

# Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County WINTER 1996



*John Thomas*



Last September, the Zoological Society conducted a major study of our membership, asking for opinions from a random sample of our members in the Milwaukee area, Madison, Fox Valley and Northern Illinois on a number of things that are important to you and the Zoological Society. If you were among the members surveyed, our sincere thanks for taking the time to respond.

Among the many wonderful things we discovered about our members is a shared interest in children's education programs. We also learned, however, that many members don't know about our existing programs and if they do, they don't participate because they live too far from the Zoo. Parents also expressed great interest in wildlife education programs in their children's schools.

To better inform our members of the Society's education programs and other Zoo and Society activities, we've launched a newsletter called *Wild Things*. You'll find it in your mailbox six times a year, supplementing the Zoo and Society news you get from our quarterly magazine, *Alive*.

Getting closer to our members outside of Milwaukee County already is a priority. We're taking some of our education programs, including our popular summer adventure camps, on the road this year.

And we've been educating children in their schools since 1994, thanks to Roundy's Pick 'n Save's generous support of a wildlife outreach program called Roundy's Pick 'n Save's Care for Critters, featuring live birds of prey. This semester, students in the Fox Valley and in Madison will be experiencing the program for the first time.

We appreciate your thoughts on improving the education programs we offer to our loyal members at the Zoo and in your children's schools; and our thanks, in advance, to members in Madison, Fox Valley and Northern Illinois for welcoming our new presence in your communities.

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



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

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*Alive* is published quarterly by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County, 18005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226. Subscription by membership only. Call (414) 258-2333 for membership information.

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# Alive

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 1

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First Winter - Siberian Tigers by Jay Jocham  
Artwork endowed by Gretchen and Andrew Dawes Endowment, Inc.



# Belize Zoo:

## TREASURING THE TROPICS

Sharon Matola recalls her early days in Belize with a wistful smile.

Starting a zoo in the middle of a tropical rain forest, she says, seems now a flight of fancy. But there was no doubt in the early 1980s that conservation and education programs were needed badly in the tiny country.

Wedged between Guatemala and facing the Caribbean Sea, Belize holds more

integrity to support the Belize Zoo."

There was one organization, however, that quickly realized the zoo was an idea worth pursuing and nurturing. "One of our first supporters was the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County," Matola says, smiling. "The importance of that cannot be overemphasized. It provided the financial fuel. And when you receive support from an institution like the Zoological Society, it's meaningful to other funding groups.

"It meant that we were able to submit grant proposals to places such as The Nature Conservancy. They looked at us and figured, 'If the Milwaukee County Zoological Society supports it, it can't be a fly-by-night operation.'"

Today, the Central American zoo has new quarters. And its educational programs reach not only residents of Belize but are exported internationally. But Matola makes clear that the zoo and its buildings play secondary roles.

"I've never tried to stress the zoo as

important," Matola says. "The new zoo opened in 1991. But all that doesn't mean as much as the original people who stood by us. And Milwaukee never faltered. The zoo is important but it serves to encourage the people of Belize to protect their forests."

There is little question that Belize has a treasure in its rain forest. Showing the people of Belize its value and dispelling myths about the animals that live in the forest has been some of the zoo's most important work, Matola says. Many people in Belize, Matola recalls, had never seen

many of the secretive animals native to their country. The zoo helped by placing some of those animals on exhibit and explaining their habits.

"They never had the opportunity to see the animals of their own country," Matola says. "Imagine that. That's why we became so popular so quickly. People wanted to see their animals."

Take the tapir, for example. A large, generally gentle vegetarian, the tapir nonetheless had an awful reputation in Belize. "There was a myth that a tapir could skin you alive with its flexible nose," Matola says. "We put out an extremely aggressive campaign to get the real information out about tapirs. That has helped raise awareness."

The boa constrictor wasn't exactly esteemed either. A non-venomous snake that squeezes its prey to death, the boa constrictor was believed by many in Belize to be poisonous. Enter Bar Boa, a zoo resident who hangs on people's necks and displays a generally inoffensive personality.

"We show our visitors that the boa is not dangerous, and that it eats a lot of rats," Matola says. "Since we've started these programs, we don't really hear the myths any longer."

Matola and her staff also explain the

Thanks to an intensive tapir awareness campaign, the South American tapir is recovering from its undeserved reputation as a beast that skins people alive with its nose. Tapirs are large, generally gentle vegetarians.

bounty that can be harvested from tropical forests, including chocolate, vanilla, and the raw materials for countless pharmaceuticals. "We stress the importance of maintaining the integrity of the tropical forest ecosystems," Matola says. "And we stress to our visitors their importance as the stewards of that resource. It helps get the people of Belize excited about natural resources."

The Belize Zoo Toledo Outreach Program is one vehicle for helping youngsters understand the treasures of Belize. The program is funded by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and Alice Bertschy Kadish.

In Belize, the Toledo Outreach Program, which takes its name from a district in that country, travels to every primary school. With the help of "Rainbow the Toucan," a human in feathery finery, students and teachers learn about ecosystems in Belize. Games, activities and prizes all aim to encourage students to protect Rainbow's habitat in the rain forest and discourage hunting of the Keel-billed Toucan, Belize's national bird. Also, Matola says, another human-size character, H2O Joe, shows students the need to protect their rivers and streams from erosion and pollution.

Colorful posters with Belize's national symbols and renderings of rain forest animals—both funded by the Zoological Society—help illustrate the need for conservation. Matola reports the program is popular and well-received by students and teachers.

### GEOGRAPHY



BELIZE



The Keel-billed Toucan is Belize's national bird.

"We also train teachers and they go back to their classrooms and get their students interested," Matola says. "Those programs are incredibly important. It comes back to us in bits and pieces, but we hear that teachers and students are excited and refreshed after they see the program."

Matola brought a version of the program to the Milwaukee area recently and paid a visit to Shorewood schools. The students heartened her, she says, with their breadth of knowledge of endangered species. They greeted Matola by decorating



LEFT: The Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center promote the raising of green iguanas in captivity for food to prevent Belizeans from poaching them in the wild.

tropical rain forest than any other country in Central America. Saving that resource meant educating residents and courting benefactors.

"The zoo essentially was a backyard menagerie that was meant to heighten awareness," Matola says. "It didn't look smart or important. There weren't many people or institutions prepared to risk their

RIGHT: This jaguar, on exhibit at the Belize Zoo as an ambassador of the endangered species, is the largest cat of Central and South America.



Photos courtesy of Sharon Matola



**Sharon Matola, Director, Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center**

## Sharon Matola

Sharon Matola came to Belize in 1982 to work on a documentary film. She never left. Funding for the film dried up and left Matola with 20 animals used in its production.

"It was obvious that these animals couldn't go back into the wild," she says. "It was just a bad situation." Matola's solution? Build a zoo.

"I remember thinking, 'What about this idea? Belize doesn't have a zoo.' I started the zoo as a desperate try to save the animals. And I'm still here today."

Located about one hour from the city, the Belize Zoo quickly became a choice destination. "What shocked me was the number of Belizeans who rode the bus for an hour to see us," Matola says. "We certainly didn't advertise. It was all word-of-mouth."

In 1991, the zoo grew and moved into new quarters. Today it is home to 150 animals enclosed in a fenced 29-acre area. Each year, about 30,000 to 50,000 people visit the zoo, 60% of them from Belize.

"Sunday is a big zoo day for families in Belize," Matola says. "It's now about a 30-minute bus ride. It's in a heavily-forested area so the ride looks scary. But it's really quite safe."

After more than a decade of running the zoo, Matola has no regrets. "I always wanted to work in conservation. When you're committed to a project, sometimes you get lucky."

their classroom to resemble a rain forest. "They were wonderful," Matola says. "I would show them slides and before I could tell them what the animal was, they identified it."

Despite the success of education programs both in Belize and abroad, Matola sees the need to expand those efforts. She

cites the example of the rare Jabiru stork, of which only 50 or so remain in Belize. The wetland bird stands about four to five feet high with a wingspan of eight to ten feet.


A Belize resident shot one of the birds and barbecued it, Matola says with a



trace of sadness. "It's not their fault," she says. "They simply didn't know how rare the bird was. You can't blame them."

Instead, Matola launched another educational program. The zoo adopted an orphaned Jabiru stork named "Boomer" and spent 10 months raising money to build an aviary to house the bird. "We made it possible for thousands of Belizeans to see Jabiru storks," Matola says. "Again, a lot of them had never seen a Jabiru and they didn't realize how rare they are. We used this as an opportunity to promote the need for saving wetland habitats. We stress how important these environments are for the animals and for the people of Belize. We're always working to expand on that, to provide more knowledge for them."

That knowledge has other benefits, Matola adds. A key element of the Belizean economy is tourism. Increasingly, those tourists come to Belize to explore the country's rain forests and view some of their rare, exotic animals.

"We try to impress on people the value of the mammals, birds and geography of Belize," Matola says. "It's empowering to them to realize how valuable natural tourism can be. Strengthening the eco-tourism business makes it a mainstay of their economy." 



**A big part of the mission of the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center is to encourage the people of Belize to protect their forests and the animal and plant treasures they hold.**

## Conserving the Cats

Saving tigers from extinction means more than finding them safe places to live. With habitat destruction causing the numbers of the big cats to dwindle, survival also depends on the ability to breed and raise healthy tigers in the safe environs of zoos.

Breeding for breeding's sake, however, presents risks of its own. Inbreeding of captive tigers shrinks their genetic pool and threatens their long-term health because the genes responsible for immunity may be limited in their variety. Finding cats suitable for mating thus becomes critical to their survival.

Sher Hendrickson's research takes a significant step toward ensuring the safe mating of captive tigers. A master's student of molecular biology at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, Hendrickson has been testing DNA samples from tigers in zoos across the country.

Her aims: 1) to determine the extent of inbreeding among captive tigers—inbreeding reveals harmful traits, subjecting animals to deformities and lowered disease resistance, and 2) to assess the effect inbreeding may have on the gene complex that determines the diseases against which the tigers have immunity. Knowing inbreeding's effect on this gene, the MHC (major histo-compatibility) gene, may aid captive managers in locating the most genetically diverse tigers for further breeding.

Hendrickson's study, part of her master's degree work, is funded in part by a wildlife conservation grant from the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County.

"The reason that I decided to take a look at the captive population of tigers is that they are in danger of becoming extinct in the



photo courtesy of Don Limer, UW-Parkside

**Zoological Society conservation grant recipient Sher Hendrickson loads a tube of tiger DNA into a gel electrophoresis unit. The unit separates DNA out by size for examination.**

wild," Hendrickson says. "It becomes that much more important to keep our captive population healthy."

She says that recent advances in molecular biology now allow scientists to determine the extent to which inbreeding has occurred among captive tigers, which may affect certain genes, like the MHC, that play a role in a species' survival.

Wild tigers are found only in Asia, where until the 19th century the animals roamed much of the southern half of the continent. Deforestation and hunting have reduced their numbers and range since



then. Although often associated with the jungle, tigers can live in nearly any climate — from the rain forests of southeast Asia to the chilly spruce forests of Manchuria.

Adult male tigers weigh more than 400 pounds and reach nine feet in length. A tigress may weigh about 300 pounds and grow to a length of eight feet.

Tigers generally prefer large prey, eating deer, antelope, wild oxen and pigs. Tigers, usually night hunters, are fast and powerful, capable of leaping 30 feet. Like house cats, they can live up to 20 years.

Hendrickson notes that there are three main populations of captive tigers: Bengal, Siberian and Sumatran.

White tigers, which are a subpopulation of the Bengal, are likely the most inbred, Hendrickson says. They have been bred selectively to ensure offspring with white coats. The result has been reduced fertility, early death and smaller litter size.

A key to keeping the captive populations healthy is avoiding inbreeding. Hendrickson's DNA testing analyzes genes that play a role in disease resistance and determines the likelihood of a population for surviving disease.

"One part of the American Zoo & Aquarium Association's Species Survival Plan is not just to provide zoos with healthy populations of animals," Hendrickson says. "If the animals are genetically pure and if appropriate areas of

habitat remain, then there's the option to reintroduce these animals into the wild."

Hendrickson, who finished her master's thesis in fall, will be working on her doctorate in zoology at UW-Madison. "Ultimately, I'd like to stick with research that benefits species conservation," she says. "I think that it's very important work."

**Sheena, a Siberian tiger, at the Milwaukee County Zoo**

# STIMULATING THE SPECIES



A tube filled with hay and food pellet rewards makes the life of Babe, the African elephant, more interesting and more fulfilling.

**E**nriching the lives of the Zoo's orangutans and primates has always been a serious priority to Trish Khan.

Now, Khan, a Milwaukee County Zookeeper, would like to work with keepers from other areas of the Zoo to enrich the lives of the animals in their care.

"I think it's really a matter of taking a

more holistic view of zoo work," says Khan from the kitchen of the primate building where bunches of bananas lie ripening on shelves. "My love and passion always has been primates. But we have to be concerned about all of the animals at the Zoo."

To that end, Khan has been given enthusiastic approval from Zoo managers to set up a committee charged with pulling together ideas from all animal staff that

will likely make animals' lives in captivity more fulfilling. Five separate subcommittees will look for ways to make enclosures throughout the Zoo more appealing and stimulating for the animals.

"Zoos are in a state of evolution," Khan says. "It had been thought that all the care animals needed was a clean place to sleep and plenty of food. Animals were simply viewed as entertainment.

"Zoos are different today," she continues. "We're actively involved in conserving endangered species and promoting the mental well-being of our animals."

Zoo animals, Khan explains, often are exquisitely adapted to life in the wild. Survival in their natural habitat had required them to hone their prodigious physical and mental faculties. But a captive lion, for example, need not call on its stalking, speed and strength to overcome a bowl of food slipped inside its cage.

On the other hand, captive wild animals can become listless — or worse — in the relatively sterile and staid confines of an enclosure.

"Zoo visitors don't want to see captive animals exhibiting stereotypical behavior like pacing, or, like the bonobos, plucking their hair," Khan says. "They have been very receptive to our efforts."

Those efforts, for instance, might include giving the tigers a heavy-duty cardboard carpet roll to paw and bat around. It may mean enlisting the aid of the

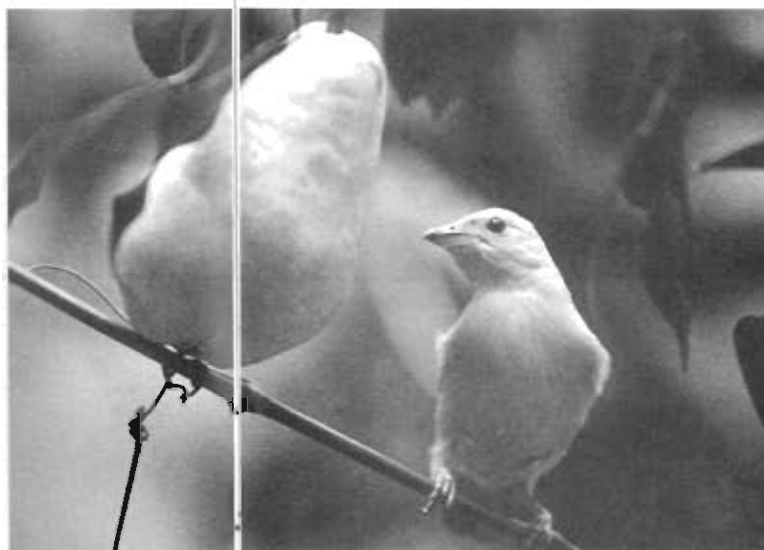
Zoological Society of Milwaukee County in building a termite mound that belches out bugs for birds in the Aviary or reconstructing the polar bear exhibit to include an elaborate apple reward system for certain behavior.

Or it may involve enlisting the aid of the House of Corrections, a jail in Franklin. There, inmates tend gardens that produce the whole watermelons that appear on the menu for elephants. The pachyderms enjoy the luxury of discovering the sweet meat inside after they crush the rind.

"Primates love watermelon, too," Khan says. "Especially the seeds."

While enriching captive lives seems as simple as varying diets and providing toys, the problems are varied and complex.

*continued on next page*



This Blue-gray tanager, in the Aviary's first exhibit at the entrance, gets a whole pear to nibble—something a little different from its daily captive bird diet.



Trish Khan stimulates the appetite of this Golden Lion Tamarin with a clear plastic jar filled with wood wool and crickets.

## ON THE JOB

TRISH KHAN, KEEPER

Trish Khan can't remember a day when she didn't love animals.

Khan, a keeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo for the last two and a half years, took her interest in animals to school. While studying at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, she completed an internship at the Oshkosh Zoo.

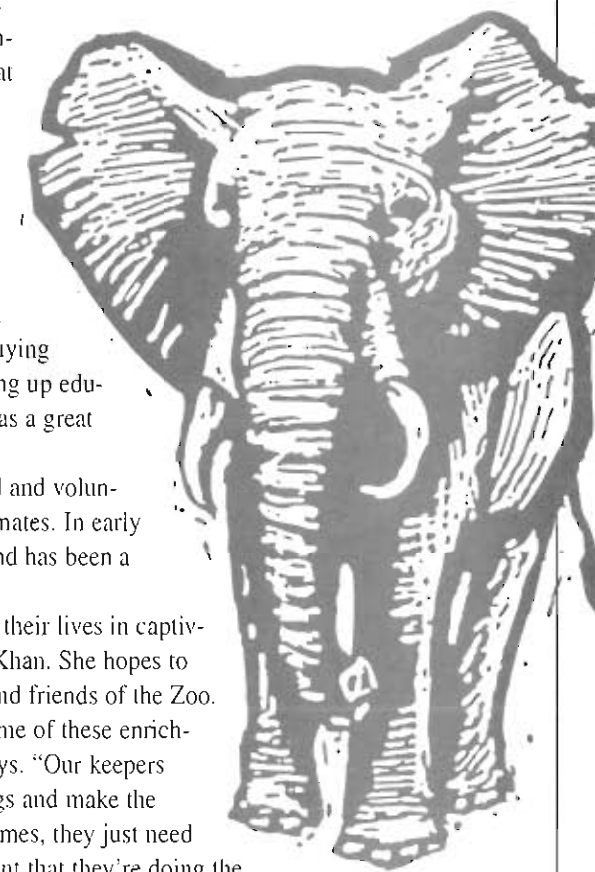
After graduating with a biology degree, Khan moved to Las Vegas where she became chief keeper, fundraiser and volunteer coordinator of its local zoo.

"We didn't have much money, and I had to do it all," Khan says. "From buying the food to feeding the animals to setting up education programs, I had to do it all. It was a great experience. I loved it."

From there, she moved to England and volunteered in a small zoo working with primates. In early 1993, Khan came back to Wisconsin and has been a keeper here ever since.

Caring for animals and improving their lives in captivity has become a potent motivator for Khan. She hopes to share that passion with other keepers and friends of the Zoo.

"I'm trying to get people to try some of these enrichment programs on their own," Khan says. "Our keepers here are great. They want to build things and make the lives of their animals better. A lot of times, they just need a hand doing it and some encouragement that they're doing the right thing."





The ball inside this saucer-like cat toy excites the zoo's Fennec foxes, encouraging them to play.

Primates are intelligent, Khan says, and they quickly become indifferent when given the same foods and diversions. "They get bored," Khan says. "If they've seen it too many times, they'll just ignore it. That means you have to keep rotating their diversions. It takes a lot of work."

Some keepers can get frustrated when

enhancing an animal's captive life turns an attractive, naturalistic enclosure into a sty or, worse yet, their best efforts get ignored.

"Keepers have tried these things in the past without success," Khan says. "Often, fine-tuning and a little patience is all that's needed to turn a failed attempt into a success. Our biggest limitation sometimes is our own imagination."

Ultimately, Khan says, her goal is to help keepers find economical ways to stimulate the animals that please both the animals and their handlers. Clearly, she's not at a loss for ideas. From a cabinet, Khan withdraws a basket filled with home-made devices to stimulate the inquisitive minds of primates.

One is a clear plastic jar, large enough to hold a few quarts of water, except that it has a number of small holes drilled in its side. Filled with a dense, fibrous material known as wood wool and a handful of crickets, the jar becomes a sort of Pez dispenser for the tamarins and marmosets.

"They pick it up and shake it," Khan says. "They get really excited when they

see crickets moving around inside. And they pick up the crickets when they fall out and eat them. This is one of their favorites."

For the orangutans, PVC piping—the same used by plumbers—is something of a godsend. With it, Khan fashions a variety of tubes and dispensers. One orangutan favorite, Khan says, is the "treat tube." The recipe is simple: coat the inside of a length of pipe with peanut butter or honey and add some nuts or cereal. Shake well and serve to eager orangutans.

"First, they'll stick their fingers inside and scoop out as much as they can reach," Khan says. "Then they have to use a tool to dig out the

rest. They'll come up with a hundred different ways to do it. They'll bang it to loosen up the nuts inside, or they'll use sticks and scrape it out.

"They're so good at using tools, and people love to watch them do it. I think the public enjoys the opportunity to watch the animals engaged in an activity. It piques their interest."

Apparently, the animals' interest is stimulated as well. Zoological Society volunteers observing the animals note that their subjects are 20% to 40% more active following enrichment programs, Khan notes.

"Instead of sleeping all day long, they've become more active," she says. "It does seem to keep them excited."

This spring, Khan says, there is reason for more excitement. The Zoo is scheduled to receive new black bear cubs. It will be easier to work with young animals to build a stimulating environment.

"We're excited. We'd like to get the whole Zoo involved."



**KIDS!**

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



# Alive

for kids and families

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY WINTER 1996

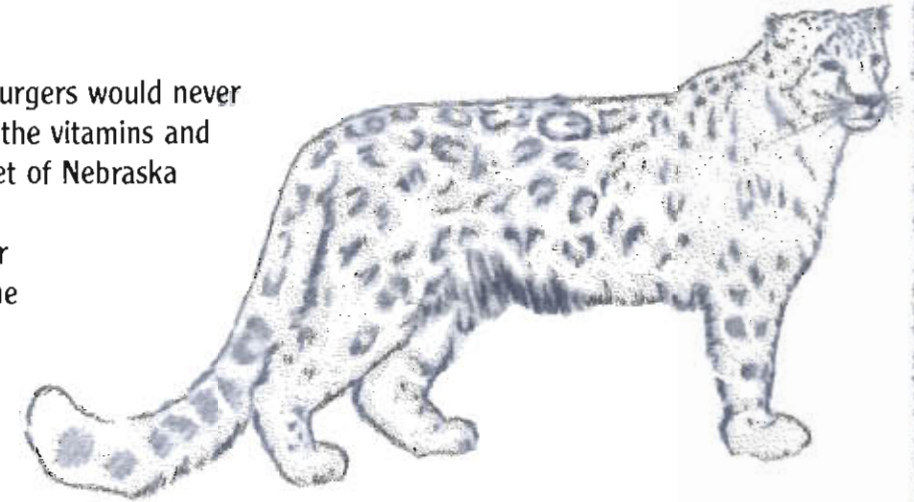
PULL-OUT SECTION



**W**hat would you put in your shopping cart if you were having koalas, snow leopards and 5,500 of their Zoo friends over for lunch today? That's a question the Zoo's commissary staff (the people who order and deliver all the Zoo animals' food) have to answer every day. And it's not as easy as placing an order for a few thousand hamburgers at the drive-thru window.

## CATS

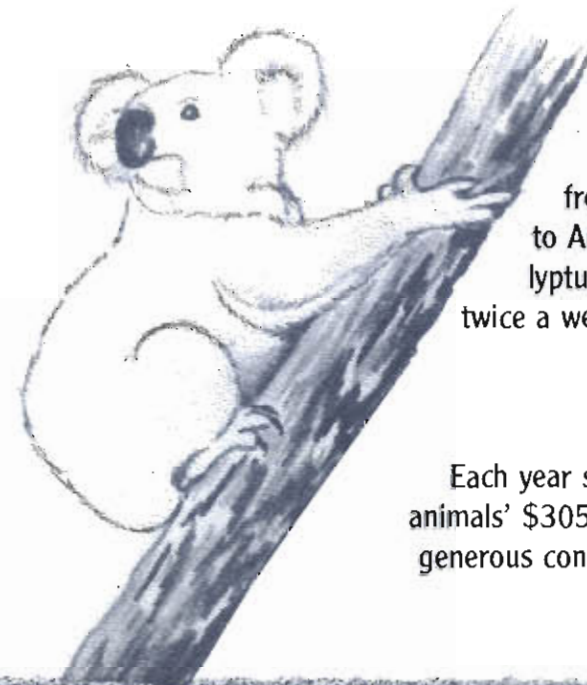
While cats are carnivores, hamburgers would never do for our big cats. They need the vitamins and minerals of their regular Zoo diet of Nebraska Brand Feline Food—a chopped mixture of meat, eggs, fish, liver and yeast. Besides this soft feline food, oxtails are added to the cats' menu. When a cat gnaws an oxtail, it's like the cat is brushing its teeth.



## KOALAS

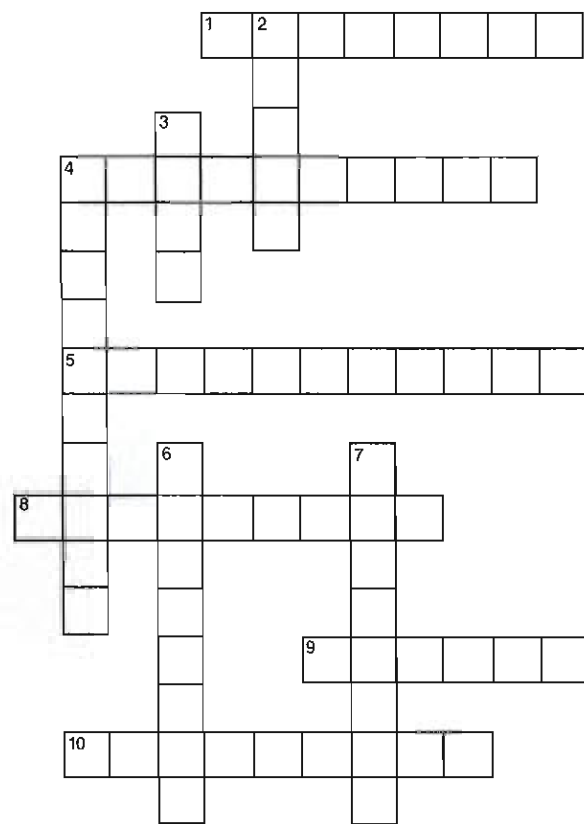
Koalas don't eat meat. In fact, they don't eat anything except eucalyptus. And only the freshest, most tender, aromatic leaves will do. Thanks to American Airlines, 13 different varieties of fresh eucalyptus are flown into Milwaukee from a Florida plantation twice a week. When the koalas begin their meal, they carefully examine each leaf and start eating...up to two pounds of leaves a day!

Each year since 1993, the Zoological Society has picked up the animals' \$305,000+/year grocery bill, thanks to your support and generous contributions from our friends at Roundy's Pick 'n Save.



# THE WILD WORLD OF EATING

**For the older child:** In school you learn the many scientific terms used when talking about animals' eating habits. You and your parent can explore the terms listed in the word list. Then, see how well you can complete this challenging crossword puzzle. Good luck in your search to learn about the complex world of eating!



- Word List**  
 BALEEN  
 CARNASSIAL  
 CARNIVOR  
 COMMISSARY  
 HERBIVORE  
 INCISORS  
 INSECTIVORE  
 MOLAR  
 OMNIVORE  
 PREDATOR  
 PREY

## ACROSS

1. An animal that eats a wide range of foods including both plants and meat. Examples: bears, racoons and people.
4. A scissor-like cheek tooth found only in carnivores.
5. An animal that eats insects and other small invertebrates. Examples: shrews and moles.
8. An animal that eats meat. Examples: wolves, tigers and weasels.
9. Giant plates that line the mouths of some whales. These whales feed on plankton by straining sea water through these plates.
10. An animal that eats plants. Examples: deer, koalas and cows.

## DOWN

2. A tooth with a rounded or flattened surface adapted for grinding or cutting.
3. An animal that is taken by a predator for food.
4. The area of the zoo where food and other supplies are kept.
6. Teeth with slightly sharp edges mainly for biting, snipping or gnawing. In rodents these teeth grow continuously.
7. An animal which hunts and eats other animals.

## OMNIVORE

## HERBIVORE

## CARNIVORE

**For the younger child:** Have your parent look up these terms: herbivore, carnivore and omnivore. Parent, please explain each word to your child. Now, in the box provided, draw a zoo animal that represents each eating style. (Hint to mom or dad: Herbivores include deer, cows, antelope, etc. Carnivores include the cat family. Omnivores include some bears and any animal that eats a mix of plants and meat.)

# CURIOUS CORNER

**DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?**

If you'd like us to answer your animal question and you're 12 years old or younger, then write to us:

**CURIOUS CORNER-ALIVE ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MILWAUKEE COUNTY**  
 10005 W. BLUEMOUND RD. MILWAUKEE, WI 53226

If we answer your question here, you'll receive a special prize from the Zoological Society.

## Why don't the parrots, geese and other birds at the Zoo fly away?



Many birds live at the Zoo. Some are part of the exhibits and are here all year. Others are wild and use the Zoo as a nesting or feeding area.

Birds that live in the Aviary are on exhibit. The Zoo wants to keep them in the area developed for them. To do this zookeepers place physical barriers, such as ropes and wire, between exhibits. The birds don't mind this arrangement because they are territorial and usually want to stay in one place as well.

Birds in the outside exhibits, like the parrots, have their flight feathers clipped - sort of like us getting a haircut. Other birds, like the flamingoes, have their wings pinioned, or the very tips of their wings removed.

Both of these painless procedures would cause the bird to fly slightly off balance and it could not get enough lift to fly out of its exhibit.

Wild birds, such as the Canada geese and gulls, are free to come and go as they please; but they may prefer to stay at the Zoo because it is a stable food source.

**Ashley Krause, Age 10, Wauwatosa**

## What animal lives the longest?



This is a difficult question to answer. Individual animals, like individual people, are very different. However, some of the record-holding longest-lived are parrots and giant tortoises. Both types of animals may live to be over 100 years old.

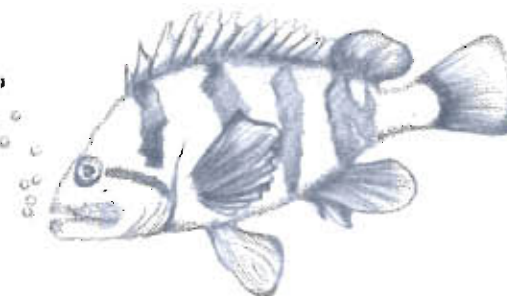
**Katie Hintz, Age 10, Greenfield**

## What happens to shore animals like fish and alligators during a hurricane?

Animals such as alligators are usually not exposed to the harsh conditions of a hurricane. They live in swamps, rivers and wetlands, away from the worst coastal weather. However, when they are exposed to bad weather, alligators will dig a hollow in the mud or find shelter among the tree roots, waiting for the storms to pass.

Coastal fish react to storms by hiding in the crevices between coral or rocks. Fish found further from shore will either ride out the waves or swim deeper into the water to avoid the turbulent waves.

**Kevin Dempsey, Age 8, Mequon**





# Education Programs

## JANUARY 1996 - MAY 1996

The Zoological Society provides exciting animal education enrichment programs for children ages 3 through 13. All programs include animal information, Zoo tours and hands-on learning activities. Programs are provided in partnership with the Milwaukee County Zoo and the University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension. To receive a brochure, send your mailing address, with two first class stamps (no SASE envelope) to: Education Brochure, 10005 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

### HOW TO REGISTER

You can register by mail (with charge or check), phone (charge only), in-person (charge, check or cash). To register by phone call (414) 256-5424. Please have Society membership number, if applicable, and charge card number (MasterCard, Visa or American Express) ready when you call. The Education Department is open 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday-Friday, excluding holidays.

Mailing List: To receive our three seasonal EDZOOCAION Program brochures, include \$3 with your registration. Low-Income Scholarships are available. To receive an application, call the Education Department at (414) 256-5424.

## JANUARY - MAY

### TINY TOTS WORKSHOPS

(Age 3 with parent)  
Cost: \$15 per session Zoological Society members  
\$18 per session non-members (includes parking)  
Session times: 9:30-11:00 1:30-3:00  
Some sessions invite parents to bring siblings of the child registered.

**Barnyard Buddies** 1/17 - 1/20  
**Excitement Down Under** 2/13 - 2/17  
**Hooray for Elephants!** 3/7 - 3/16  
**Penguin Pals!** 4/16 - 4/20  
**Monkey Business** 5/14 - 5/18

### PRESCHOOL WORKSHOPS

(Ages 4 and 5, plus 6-year-olds in kindergarten)  
Cost: \$12 per session Zoological Society members  
\$15 per session non-members  
AM sessions 9:15-11:45 or PM sessions 1:00-3:30  
New, starting February: an earlier starting time of 8:45-11:15, one session per month, has been added. Each month also includes Preschool Workshops with Parent. An adult attends with a 4- or 5-year-old child (or a 6-year-old in kindergarten)  
Cost: \$17 per session Zoological Society members  
\$20 per session non-members (includes a parking pass)

**Escape to the Desert** 1/11 - 1/20  
**Our "Deer" Friends** 2/15 - 2/24  
**Tales of Tails** 3/14 - 3/23  
**Those Misunderstood Reptiles** 4/13 - 4/20  
**Goin' Buggy** 5/9 - 5/18

### OLDER YOUTH WORKSHOPS

(Ages 6 - 8)  
Cost: \$12 per session Zoological Society members  
\$15 per session non-members  
Session times 9:15-11:45 and 1:00-3:30

**Our Blue Planet** January 13 or 20  
**Penguin Power** February 17 or 24  
**Giant Beasts** March 16 or 23  
**The Hunters** May 11 or 18

### ZOO CLUBS

These multiple-meeting clubs offer curious students the opportunity to explore even more about the animals that share our world. Kids registered in both the morning and afternoon club can take advantage of a supervised lunch period. (Please bring a bag lunch.)

### 4-H Zoo Club

(Ages 9-13)  
Cost: \$25 Zoological Society members  
\$35 non-members  
Meeting dates: January 27, February 24, March 23 & April 20, 9:30-noon

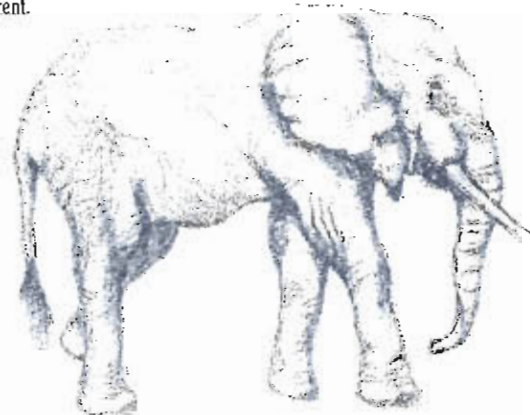
### Science Adventures Club - Animal Behavior

(ages 9-13)  
Cost: \$25 Zoological Society members  
\$35 non-members  
January 27, February 24, March 23 & April 20, 12:30-3:00

### DRAWING WORKSHOP

(Ages 8 - 13)  
Cost: \$30 Zoological Society members  
\$45 non-members (includes all supplies)  
March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30, 9:15-10:45

If you think drawing is dandy and animals are amazing, then have we got a class for you! Learn and practice the techniques for drawing live animals. Learn interesting facts about the animals that you draw. Art and smarts all in one! Taught by guest artists, this five-Saturday workshop is limited in size to allow for individualized attention to each student at their ability level.



### SPRING BREAK CAMP

(Ages 5 - in all-day kindergarten & 6-12)  
9:30 - 3:30  
Cost per day: \$15 Zoological Society members;  
\$20 non-members

### Puzzling Primates

April 9 or 11  
Swing through the Zoo and check out our primates! We'll leap from tree to tree and knuckle walk on the forest floor as we explore their tropical homes. Go "ape" sampling some of their favorite foods and monkey around during a game of primate bingo.

### Celebrating Spring

April 10 or 12  
You can smell it in the air—the animals can too! Spring is finally here! Come spend the day with us as we explore the re-awakening of the earth. From holding a baby chick to experimenting with budding leaves, we'll enjoy a special day of learning what spring means to the animals.



### Before-and-After Care for Spring Break Camp

Your child's camp day is from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. You can drop off your children for supervised day care as early as 7:30 a.m. and/or pick them up as late as 5:00 p.m. There is a \$2.50 charge for each before- or after-care session (7:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. is \$2.50 and 3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. is \$2.50.) Check your brochure for details.

### Sunday Afternoon at the Zoo

We are trying some new time options and program formats! Check your brochure for details on Sunday afternoon programs for Preschool with Parent, Tiny Tots and the new Family workshop.

### SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION

Mark your calendars! In-person camp registration is Saturday, April 27, 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the Zoofari Conference Center. Brochures will be available mid-April.

### HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIPS

Zoological Society members, ages 14-18, interested in educational or biological science careers are encouraged to apply for unpaid summer camp internships in the Education Department. Selected interns will spend a fun-filled two weeks assisting with educational activities, tours and games. If you are interested, call the Education Department (414) 256-5421, and request an application, which is due May 1.

### SOMETHING NEW ON THE HORIZON!

Do you have a 9- to 14-year-old who is looking for a new challenge next summer? Something exciting is on the horizon! To receive the program mailing, which will be sent in early February, call (414) 256-5424, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (If you call after business hours, leave your child's name, age, and complete address.)

## Fishing for Facts

It was cold and dreary outside, but inside the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) fourth-graders from Wauwatosa's Underwood School were oceans away, learning about the mysterious creatures that live deep beneath the Earth's waters.

With hundreds of colorful fish darting about in a tank nearby, the students, along with their teacher, Brian Latus, were playing the roles of herpetologists for the morning as Gladys Harvey, a Zoo Pride volunteer, baited them with odd but fascinating facts about fish during an ED-OPS, or Educational Opportunities, program.

"Some fish have lots of bones, and other fish don't. I'm thinking of one...they've been in movies, and some people are real afraid of them, and they have big teeth."

Someone called out, "Sharks!"  
"You're right," Harvey said, and then passed around a shark's jaw. "Now those fish don't have skeletons; they have different types of bones that are very flexible, almost like rubber. They are called cartilaginous, and I have to learn that word because that's a big word. Can you say that?"

The newly opened ED-OPS "classroom" is one of six being integrated into Zoo buildings. The project is funded by a \$200,000 grant to the Zoological Society from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

The small section inside the ARC is conducive to learning. A large black curtain separates the students and fish from Zoo visitors on the other side. Students sit on benches made from recycled milk cartons. And a tall stand contains materials for the instructor.

By 1996, the ED-OPS program will bring students into hands-on learning stations in six Zoo buildings, including Primates of the World and the Stearns Family Apes of Africa Pavilion, the ARC, Feline, Australia and Aviary.

Project manager Kerry Scanlan makes sure the curriculum is age appropriate and



Zoo Pride volunteer Pat Sershon works with ED-OPS Project Assistant La Von Poindexter, Jr., to help these Greenfield Middle School students uncover the mysteries of the aquatic & reptile world.

that all lessons are identical for the students in the third through eighth grades for whom ED-OPS are targeted.

"So far so good," she said of the project, looking forward to adding "classrooms" to the Aviary and Feline Building.

Before they even arrive at the Zoo, the class is able to work together on learning different facts about fish, Latus said. Then, once they arrive at the Zoo, students first take part in a "mystery" activity which emphasizes role modeling. Acting like true scientists, they research questions about an animal species using worksheets. Then they go over the answers with the lecturer. After the presentation, they do a research activity which, in this case, focuses on the fish of Lake Wisconsin, Africa, and Central and South America.

"It gets them thinking about being a scientist," Scanlan said of the research activities.

"The hands-on portion of it - the jaws of a shark, for example - those are things you can't replicate in a classroom," said Latus. "So many kids didn't know the names of Wisconsin fish. This is a good way for us to go over that, and then come here and see it," said Latus.

The kids agreed wholeheartedly. "I liked feeling all the fish," one boy said. "I liked the way the colors of the fish are," another piped up. "I liked the part about the slime, how it makes them move faster," said one girl.

—by Heidi F. Schudrowitz

# A TIME FOR TRAINING

BEHAVIOR

## Training

**F**or Dick, the specialized training he's receiving is working wonders. He's learning to allow keepers to take medical exams and is getting along better with people.

That's no small matter. Dick, 28 years old, is an orangutan. And for most of his

zookeeper. "We worked every day to earn his trust and confidence. He was very scared and intimidated at first. But now he lets me brush him, and that allows us to examine him. And he opens his mouth so we can look at his teeth. He seems to enjoy it."



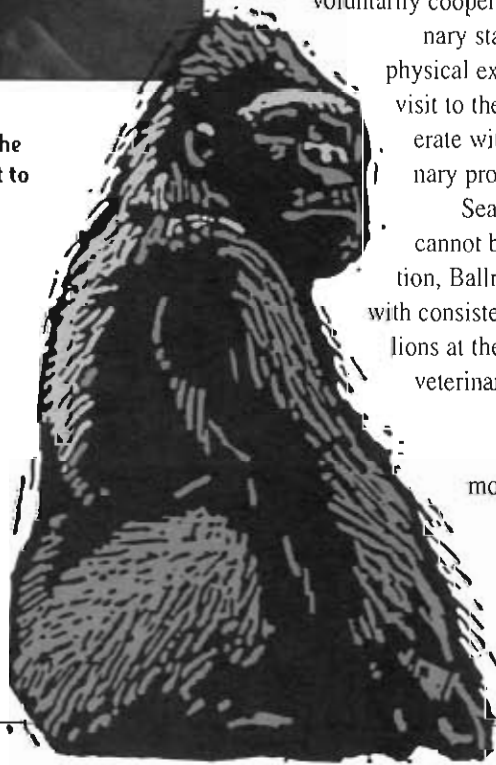
**Keeper Trish Khan works every day to earn the trust and confidence of Dick, the orangutan. That Dick lets keepers brush him means that he's likely to submit to routine exams that, in the past, would have frightened him or put Dick and his keepers at risk.**

life, all of it spent at the Milwaukee County Zoo, Dick has been shy and retiring. He's also had a chronic ear problem that bothered him and puzzled his keepers.

But after an intensive behavioral training program, Dick allows keepers to examine him and is being trained to accept a special syringe that will clean out his bad ear.

"He has made drastic improvements in the last two months," says Trish Khan, a

That Dick can enjoy such treatment is due in no small part to the efforts of Shelley Ballmann, owner and operator of Oceans of Fun, Inc. since 1991, is working with keepers throughout the



Zoo, teaching them how to train their animals. The training is designed to build trust between the animals and keepers and to facilitate daily husbandry procedures that could frighten the animals or put the animals and their keepers at risk.

Through training, the animals learn that submitting to routine, yet vital, exams need not be the traumatic experience it once was. Close-up, regular exams are especially critical for zoo animals. Many wild animals instinctively attempt to hide wounds that would make them appear vulnerable to predators.

"It's a kind of philosophy that's become very attractive," Ballmann says. "In the past, examining animals meant tricking them or forcing them into a squeeze cage so that they could be immobilized. In many cases, veterinarians had to risk anesthetizing animals just to do a basic checkup.

"Training conditions the animals to voluntarily cooperate with the veterinary staff to ensure regular physical examinations. Like a visit to the doctor, they cooperate with stress-free veterinary procedures."

Sea lions, for example, cannot be put under sedation, Ballmann says. But, with consistent training, the sea lions at the Zoo now allow veterinarians to take blood samples and examine their mouths and eyes.

Making the animals cooperative partners in their own care results in other benefits.



**During several training sessions Shelley Ballmann works with the Zoo's sea lions daily to respond on command. This type of learning is mentally stimulating to sea lions Fernando, Sport and Makaia.**

### ON THE JOB

Shelley Ballmann, Owner and President, Oceans of Fun, Inc.

For as long as she can remember, Shelley Ballmann wanted to work with animals. "I've always been interested in working with them," she says. "It's fun, interesting, challenging and a lifelong love."

That lifelong interest led her to Milwaukee. Here, she has operated Oceans of Fun, Inc. since 1991. The driving force behind Miller's Oceans of Fun Sea Lion Show, Ballmann works with her able staff to provide sea lion demonstrations and education programs to the Zoo's 1.4 million visitors year-round.

"The behaviors you see during the demonstrations — flipper walks and ball balances — look simple," Ballmann says. "In truth, they're really quite complex."

Ballmann, a graduate of Moorpark Exotic Animal Training and Management in California, has concentrated much of her professional life on marine mammals. She is currently an officer with the International Marine Animal Trainers' Association.

But Ballmann's interest goes far beyond marine animals. She also teaches keepers at the Milwaukee County Zoo to train their animals. Much of that work concentrates on developing basic husbandry techniques that ease the burdens of keepers and veterinarians.

That may mean helping train an orangutan to show his ear to a keeper for an examination. Or it might involve convincing a pregnant bonobo to ensure her cooperation during an ultrasound examination. Or it might require keepers to work with a scared gorilla named Joe.

"That's the most positive aspect of this work," Ballmann says. "Joe was so fearful at the start. Now, with a lot of work, he's doing well. We're very proud of him."

Ballmann notes that animals can be trained to separate themselves from their group. This allows keepers to give them a specific diet, ensure medication dosages and evaluate each individual animal.

"The zookeepers once fed buckets of

fish to the whole group of sea lions," Ballmann says. "It was a free-for-all. It was impossible to determine individual diets."

"Now keepers can feed them a variety of fish by hand that's measured and weighed out. And if the marine mammal

needs medication or an exam, the vet can stand next to the keeper during the feeding and take care of the animal's needs."

Other benefits: the training itself stim-

continued on next page



Behavior training has our sea lions, by name, coming to target points on command for fish rewards from keepers (l to r) John Durrell, Dave Renock and Daron Graves.

ulates the animals, enhances their lives in captivity and, in time, eases the keepers' jobs.

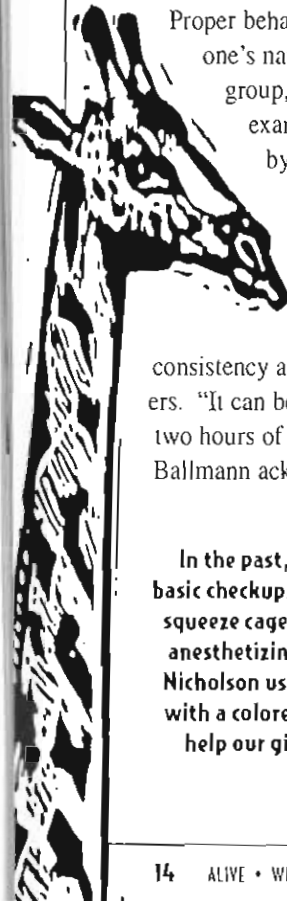
"A normal response for many zoo animals is to view the keepers they've known their whole lives as deliverers of food and cleaners. This sort of training allows keepers to become a positive force in the animals' lives."

All training is accompanied by positive reinforcement, Ballmann says.

Proper behaviors — responding to one's name, separating from the group, presenting a body part for examination — are followed by food, rub downs, petting, or toys.

All of this, of course, takes the daily commitment of time, patience, persistence and consistency among the group of trainers. "It can be hard to squeeze in one or two hours of training every day," Ballmann acknowledges. "But the staff

**In the past, examining giraffes for even basic checkups meant tricking them into a squeeze cage to immobilize them or even anesthetizing them. Today, keeper Dana Nicholson uses a target, or broom handle with a colored shape taped to the end, to help our giraffes respond to keepers on command.**



gets very excited when we see the results. We need the entire staff to take part. If we make the commitment of time and work, the payoffs can be great."

Currently, Ballmann says about 15 keepers throughout the Zoo are using operant conditioning techniques to train their animals. Follow her around the Zoo as she discusses some of the animals involved and what their keepers plan to accomplish.

Bonobos, the rarest of all the apes, are found in the wild only in a small, remote region of Zaire. Much of their natural habitat has been destroyed. But the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County and the Zoo have been active participants in efforts to conserve the rare, intelligent primate.

The bonobos here, keepers discovered, had been displaying behavior suggesting

they were bored. For instance, bonobos overgroomed and plucked out their long, black hairs, urinated on keepers and were terrified of veterinarians.

Now, after two years of training, the bonobos, by name, separate from their group of six and volunteer body parts on command for physical examination.

"We're past the initial training for bonobos," Ballmann says. "The keepers have done a marvelous job. One of our female bonobos even cooperated with an obstetrician during regular ultrasound exams that took 45 minutes. That's a long time for even a human to cooperate."

Further training has led to the use of a breast pump for the lactating female, giving zoo staff insight into infant bonobo nutritional needs, Ballmann says.

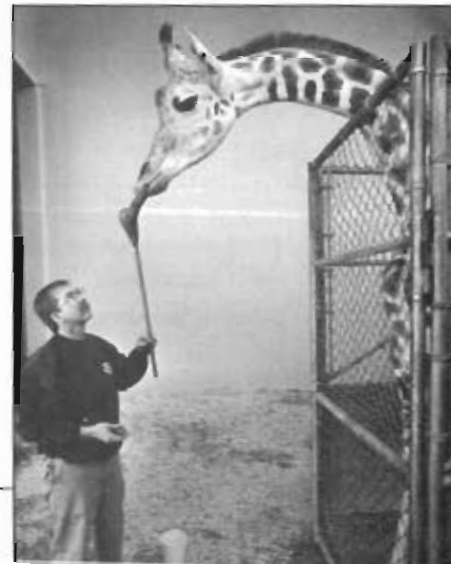
Down the corridor, training has begun for the gorillas. Extremely powerful and dangerous, gorillas in captivity lead sheltered lives.

"They have a tendency to be sensory-deprived," Ballmann says. "What we've tried to do is demystify everyday things in their life.

"The results have been very positive. One silverback male had been very aggressive, constantly slamming shift doors before the training. Now—for the first time in his life—he'll sit down in front of a keeper and is learning to voluntarily present a hand to be touched.

Back at the orangutan exhibit, Dick has made great progress toward letting keepers examine his ear. Dick is now relaxed and attentive and really enjoys it.

All of the training, Ballmann says, is simply a matter of doing right by animals that bring untold joy to Zoo visitors everyday.



### Signed, Sealed, Delivered: I'm Yours

This Valentine's Day sponsor Ringo, the Zoo's Harbor seal, in the name of your special valentine. Packages will be sent anywhere in the U.S. for \$20 (plus \$3 shipping and handling) and include a certificate of sponsorship; a photo of Ringo; an invitation to this summer's Twilight Safari, a sponsors-only evening event at the Zoo; your Valentine's name on our Sponsor An Animal board; and more. For an additional \$8 plus WI state sales tax, your sweetheart can also receive an 11-inch plush toy seal. This package is also "sealed" with a kiss, of the Hershey's™ variety. Call (414) 258-2333 for more details.



**This February 14, sponsor Ringo, the Zoo's Harbor seal, in the name of your special valentine and "seal" it with a kiss.**



**Z Double Circle chairs Bill and Judy Stathas and their dog, Shale, are roundin' 'em up for a country-western party that'll have folks dancin' 'til the cows come home.**

Don't get cut off at the pass, round up yer kin folk and friends and make your reservation today. Call (414) 258-2333 for more details.

### Swing Yer Partner!

C'mon, y'all! It's time for the 6th Annual Z Double Circle Roundup on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Milwaukee County Zoo. This country-western party, held in the Peck Welcome Center, will have you dancin' 'til the cows come home; playin' casino type games of chance and even a "horse race" or two; and chowin' down some Texas-style BBQ, chili, and a full saloon of liquid refreshments - with and without the kick - to wash down some of that trail dust stuck in yer throat.

### Sponsor Spotlight

*With thanks from the  
Zoological Society and  
Milwaukee County Zoo.*

*College Student Intern Program*  
**MENASHA CORPORATION  
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*Bonobo Conservation Education*  
**THE IRVIN L. YOUNG  
FOUNDATION**

*Bonobo Conservation*  
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# Platypus Society

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## 1995 PLATYPUS SOCIETY AWARDS

At October's Platypus Society Awards Dinner, sponsored by Marquette Electronics Foundation, these friends of the Zoological Society received unique awards for their outstanding support:



LEE JENNINGS

**EMU EGG AWARD**  
Lee Jennings

**SPHENISCUS HUMBOLDTI AWARD**  
Raymond Klink  
Jay Robertson

**ELEPHUS MAXIMUS AWARD**  
Robert Haack Diamond Importers

**GORILLA, GORILLA, GORILLA AWARD**  
Frieda and William Hunt  
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**THALARCTOS MARITIMUS AWARD**  
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Sharon Matola

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Christin Clark Cleaver & Joe Goldberger  
R. Robert & Madeline J. Howard  
\*Dr. Leander Jennings  
Bob & Rose Vohl  
Steven & Tammy Weutworth  
\*Bernard C. Ziegler II

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Joan Pick  
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J.H. Collectibles, Inc.  
\*John T. Jacobus Family Foundation  
Jefferson Smurfit Corp.  
\*Kahler Slater Architects  
Klement Sausage  
Komisar, Brady, Nettesheim & Co.  
Krause Family Foundation  
La Joy Restaurant Corp.  
\*Lappin Electric Co.  
M&I Marshall & Ilsley Bank  
Marsh & McLennan/William M. Mercer  
Maysteel Foundation  
Megal Development Corp.  
Mesick, Sieffes & Krueger, S.C.  
Gary F. Miller, Inc.  
Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp.  
Milwaukee Northside Warehouse  
Monarch Corp.  
PieperPower Foundation  
Price-Waterhouse  
QLC, Inc.  
R&R Insurance Services, Inc.  
Robertson-Ryan & Associates  
Ruhly Leasing of America  
Split Rail Foundation  
Sta-Rite Industries, Inc., a WICOR Company  
Stein Garden Centers, Inc.  
\*Sundstrand Foundation  
\*Tamarack Petroleum Co., Inc.  
Uihlein Electric Co., Inc.  
Universal Foods Foundation  
Vilar Arts, Inc.  
Viller Foundation, Inc.  
Wisconsin Gas, a WICOR Company  
Walgreen Corp.  
\*Wauwatosa Savings Bank  
Whyte Hirschboeck & Dndek, S.C.  
Wisconsin Industrial Machine

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Stearns Foundation, Inc.  
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Daniel & Linda Bader

### IN-KIND GIFTS

In-kind gifts of products or services are now being listed separately for the donor-stated value of the gift. This list will be updated as in-kind memberships are renewed. The following gifts are listed below as of February 17, 1996:

**\$10,000**  
American Airlines  
Bayshore Clinical Laboratories  
Direct Marketing Concepts  
Ernst & Young  
WOKY/WML

**\$5,000-\$9,999**  
Ace World Wide Moving & Storage  
Art Newman, Inc.  
Fox Co., Inc. Lithographers  
Taylor Electric

**\$3,000-\$3,499**  
Badgerland Party Masters  
Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops  
Litho-Craft Co., Inc.  
Risser Color Services, Inc.

**\$2,000-\$2,499**  
Acme Corporation  
Mandel Co.  
Old Elm Wild Bird Food/Reinder's  
Video Wisconsin

**\$1,500-\$1,999**  
Chemical Packaging Corp.  
Great Lakes Veterinary Clinical Lab  
Montgomery Media, Inc.

**\$1,000-\$1,499**  
Fruit Ranch  
Heinemann's  
Graef, Anhalt, Schloemer & Assoc.  
Larry's Brown Deer Market  
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Marcus Theatres Corporation  
Bill & Sandy Mooney  
Regency Caterers  
Remus Catering

**\$500-\$999**  
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Seagull Charters, Inc.  
Travel Plus  
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Kay Cullen  
The Gretchen & Andrew Dawes  
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Engberg-Anderson, Inc.  
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Jonathan & Marilyn Kay  
Ted Kellner  
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Herbert H. Kohl Charities, Inc.  
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Woller-Auger Company  
Donald & Rosemary Zellmer

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

\* Contributing  
Members

Friends contributing to  
the Platypus Society  
after December 5,  
1995 will be recog-  
nized in the next issue  
of ALIVE.



### NEW MEMBERS

The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of December 5, 1995:

**GOLD PATRON** (\$5,000-\$9,999)  
Jill & Jack Pelisek

**CORPORATE III**  
\$2,000-\$2,499  
NCL Graphic Specialists

**CORPORATE I** (\$1,000-\$1,499)  
Architects III  
Hunt Memorial Trust  
PBBS Equipment Corp.  
State Financial Bank  
West Bend Mutual Insurance Co.

**PATRON** (\$500-\$999)  
Amann Galleries  
American Appraisal Trust  
Paul & Kathleen Schultz

**NEW IN-KIND GIFTS**  
(\$1,000-\$1,499)  
CS Apparel

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

**SILVER PATRON I** (\$2,500-\$2,999)  
Rheinhold & Beverly Hugo

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Richard L. Schmidt,  
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Barry S. Sattell  
Andrew T. Sawyer, Jr.  
Judy Stathas  
John Steiner

The Platypus Society is a group of about 350 Milwaukee-area 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 wildlife and the environment and conserving endangered species, call Patty Cadorin (414) 276-0843.

## ◀ Leopard Shark ▶

**Aquatic & Reptile Center**

Born: Wild caught off the shore of Los Angeles

Although relatively small right now, our Leopard sharks can grow to be 5 to 7 feet in length and weigh up to 70 pounds. They are found in coastal areas, on soft bottoms and near reefs from Oregon to Central Mexico. They are the first species of shark to be displayed at our Zoo. We feed them chopped and whole fish, squid and shrimp. In the wild, sharks find their prey - from whale to plankton - through a variety of highly developed sensing methods, including their sense of smell. A shark can detect one part of blood in a million parts of water. That's about one drop of blood in 25 gallons of water! Unlike most fish, sharks rely on internal fertilization for reproduction. Males have modified fins, called claspers,

that transfer sperm directly into females. Leopard sharks give birth to live offspring, sometimes as many as 29 at a time.

Source: Rich Sajdak, Curator, Aquatic & Reptile Center



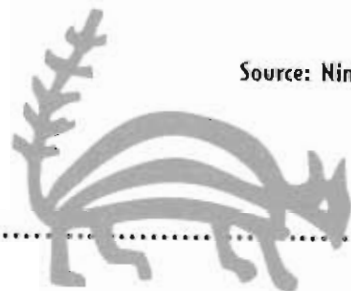
## Two-toed Sloth ▶

**Small Mammal Building**

Born: September 27, 1995

As the name of this species might suggest, this is a very unhurried animal - even evident in its gestation period of at least 11.5 months. During the wet season the sloth's normally grayish brown color often has a greenish cast, produced by algal growth on its skin. The algae helps camouflage the sloth and may provide nutrients, as the sloth may lick the algae or absorb it through its skin. Sloths spend almost their entire life upside down, even while eating, sleeping, mating and giving birth. A sloth's diet consists mainly of leaves, tender twigs, and fruits. Unlike most mammals, the body temperature of sloths varies considerably, depending on the temperature of their surroundings. As a result, they can live only in equatorial habitats of constant temperature.

Source: Nina Schaefer, Acting Area Supervisor, Small Mammals



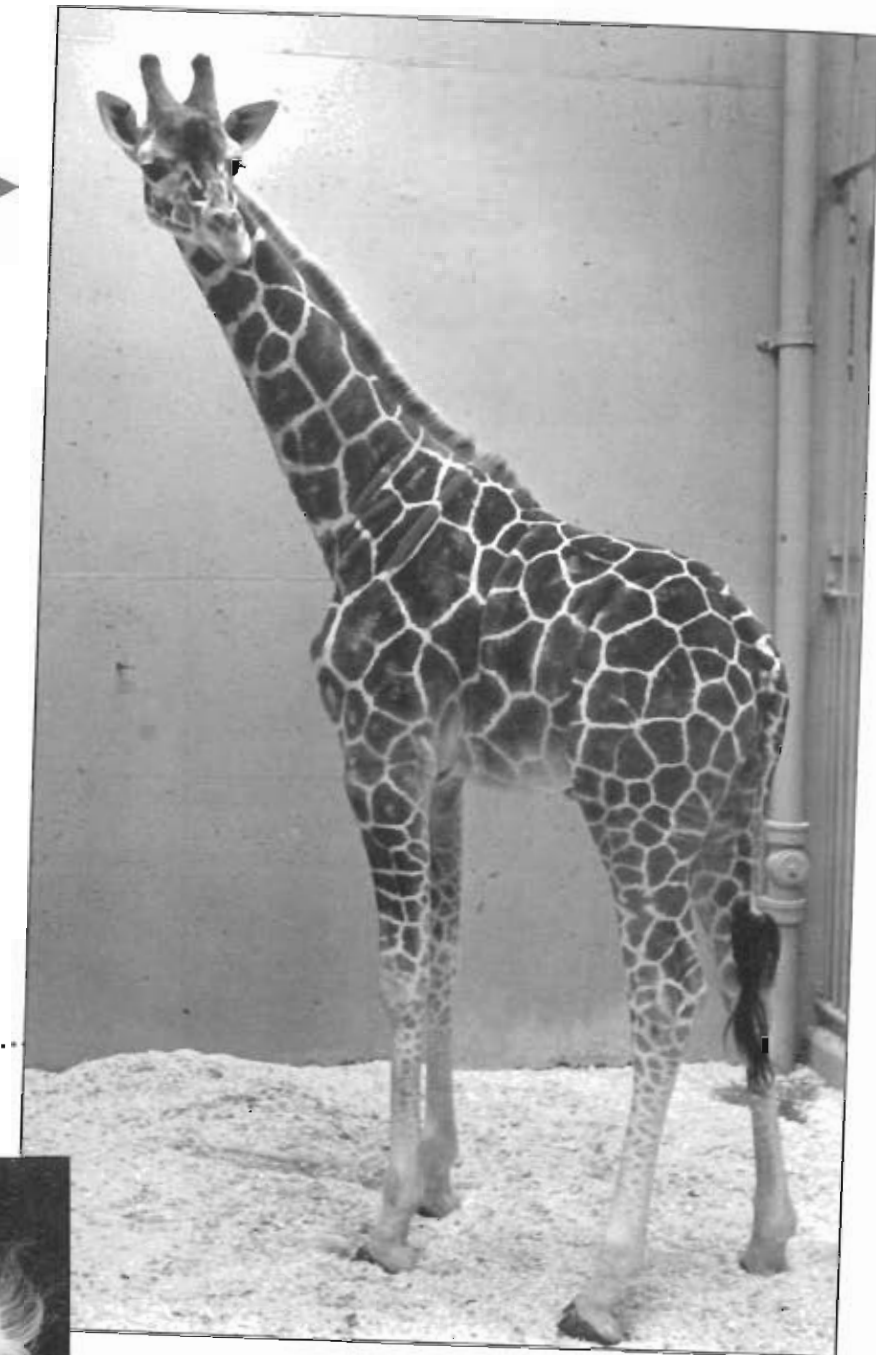
## Reticulated Giraffe ▶

**Giraffe Yard**

Born: August 8, 1994

In about three years, the newest member of our giraffe family, Kio, will have grown to be at least 18 feet tall and will have matured to be the breeding male giraffe at our Zoo. Both male and female giraffes have two to four short horns on their heads, unlike those of any other mammal. They are present at birth as cartilaginous knobs, at first separate from the skull. As the giraffe matures, the horns turn to bone and fuse with the skull. In the wild, the giraffe lives mainly on dry savannahs and in open woodland, mostly in areas south of Africa's Sahara Desert. When sleeping, a giraffe rests its head on one hind leg, its neck forming an impressive arch. While dozing—a giraffe spends more time dozing than sleeping—it rests on its legs with neck outstretched, eyes half-closed, and ears twitching. Giraffes are browsers, feeding largely on acacia, mimosa and wild apricot tree leaves.

Source: Elizabeth Frank, Curator, Large Mammals



## ◀ Moon Jellyfish ▶

**Aquatic & Reptile Center**

Born: Early 1995



Although microscopic when born, these primitive animals can reach over 12" across the bell and weigh 1 to 2 pounds as an adult. Found in coastal waters all over the world, the moon jellyfish is one of the most common species of jellyfish. Although it looks defenseless, it is covered with protective stinging cells that can stun and paralyze victims. It may produce a mild rash in humans. Its main victims, however, are tiny plankton the jellyfish filters from the waters. Moon jellyfish are difficult to keep in captivity as contact with hard surfaces, like the glass sides of an aquarium, will kill them. Their exhibit here is equipped with a specially designed water-current system to keep them from bumping the sides.

Source: Rich Sajdak, Curator, Aquatic & Reptile Center



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### First Annual Animal Art Competition

This silk screen called "Encyclopedia Page" was one of four top award winners in the First Annual Animal Art Competition, sponsored by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo.

By Monique DeSalvo  
University of Wisconsin-  
Milwaukee

