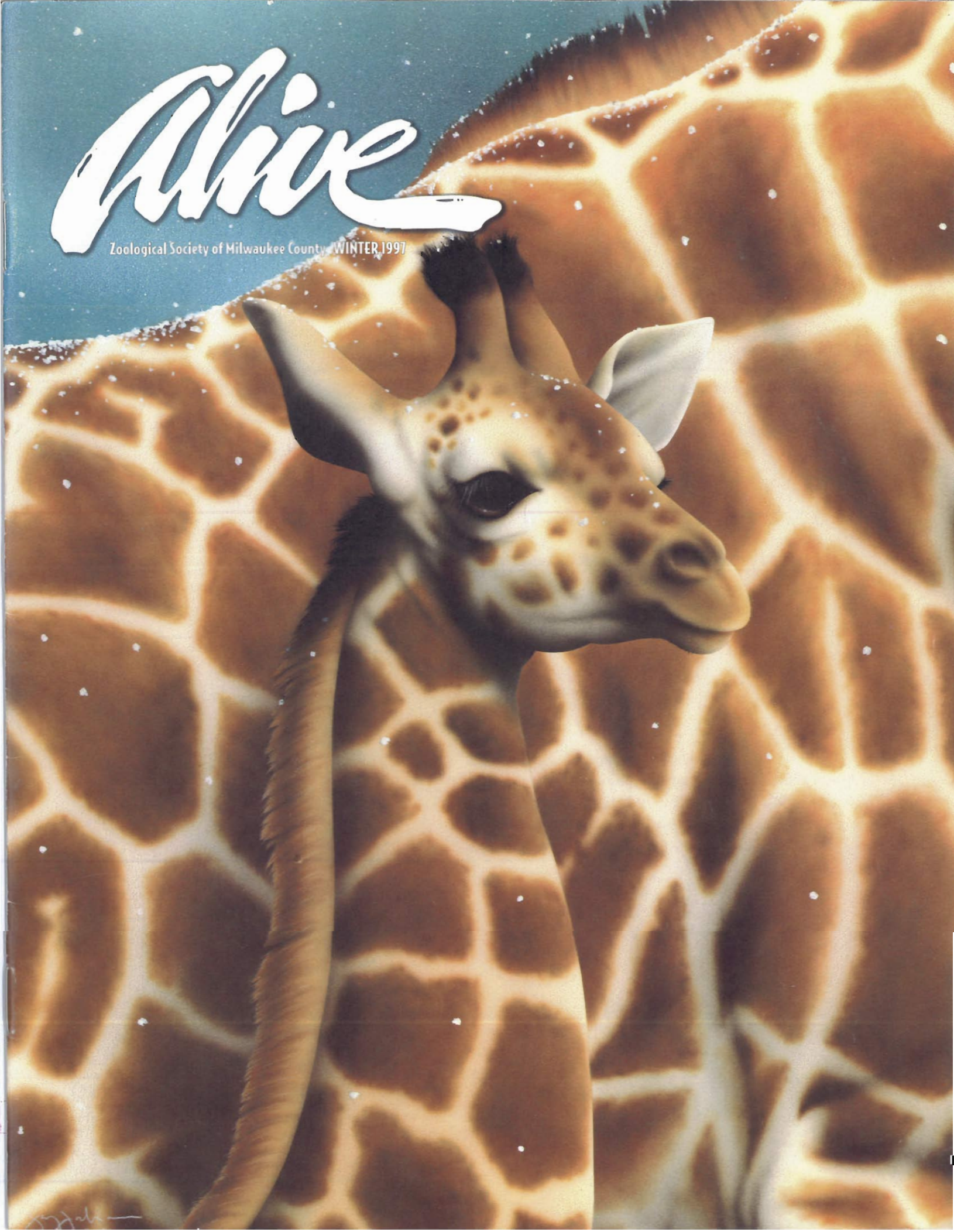


# Alive

Zoological Society of Milwaukee County WINTER 1997



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



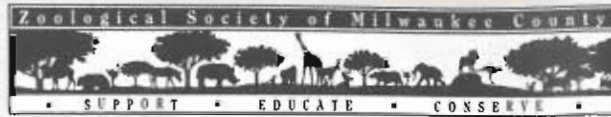
New naturalistic habitats for animals. Animal-building improvements. Student internships to assist Zoo curators. Temporary exhibits. Scholarship funds for underprivileged children. Food for the animals. New classrooms for wildlife workshops. Wildlife conservation grants. The progress is noticeable. Funding through private contributions from the Zoological Society, funding from Milwaukee County and a spirit of cooperation have helped make the Milwaukee County Zoo one of the best in the country.

For decades, the Zoological Society and Milwaukee County have been on the path of building a better Zoo for the animals and for our guests, conserving animals in the wild and creating exciting opportunities for kids and families to learn about wildlife. Along this path, we've come to realize that a stable funding base from the County and the Society provides the necessary resources for excellence at our Zoo.

In a word, we depend on "partnership."

The Zoological Society officially reaffirmed its partnership with Milwaukee County last November when we signed a new Memorandum of Understanding, a document that defines the terms of partnership between the Society and Milwaukee County through 2001. To all of the people who worked very hard on negotiating and writing the Memorandum of Understanding, to the leaders of our community who will serve on a task force designed to assure the continued success and prosperous growth of the Zoo in the future, and to you, our loyal members and friends, I send my sincere thanks for your support.

Gil Boese, Ph.D., President  
Zoological Society



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

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# Alive

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FEATURES

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Eight baby massasauga rattlesnakes and 39 ornate box turtles are getting a head start on the road to survival thanks to the dedicated conservation efforts of a Milwaukee County Zoo curator and his staff.

GIRAFFES: A VERY TALL TALE

8

At home at the Milwaukee County Zoo, three adult giraffes and baby Rosza provide zoogoers with a glimpse at this intriguing African species, a Milwaukee favorite since 1926.

JOURNEY INTO THE WILD

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Elementary school students touch live animals while learning about pets and their wild relatives as part of an innovative new Zoological Society science program.

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FOR KIDS & FAMILIES

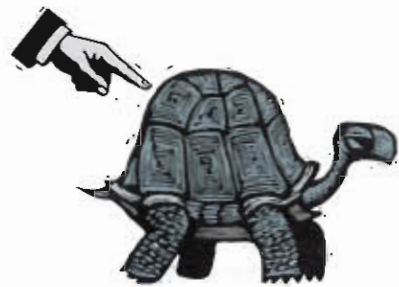
A	Three Carnivores
B	Activity Page
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ON THE COVER

First Snow - Reticulated Giraffe  
by Jay Jocham



# A Head Start for Reptiles



Last fall Craig Berg and the zookeepers at the Aquatic & Reptile Center became substitute parents to 39 baby turtles and eight baby snakes. These endangered baby reptiles are getting a head start on the road to survival through research, some of which is funded by the Zoological Society.

The turtles, less than one inch in diameter at birth, are ornate box turtles from southwestern Wisconsin. The tiny snakes are massasauga rattlesnakes from the Necedah area of western Wisconsin.

Berg, who is curator of the Aquatic & Reptile Center at the Milwaukee County

Zoo, is doing population research on these reptiles in conjunction with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Ideally, researchers would like these reptiles to be able to survive on their own and replenish themselves, says Berg. "However, it doesn't look like that's going to be possible."

Ornate box turtles are endangered because they live only in areas where the soil is sandy enough for them to dig deep to survive winter, mostly in dry prairies and oak savannas near the Wisconsin River. They also need open areas with just the right amount of trees for a good mixture of sun and shade.

"Their natural habitat in Wisconsin also makes good farmland," says Berg. "It's not uncommon to find turtles missing limbs or parts of limbs because they've been run over by farm equipment."

Also, before they were declared endangered in Wisconsin, the turtle population dropped because they were collected for sale as pets. Some states still do not list them as endangered.

The turtles in Berg's group come from several clutches, or broods. These babies were hatched by Bob Hay of the DNR's Bureau of Endangered

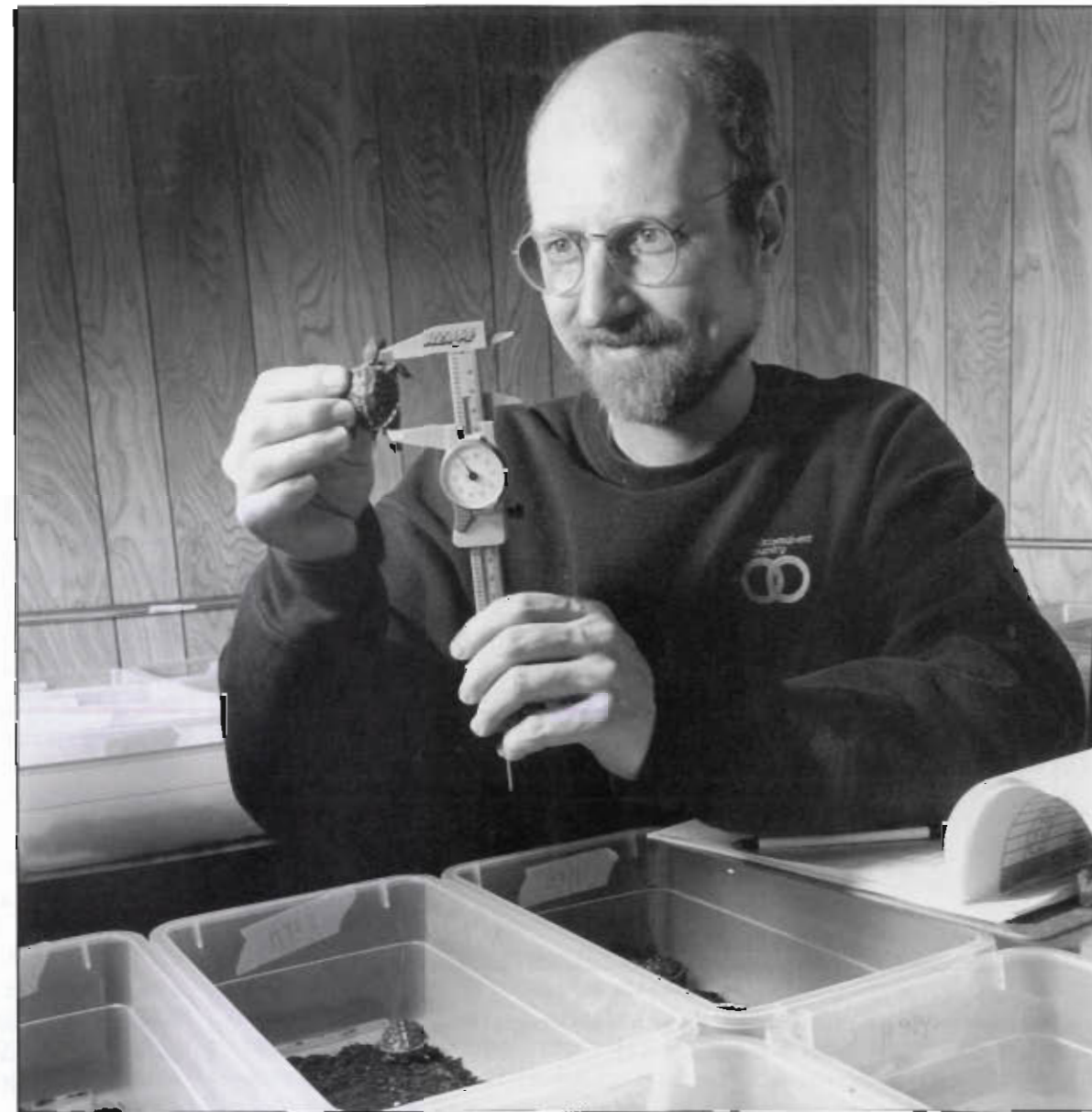


Resources. Since 1992, the DNR has been trying to determine the best way to relocate box turtles. It is bringing turtles from different sites in southwestern Wisconsin where they are having trouble surviving to a preserve and research site. It is also experimenting with crossbreeding turtles from Wisconsin and Nebraska.

Generally, if you move a turtle to a new location, it will try to return to its home. But the DNR study showed that turtles put in a large outdoor enclosure for a year or two will "imprint" on the site and view it as home. Researchers discovered this partly by accident. Someone vandalized the turtle enclosure, and 10 turtles escaped. Later in the year, however, six turtles returned to the site to hibernate.

The head-start program, funded by the Zoological Society, is important because most young box turtles in Wisconsin just don't survive. By raising the baby turtles indoors in an environment where it's warm all year, where they get plenty to eat and don't have to worry about predators, they grow faster. "We're going to put three to five

This one-inch-long baby ornate box turtle will be able to hide its head when it's larger. It can close its bottom shell, which is hinged, against the front of its top shell, like a hinged box.



years growth on them within a one-year period," says Berg.

Faster growth may mean that the turtles will breed earlier. In the wild, when there are only a few months each year when they eat regularly and grow, turtles don't breed until they're 15 years old.

Researchers still don't know if breeding maturity is based on the turtle's size or age, says Berg. But if it's based on size, the

Craig Berg, the Zoo's curator of the Aquatic & Reptile Center, measures a baby turtle (shown above left). Each of the 39 research turtles has its own shoebox home.

continued on next page

## Endangered Reptiles & Amphibians

The Wisconsin Bureau of Endangered Resources lists the following reptiles and amphibians native to Wisconsin as endangered:

Blanchard's cricket frog	Ornate box turtle
Slender glass lizard	Western ribbon snake
Queen snake	and
Massasauga rattlesnake	Northern ribbon snake

Listed as threatened are the Wood turtle and Blanding's turtle.

This baby massasauga rattlesnake, shown on a leaf, is about five inches long and has only the beginning of a rattle on its tail.



Craig Berg examines the scale pattern around the nostrils of a Mexican beaded lizard. The pattern will tell him which subspecies that this lizard is.

#### ON THE JOB

Craig Berg, Curator, Aquatic & Reptile Center

"When I was 6 and 7, my neighborhood in Cudahy was surrounded by swamps," says Craig Berg. "So I've had collections of reptiles and amphibians since I was 6." An uncle who was a garbage collector gave him numerous broken aquariums that Craig fixed and then made into terrariums for reptiles or aquariums for fish. "So by the time I was 14, I had 28 aquariums in the basement."

It was only natural that Craig should study aquatic ecology at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. He graduated with a B.S. in zoology and is currently in a Ph.D. program at UW-Milwaukee in ichthyology (the study of fish).

Craig has more than 20 years experience working with animals, but he first came to the Zoo in 1989. He spent five years as an elephant zookeeper and more than a year as a roving zookeeper. Although he didn't come to the Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) until June 1995, since 1990 he had worked alongside Rich Sajdak, former ARC curator, doing field research on Wisconsin's timber rattlesnake population.

What Craig likes most about his job is the chance to mix his interest in conservation with research on Wisconsin animals such as the ornate box turtle, the blue-spotted salamander and the massasauga rattlesnake — research that may show practical ways to protect the animals.


head-start turtles may be able to breed at a younger age.

The same may be true for the massasauga rattlesnakes, says Berg, but researchers won't know until they study a large enough group of snakes raised in captivity. The eight baby snakes he is raising are just a pilot study, says Berg, because eight is too small a number for statistically significant results. He expects that they, also, will grow faster in a controlled environment and survive better.

In the wild, massasaugas less than six inches long often are eaten by skunks, raccoons, even birds. But humans are their main enemy. "Thousands of massasaugas were killed in Milwaukee County," says Berg. A lot of Milwaukee once was swamp-land, and the massasauga's other name is the swamp rattlesnake. Until 1975 there was a bounty on massasaugas in Wisconsin. Even though the snakes have been protected since 1975, much of their habitat has been destroyed by humans.

The Zoological Society helped fund field research that showed how endangered the snakes were. Berg has proposed developing an education program on both of Wisconsin's rattlesnakes: the massasauga and the timber rattlesnake, which has been proposed for the list of "threatened" Wisconsin animals.

If rattlesnakes disappear from our world, we lose what may turn out to be a valuable tool in the fight against human disease, says Berg. Rattlesnake venom is being investigated for its anticoagulant properties, in the hope that it might be used to prevent heart attacks. The complex mixture of chemicals in snake venom also is of interest to researchers for its ability to digest protein and for possible help in treating human neurological disorders.

While many people fear venomous snakes, Berg notes: "No one's ever died from a bite from a massasauga." And they help in controlling rodents. "Right now, if we don't do anything, they will go extinct in Wisconsin — just as they did in Minnesota." 

## Of "woos" & wolves

"What do they sound like?" asks a woman viewing Nancy Ruggeri's photographs of white-cheeked gibbons in Laos.

"Woo...woo...woo, woo, woo, woo." Ruggeri chants, imitating the rhythmic male-female duet that she traveled to Southeast Asia and risked her life to record. Ruggeri, a graduate student in anthropology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was using the gibbons' calls to estimate the population of the endangered primate.

The males and females have distinct calls, she explains. Since gibbons are monogamous, each duet represents a family unit establishing its territory. By counting the duets heard in one location, one can get a fairly accurate estimate of the numbers of gibbons in the area.

To do this research in a remote forest almost 20 hours away from the capital of Laos, Ruggeri risked cobras and a tiger that threatened her two-person camp. Before she even got to the forest, she was in a motorcycle accident and had to be flown to Thailand for medical care.

Ruggeri and 17 other dedicated student researchers who have received grants from the Zoological Society were featured at the Society's second Conservation Symposium, held November 9 at the UW-Milwaukee Union.

Near Ruggeri's research display, David Unger tells a couple viewing his wolf-research exhibit that his attraction to wolves is "a healthy obsession." Unger moved his family to Wisconsin from New Jersey to enter a graduate-student program at UW-Stevens Point that involved working with wolves. Part of his work was to help the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources monitor the well-being of the

state's wolf population during an expansion of Highway 53 in Douglas County in far northwestern Wisconsin.

His research project analyzed wolf habitats. Unger (shown with his wife, Tracy, below) admires wolves because "they are so well-designed for what they do. They are predators with stealth, strength and speed."

The symposium included slide-illustrated talks by such researchers as Joel Whitehouse of UW-Green Bay, Johannes Foufopoulos of UW-Madison and Dan Kelner of UW-Eau Claire talking about spiders, lizards and mussels, respectively. What these creatures lack in charisma, they make up for in information, say the students. For example, the health of mussels can indicate a river's water quality, which can affect humans.

Since 1992, the Zoological Society has awarded \$83,000 in grants to 58 student researchers doing projects in wildlife conservation. The research has covered five continents, but 65% of the projects have focused on conserving Wisconsin's wildlife. "We now have a three-year track record of supporting diverse, sophisticated research on local and global issues," says Gay Reinartz, the Zoological Society's conservation coordinator.

At the symposium, students get experi-



Anthropology student Nancy Ruggeri reviews the Conservation Symposium display of her research on endangered, white-cheeked gibbons in Laos.



ence in bringing conservation issues to the public, and conservation is a social issue, Reinartz says. "Society will have to be educated, and these students are the ones who will have to do the educating. They must become advocates."

Keynote speaker Dr. Curt Meine also made that point: "For many of us, science has been a refuge where we can go and pursue our interests, where we can make a difference in the development of human understanding, away from messy politics." Meine, who works for the International Crane Foundation in Baraboo and who is president of the Aldo Leopold Chapter of the Society for Conservation Biology, continued: "But there is no safe refuge for the dedicated citizen scientist. Science doesn't end when your report is published. It isn't finished until it has been applied where it can make a difference."



# GIRAFFES

When you consider the animals you absolutely must have to start a zoo, several familiar faces come to mind.

You'd need lions, for sure. Monkeys certainly would find room at your zoo. And you'd be sure that your grounds were filled with an elephant or two.

"Boy, if you were starting a zoo," muses Bess Frank, curator of large mammals at the Milwaukee County Zoo, "you'd have to have giraffes. They're one of the first animals I think of. They're extremely popular animals here. I can't imagine the Zoo without them."

Neither, it would seem, could generations of visitors to the Milwaukee County Zoo.

The history of the Zoo and the stilt-legged animals is as long as a giraffe's neck. Over the years, 52 giraffes have called the Zoo home. The vast majority of those animals, at least 44, were born in captivity.

But it was a wild pair, a little more than seven decades ago—in October 1926—that began Milwaukee's love affair with the giraffe. The original animals, captured near Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, were packed in heavy mahogany crates for what was a four-month journey to Wisconsin.

The Washington Park Zoological Society and the Boston Store were among the pair's patrons. A society bulletin, dated February 1934, remarked upon their arrival: "Most of Milwaukee at some time or another since 1926 has stood be-

## A Very Tall Tale

fore the giraffe pen at the Zoo where two of the tallest—and probably oddest—members of the entire animal kingdom counter the glances of the curious with immense, limpid brown eyes and then move off in slow and stately dignity."

Height, of course, is in part what inspires awe in the giraffe.

Consider that at her birth last September, Rosza, the Zoo's newest giraffe, measured six feet two inches and a robust 150 pounds.

"Giraffes have one of the most amazing births you'll ever see," Frank says. "They give birth standing up. That means the baby takes about a six-foot drop."

A bouncing baby, indeed. There is speculation that the drop jump starts the baby giraffe's breathing, Frank says. At any rate, the baby, like many animals at birth, has flexible bones and generally withstands the fall without ill effects.

Rosza, reports pachyderm keeper Beth Roszak, seems to be growing daily. By late fall, she had grown to six feet five inches. "But she's getting hard for me to judge," Roszak admits. "I'm always looking up at her."

Rosza is named in part as a tribute to her family, the keeper says. But there is another reason: "She did look just like a little rose when she was born," Roszak says. "She was pink." Pink, Roszak says, is just one of the many natural variations in color for giraffes, who generally boast liver spots on a tan background.

Rosza joins the Zoo's three other giraffes: Kio, a male; Rosza's mother, Malinde; and another female, Rahna.

"This is the group that we will keep," Frank says. "Since Rosza isn't Kio's offspring, we won't have to worry about inbreeding. This will be Milwaukee's group of giraffes for the next 10 to 15 years, I imagine."

If so, zoogoers will be able to watch Rosza grow up. Giraffes usually are able to take care of themselves by the time they reach 3 months. But Rosza will not be fully mature until she's 6 or 7 years old. By that time, she may reach 16 to 18 feet in height. Her neck may measure as much as six feet, but it still has the same number of bones as the neck of a mouse.

Well-developed senses of sight, smell and hearing help giraffes avoid trouble, which is a good thing since they're not particularly well-suited to fight. Rosza, like all giraffes, has eyes that allow her to see in most any direc-

tion without turning her head, and she has nostrils that can close completely—a feature that allows the animal to keep sand and other grit out of their noses.

Don't expect to hear the giraffe put up much of a fuss. It has a poorly developed larynx, rendering it capable of muttering just a gentle "moo" on occasion.

**GEOGRAPHY**

**Giraffe Distribution:**  
Africa south of the Sahara

**afrika**

**Giraffe Habitat:**  
open woodland and wooded grassland

Photo courtesy of Gil Boeck, Ph.D.

Left: Rosza, a baby Reticulated Giraffe, against Mom Malinde

In their natural habitat, which are the large, dry plains south of the Sahara in Africa, giraffes dine on tree leaves and

continued on next page

**ON THE JOB**

Beth Roszak, Zookeeper

Beth Roszak dreamed since she was a girl that she wanted to be a zookeeper. But she never really thought the dream was going to come true.

She became a professional dog groomer instead. And she went back to school at Cardinal Stritch College in Milwaukee, where she majored in education. "I figured that I was going to be a teacher. Then, two weeks before I graduated," she recalls now with a laugh, "I heard from the Zoo."

For Roszak, the decision required little thought. She would become a keeper at the Milwaukee County Zoo. For the last three years, she has been a pachyderm keeper, primarily in charge of the Zoo's giraffes.

It's a job that Roszak, 33, relishes.

Part of her duties include training the giraffes to accept medical treatment without being put under anesthesia. Initially, that means persuading the animals to enter a chute and allowing keepers to touch them. Ultimately, Roszak says, it is hoped that the giraffes will submit to some medical exams and having their hooves clipped.

"Right now, clipping their hooves requires us to tranquilize them," she says. "And they don't do well under anesthetic. People coming to the Zoo can expect to see more interaction between keepers and the giraffes as we prepare them."

twigs. The animal's long necks aid them in tree pruning, as does an 18-inch tongue.

When the animals first arrived at the Washington Park Zoo 70 years ago, their diet consisted of a pungent mixture of onions, garlic and horseradish. Fresh browse—leaves and grasses cut from areas in and around the Zoo—supplemented their menu. Today, giraffes here eat commercial pellets that provide them with necessary nutrients.

Giraffes, Frank observes, are among the more pleasant animals to work with at the Zoo. With a gentle disposition and generally hale health, giraffes seem to thrive in captivity—even if that means Wisconsin's chilly climate. "They're very calm and easy to work around," Frank says. "They're not nervous animals at all."

"Giraffes seem to do very well in captivity. They're not endangered in the wild, either. They're very adaptable animals. Our giraffes could go outside in the winter, but we do worry about them slipping on the ice. That would be a terrible fall for them, so they tend to stay inside."

But there are times when a giraffe must be brought down. Medical reasons dictate that the animals must be anesthetized, Frank says.

Putting the animals under, however, is generally a last resort. Not only do giraffes risk injury from falling, they also may fail to recover from the anesthesia.

"Because of the serious nature of anesthetizing animals," Frank says, "keepers are training giraffes and many other ani-

mals to accept minor medical procedures without anesthesia."

**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 1997

PULL-OUT SECTION

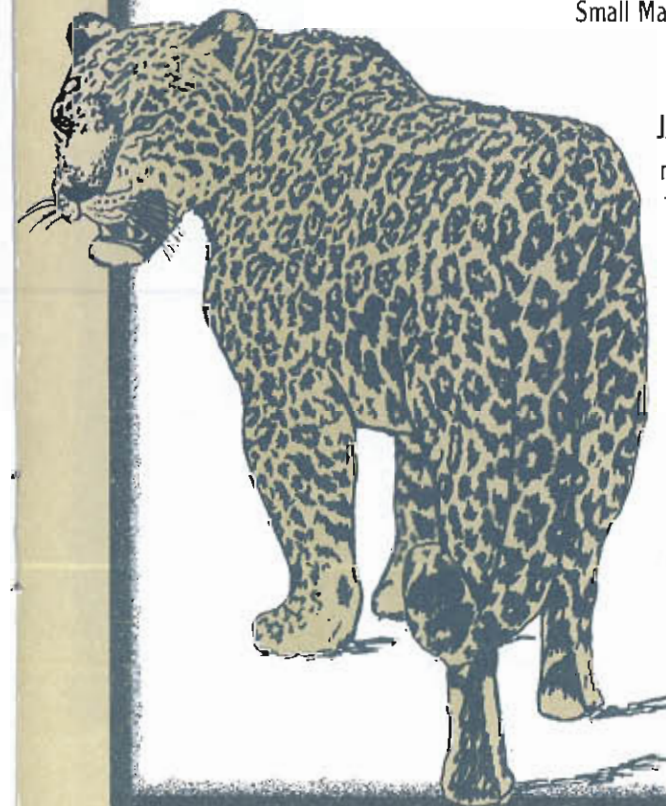
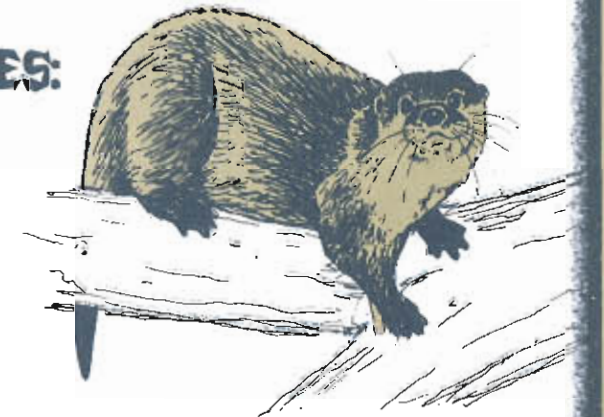


## Welcome to the order CARNIVORA.

**Carnivora** is an order of mammals that includes the Raccoon, Cat, Bear, Weasel, Civet, Hyena and Dog families. The order name is a Latin word meaning flesh-eating. In English, we use the term carnivorous, which means meat-eating, or feeding on animal tissue. Many of the animals in this order are carnivorous, but not all. For example, many bears and raccoons are omnivorous (from the Latin word **omnis**, or all), which means they eat animals and plants.

### SPOTLIGHT ON THREE CARNIVORES: the otter, jaguar & civet!

**OTTERS** are members of the Weasel family. There are 12 species of otters. At the Milwaukee County Zoo, we have the North American river otter. You can watch the otter play outside in winter when you come to the Zoo. We also have small-clawed otters, which you can see in the Small Mammal Building.



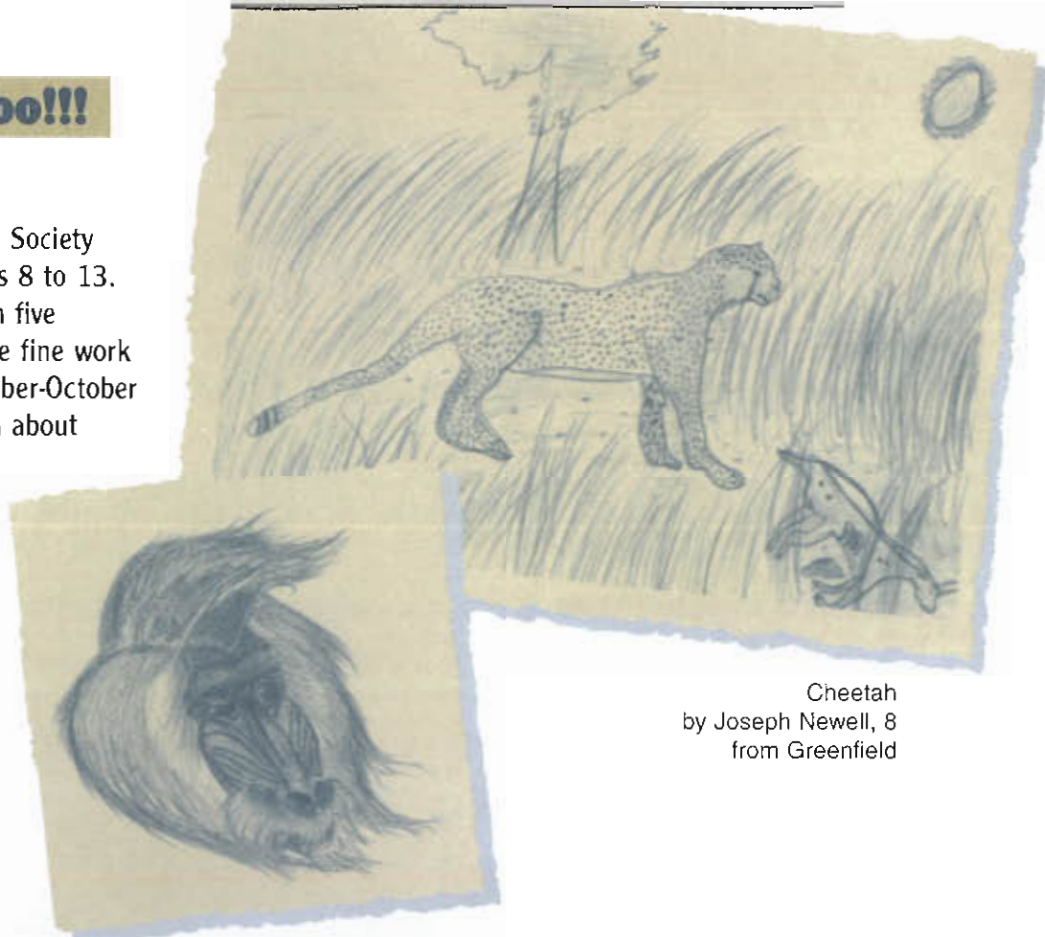
**JAGUARS** are members of the Cat family. There are 35 species of cats, and many have subspecies. The jaguar, however, is the only member of its species. There are big cats, like the jaguar, and small cats, like the cougar or house cat. Valera is the Zoo's only jaguar, and she is one of the most dangerous cats in the Feline Building.

**CIVETS** are catlike members of the mongoose family. There are 66 species in this family. At the Zoo we have the masked palm civet, which can be found in the Small Mammal Building. Civets are nocturnal animals, which means they are active at night.



## Drawing at the Zoo!!!

The Drawing Workshop is a Zoological Society Education Department program for ages 8 to 13. Students are taught by a guest artist on five Saturdays. Here are two examples of the fine work that children created during the September-October workshop. If you would like information about the spring '97 drawing workshop or other classes for youth ages 3 to 13, call (414) 256-5424.



"Mork" the Mandrill  
by Lisa Winston, 13  
from Brown Deer

Cheetah  
by Joseph Newell, 8  
from Greenfield



## Celebrating Carnivora

In honor of the **Carnivora** family, use the definitions below to fill in the words that begin with **CA**. Not all of these animals are members of the **Carnivora** family. Can you find the one animal in this group that is a **carnivora**? After reading your *Alive*, see if you can find other members of the order **Carnivora**!

1. An eating style of many of the members of the Carnivora family... CA \_\_\_\_\_
2. A mammal that stores fat in its hump(s)... CA \_\_\_\_\_
3. A monkey from South America, this animal eats everything... CA \_\_\_\_\_
4. A member of the deer family that lives in the tundra... CA \_\_\_\_\_
5. A reptile from South America that eats other animals... CA \_\_\_\_\_
6. A very large rodent from South America... CA \_\_\_\_\_
7. An African and Asian savanna cat... CA \_\_\_\_\_
8. A whiskered fish you can find in the Zoo's Amazon River Exhibit... CA \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: 1) Carnivorous 2) Camel 3) Capuchin 4) Caribou 5) Catman 6) Capybara 7) Caracal 8) Catfish  
The member of the **Carnivora** family is the caracal.

Melissa Krug, age 6  
Oconomowoc, WI

Dear Melissa,  
**You wanted to know "Where do the bats go in winter?"** I spoke with the Zoological Society's Conservation Department, and they informed me that most bats found in Wisconsin spend the winter months inside abandoned mines and caves. In fact, the Neda Mine, located northwest of Milwaukee, provides shelter for a half-million bats.

Nicholas VanWhye, age 14  
Waukesha

Dear Nicholas,  
**You are on your way to becoming a great zoologist. You wanted to know: "What is the difference between mammals and reptiles?"**

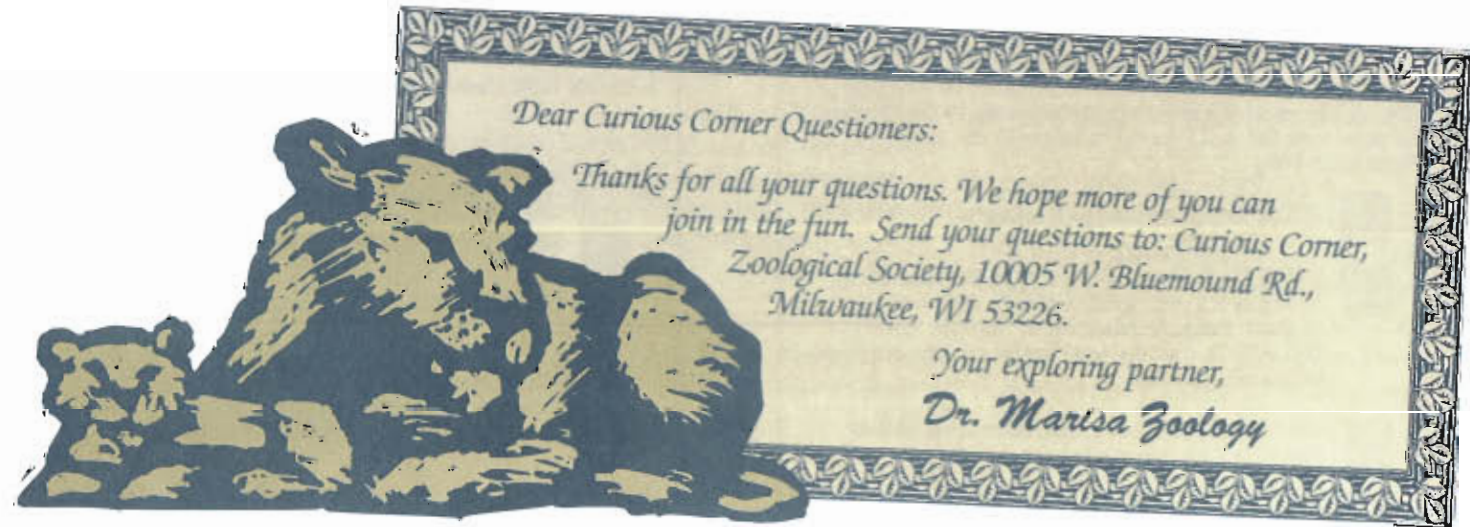
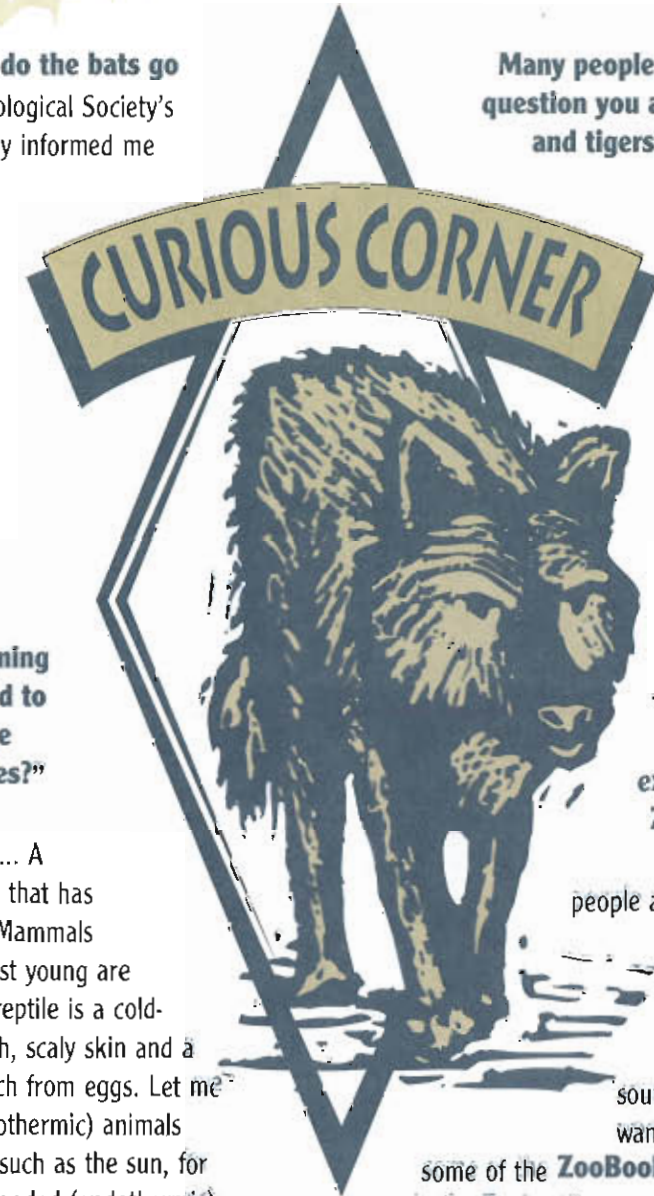
This question takes a lot of explanation, but thanks for asking... A mammal is a warmblooded animal that has hair or fur and a hard backbone. Mammals nurse from their mothers, and most young are born "alive," not from an egg. A reptile is a cold-blooded animal that has dry, rough, scaly skin and a hard backbone. Most reptiles hatch from eggs. Let me also explain that coldblooded (ectothermic) animals depend on external heat sources, such as the sun, for raising body temperature. Warmblooded (endothermic) animals can sustain a high body temperature by means of heat generated within the body through metabolism (chemical processes).

Sophie Pappenheim  
Whitefish Bay, WI

Dear Sophie,  
**Many people want to know the answer to the question you asked: "How do you get the lions and tigers?"** So I asked Neil, area supervisor of the Zoo's Feline Building. He said that more than 80% of the animals we have at the Zoo are born in captivity, and about 50% of their parents also were born in captivity. We generally get our animals from other zoos. Very few animals are taken from the wild anymore.

Kimberly Kuber, age 8  
Tomahawk, WI

Dear Kimberly,  
**To answer your question, "Why do rattlesnakes rattle?"** I used an excellent series of magazines called **ZooBook**. "The main purpose of the rattle at the end of the tail is to warn people and large animals to stay away. When a rattlesnake shakes its rattle, it is saying, 'Go away or I may bite you!' It can shake the rattle very fast—up to 50 times a second. The sound it makes is a loud buzz." You may want to ask your mom or dad to give you some of the **ZooBook** series as a gift. The books are sold in the Zoo's gift shop. I think you will find them informative and fun to read, and they are reasonably priced.



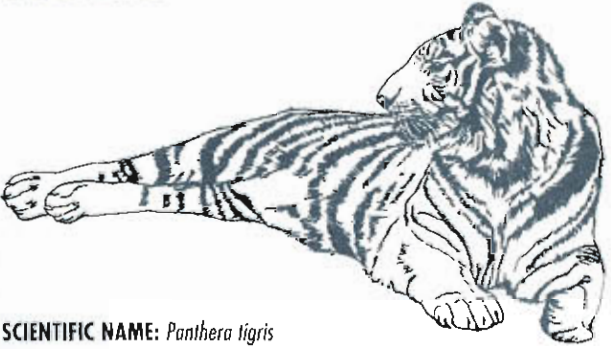
The collectible cards in this issue feature animals that are from the order **CARNIVORA**. Color in the animals, cut apart the cards and you are on your way to creating your own animal-card collection. (Note: Don't cut out the cards until you've read the backside of this page.) All the animals in this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

### REMINDER

Education programs for ages 3-13,  
plus family programs, now are listed in your  
Wild Things newsletter.

M A M M A L

## TIGER




**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Panthera tigris*

Of all the big cats, tigers are the largest in size. There are eight subspecies of tigers. They live about 15 years in the wild and 20 years or more in zoos. They are carnivores (they eat other animals).

- STATUS:** Highly endangered in the wild
- DIET IN THE WILD:** They will eat whatever they can catch (deer, wild pigs and other mammals). **ZOO DIET:** "Spectrum Meat Eater" brand of meat byproducts (harse, beef); oxtails usually twice a week.
- FUN FACT:** These cats are capable of dragging prey that would take more than a dozen humans to move.

M A M M A L

## SPOTTED HYENA




**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Crocuta crocuta*

There are four species of hyenas. Despite their resemblance to the Canid family (dogs, etc.), hyenas are more closely related to the Viverridae (civet, mongoose). The spotted hyena lives about 25 years in the wild and 40 years in captivity. Hyenas are carnivores.

- STATUS:** Currently not threatened or endangered
- DIET IN THE WILD:** Spotted hyenas will eat just about anything. The majority of their diet consists of mammals weighing more than 40 pounds. Hyenas also will scavenge kills from other carnivores. **ZOO DIET:** "Spectrum Meat Eater" brand of meat byproducts (harse, beef); oxtails twice a week.
- FUN FACTS:** Hyena jaws are probably the most powerful of any living mammal in proportion to body size.

M A M M A L

## GRAY WOLF



**SCIENTIFIC NAME:** *Canis lupus*

The gray wolf is the largest member of the dog family. Up to 32 subspecies have been described. Gray wolves live 8 to 16 years in the wild and, on average, 20 years in captivity. Wolves are carnivores.

- STATUS:** Endangered in Wisconsin; threatened in Minnesota
- DIET IN THE WILD:** Moose, deer, caribou, beaver and hares. **ZOO DIET:** "Western Meats Carnivore Diet" brand of meat byproducts.
- FUN FACTS:** Wolf pups are born blind and helpless. "Helper" members of a wolf pack may assist pups to become fit and strong enough to travel with the wolf pack in three to five months.

### The Science of Animals

"I like everything here," says Milwaukee parent Elizabeth Mills of the microscopes, computer-learning programs and biofeedback experiments her 10-year-old daughter, Tiara, is exploring. "I like the different animals they can learn about: gorillas, cheetahs, polar bears. And looking in microscopes is getting them ready for their college years."

She is praising the latest in modern science technology that's now available to Milwaukee-area schoolchildren in the Zoological Society's new Living and Learning Science Lab.

Opened in November, the animal-science lab features three learning stations: 1) a bank of 10 computers with a program that teaches children about the animals in four habitats: desert, grasslands, forest and polar region; 2) four microscopes that the children look through to compare samples of animal hair, skin, scales or feathers and find the samples that are similar; and 3) biofeedback equipment to measure skin temperature, heart rate, stress level, etc.

For example, did you know that while the average adult human heart rate ranges from 60 to 90, the average 10- to 11-year-old child's rate ranges from 75 to 100. The average cheetah heart rate has a much broader range, from 60 to 180! And the average wolverine heart rate is much higher, ranging from 130 to 225.

"I'm very impressed," says teacher Roylene Johnson of Hampton School. Her fifth-grade class, including Tiara Mills, was participating in the lab program in mid-November. "Everyone seems to be into it. I didn't see any looks of boredom."

In fact, some students wish the lab class could have gone on longer than the one hour. [The program will be longer when it continues this January.] They find it



Keisha Edwards and Demetrius Branch, both 10, from Hampton School learn about animals and their habitats in the Living and Learning Lab.



Tiron Grant, 11, records the numbers as Lamar Klukaczewski, 10, checks his heart rate in the Living and Learning Lab. Teacher Delores Brewster explains the scale to the Hampton School fifth graders.

challenging to compare animal-skin samples. They love the colorful fact pages and animal videos in their computer programs. And they want to know more about heart

rate and exercise.

The purpose of the lab, says Chuck Matoush, school-program coordinator for the Society, is to give students a high-tech, hands-on experience so they understand that science and technology apply just as much to animals as they do to humans. One wall is lined with skeletons from a large variety of animals, so that children can learn the similarities and differences among creatures.

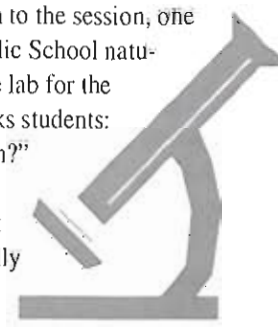
In an introduction to the session, one of the Milwaukee Public School naturalists who teaches the lab for the Zoological Society asks students: "What is a veterinarian?" One girl responds: "A person that doesn't eat meat." The adults hardly have time to grin before another child

gives a better answer: "A person that takes care of animals."

School groups who sign up for this lab also get a science curriculum guide and directions for conducting individual investigations throughout the Zoo.

More than \$68,000 in grants from the following companies and foundations have made the animal-science lab possible: Harley-Davidson Foundation, \$12,300; A.O. Smith Foundation Inc., \$12,000; The ConAgra Foundation, \$10,600; ANR Pipeline Co., \$5,500; Beatrice Cheese Inc., \$5,300; Johnson Controls Foundation, \$4,980; Allen-Bradley/Rockwell

Automation, \$3,000; Briggs & Stratton Foundation, \$2,500; OMC Foundation, \$2,000; Walgreens, \$2,000; MGIC Investment Corp., \$1,000; W.H. Brady Co., \$1,000; Robert W. Baird & Co. Foundation, \$500; and Herbert H. Kohl Charities, \$400. In-kind donations came from ACME Corp. (\$3,000 in microscope tables), Hewlett-Packard Company (\$2,283 for a computer) and Microsoft (\$1,500 in software).





# Journey into the Wild

There are few things that will hold a young child's attention more than an animal. So what better way to get kids in kindergarten through second grade interested in science than a class featuring animals at the Zoo?

That's the idea behind a new Zoological Society science program called Journey Into the Wild: Pets and Their Wild Relatives, funded by the Alvin & Marion Birnschein Foundation.

As each school class approaches their "classroom" in the Zoo's Peck Welcome Center, they see a mud-splattered, land-roving vehicle with backpacks and lunchboxes piled on top. It's obviously packed for a journey.

"I was basing the vehicle on something that would transport them to the outback or the savanna or the rain forest. The whole thing is to reinforce the idea that the kids are hopping on board and going to the place that they're going to be hearing about," says Julie Radcliffe, the Zoological Society artist who helped design the vehicle display.

Then, when the class goes behind the land-roving vehicle,

they find themselves in a makeshift "campsite," with camouflage netting above them, live birds chirping away



Karen Navarre holds a ferret to show children its flexible backbone, which allows it to form a U shape and quickly go through tunnels.

and their own guide to the wild ready to take them on an adventure into the animal kingdom.

So what makes a wild animal wild? asks their guide, Karen Navarre, a staffer

from the Zoo's Stackner Heritage Farm.

And how are pets different? She encourages the children to find the answers on their own, to ask questions, to observe pets and compare them to the Zoo's wild animals. Most of the school-children will tour the Zoo either before or after her class, doing activities from a Journey Into the Wild teacher's guide written by the Zoological Society.

Then, in Navarre's hands-on, interactive class, children can touch such animals as a turtle and a ferret, and begin to learn how to classify animals. What's the difference between a mammal and a bird, for example? Well, for one thing, birds have feathers while mammals have fur or hair.



Georgia Wright, who developed the Journey into the Wild curriculum, tells kindergarteners that they are going to take a journey into the animal world.

The children get to feel real bird feathers and pet a cat to touch its hair, which makes the lesson real.

Navarre leads a dog through the aisles so the children can pet it. Most of them already are familiar with dogs. So the program mixes the familiar with the unfamiliar.

As Zoological Society educator Georgia Wright, who wrote the Journey Into the Wild curriculum, explains: "You can take a house cat and extrapolate the information that the kids already know to

wild cats." For example, both cats are mammals, both have fur, both are good hunters.

"And then there are the differences. So you draw the similarities and then identify the differences and introduce new information," continues Wright. For example, house cats purr. Big cats can't purr, but they can roar.

Children in the early grades may not remember a lot of facts when you just lecture to them, says Wright, who has an M.S. degree in education, curriculum and instruction. "So if we can immerse them in touching, seeing, hearing and even smelling the animals, they're more likely to retain some of the information we're presenting."

The Zoological Society's

Journey program and teacher's guide is meant to be a supplement to the science curriculum in schools. It emphasizes scientific questioning, followed by observing, analyzing, describing and classifying.

For example, the children visit the Zoo's Aquatic & Reptile Center (ARC) and see snakes, lizards, turtles and crocodiles.

They notice that all these animals have scales. They look at the Journey Into the Wild cards they are carrying, which show patterns of reptile scales and fish scales.

**At Karen Navarre's class they get to touch snakeskin. It's dry.**

She tells them that one way to identify a reptile is by its dry scales (as opposed to the slimy scales of fish). She helps them to discover that the animals they saw at the ARC are reptiles.

In classroom activities before and after their Zoo visit, children can learn more about scales and other body coverings. Plus, they can get tips, from the Journey teacher's guide, on how to take care of their pets and what animals don't make good pets. For example, the guide warns against keeping reptiles as pets because they are coldblooded and should be in an environment that's 85 to 87 degrees, which is warm for most Wisconsin homes in winter.



The curriculum guide comes complete with games, pictures, a children's book list, teachers' aids and resources, and basic animal information for teachers — all provided free thanks to a \$32,780 grant from the Birnschein Foundation. The grant financed development of the curriculum, the visual setting (made by Acme Production Services of Milwaukee), artifacts and props. It also supports the Zoo staff instructor, Karen Navarre.

Journey Into the Wild started last March as a pilot program that reached 1,681 children. In October and November, another 1,785 children got a chance to take the "Journey" through 69 classes. It will run this semester from February through April, and may expand to include other programs, such as Feline Fun, says Wright.



Navarre passes a cat around to kindergarteners, explaining that cats are mammals because they have fur and give birth to live baby kittens.

**ON THE JOB**

**Karen Navarre**

What excites Karen Navarre about her job is seeing the kids get so excited. Karen works as an attendant in the Stackner Heritage Farm at the Zoo and spends a lot of time in summer at the petting ring, where she brings out animals such as Spike the porcupine or Fresca the ferret to walk around the platform for children to see up close.

Among her other duties are milking the cows and feeding them five times a day, and caring for a variety of animals from guinea pigs and chickens to cats and dogs. She feeds Scarlett, the Zoo's new badger, who's staying inside this winter, and Waldo the woodchuck (a.k.a. groundhog). During this school year, she is teaching Journey Into the Wild, a program that introduces very young children to animal science. It's her first teaching assignment, and it seems to come naturally. The children listen attentively when she talks about the differences between a pet and a wild animal.

Karen, 22, has been at the Zoo the last two summers. She earned her B.S. degree in animal science last May from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, and the Zoo hired her as a seasonal employee, continuing into winter. She hopes either to go to veterinary school at UW-Madison or to become a full-time, year-round employee at the Zoo.

**SERENGETI CIRCLE**

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

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- Kimberly-Clark Foundation Keepers of the Wild
- Miller Brewing Co. Animal Ambassador Program Birdies & Eagles Golf Tournament Milwaukee a la Carte Oceans of Fun Sea Lion Show Recycled Zoo

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- The Alvin and Marion Birnschein Foundation (over a 2-year period) Journey into the Wild: Pets and Their Wild Relatives
- The Lynde & Harry Bradley Foundation Wisconsin Student Grant Program
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- The Frieda and William Hntt Memorial Trust (over a 2-year period) Bonobo Conservation
- M&I Bank Seasonal Zoo Brochures
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- Tri City National Bank Sponsor an Animal Program Kids 'n Critters Club Sunset Zoofaris Beastly Bowl-A-Thon Feast for the Beasts Pancake Breakfast
- Wisconsin Energy Warthog Exhibit

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- Harley-Davidson Foundation Living and Learning Science Lab
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- Land O' Lakes, Inc. (over a 2-year period) Moo To You Exhibit

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- ANR Pipeline Co. Living and Learning Science Lab
- Beatrice Cheese, Inc. Animal Ambassador Program Living and Learning Science Lab
- Country Time Drink Mixes Snooze at the Zoo
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- Farley Foods Egg Day
- Firststar Milwaukee Foundation Discover Wisconsin Exhibit
- Golden Guernsey Heritage Farm Weekend
- Jays Potato Chips Kids Night
- The Halbert and Alice Kadish Foundation Belize Outreach Program
- Little Caesars Mother's Day at the Zoo Summer Adventure Camps
- Marquette Electronics Foundation Animal Ambassador Program Platypus Society Diner
- Minute Maid Twilight Safari
- NFL Alumni Association Kids Day Out Winter Break Camp Spring Break Camp

- Reynolds Wrap® Aluminum Foil Conservation Weekend
- Sears Holiday Night Lights
- Strong Capital Nights in June Picnic
- Target Halloween Spectacular
- Warner Cable Communications of Milwaukee Animal Ambassador Program Zoo Ball XIII Entertainment (Music)
- West Allis Memorial Hospital Ride on the Wild Side
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- Cooper Power Systems-Power Systems Division Animal Ambassador Program
- Excelsior Lodge #175 F. and A.M. Animal Ambassador Program
- Fleet Mortgage Group Inc. Animal Ambassador Program



Opportunities to color, play games, make butter, and participate in dozens of other farm-oriented activities kept kids and families busy during Golden Guernsey's Heritage Farm Weekend. Golden Guernsey has sponsored this popular mid-September event at the Zoo since 1993.

- Charles D. Jacobus Family Foundation Animal Ambassador Program
- Johnson Controls Foundation Living and Learning Science Lab
- Kaytee Zoo Support Program
- Milton & Lillian Peck Foundation Animal Ambassador Program
- Milwaukee Insurance Animal Ambassador Program
- Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Animal Ambassador Program
- Racine Danish Kringles Breakfast/Lunch With Santa
- Sportmart Samson Stomp
- Universal Foods Foundation Summer Camp Peer Mentor Program
- World Wildlife Fund Environmental Education & Training Partnership Project

Sponsors and grantors committing dollars for events and programs after November 30, 1996, will be recognized in the next issue of Alive.

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- Tri City National Bank Zoo 'n You Coupon Book Senior Celebration Support
- \$2,500-\$4,999**
- Golden Guernsey Feast for the Beasts Pancake Breakfast
- Mayfair Mall Zoological Society Holiday Gift Promotion

# Platypus Society



**Walter Mundschaue**  
Kalmbach Publishing

"We've been able to see the positive results of the Zoological Society for a number of years, in part because our annual picnic is held on Zoo grounds for all Kalmbach employees to enjoy. It is a special treat to watch co-workers and their families tour the many attractions at the Zoo, some for the first time. Each year, everyone walks away feeling as if they're part of a much larger picture. The Zoo reminds us all that ecologically and environmentally, we are not only responsible for our planet, but that we are also an integral aspect of it. It is this

very message of a 'shared ecological community' that we convey in one of our popular magazines, Earth, and just one of the many reasons why Kalmbach Publishing Co. is proud to support the Zoological Society and the Milwaukee County Zoo as a Platypus Society member."

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

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

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

Friends contributing to the Platypus Society after November 30, 1996 will be recognized in the next issue of ALIVE.



## NEW MEMBERS

The Zoological Society welcomes the following new Platypus Society members as of November 30, 1996

## NEW IN-KIND GIFTS

(\$5,000-\$9,999)  
Amann Galleries  
(\$2,500-\$2,999)  
Badger Liquor  
(\$1,000-\$1,999)  
Illingworth Corporation  
Uihlein Electric Co.  
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## NEW GIFT LEVELS

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

SILVER CORPORATE  
(\$2,500-\$2,999)  
Kalmbach Publishing, Inc.

CORPORATE III  
(\$2,500-\$2,999)  
National Business Furniture

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(\$1,000-\$1,499)  
American Appraisal Trust

## STEERING COMMITTEE

Richard L. Schmidt, Chairman  
William Abraham, Jr.  
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Judy Stathas  
John Steiner  
Anne Tynion

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



Emu

Australia/Kangaroo Yard

Arrived: August 28, 1996

Four new emus, two bonded pairs, have been chasing kangaroos around the kangaroo yard. "Emus aren't real smart. It just seems to them like a fun thing to do," says Kim Smith, aviary curator. These huge, flightless, Australian creatures are pretty neat birds, she adds. The females are bigger and more aggressive than the males, weighing up to 100 pounds and standing 6 feet tall. The males guard the nests and care for chicks for months. The new emus, which came from a Wisconsin couple who retired from emu breeding, probably won't be allowed to breed for a year because there are plenty of emus. The Zoo's original two and the four new birds all just avoid each other, says Smith. In winter emus stay outside, although there is a heated area inside if it gets too cold. "Emus are pretty hardy," she says. "They rarely go inside, even when it's really, really cold."

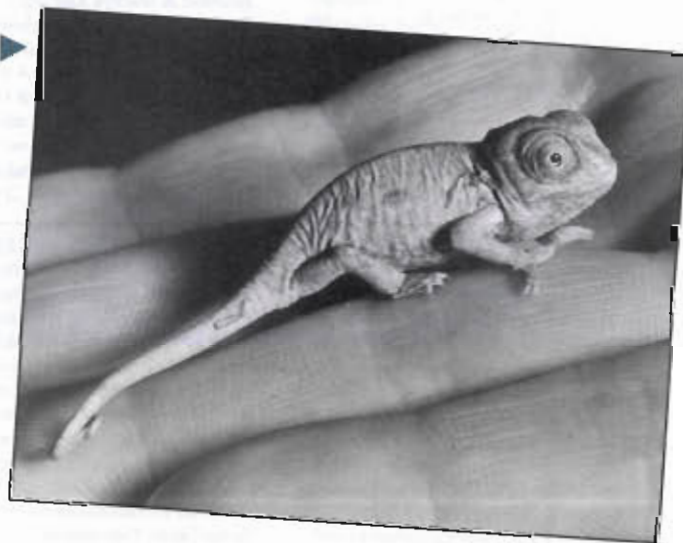


Veiled chameleons

Aquatic & Reptile Center

Hatched between September 24 and 28, 1996

"Chameleons are noteworthy because they can change almost instantaneously," says Craig Berg, curator of the Aquatic & Reptile Center. But they don't change color to match their environment. Veiled chameleons are not solid colors. They have a complicated pattern that keeps you from seeing them as a solid silhouette. "It's their pattern that changes to blend in with their background." These first chameleons to hatch at the Milwaukee County Zoo weighed in at only 9/10ths to 7/10ths of a gram when born. Because the mom chameleon couldn't release her eggs, a vet removed them and they were incubated for six months. By November they were more than a gram and about two inches long. As adults, they will reach 18 inches long. These Old World reptiles live in bushes and trees, have a tongue as long as their body, and have turreted eyes that operate independently of each other.



REFERENCE  
FOR YOUR

JANUARY

19 SPORTMART'S SAMSON STOMP & ROMP

Bring the whole family out to the Zoo during one of the loveliest seasons of the year and enjoy a foot-stomping good time. Participants can enter the 10K or two-mile run/walk and bring the kids for a one-mile or one-quarter-mile mini-romp to raise money for the Zoo's animals. All registrants receive a long-sleeve T-shirt, light refreshments, Zoo admission and parking. Zoological Society memberships are not valid; a separate registration fee is required. Registration is from 7:30 to 9 a.m., but preregistration is recommended. Call (414)256-5412 for details.



25 & 26 FAMILY SNOW SCULPTING

Team up with your family and put your creativity to work in snow! Or, just stroll through the Zoo and enjoy a winter wonderland of snow sculptures set among our wild creatures. Then take a break from the cold and enjoy some cozy entertainment indoors. Prizes will be awarded at 1 p.m. Sunday. If there's not enough snow, the event is postponed. There's no extra charge other than Zoo admission of \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.



Calendar

Winter/Spring 1997

FEBRUARY

2 GROUNDHOG DAY

Waldo, the Zoo's groundhog, comes out for a ceremony at 11 a.m. to discover if he can see his shadow and predict the length of winter.

MARCH

1 TRI CITY NATIONAL BANK'S BEASTLY BOWL-A-THON

Practice your strike shot and win prizes! Come out to the American Red Carpet - West Allis for this Zoological Society fund-raiser to help feed the Zoo's animals. A \$10 entry fee (\$5 is tax-deductible) includes three games of bowling, shoes and snacks. Bowling begins at noon and at 3 p.m., with registration one hour before. Call (414) 258-2333 for registration, pledge materials and more information.



Tri City National Bank's Beastly Bowl-a-thon

See your WILD THINGS newsletter for more details on all these events and more!

23 TRI CITY NATIONAL BANK'S FEAST FOR THE BEASTS PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Bring your family, friends, and appetite to this all-you-care-to-eat Zoological Society fund-raiser to help feed the Zoo's animals. Enjoy pancakes, sausages, applesauce and beverages at the Zoofari Conference Center (one address east of the Zoo), 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Advance tickets: \$4.75, adults; \$3.25 for children 12 and under (including children under 2 if they want a meal). Call 258-2333 for advance tickets or purchase them from any Tri City National Bank location. Prices include WI sales tax and are not tax-deductible or refundable.



continued on other side

## Alpaca ▶

Winter Quarters, South American Yard

Born: September 17, 1996

The baby female alpaca named Sorpresa (Spanish for surprise) truly was. Born to parents Cassanova and Reina. Sorpresa was unexpected because no one knew Reina was pregnant. "Reina was not sheared this summer, and so her pregnancy went undetected under all that wool," says zookeeper Lisa Guglielmi. Alpacas are a humpless member of the camel family native to South America. They often live at high altitudes and thus can stay outside all winter. Their wool is valued highly.

Caroline O'Reilly, a volunteer for the Zoological Society's Zoo Pride organization, has been spinning yarn from the Zoo's alpacas for nearly eight years. Using the natural color of the alpaca wool (white to rich brown), she has knit clothing to raise money for the Society. Her yarn also is passed around at the Zoo's camel demonstrations. Sorpresa may be trained for the camel shows by summer.



## ◀ Douroucouli

Small Mammal Building

Arrived at Zoo: September 19, 1996

"It was love at first sight between Lola and Jim," says Nina Schaefer, small mammals supervisor. Soon after they were introduced, the two douroucoulis, also known as owl or night monkeys, were touching fingers. Then they went into a nest box prepared for them and hardly came out for a week, except to eat. Lola came from John Ball Zoological Gardens in Grand Rapids, Mich., to mate with Jim. Both were born in 1991. Jim's father is the only other douroucouli at the Zoo. "We should be able to tell when she's pregnant because she's very sweet and can be handled," says

Schaefer. Lola arrived with four inches of her tail missing due to an incident with her cage mates. Schaefer notes that douroucoulis are the only nocturnal monkeys in the world. They live in South American rain forests and eat insects, fruits, lizards, birds and small mammals.



# Calendar

FOR YOUR  
REFERENCE

continued from other side

## MARCH

### 29 EGG DAY

Hop over to the Zoo for this "egg-ceptional" event! The whole family will enjoy a day filled with entertainment throughout the Zoo, an Easter egg hunt, bonnet and tie decorating, lots of bunnies and an "eggs-traordinary" parade! Call (414) 256-5412 for details.

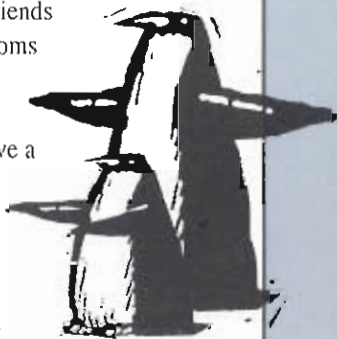


EGG DAY

## MAY

### 11 LITTLE CAESARS' MOTHER'S DAY

Tell your friends to bring their moms to the Zoo on their special day. They'll have a wild time and get a discount on admission. Call (414) 256-5412 for details.



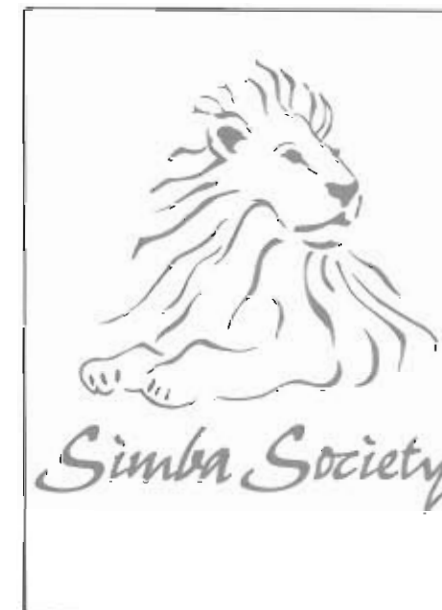
**EDUCATION PROGRAMS** Call (414) 256-5424 for a brochure on Zoological Society education workshops.

## THE GIFT OF A LIFETIME

The Simba Society was formed by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee County to honor, during their lifetime, those who make planned lifetime gifts or include the Zoological Society in their wills.

The Development Department has information regarding planned giving that they would be happy to mail to you at no charge, including pamphlets entitled:

- Charitable Gifts Can Increase Your Income - Where can you turn to get a better return on your money?
- Tax Benefits of Giving Appreciated Property - How appreciated securities often can be the most effective gift.



- Life Insurance as a Gift Planning Tool - Simple, tax-saving, low- or no-cost ways to be a philanthropist.

- The Five Keys to a Better Will
  - Provide for your family needs
  - Make gifts to friends and charitable organizations
  - Save taxes
  - Review Property Arrangements
  - Receive professional help with your plans.

- The Need to Update Your Estate Plan - Don't put off until tomorrow what you had better do today.

Simba Society members will be recognized on signage at the Zoo and be invited to various special events. Please call Ginger Browne, Planned Giving Officer, at (414) 276-0843 if you would like any of the above pamphlets or have already included the Zoological Society in your estate plans.



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

This intricate pencil drawing called "Tropical Lizards" was one of four top award winners in the Second Annual Animal People's Choice Art Competition, sponsored by the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee County Zoo.

By Kendra Schmidt  
Mount Mary College

