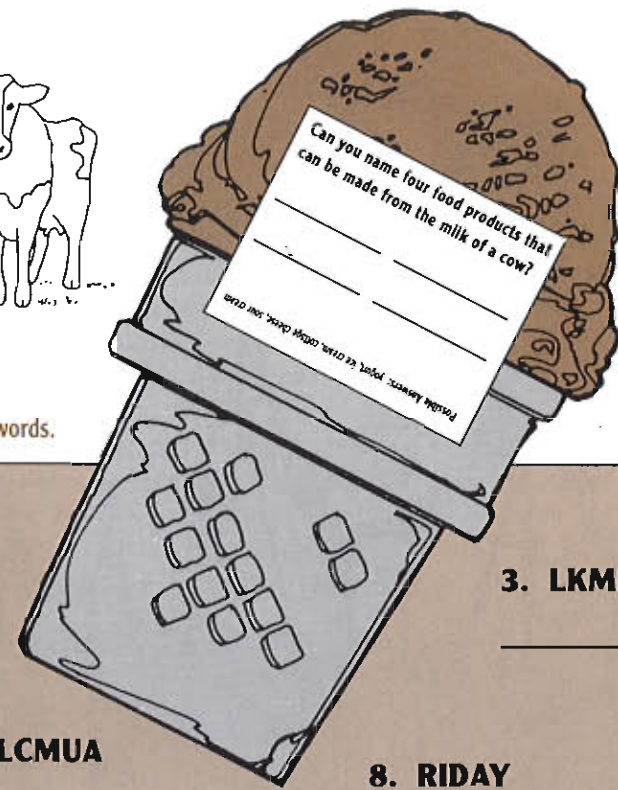
9. NINATRMU \_\_\_\_\_

10. ELVASC \_\_\_\_\_

7. REESNYGU \_\_\_\_\_

12. EIC ERCMA \_\_\_\_\_

11. OCW \_\_\_\_\_



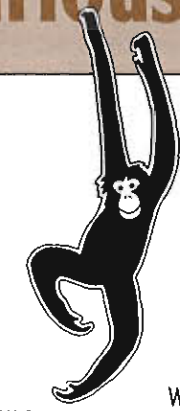
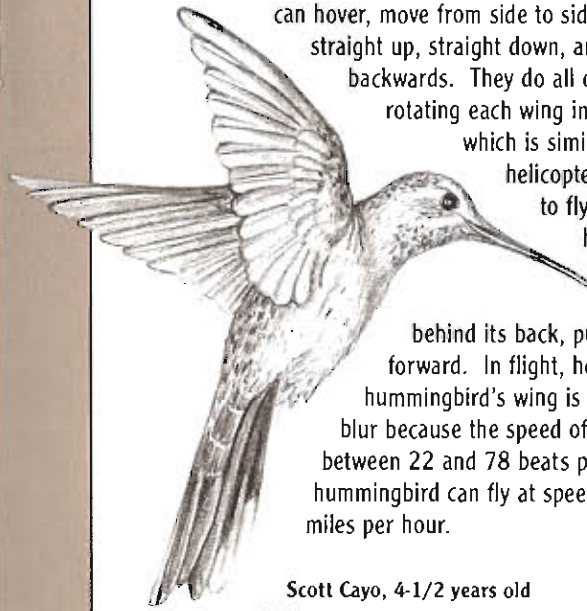
ANSWERS: 1. HOLSTEIN 2. PASTEURIZED 3. MILK 4. CHEESE 5. UDDER 6. CALCIUM 7. GUERNSEY 8. DAIRY 9. RUMINANT 10. CALVES 11. COW 12. ICE CREAM

# The Curious Corner

## How do hummingbirds fly backwards?

Hummingbirds fly like little helicopters. They can hover, move from side to side, go straight up, straight down, and even fly backwards. They do all of this by rotating each wing in a circle, which is similar to the way a helicopter flies. In order to fly backwards, the hummingbird rotates its wings behind its back, pushing the air forward. In flight, however, a hummingbird's wing is only visible as a blur because the speed of its wing beat is between 22 and 78 beats per second. A hummingbird can fly at speeds of 30 to 40 miles per hour.

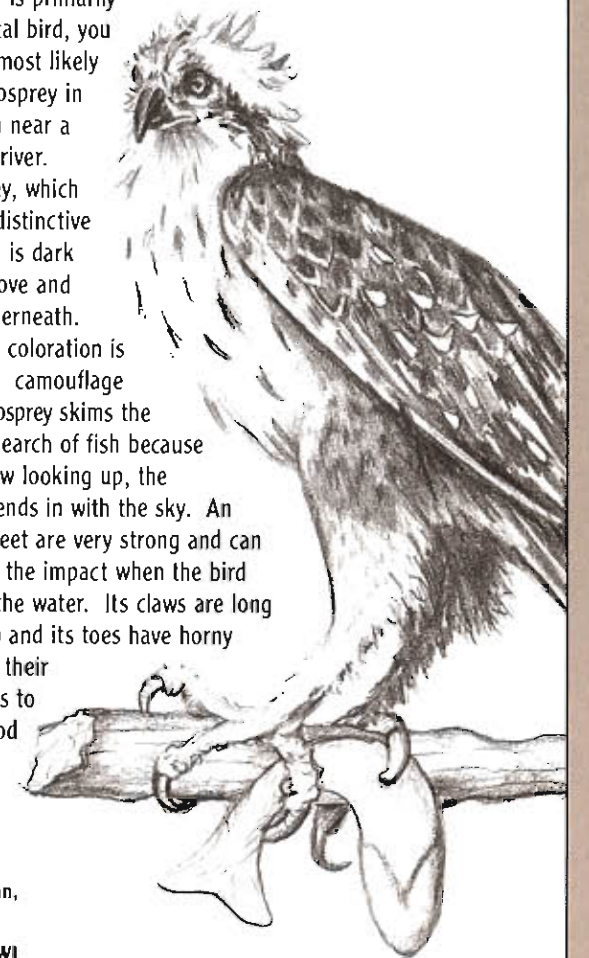
Scott Cayo, 4-1/2 years old  
 Lake Mills, WI



## What is an osprey?

The osprey, or fish hawk, is a large fish-eating bird. This bird of prey is found world-wide. While the osprey is primarily a coastal bird, you would most likely see an osprey in Wisconsin near a lake or a river. The osprey, which has very distinctive markings, is dark brown above and white underneath. The white coloration is helpful as camouflage when the osprey skims the water in search of fish because from below looking up, the osprey blends in with the sky. An osprey's feet are very strong and can withstand the impact when the bird first hits the water. Its claws are long and sharp and its toes have horny spines on their undersides to give a good grip on a slippery fish.

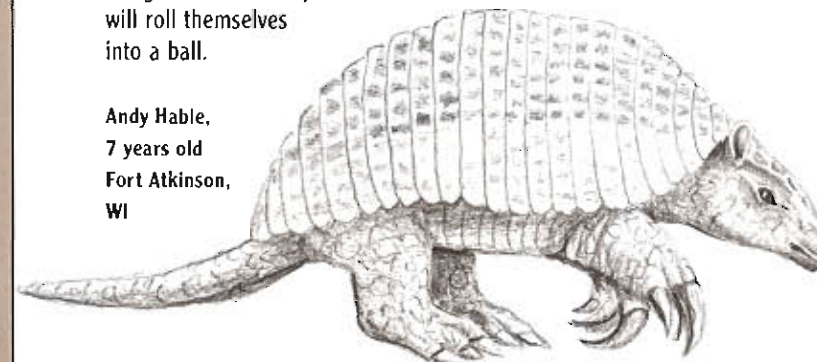
Katie Kuehn,  
 5th Grade  
 Hartland, WI



## Is the armadillo a reptile?

The word armadillo is of Spanish origin and refers to the armorlike covering of these animals. The covering consists of bands or plates, connected or surrounded by flexible skin. The plates appear similar to the body covering of many reptiles, but the armadillo is not a reptile. The armadillo is actually a mammal. Although armadillos can defend themselves with their claws, the usual reaction to danger is to run or burrow rapidly into the ground and then anchor themselves in the burrow. If an armadillo is overtaken while running or if it doesn't have a chance to burrow, some species will draw in their feet so that the edges of the armor touch the ground. A few species will roll themselves into a ball.

Andy Hable,  
 7 years old  
 Fort Atkinson,  
 WI



### Your Question Didn't Get Picked?

If you sent in a question to Curious Corner and we didn't answer it in any of the last four issues of *Alive*, it either means we didn't have enough space to include it or we're working on finding an answer. Thank you for your interest in our animals.



# Education Programs

Looking for a faster, more efficient way to register your children for education programs at the Zoo? Get your name on the Zoological Society's Education Program Mailing List. For \$3 per family per year, you'll automatically get all program brochures—complete with detailed program descriptions, session dates, times and costs—in your mail at home. If you want to be on our list, send a \$3 check made payable to the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County to: **Education Mailing List, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.**

If you'd prefer to sign up your children for programs the way you always have, please request a program brochure by sending a self-addressed, stamped (\$.52), business-sized envelope to: **Winter Education Programs, Zoological Society, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.** To register for any **JANUARY** program, call (414) 256-5424.

These educational programs are coordinated by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension:

## JANUARY PROGRAM OPENINGS

There's still time to register for the **Tiny Tot Workshop, "Farmyard Fun!"** for 3-year-olds with a parent, Jan. 19-23, 26-27 and 29; **Preschool Workshop, "Animal Tales & Songs,"** for children ages 4 and 5 and 6-year-olds in kindergarten, Jan. 5-9 and 12-15; **Youth Workshop, "Penguin Power,"** for children ages 6-10, Jan. 9; and the **"Animal Photography in Winter"** workshop for photo enthusiasts 15 years old and above, Jan. 9 and 16. To register for any January program, CALL (414) 256-5421.

## WINTER PROGRAMS

### Tiny Tots Workshops

Age 3 with parent

Learn about farm animals (Jan.), ocean life (Feb.), animal coverings (March), elephants (April), and baby animals (May) with your 3-year-old during these 1-1/2-hour workshops. Cost: \$12—members; \$14—non-members. Parking included.

### Preschool Workshops

Ages 4-5 (and 6-year-olds in kindergarten)

Learn about animal movements and songs (Jan.), marsupials (Feb.), giraffes (March), dinosaurs (April), and animal families (May) during these 2-1/2-hour workshops. Cost: \$10—members; \$12—non-members. OR, join your child in parent/child sessions offered monthly. Cost: \$14—members; \$16—non-members. Parking included.

### Older Youth Workshops

Ages 6 (in 1st grade) - 10

Get your children involved in learning and fun during these Saturday workshops, 9:30-11:30 a.m. or 1-3 p.m.: "Elephants, Giraffes, Rhinos and Other Giant Beasts," Feb. 6; "Rambunctious Reptiles," Feb. 27; "Under The Sea...Lake...and Pond," March 13; and "Down On The Farm," March 27. Cost: \$12—members; \$15—non-members.

### Family Workshops

Ages 6 and up with parents

Your whole family can spend the afternoon at the Zoo, 1-3 p.m., having fun and learning during these workshops: "Predators: It's A Hard Way To Make A Living," Feb. 6 or 7; "Family Life - Animals That Work Together Stay Together," March 13 or 14. Cost per family of four: \$20—members; \$25—non-members. Parking included.

## SPECIAL PROGRAMS

### 4-H Zoo Club

Ages 9-13

Your kids can experience the world of 4-H "zoo style" at five Saturday meetings this season: Jan. 16, Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, and May 15, 9:30-noon. Club members will learn about zoo animal management, zoology and nature and apply what they've learned. Cost to join: \$30—members; \$45—non-members.

### Drawing Workshop

Ages 8-13

Draw animals and learn about them, too, in this five-week Saturday workshop to be held March 6-27 and April 3, 9:15-10:45 a.m. Beginner and advanced sessions are offered. Cost: \$35—members; \$45—non-members. Includes supplies.

### Spring Break Camps

Ages 4-13

When your kids are out of school for spring break, April 13-16, send them to the Zoo for "The Wonderful World of Animals." This one-day program will introduce children to the variety of animal life in the world. Camps will be held for children ages 4 and 5 (and 6-year-olds in kindergarten), April 14-16, 9:30-noon or 1-3:30 p.m.; for children ages 6 (in 1st grade) through 12, April 13-16, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Cost for 4- and 5-year-olds (and 6-year-olds in kindergarten): \$10—members; \$12—non-members. Cost for older youth: \$15—members; \$20—non-members.

### Summer Camps

Mark your calendar! Summer Camp in-person registration will be Saturday, May 1. Look for more information on camps in your spring *Alive*.

## Koala Appeal

Help provide special food for two very special animals, Dajarra and Quilpie, the Zoo's two new koalas. Koalas, among the most expensive animals to feed at the Zoo, are also the most finicky. With a diet of 2-1/2 pounds of fresh eucalyptus leaves a day, or 900 pounds per year, these animals cost the Zoological Society \$35,000 a year to maintain. To help satisfy these Australian ambassadors' culinary tastes, we need your help. You can contribute to the Society's Koala Appeal by filling out and sending in the form between pages 14 and 15 in this magazine or by calling the Zoological Society, (414) 258-2333, to request a package that explains the appeal in more detail. Friends of our koalas who donate \$15 or more will get their names on a Donor Board near the koala exhibit. If you've already contributed to our appeal, the koalas send their thanks.

## Membership Lapsed?

Before your next visit to the Zoo, please check the expiration date on your Zoological Society membership card. If your membership has expired, call (414) 258-2333 to renew your membership with a VISA or MasterCard. We can mail you a temporary membership card or have your card ready for pick up at the Zoological Society office. Please remember that we are unable to authorize a refund for Zoo admission if your membership has expired.

## Your Group at the Zoo

Your school group or civic organization can sponsor an animal at the Zoo and get a special presentation by a zookeeper during your group's visit to the Zoo. Members of your group who contributed toward the



sponsorship are welcome to attend our exclusive sponsors-only summer picnic at the Zoo. To sponsor the animal that matches your group's interests or for more information, call the Zoological Society at (414) 258-2223.

## Member Recruitment

This is the time of year when the Zoological Society acquires many of its new members. If you're already a member and receive a recruitment mailing, please pass your envelope on to a friend.

## National Geographic Specials

Three award-winning National Geographic Specials will be brought into your home this spring, courtesy of the Zoological Society. Tune in to Channel 10 for local broadcasts of:

**LOST KINGDOMS OF THE MAYA.** Wednesday, January 20, 8 p.m. An exploration of the ancient culture of the Maya, including visits to Mayan ruins, re-creations of ancient Mayan rituals, and profiles of surviving descendants of the Maya.

**KEEPERS OF THE WILD.** Wednesday, February 17, 8 p.m. Profiles of eight animal keepers from zoos and other captive-wildlife institutions around the world, including the Dallas Zoo, an African rhino sanctuary, and the Atlanta Zoo.

**SURVIVORS OF THE SKELETON COAST.** Wednesday, April 14, 8 p.m. A rare look at the desert-dwelling wildlife along the Skeleton Coast of the southwest African country of Namibia.

Please call Viewer Services at (414) 278-1415 to confirm program dates and times or check local listings.

## Birthdays at the Zoo

Celebrate your child's birthday at the Zoo this winter, when the animals are especially attentive. To reserve a date and learn what our birthday package offers, call Zoo Pride, the Zoological Society's volunteer auxiliary, at (414) 258-5667 at least three weeks before your requested date.

## Pack Your Bags For...

### WEST AFRICA.

The Zoological Society invites you to explore West Africa on a guided trip there, October 29-November 11, 1993. The trip will be led by Zoological Society President Dr. Gil Boese. Call (414) 258-2333 or watch your April issue of *Alive* for more information.





# Elk and the Ecosystem

**W**hile Washington, D.C.'s multi-member Senate Environment Committee is trying to decide whether to reintroduce the endangered gray wolf to its native Yellowstone National Park

habitat, P. J. White is braving the park's harsh winters to do research that might help the committee reach a conclusion.

White, a doctoral student in wildlife ecology at the University of Wisconsin-

Madison, is studying the population status of elk that live in Yellowstone's Madison-Firehole Drainage, a pristine 30,000-acre area blanketed by lodgepole pine forests and sedge-grass meadows; pocked with geysers and bubbling pools; and defined by three rivers.

The elk are an important food source for the area's grizzly bears in the spring and would also likely be a major part of the reintroduced wolf's diet. But because drought, severe winters and fires that altered much of Yellowstone in 1988 have dramatically reduced the elk population in the Madison-Firehole region over the past several years, the status of the park's endangered grizzlies and the gray wolf introductions could be threatened.

To find out how changes in the population status of the Madison-Firehole elk herd could affect the long-term survival of grizzlies and, potentially, wolves, White launched an elk population study about a year ago. Identifying elk that were to be part of his study was the first step. White and about eight partners tagged 25 female elk with radio-transmitter collars, giving each elk a collar of a different frequency. The team then left White to his own resourcefulness.

A day in White's shoes, or snowshoes, can be brutal. Outfitted in warm clothes and a face mask and equipped with snow shoes and skis, White leaves his Madison Junction apartment, mounts his snowmobile and launches a day-long, 100-mile radio search for elk in what may be the coldest,

**Bull elk in winter on the Firehole River, one of three rivers marking the Madison-Firehole research site.**



**A radio-collared cow elk finds burned tree bark an acceptable food source.**

during each 30-minute observation period. When recording eating habits, White notes the amount and type of food (grass, sedge, shrubs, pine needles or burned bark) eaten in three-minute periods, collects food samples and sends them to Madison, where White's advisor,

Dr. Robert Garrot, tests them for digestibility, energy content and overall diet quality. "This information lets us compare the quality of diets of elk that feed in one habitat—a thermal area, for instance—to diets of elk that use, say, sedge meadows," White said.

Facing dramatic energy loss during the winter, most of the elk in the Madison-Firehole area move to lower elevations and some face head-on the cold and snow of mountains more than a mile high. In order to maximize their energy and protein intake and minimize the effort it takes to forage, individual elk pursue different resource selection strategies in winter. White said, "Individual elk have different ways of getting through winter." White said. "Most elk don't expend any more energy than they have to to get the food they need to survive."

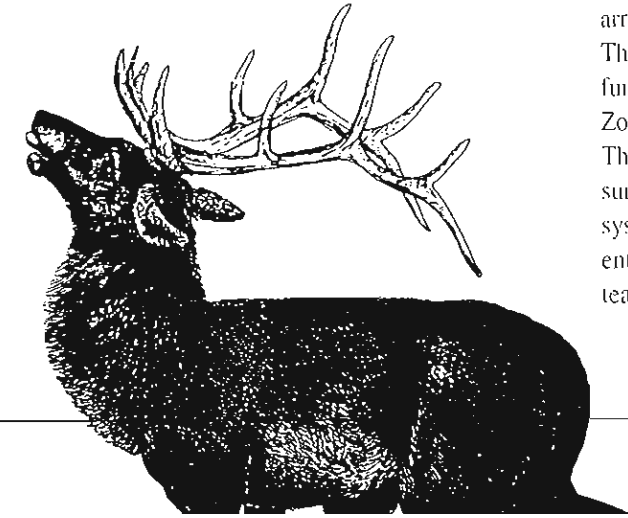
Once White locates a randomly selected collared elk, he studies its food and habitat preference. "Some elk prefer browsing on lodgepole pine needles and others prefer sedge meadows; some like to spend the winter in the forest, others like to feed and bed on the snow-free ground near hot pools and geysers," he said. "How well animals find food and conserve energy determine whether they will make it to spring."

White records everything from weather conditions to activity patterns to eating habits

during each 30-minute observation period. When recording eating habits, White notes the amount and type of food (grass, sedge, shrubs, pine needles or burned bark) eaten in three-minute periods, collects food samples and sends them to Madison, where White's advisor,

Dr. Robert Garrot, tests them for digestibility, energy content and overall diet quality. "This information lets us compare the quality of diets of elk that feed in one habitat—a thermal area, for instance—to diets of elk that use, say, sedge meadows," White said. Besides food samples, White also collects elk feces to find out what the animal had eaten over the past 48 hours and urine deposits to discover how much energy and protein the elk has obtained from its diet. "To determine the animal's diet, we look at the fecal specimen under a microscope and try to match its cell structure to the cell walls of plants from the area," White said. "And urine deposits are perhaps our best indicator of what and how specific habitats and food affect an elk's physical condition during winter."

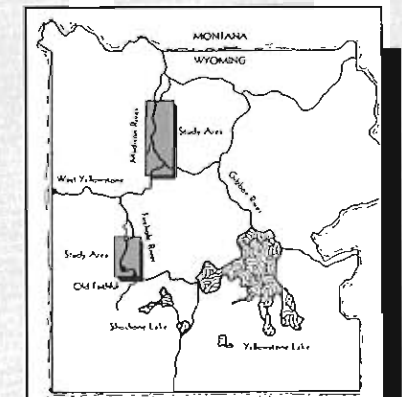
To relate all this information on the habitat and food preferences of the radio-collared elk to the physical condition,



## GEOGRAPHY



**Yellowstone National Park**



YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WYOMING

**Madison-Firehole Drainage  
Elk Study Area**

survival and reproductive success of the area's whole elk population is White's next step and the step that will set his research apart from any other elk research.

To estimate the number of elk in the Madison-Firehole study area, White has arranged for three aerial surveys of the area. This part of White's research is being funded through a research grant from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County. The study area will be divided into 20 survey units, and a pilot-observer team will systematically fly over each unit until the entire area has been searched. When the team sees a group of elk, the observer will

*continued on next page*



*Photos courtesy of P. J. White*

plot the herd's location on a map; record the elk group's size, group composition and behavior; note the elk with radio collars; and note percent vegetation and snow cover. All radio-collared animals not found during the aerial surveys will be located—via radio receiver—from the ground.

The surveys, to be completed in April, will be separated by more than one week to allow elk to mix with other groups to ensure objectivity and to prevent survey teams from knowing where to find individual animals. The number of radio-collared elk observed and not observed during the aerial surveys will be used to develop a sightability model that will estimate, among other things, the proportion of elk seen in specific habitat types.

"The population estimate that comes from this study will be essential to our



P. J. White's partners radio collar a female elk.

understanding of elk as prey for other animals in Yellowstone National Park," White said, "and should help the people studying wolf reintroduction decide if the area is a suitable site for reintroduction."



As part of the Zoological Society's Wisconsin Student Grant Program, \$10,000 in research grants are awarded annually to Wisconsin-based students pursuing advanced degrees in wildlife conservation. This year, the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County joins the National Park Service and the University of Wisconsin-Madison to make P. J. White's research possible.

## A Giant Step for Bonobos

Over the past ten years, biologists Nancy Thompson-Handler and her husband, Richard Malenky, have bathed in streams, lived in thatched huts, walked hours to get to the nearest town, traveled with tons of equipment and fuel supplies by river boat, and unwillingly shared their grubs, fish and freeze-dried food with carpenter ants.

All this for the opportunity to peer 90 feet skyward into the rainforest canopy of Zaire's Lomako Forest, searching for the elusive bonobos, or pygmy chimpanzees, that call this place home.

The Lomako Forest study site, a remote 35-kilometer stretch of pristine equatorial rainforest teeming with wildlife from Congo Peafowl to Allen Swamp Monkeys, is the site of Thompson-Handler's and Malenky's research on the endangered bonobo.

Years of research on the wild bonobo have enabled the team to take on the important task of drafting the Bonobo Conservation Action Plan, a document that will detail the conservation status and needs of the remaining bonobo population in Zaire. Thompson-Handler's and Malenky's work on the plan is supported by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County.

In a huge step toward building the plan, Thompson-Handler and Malenky brought their field research to Milwaukee late last year and shared it with biologists from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and Chicago's Brookfield Zoo.

Using Thompson-Handler's and Malenky's data, the team met at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Field Station in Saukville, Wis., to conduct a bonobo population viability analysis, or a computer simulation of the demographics of bonobos in the wild.

Though the results of the analysis aren't in yet, they are expected to give researchers valuable information about how risk factors like habitat destruction, declining birth rates and poaching will affect the population status of bonobos in the wild over the next several decades.

"These results will be the heart of the Conservation Action Plan," said Gay Reinartz, the Zoological Society's conservation coordinator and manager of the bonobo Species Survival Plan. "Once the plan is completed, we hope to share it with government officials in Zaire, funding groups, and conservation organizations around the world, including institutions that hold bonobos in captivity."

### Buy a Shirt Here, Help a Bonobo in Zaire

To help spread the word on bonobo conservation here and in Zaire, the Zoological Society is making a t-shirt with this symbol of a bonobo and the message, "Bonobos: Rare and At Risk," available for \$10.55 (adult S-XL; child M-L) and \$11.75 (adult XXL). Prices include Wisconsin state tax. T-shirts like this one—complete with a conservation message in the native Lingala language—are being donated and shipped to Zaire as part of the Zoological Society's effort to share with people of Zaire the importance of protecting their country's wildlife and endangered bonobos. Proceeds from this t-shirt sale will go toward bonobo conservation, habitat protection and conservation education in Zaire. Call (414) 258-2333 to order.



Nancy Thompson-Handler with a bonobo in Zaire's Lomako Forest.

Photo by Noel Barkman



## Primate Potpourri Friday, March 12

It's an...orang occasion, ape affair, spider spectacle, diana do, colobus commemoration, mandrill musical, siamang soiree! The primary primate party on the planet! Add exotic birds and snakes, exquisite eats, and sights and sounds from rain forests around the world and you have a once-in-a-lifetime experience extraordinaire!

Be a part of the unique sneak preview of the Zoo's newly renovated primate building, Friday, March 12, at 7 p.m. Myra Dorros and Bonnie Joseph are co-chairing the event. All proceeds will benefit the Zoological Society's conservation programs. Call Patty Cadorin, the Society's special events director, at (414) 258-2333 to make a reservation.



Guests at the Primate Potpourri fund-raiser will see more on the menu than this dish that event co-chairs Bonnie Joseph (left) and Myra Dorros prepared for residents of the renovated primate building.



## Z Double Circle Round-Up

More than 500 cowpokes came out to the Zoo September 19 for a country-western party that raised more than \$30,000 for the Zoo's two new koalas. The fund-raiser had everyone at the Zoo dancin' the Texas two-step, singin' to live country music, eatin' some great Tex-Mex, and playin' games from the Old West. Mingling with the crowd were Milwaukee Brewer's Ace Reliever Doug Henry, FM106's Mark Stack, and Kay Hankins, reigning U.S. cow chip tossing champ. This year's Z Double Circle Round-Up, sponsored by the Zoological Society, Miller Brewing Company, WMIL-FM106, and County Line Cheese, was co-chaired by Bob Anger and Becky Druml.

Western entertainers Rhonda Renee (left) and Joyce Rice greeted more than 500 party-goers at the Zoo during September's Z Double Circle Round-Up.

The Platypus Society is a group of about 350 of Milwaukee's foundations, corporations and individuals that contribute more than \$300,000 annually to the Zoological Society. If you would like to join this group in

helping the Society uphold its mission of supporting the Zoo, educating the community about the importance of wildlife and the environment and conserving endangered species, call Judi Bessette at (414) 276-0843.

PLATINUM CORPORATE  
\$10,000  
\*Marquette Electronics Foundation

PLATINUM PATRON  
\$10,000  
\*Alice Bertshy Kadish  
\*Bill Borchert Larson

GOLD CORPORATE  
\$5,000-\$9,999  
American Airlines  
\*Beck Carton Corp.  
Bucyrus-Eric Foundation  
Harnischfeger Industries  
\*Evan & Marion Helfaer Foundation

Henri's Food Products Co., Inc.  
\*Miller Brewing Co.  
\*Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co.

PATRON  
\$3,500-\$4,999  
Mr. Dale Engstrom  
\*Jacquelyn Larson

CORPORATE  
\$3,000-\$4,999  
A to Z Party Rentals, Inc.  
Findley Adhesives  
\*Heller Foundation, Inc.

SILVER CORPORATE  
\$2,500-\$2,999  
Beatrice Cheese, Inc.  
\*Johnson Controls Foundation  
\*Little Caesars Pizza  
\*Milwaukee Insurance  
\*The Milwaukee Journal/Milwaukee  
Seminel

\*Paper Machinery Corp.  
\*Peck Foods Corp.  
\*Pillar Corp.  
\*Reilly-Joseph Co.  
\*Ruby Leasing of America  
C.G. Schmidt, Inc.  
Schwabe Construction  
\*A.O. Smith Foundation, Inc.  
\*Stackner Family Foundation  
Stearns Foundation, Inc.  
\*Wiscold, Inc.  
\*The Ziegler Foundation, Inc.

SILVER PATRON  
\$2,500-\$3,499  
William J. Murgas  
\*Bernard & Miriam Peck  
Beth Rudell  
James Steinman  
\*John Taylor

CORPORATE  
\$2,000-\$2,499  
\*Capitol Stampings Corp.  
Industrial Electric Wire & Cable, Inc.  
\*Grunau Co., Inc.  
\*Kalmbach Publishing  
\*Wisconsin Energy Corp.

PATRON  
\$2,000-\$2,499  
William C. Lutzen & Eleanor  
Knudsen Lutzen  
Mrs. Lloyd Pettit

CORPORATE  
\$1,500-\$1,999  
Central Ready-Mixed Concrete  
\*Eaton Corp.  
A.J. & F.H. Ellinger Foundation, Inc.

Harley-Davidson, Inc.  
Koss Foundation Inc.  
\*MITA Enterprises, Inc.  
\*National Business Furniture  
Sunshine Productions, Inc.  
\*Time Insurance  
\*Tri City Bankshares Corp.  
\*Wisconsin Bell, Inc.  
\*Zimmer Thomson Associates, Inc.  
\*WITI-TV6

PATRON  
\$1,500-\$1,999  
\*Nancy Balcer  
\*Christin Clark Cleaver &  
Joe Goldberger  
\*Mary B. Finnigan  
\*Rheinhold & Beverly Hugo  
\*Diane O'Connor

CORPORATE  
\$1,000-\$1,499  
\*Allen Bradley/Rockwell Int'l  
\*Apple Family Foundation  
\*Art Newman, Inc.  
Associated Commerce Bank  
ATM Test Sieves, Inc.  
\*A to Z Printing Co., Inc.  
\*Automated Systems, Inc.  
\*Badger Meter Foundation  
\*Bayshore Clinical Laboratories  
Bell Ambulance  
Lynde & Harry Bradley  
Foundation  
\*The Burgmeier Co., Inc.  
\*C&H Distributors  
\*Central Control Alarm  
Chancery Restaurants  
Chempac, Inc.  
Chubb Group of Insurance  
Companies  
\*Consolidated Papers Foundation, Inc.  
\*Cramer-Krasselt  
Derse Foundation, Inc.  
Direct Marketing Concepts  
\*Electri-Wire Corp.  
Ernst & Young  
\*First Bank Foundation, Inc.  
\*Firststar Milwaukee Foundation, Inc.  
\*The Fox Co., Inc. Lithographers  
Fruit Ranch Market, Inc.  
Gehl Co.  
Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer & Assoc.  
\*Great Lakes Marketing, Inc.  
Great Lakes Packaging  
\*Great Lakes Vet. Clinical Lab.  
HM Graphics Inc.  
Robert Haack Diamonds  
\*R.S. Hammerschlag & Co.  
\*G. Heileman Brewing Co., Inc.  
\*Heinemann's Restaurants  
\*Helwig Carbon Products  
Holz Motors, Inc.

CORPORATE  
\$1,000-\$1,499  
\*Oto L. Kuehn Co.  
\*La Joy Restaurant Corp.  
Lapjin Electric Co.  
\*Larry's Brown Deer Market  
Lutho-Craft Co., Inc.  
\*M&I Marshall & Ilsley Bank  
\*Megal Development Corp.  
Mesiek, Steffes & Krueger, S.C.  
Gary F. Miller, Inc.  
\*Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp.  
\*Milwaukee Northside Warehouse  
Modern Clothing Co.  
\*Monarch Corp.  
\*Ph. Oth Co.  
\*The Perlick Co., Inc.  
\*PieperPower Foundation  
Price-Waterhouse  
\*Quad/Graphics, Inc.  
\*Remus Catering  
\*Robertson-Ryan & Associates  
Seaman-Maxon, Inc.  
Split Rail Foundation  
\*Stein Garden Centers, Inc.  
\*Stereon McDonald's Restaurants

\*IBM Corp.  
\*In-Place Machining Co.  
\*Intrepid Corp.  
J.H. Collectibles, Inc.  
\*Jefferson Smurfit Corp.  
\*Kabler Slater Architects  
\*Klement Sausage  
\*Kraft Food Services  
\*Charles A. Krause Foundation

\*Sundstrand Foundation  
\*Tamarack Petroleum Co., Inc.  
\*Taylor Electric  
\*Uihlein Electric Co., Inc.  
\*Universal Foods Foundation  
Vilar Arts, Inc.  
\*Vilter Foundation, Inc.  
\*WICOR, Inc.  
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Lance Reyniers  
\*David L. Ritz  
\*A.D. Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Rokich in memory  
of Helen Amidzich  
Dr. Morris & Barbara Sable  
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**Tom Smallwood**  
Trustee  
Evan and Marion Helfaer  
Foundation  
1992 Emu Egg Award Winner

*"During their lifetime, Evan and Marion Helfaer demonstrated a strong commitment to the Milwaukee Community. Maintaining the Foundation's membership in the Platypus Society for the past 10 years is just one example of their involvement. I'm both pleased and proud as a Trustee to be able to continue their tradition of supporting local institutions like the Zoological Society and the Zoo...helping to make Milwaukee a great place to live."*

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**NEW MEMBERS**

The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of November 19, 1992:

**\$1,000-\$1,499 Corporate**  
JRL Custom Fabrications  
Mandel Company  
Marcus Corporation

**\$500-\$999 Patron**  
Kurt & Lori Bechthold  
F. Colin Cabot  
China West Gems  
Mr. & Mrs. R. Thomas Dempsey, Jr.  
Eric McDonald  
Unique Exteriors, Inc.  
Video Wisconsin  
Woller-Anger Company

Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after November 19, 1992 will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.

**NEW GIFT LEVELS**

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

**\$5,000-\$9,999 Gold Corporate**  
American Airlines

**\$1,500-\$1,999 Corporate**  
Central Ready Mixed Concrete

**\$1,500-\$1,999 Patron**  
Christin Clark Cleaver  
& Joe Goldberger

**\$1,000-\$1,499 Corporate**  
VilarArts

**1992 Platypus Society Awards**

At September's Platypus Society Awards Dinner, these friends of the Zoological Society received unique awards for their outstanding support of the Zoological Society's mission:

**Emu Egg Award**

Evan and Marion Helfaer Foundation  
William T. Gaus  
Jack Kellner  
Thomas L. Smallwood

**Spheniscus Humboldt Award**

Alice B. Kadish  
Bill Borchert Larson  
Paul Cadorin  
R. Thomas Dempsey

**Elephus Maximus Award**

The Derse Foundation  
James F. Derse

Beck Carton Corporation  
Thomas M. Wamser

**Gorilla, Gorilla, Gorilla Award**

Tom Fifield

**Bubo Virginianus Award**

Dale F. Engstrom

Unicare Health Facilities, Inc.  
Guy W. Smith

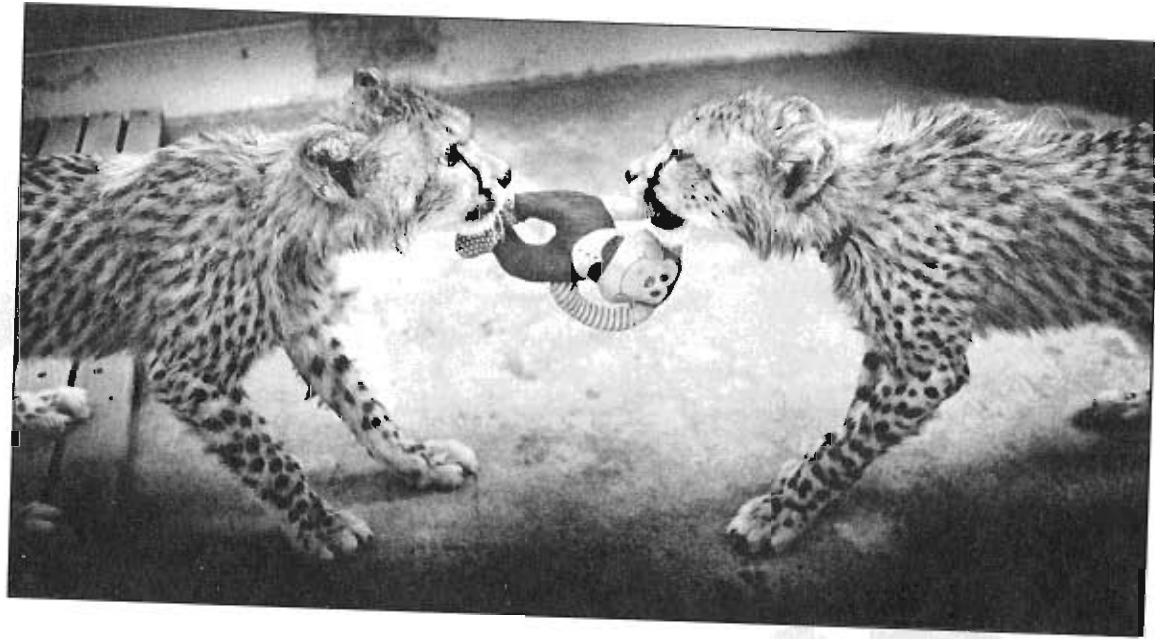
**Thalarctos Maritimus Award**

Mandel Company  
David Meltzer

**Leontideus Rosalia Award**

Marquette Electronics Foundation  
Gerald J. Reiser

\*5-year Platypus Society Member (updated each fall)



**Cheetahs** ▶  
(Feline House)

Arrived at Zoo: November 12, 1992  
Born: July 9, 1992

Threatened by habitat loss and poaching, these endangered African cats number only about 25,000 in the wild. But in captivity, they are protected by a Species Survival Plan, designed to manage cheetahs in captivity for long-term survival. Hand-reared at Chicago's Lincoln Park Zoo, the male cubs pictured here have joined the ranks of the fastest land animal in the world. With its slender build, rudder-like tail and flexible spine, the cheetah can sprint up to 75 miles per hour for distances up to 300 yards, making hunting prey—gazelles, impala and other hoofed mammals—less of a challenge. For extra traction during rapid chases, the cheetah's claws are left extended, not sheathed, like those of other cats. The Zoo's three new cheetah brothers, called Ace, Onyx, and Juba, are named after their scientific name, *Acinonyx jubatus*.

Source: Val Werner, Zookeeper, Felines

**Rockhopper Penguin** ▶

(Aviary)

Hatched: October 23, 1992

This is Shirley. Only a month-old tuft of feathers here. Shirley will soon not only bear the standard countershaded black-and-white plumage but also the long yellow feathers, or crests, above their eyes that distinguish Rockhoppers from other penguin species. As an adult, Shirley will weigh only six or seven pounds and stand 18" to 24" tall. The Milwaukee County Zoo has more Long-crested Rockhopper Penguins than any other Zoo in the country, and Shirley is the first Rockhopper hatched in the 100-year history of the Zoo. The Rockhopper Penguin, found mainly throughout temperate Subantarctic islands, face seals as predators in water and large, omnivorous birds, on land. Human encroachment, climatic changes, marine pollution and drift-net fishing also threaten the bird's status in the wild.

Source: Rebecca J. Loehle, Zookeeper, Aviary



**Short-Eared Elephant Shrew** ▶

(Small Mammal Building)

Arrived at the Zoo: September 10, 1992

This elephant shrew's large eyes, long trunk-like nose and small-as-a-mouse size leave little doubt as to how it got its name. Just like a regular shrew, elephant shrews forage for invertebrates and plant matter with their snouts, but their similarity to true shrews ends there. In fact, elephant shrews are so different from any other mammal that they've earned their own family name, *Macroscelididae*, thanks to more than 30 million years of evolution. The elephant shrew pictured here, born in 1991 at the Philadelphia Zoo, and its three relatives here are part of a first-time breeding program at the Milwaukee County Zoo. At the Zoo, they can be found in the Mini Critters Exhibit on the night side of the Small Mammal Building. In the wild, elephant shrews can be found on the sandy, thorn-bush plains of Southern Africa.

Source: John Wightman, Area Supervisor, Small Mammals



**White-bellied Stork** ▼

(Aviary—East Flight Hall)

Hatched: September 19, 1992

Only two months old at the time of this photograph, these White-bellied Storks join more than 100 other of their species in captivity. But what makes this animal special to our Zoo is the bird's remarkable survival rate here. Of the nine chicks that have hatched at the Milwaukee County Zoo since 1990, eight are still living and have been raised by the same two pairs of adults. In the wild, White-bellied Storks nest on cliffs or in trees south of Africa's Sahara Desert and live in groups, or colonies, of at least 10 birds. Their favorite food at the Zoo: a commercially prepared bird-of-prey diet and flamingo fare, chopped and whole fish, and insects.

Source: Dawn Wicker, Zookeeper, Aviary

◀ **Virginia Opossum**

(Peck Welcome Center - Discovery Farm)

Arrived at Zoo: June 1992

Though it suffers a reputation as a slow-witted animal, the opossum is a survivor. With hands, feet and tail well adapted for grasping, opossums are good climbers, even though they spend most of their time on the ground, and do most of their foraging at night. They eat whatever's available in the way of fruits, insects, small vertebrates, carrion and garbage and sleep in hollow trees and logs. Opossums are the only marsupials found in North America. The Virginia Opossum, pictured here, can be found over 800,000 square miles of the United States and Mexico, and two other types of opossums can be found in South America. In winter, Zoo visitors can touch or get an up-close look at the Zoo's opossum, Blossom, at the Discovery Farm in the Peck Welcome Center.

Source: Randy Deer, Area Supervisor, Stackner Heritage Farm



SPECIAL EVENTS

JANUARY

**Do The Zoo In Winter Too**

**2**-March 28. This winter, spend a weekend or two at the Zoo. Visit the animal buildings from 1-3 p.m. and get answers to your questions about their residents from trained guides. Also, be sure to visit the Peck Welcome Center and catch special educational films each afternoon. This program is made possible by Zoo Pride, the volunteer auxiliary of the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County. Call (414) 256-5421 for more information.

**Dog Pull Competition**

**9 & 10** Alaskan Malamutes, Siberian Huskies, Rottweilers, Newfoundlands and Samoyeds will be the star animals at the Zoo this winter weekend. These dogs, known to have pulled more than 3,000 pounds, will compete 11 a.m.-4 p.m. each day. Sponsored by Eagle Premium Pet Foods.

**Samson Stomp and Romp**

**17** Make plans to register for this 13th annual run named after Milwaukee's famous gorilla, Samson. The run features a 10K, 2-mile fun run and a 1/4-mile mini romp. Call the Zoo at (414) 256-5412 for entry fee and registration details. Proceeds benefit the Zoo's animals.

**Snow Sculpting**

**30 & 31** Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow! If it snows this weekend, the Zoo will become a winter wonderland featuring family teams sculpting everything from castles to critters from giant blocks of snow. This event is weather dependent. Please call the Zoo at (414) 256-5412 for confirmation.

Calendar

FEBRUARY

**Critter Conversation: For the Birds**

**13** You can find out what it really means to eat like a bird during a casual conversation with Ellen Saksefski, the Zoo's area supervisor of the Aviary. Ellen will tell members what it's like to handle and care for birds as big as the Rhinoceros Hornbill, as strong as the Humboldt Penguin and as fragile as the Black-necked Stilt. This Critter Conversation, sponsored by the Zoological Society, will be held at the Zoofari Conference Center (the building east of the Zoo's main gates) at 8:30 a.m. Admission and parking (in the Zoofari Conference Center lot) are free. Please call the Zoological Society office, (414) 258-2333, to make a reservation.

MARCH

**Photo Contest**

**2**-April 2 Just say cheese! Load your camera for the Zoo's annual Photo Contest. The most exciting, unusual and realistic photos or videos taken at the Zoo will be awarded fantastic prizes. Focus, shoot and good luck! Call (414) 256-5412 for rules and details.

**The Primate Potpourri Fund-Raiser**

**12** Get a preview of the new Primates of the World exhibit, home to the Zoo's orangutans, mandrills, Diana monkeys, colobus, siamangs and spider monkeys, at this

fund-raiser. The event will feature music and birds from rain forests around the world. Proceeds benefit Zoological Society conservation programs. Call (414) 258-2333 and see page 15 for more details.

**Critter Conversation: Meet the Primates**

**13** The Zoo's siamangs and orangutans will find out what life is like outside of their old stainless-steel, bathroom-tile exhibits of the '50s when they move inside their new tropical rainforest habitats of Primates of the World. The newly renovated exhibit, to open in May, and all of its residents—siamangs, spider monkeys, mandrills, Diana monkeys, colobus and orangutans—is the topic of this casual conversation with Sam LaMalfa, area supervisor of primates at the Zoo. Sam will share his day-to-day experiences with caring for and feeding the Zoo's monkeys and apes. This Critter Conversation, sponsored by the Zoological Society, will be held at the Zoofari Conference Center (the building east of the Zoo's main gates) at 8:30 a.m. Admission and parking (in the Zoofari Conference Center lot) are free. Please call the Zoological Society office, (414) 258-2333, to make a reservation.

**Field Trip: Field Museum & Adler Planetarium**

**27** Journey through ancient ruins, visit wilderness stations and take a trip to the stars all in one day—Saturday, March 27. This day-long trip, sponsored by the Zoological Society, will take members on a trip to Chicago's Field Museum and Adler Planetarium. The cost of the trip is \$30 per adult and \$26 per child 17 years and younger, which covers a

Continued on other side

MARCH

Continental breakfast prior to departure from the Milwaukee County Zoo, round-trip Motor Coach transportation on Lamer's buses, admission to the museum and the planetarium, and beverages and snacks on the return trip to Milwaukee. To make a reservation, fill out the form between pages 6 and 7 of this magazine and mail it to Zoological Society, Field Trip, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226 by March 8. For more information, call (414) 258-2333.

APRIL

**Egg Days**

**11 and 12.** Don't miss this exceptional event. Hop into the Zoo with your family for two days of Easter fun, including an egg hunt,

SPECIAL EVENTS

Calendar

bonnet and tie decorating, an Easter parade, an obstacle course and entertainment, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. each day.

**Art Show**

**24**-May 15. Visit Milwaukee's 100 East Building to view an exhibit of more than 40 paintings of Zoo animals and other wildlife by Zoological Society artist Jay Jocham. Jocham's artwork frequently appears on the cover of *Alive* magazine, highway billboards promoting the Zoo, and invitations to special membership events at the Zoo. Watch your April *Alive* for more details.

MAY

**Summer Camp Registration**

**1** Guarantee that you get your children into the camps they want to attend at the Zoo this summer by coming to in-person registration on Saturday, May 1. In-person registration is announced to members only through *Alive*. Look for more information on summer camps in your spring issue of *Alive*.

**Primate Premiere**

**5-6.** Members, mark your calendars! These two evenings at the Zoo have been set aside for you to get a peak at Primates of the World, the newly renovated home of the Zoo's monkeys, siamangs and orangutans. To make sure that your visit is uncrowded, we'll be sending you an invitation to premieres being held on one of the two evenings. An exclusive, V.I.P. premiere of the new building will be held May 4. Watch your April issue of *Alive* and your mail for more details.

Calendar

JANUARY

- 2-March 28**  
Do The Zoo in Winter Too  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 9 & 10**  
Dog Pull Competition  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 17**  
Samson Stomp and Romp
- 30 & 31**  
Snow Sculpting

FEBRUARY

- 13**  
Critter Conversation:  
For the Birds  
8:30 a.m.  
Zoofari  
Conference Center

MARCH

- 2-April 2**  
Photo Contest
- 12**  
Primate Potpourri  
Fund-raiser  
7 p.m.

13

- Critter Conversation:  
Meet the Primates**  
8:30 a.m.  
Zoofari Conference Center
- 27**  
Field Trip:  
Field Museum and Adler  
Planetarium

APRIL

- 11-12**  
Egg Days  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 24-May 15**  
Art Show  
100 East Wisconsin Ave.

MAY

- 1**  
Summer  
Camp Registration  
Education Center
- 5-6**  
Primates  
of the World Premiere





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**MOVING? PLEASE LET US KNOW!**



**Fuji Photo Contest**  
This photograph of the Zoo's tiger cub, taken by Linda Larry of Madison, took second place in the Zoo's 1992 Fuji Photo Contest. The top three contest winners received cash prizes and film. Call (414) 256-5412 for information on how to enter this year's contest.