

Alive

A large crocodile is the central focus of the image, resting on a large, textured rock. Its mouth is wide open, revealing its sharp teeth and pink tongue. The crocodile's skin is dark and scaly. The background is a blurred naturalistic setting with green foliage and brown branches.

Inside:

**Winter Exhibit: Crocodiles Rule!
Saving Bonobos in the Congo**

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

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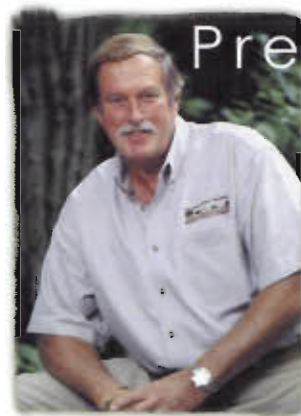
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President's Letter

We have an exciting year planned for 2003. A new Animal Health Center will open in fall. We'll break ground for a new conservation education center in spring. In June we're bringing back one of the most popular special exhibits to visit the Zoo: live butterflies in a Maya setting. And in February U.S. Bank's When Crocodiles Ruled exhibit opens in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building.

To do this takes resources. The Zoological Society has a major financial commitment to all of these projects. Not only do we bring in sponsors to help subsidize exhibits and buildings, but the Society also contributes from its own budget. We do this in a fiscally responsible way so we don't overextend ourselves. Our non-profit organization has a tradition of staying on solid financial ground.

Our goal is to provide a quality experience every time you come to the Milwaukee County Zoo. Visitors keep returning because they know that they'll always find a clean, pleasant environment at the Zoo. They know that while the predictable features – the lions and tigers, the restaurants and gift shops, the attractions and beautiful grounds – are here, there's always something new to see. Whether it's a touring exhibit (we have two a year) or a new baby animal, the Zoo provides a dynamic experience.

There's a cost to maintain this quality. Milwaukee County has to raise Zoo fees to help meet its budget. Those increases are passed along to the Zoological Society because we have to reimburse the Zoo every time one of our members visits. At critical times we need to pass along the costs in order to meet our budget.

This month we're raising the cost of our family Zoo Pass Plus membership from \$69 to \$79. Other memberships will go up by proportional amounts to meet our rising Zoo costs.

We hope you will continue to realize the value of a membership: access to the Zoo 365 days a year, previews of new exhibits, special events for members, discounts on education workshops and in Zoo gift shops, free or discounted admission to 130 other zoos and aquariums, *Alive* and *Wild Things*, field trips, and more.

Our members have been terrific in supporting our efforts to improve the Zoo, to help the animals, to promote conservation and to keep the Zoo competitive in a time when so much else draws people's attention. Thanks for your faith in us. We will continue to maintain the Zoo's important status in our community.

Dr. Gil Boese, President

Alive
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Zoo Veterinarian Dr. Roberta Wallace takes measurements of a Humboldt penguin at the current Zoo Hospital.

Price Increase

Because of higher fees that Milwaukee County is instituting at the Zoo, Zoological Society memberships also will increase this month. The Zoo Pass Plus membership that includes parking will increase by \$10. So a Zoo Pass Plus family membership will go from \$69 to \$79. Basic memberships without parking will go up \$5. So a basic individual Zoo Pass membership now will be \$40. Please see the President's Letter on Page 2 for more information. Thanks for your support.

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Visit a time when the Midwest and much of upper North America was a subtropical land full of animals such as crocodiles and alligators. U.S. Bank presents When Crocodiles Ruled, a touring exhibit of the Milwaukee County Zoo from Feb. 3 through April 27.

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American Crocodile

Vacation

BY JACQUELINE LONG

How does a warm-weather vacation sound this winter? Think exotic wildlife, lush wetlands, and subtropical temperatures... You won't have to travel far. Just visit the Milwaukee County Zoo's winter exhibit, U.S. Bank's When Crocodiles Ruled.

For the first part of your journey, travel back in time to just after the dinosaurs ended their reign. This exhibit – brought to you by U.S. Bank, the Zoological Society and the Zoo – takes you to the era when crocodylians took over as the largest predators on Earth and subtropical swamps covered much of North America. Immerse yourself in this exotic environment where there are all kinds of fun things to do.

Here are some of the highlights:

- Wander over to Lake Wannagan and peek under the surface with a periscope. You won't believe all there is going on!
- Don't mind the noise. Crocodiles are the most vocal reptiles, and in ancient Wannagan Creek you'll hear them "talking."
- How would you fare against Wannagan's toughest predators? Touch an actual shell from a turtle that tangled with a crocodile a few million years ago. Then test your strength against a crocodile's bite.
- What's that smell? Sniff a "smell box" to discover the importance of scent to the development of plants and insects.



Travel Advisory: While taking in the sights of ancient Wannagan Creek, watch out for the *Leidyosuchus*. These alligator ancestors grew up to 15 feet long and were the fiercest predators of their time. Visitors are advised not to pet them.

Why isn't upper North America still a subtropical crocodile wonderland? Jet over to the second phase of your getaway, World Change Central, to find out. Today's climate has been around only for roughly the last 10 million years. It is "the exception rather than the rule," says Andrew Redline, director of the paleontology program at the Science Museum of Minnesota, which created the exhibit. For millions of years before that it was warm and swampy. Here at World Change Central, you'll see how and why some things have changed while others have stayed pretty much the same for several millenniums. There's a lot to do as you experience 65 million years of change over a matter of feet.

You can:

- Compete for "meals" in a game that explains natural selection and the importance of adaptation.
- Explore the seemingly random nature of change by rolling balls through a giant intricate sculpture and trying to predict their paths.
- Heat things up and see why so many ancient primates are extinct today.

In the final phase of your vacation, Wannagan Creek transforms into the archaeological dig it is at present. Join the field camp as a paleontologist. That's a scientist who learns about the past by studying clues found in the present, like fossils. "This is one of the most interactive paleontology exhibits," says Redline.

With the Crocodiles



Exhibit photos from Science Museum of Minnesota



At camp, you can:

- Go on a fossil dig. Start by selecting the tools you think would work best. Before you head out, stop by the "Fossil or Not?" display to make sure you know what you're looking for.
- Test your fossil knowledge at another display by guessing what will become a fossil and what won't.
- Find out how puzzling it can be to put together the skeleton of an ancient and extinct animal by trying to assemble the 8-foot-long skeleton of a *Champosaur*, a strange swimming lizard that is different from any animal alive today (see photo above.)

When you've finished your vacation, make sure to explore the Aquatic & Reptile Center at the Zoo. It's not far from the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building, where the Wannagan Creek exhibit will be located. The Chinese alligators and other live reptiles you see at the Zoo won't look exactly like the ancient crocodile *Leidyosuchus* or the ancient alligator *Wannaganosuchus*, a species found only at Wannagan Creek. But a lot of their features will look familiar from your travels to the time "when crocodiles ruled."



Chinese alligator

Members First

PALEONTOLOGISTS WANTED: Apply in person at Wannagan Creek field camp. Zoological Society members get to see U.S. Bank's When Crocodiles Ruled in a special premiere before it opens to the public. Look for your invitation in this package with *Alive* magazine. The Zoological Society, the Milwaukee County Zoo, and U.S. Bank all helped bring this exhibit to the Zoo.

Some Things Never Change

Compare the Milwaukee County Zoo's Chinese alligators (see photo below) with the crocodile specimens in U.S. Bank's When Crocodiles Ruled exhibit. Our alligators look a lot like the prehistoric creatures you'll see in the ancient Wannagan Creek display.

"Crocodylians in general haven't changed much since prehistoric time," says Milwaukee zookeeper Craig Pelke. He thinks this lack of change is evidence of their almost perfect design. Their biggest threat is not an inability to change with their habitats, but rather a loss of habitat entirely. Chinese alligators are extremely endangered as their habitats are eliminated to provide more space for civilization.

The Zoo's last crocodile, which was on loan, was returned to the St. Augustine Zoo in 1988. From 1988 to 1993, the Zoo had a larger American alligator in the Aquatic & Reptile Center exhibit that now houses Yin and Yang, the Chinese alligators. The American alligator was sent to another Zoo so she would have more room. Yin and Yang, who have been here since 1995, are "pretty spunky," says Pelke. Alligators, crocodiles, and their relations are all in the same scientific order (category): *Crocodylia*.

The light in the Forest

By PAULA BROOKMIRE

When you're trying to save the bonobo, the rarest of the great apes, you run into lots of ironies. Novelist Joseph Conrad referred to the Congo in Africa as "the heart of darkness," and the image has stuck. Yet Zoological Society conservationists tracking bonobos in the Congo have found light-filled forests, an incredible array of wildlife, and the light of hope in seeing nature at its most prolific. Other ironies abound:

- "I have been working with bonobos since 1984," says Dr. Gay Reinartz, conservation coordinator for the Zoological Society of Milwaukee and coordinator of the Bonobo Species Survival Plan. "But it wasn't until 2002 that I saw them in the wild."

- The Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa is the only place in the world where these apes occur in the wild. Salonga National Park in Congo is the only federally protected area for bonobos. Despite government control in the Salonga, poaching is rampant; it got so bad during the civil war that the government told park guards to move their posts for their own safety. So guards moved their stations out of the park boundaries, some as far as a day's walk away – leaving large parts of the park unprotected.

- It was widely rumored in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic, that there were no bonobos in the Salonga National Park. But Reinartz herself went into the dense rain forest of the Salonga in 2002 and brought back an audiotape of bonobos chattering in the forest. "It's important that we brought back some evidence of their presence," she says.

The irony does not stop there. Here you have an ape that is among humankind's closest living relatives, and yet few humans knew much about it through most of the 20th century. Known for its peaceful culture and egalitarian society, the bonobo has shaken the scientific notion that all great apes have aggressive, male-dominated societies. This ape settles conflict with sex rather than fighting, and yet it lives in one of the most conflict-torn countries in the world.



Perhaps the greatest irony is that scientists from Milwaukee are traveling across the world to the Congo to help save an animal that most Wisconsinites – indeed, most people – have never seen. Through a program called the Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative, the Zoological Society has built a bonobo research station in the Salonga, is supporting park guards in anti-poaching efforts, and is educating the Congolese about the importance of one of their most endangered native animals.

"This is the world's second largest tropical park – about one-third the size of Wisconsin – and it was unsupported financially

until the Zoological Society began its involvement in 1997," says Reinartz. The Society hired Inogwabini Bila-Isia, a Congolese national with a master's degree in conservation biology from Kent University in England, as director of field conservation in the Congo. He has conducted six research expeditions into the park, starting with a reconnaissance trip in 1997.

Despite its vast natural wealth and diversity of animals and plants, the Congo is one of the world's poorest countries. Its environment presents many challenges to conservationists:

- The research team often travels to the Salonga from the nearest city, Mbandaka, about 400 miles away. The only way to reach the park is by river, and it can cost up to \$2,000 just for boat



Dr. Gay Reinartz (above) takes a dugout canoe into Salonga National Park to visit the Zoological Society's research station there (right). Left: Laura the bonobo and her baby at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

and fuel. The Salonga has no passable roads, and you need to make machete trails through the dense rain forest to go into the interior.

- One of the greatest threats to bonobos is loss of rain-forest habitat. "About 60% of their range has been slated for timber harvest. The

government already has given out lumber permits throughout the country," says Reinartz.

- "During the two-year civil war, refugees poured into parts of the region near the park that previously had been sparsely populated. There was a proliferation of weapons as well, which gradually started replacing the traditional means of hunting. Thus, all forms of wildlife were being hunted on a large scale, both to feed the military and growing population, and to export meat to urban areas. Bonobos make easy targets because they live in large groups," adds Reinartz.

- Until the Zoological Society intervened, the guards in charge of protecting the park had not been paid regular salaries since the onset of the war. During a mission in November 2000 to establish an anti-poaching patrol in Salonga (funded by Judy Kern of Viola, Wis., and by the Brookfield Zoo), the Zoological Society's team was able to pay salaries to one-third of the guard force. With that success, the Zoological Society was asked in May 2001 to administer \$79,400 awarded by the United Nations Foundation and the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for salaries to 150 Salonga guards. The Society's team has made four trips to the Salonga since August 2001, with more trips planned.

**Why should we care so much about the bonobo?
They're so much like us.**

The Milwaukee County Zoo has the largest captive group of bonobos in the world (17), and they show dramatic abilities to learn, as witnessed by zookeepers training animals. Primate keeper Barbara Bell has taught some bonobos to understand full sentences. Notes Reinartz: "Bonobos have been shown by researchers at Georgia State University to have a huge capacity to learn human language. One bonobo there can understand language at the level of a 4-year-old child." Bonobos also have a greater tendency to walk upright – similar to humans – than the other great apes (chimpanzees, gorillas, orangutans). Their peaceful ways one day may teach humans how to live in peace.

When you look into the eyes of a bonobo, says Reinartz, you see "the light in the heart of darkness."



You Can Help

Help the Zoological Society survey endangered bonobos and other wildlife of Africa's Salonga National Park so we can find ways to keep these animals from extinction. Help us train park guards so they can protect animals from poachers. To donate to the Zoological Society's Bonobo and Congo Biodiversity Initiative, please contact our Conservation Department, (414) 276-0339, or e-mail us at conservation@zoosociety.org.

A tiny African bat has a cancerous growth on its lip. It's brought to the Zoo Hospital for surgery. The bat is wrapped gently in a soft cloth to protect its wings. A miniature, cone-shaped anesthesia mask – hand-made by the Hospital staff – is placed close to the bat's nose. The mask can't completely cover the mouth and nose because the vet has to do surgery on the lip. The growth is cut out, the lip stitched, and then a veterinary technician watches the bat recuperate while the veterinarian fills out a record of the surgery.

THE STORY OF ANIMAL CARE

BY PAULA BROOKMIRE

Back in a corner of the surgery room is an artist. She isn't drawing. So why is she there? Research, she says. It's a "hidden" part of the job that most people don't consider when they think of artists and designers. Clipboards in hand, the Zoological Society's five artists/graphics designers have been shadowing the Zoo's medical team in recent months.

The project? Next fall the Zoo will open a new Animal Health Center to replace the current, cramped Hospital. A new feature will be a visitor center with interactive displays and signs to tell the story of what the Zoo's medical team does. The artists want to immerse themselves in the life of the medical specialists, says Creative Department Director Marcia Sinner. They're also surveying Zoo visitors to find out what they want to learn about Zoo medicine. In these ways the artists are helping plan and design the new graphics, which will be paid for by the Zoological Society.

What are some of the messages that the artists hope to get across to you, the Zoo visitor? Marcia Sinner gives some samples:

- The focus is on preventing illness rather than curing an animal after it gets sick. According to Dr. Bruce Beehler, a veterinarian who is the Zoo's deputy director in charge of animal management and health, vets spend more time going directly to animals in their exhibits to keep the animals healthy rather than doing surgery.



Above: Dr. Roberta Wallace measures the beak of a Humboldt penguin. Opposite page: Dr. Vickie Clyde bandages the leg of a Dall sheep.

- Everyone who cares for the animals is part of the medical team. The first line of defense is the zookeepers, who make daily observations of animals. They know what's normal and what's not. Their reports to the vets help determine whether an animal gets a more thorough checkup. Because animals can't tell vets "where it hurts," diagnosis often is based on careful observations of the keepers and the vet staff.

- There is potential danger in dealing with any wild animal. Vets must be alert. One day they had to sedate and draw blood from a bongo, a large African antelope. "The vet did everything in slow motion so as not to scare the bongo. This is a huge wild animal with horns on her head. She tried to push veterinarian Vickie Clyde away with her horns, but Vickie jumped back and didn't get hurt."

- "These are wild animals, and they have no clue what the vet team wants to do. The vets talk softly to the animals to try to keep them calm."

- There are several specialists who help the Zoo's vets, and many of them volunteer their time. Among them are Dr. John Scheels, a Wauwatosa dentist; Dr. Harry Prosen, a Medical College of Wisconsin psychiatrist; Dr. Keith Collins and Dr. Amy Rankin of Animal Eye Specialists in Waukesha; ultrasound experts Leann Roth and Sandi Fish from Medical Care Specialists, Inc.; pathologists from the University of Wisconsin-Madison who do necropsies to determine cause of death in Zoo animals; vet interns and residents; and more.

- "From watching the medical team in the existing Hospital, it looks like they work miracles with limited resources. They're a very caring group. They have great compassion for the animals. They don't want animals to get sick, and they do all they can to prevent it."


So what kinds of signs and displays does Marcia Sinner envision for the Animal Health Center?

"We know that questions and answers and interactive displays are more interesting to the public than just straight

facts," she says. "For example, we could present visitors with a problem, such as a sick animal that has several symptoms. We could give them clues as to how vets make a diagnosis, walk them through the steps. At the end they would discover if they were correct. That's only one possible approach. We won't know which route we'll choose until we research what other zoos have done and get more input from our Zoo visitors.

"So we ask our Zoological Society members to take two minutes, when you see one of our artists handing out surveys at the Zoo, to give us suggestions."



The artists will pick key messages, such as illness prevention and conservation, to get across in all the materials regarding the new Animal Health Center. Conservation is a big part of the mission for both the Zoo and the Zoological Society. So the artists – who work for the Society but design graphics (signs, banners, brochures, flyers, publications, T-shirts, etc.) for both the Society and the Milwaukee County Zoo – always keep conservation in mind. "In the end," says Sinner, "we want to make sure that the wild animals we love to watch are around for future generations." 

Help with Health Care

We're raising money for the Zoo's new Animal Health Center through the Zoological Society's Annual Appeal.

To contribute, please call us at **(414) 258-2333**. Or look at the **Annual Appeal flyer that came in the package with this issue of *Alive***. You also can donate online through www.zoosociety.org, select the Annual Appeal icon.

Two Ways to Give Support

Below are two examples of ways people help the Zoological Society in its mission to support the Milwaukee County Zoo, educate people about animals and conservation, and conserve wildlife. One of the most basic ways to offer support is by becoming a Zoological Society member. Another avenue of support involves leaving a legacy gift and becoming a member of the Simba Society, a division of the Zoological Society.

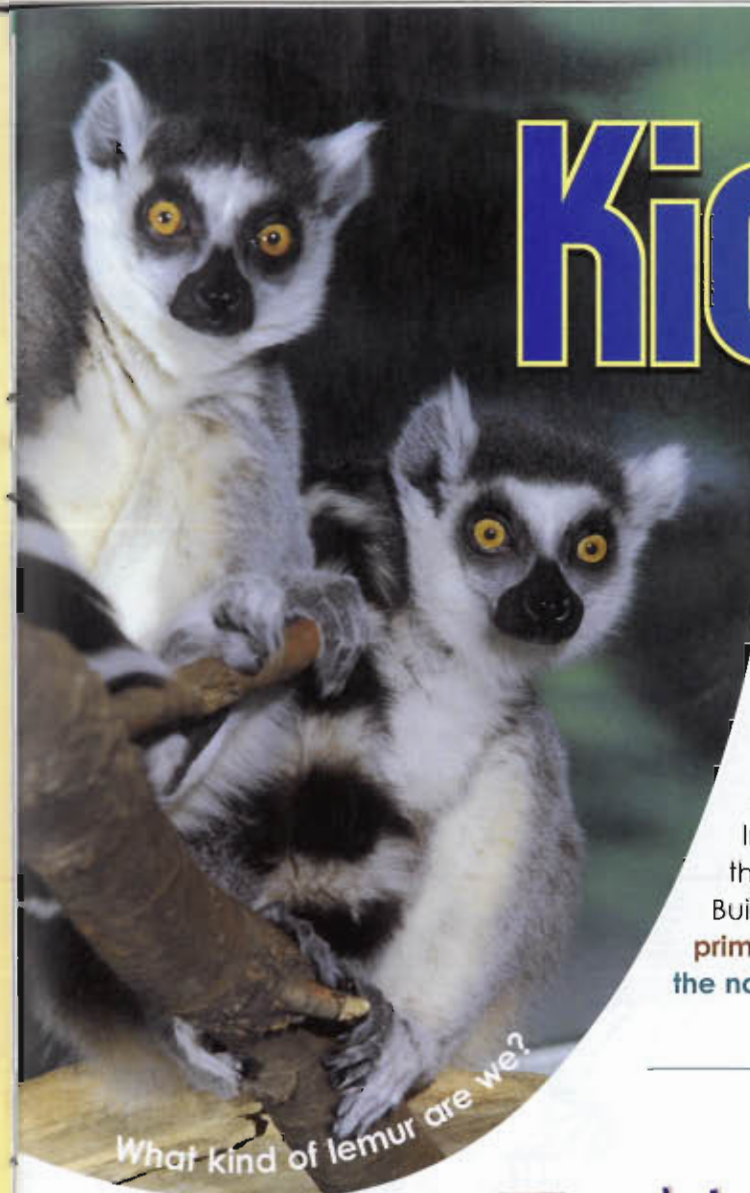


Early Zoo Lovers

There are about 55,000 families who are members of the Zoological Society. The Katzenbergers of Waukesha are one such family. Richard and Judy and their three children – Melissa, 16, Dan, 13, and David, 11 – have been members for over a decade (their family also includes a yellow Labrador retriever named Hunter). Zoos have been important to Richard and Judy Katzenberger since they were young, when Richard used to go to the Bronx Zoo, and Judy used to go to the Brookfield Zoo. After they were married, moved to Milwaukee and had their first child, they invested in a Zoological Society Zoo Pass. Richard remembers Judy sometimes taking the kids to the Zoo several times a week. "We wanted our kids to share our appreciation of animals," he says. Young David was so inspired that he plans to pursue a career as a veterinarian. "The Zoological Society does so much to support the Zoo," says Richard. "So much happens on behalf of the animals. We're just excited that we can do our small part to help."

Conservation Advocates

Dr. John and Kristie Malone of Hartland recently joined the Simba Society, which recognizes individuals who make a contribution by either naming the Zoological Society as a beneficiary in their wills or by leaving a legacy gift. "It's easy, it makes sense, and it helps keep our personal interests going even after we're gone," says Kristie about their Simba Society membership. John says that their interest in conservation was another reason to support the Zoological Society. "I'm pretty passionate about the world we live in. After all, it's the only one we've got." The Malones have seen many of the Zoo's animals in their wild environments, from Africa to Antarctica. "We like to say we've been to all nine continents" says John with a smile, "but there are only seven." On a trip to Indonesia they interacted with wild orangutans. Their passion for conservation is a natural result of their compassion for wildlife, and their membership in the Simba Society will help ensure that their legacy of care will continue beyond their lifetimes.



What kind of lemur are we?

Kids ALive

www.zoosociety.org

Lemur Quest

Visit the Milwaukee County Zoo's special exhibit, "When Crocodiles Ruled," sponsored by U.S. Bank (see page 4). It runs from Feb. 3 through April 27 in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building. In this exhibit you'll learn about what scientists think was the earliest primate. Then go to the Zoo's Small Mammals Building and **find three kinds of lemurs that look similar to primates that lived 50 million to 60 million years ago. Write the names of the three lemurs below.**

Answers in spring Alive.

Turtle Tots

"The baby turtles are like my little kids,"

says Craig Pelke, area supervisor for the Aquatic & Reptile Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo. He is talking about 24 baby ornate box turtles. Since 1995 the Zoo has been giving these endangered turtles a head start, with great success. Every September Pelke and the rest of the staff get baby turtles only as big as a thumbnail from the state Department of Natural Resources. They feed and raise the turtles indoors until May. Then they are let go into their natural habitat, southwestern Wisconsin. "The ornate box turtles are most in danger when they're babies. So we help them grow strong so they can survive [outdoors] on their own," he says.

By May the turtles have grown to the same size as 7-year-old ornate box turtles in the wild. Turtles grow faster indoors where it's warm and they have plenty to eat. Since 1998 the Zoo has raised and released more than 100 turtles.



Dinosaur

DIG

Let's play paleontologist!
That's a scientist who studies animals from the past, like dinosaurs.

How to play: Start at the bottom, pick a scientist and follow his or her path till he or she locates a dinosaur artifact: a claw, a tooth, or an egg.

Answer to fall 2002 Kids Alive Monkeys & Apes puzzle: Monkeys have tails; apes do not.

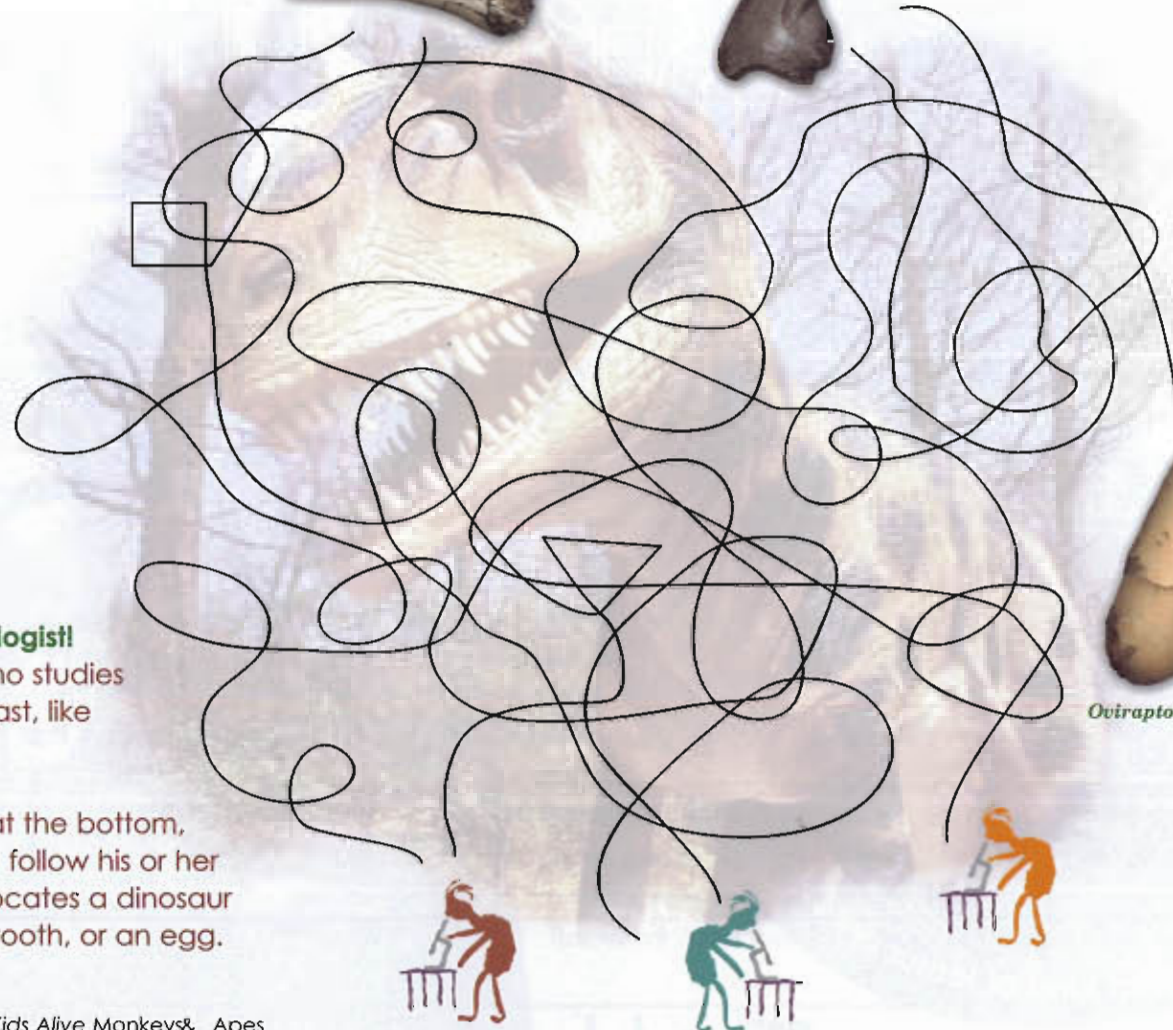
Tyrannosaurus rex tooth



Allosaurus claw



Oviraptor egg



Wannagan Creek*

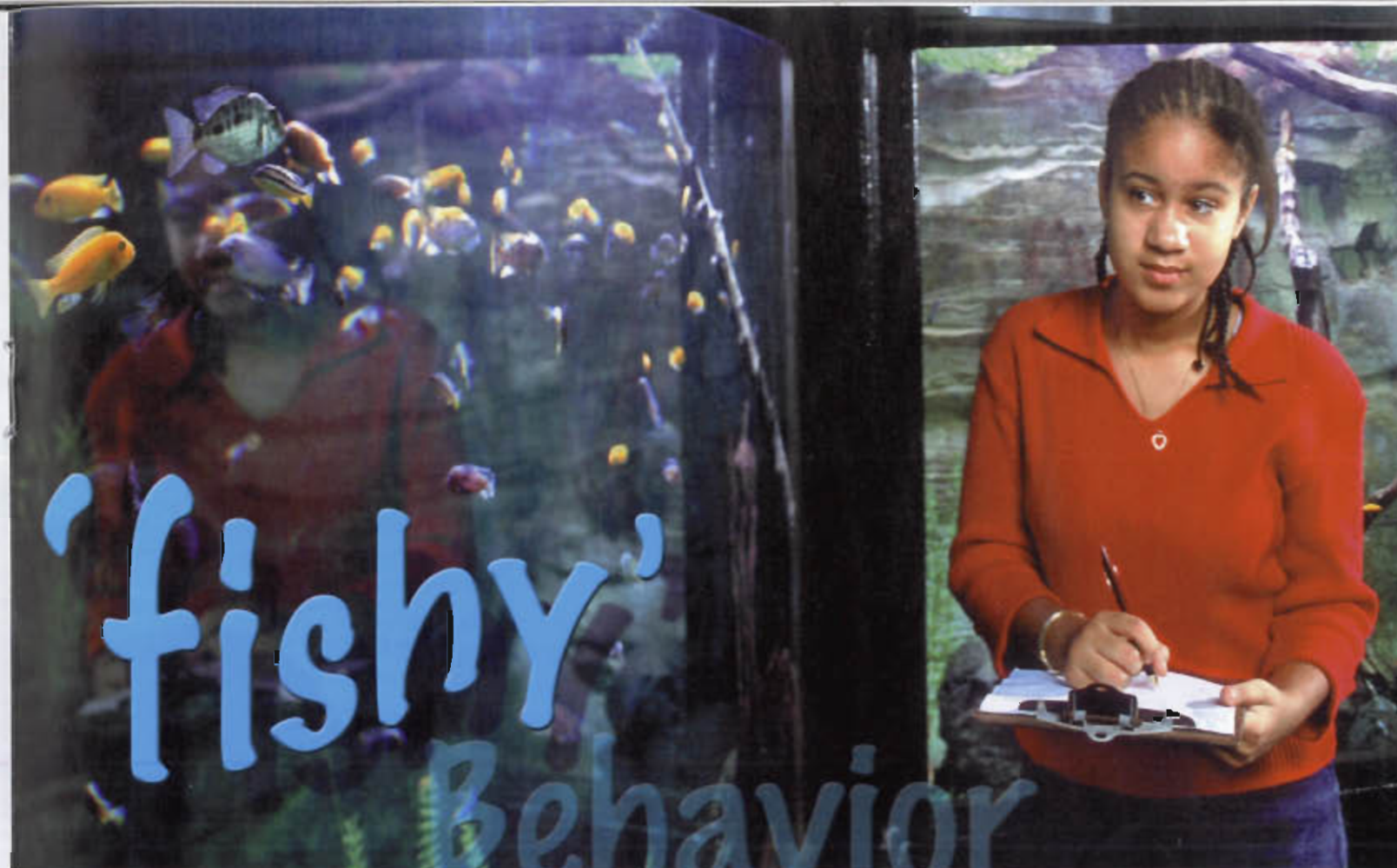
WORD SEARCH

Find the words below in the box at right. Words may run backwards or diagonally.

- | | |
|------------|----------------|
| ALLIGATOR | PIKE |
| BOWFIN | PIPING PLOVER |
| CHAMPOSAUR | PROSIMIAN |
| FOSSIL | PROTICTIS |
| GAR | RHINOCEROS |
| HORSE | TAPIR |
| LEMUR | TREE MONITOR |
| MUSKIE | WALDRAPP IBIS |
| PALEOCENE | WANNAGAN CREEK |

Y C H V U P I K E E Q T A P I R I U
M R P M B I I Q V F O W S O V R U W
R E E R O X P C G A R M Y F L O X J
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A K J S Y U Y F O S S I L B I G U C
N K E E R C N A G A N N A W U S Y R

*See the Wannagan Creek archeological dig site (page 4) at the Milwaukee County Zoo Feb. 3 through April 27 in the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building. Exhibit is free.



ines Brookens, 12, watches the darling fish at the Zoo's African Lakes Exhibit.

Have fun watching the fish when you visit the Zoo in winter. You may discover some surprises. Go to the Aquatic & Reptile Center and find the African Lakes Exhibit. Bring this magazine or a piece of paper, pen and something to write on. Select one of the larger, more colorful fish in the exhibit. Look at the sign to the right of the exhibit and identify your fish.

Observe the fish for 10 minutes. Each time you see your fish **chase** another fish, make a check mark (✓) in the first column below. Each time your fish **is chased** by another fish, make a check mark (✓) in the second column below. Total the check marks in each column. Then answer questions below.

Identify your fish _____

Times my fish is the chaser _____
(Example: ✓)

Total _____

Times my fish is chased _____

Total _____

1. Is your fish a **chaser** or one that **gets chased**? Total the check marks in each column at left. If there are more checks in the first column, your fish is a chaser. More checks in the second column mean that your fish usually is being chased.
2. Did your fish **wander** or **stay near** one location? (If your fish stayed in one place, it probably was defending its area.)
3. How **far** (in inches or feet) did your fish chase other fish?

Q. Are You a Future Zookeeper?

Think you might want to work at a zoo or at a wildlife center someday?

Get started now.



When people apply for zookeeper jobs, says Deputy Zoo Director Bruce Beehler, "the thing we look at most is their direct, hands-on experience with animals. We look at how long they have worked with animals and how many different types of animals. We don't count household pets." Volunteering at humane societies or vet clinics counts, he says.

Zookeepers do more than feed animals (see photos). They check on how healthy the animals look. They help create interesting exhibits. They clean up after the animals. They often train the animals. And they talk to children and other Zoo visitors. Dr. Beehler, who's in charge of animal management and health at the Milwaukee County Zoo, gives some tips for children.



photos:

(Above) Zookeeper Dawn Fleuchaus puts evergreen boughs in the snowy owls exhibit in the Small Mammals Building. She is now an area supervisor.

(Right) Zookeeper Barbara Bell trains a bonobo and rewards it with a grape.

(Below) Primates Area Supervisor Trish Khan feeds a golden lion tamarin.



How to get started:

- Get a domestic pet such as a dog, cat or guinea pig. Please do not take an animal out of the wild. Most people can't properly care for wild or exotic animals.
- Before you get the pet, find out how to take care of it. Make sure you can provide everything that the pet will need. Be sure your pet will be taken care of every day, 24 hours a day.
- Find ways to enrich the life of your pet, such as special toys or puzzles.
- Read about how animals live and what kind of habitats they need. Example, iguanas need ultraviolet light or they'll get bone disease. So if they're not outside getting sunshine, then they need proper lighting inside.
- Learn to spot when something's wrong with the animal. Take sick animals to someone who can help.
- Know the right diet for an animal. Example: An iguana will eat lettuce, but if that's all you feed it, it will die because it's not getting a balanced diet.



Art from Animals

BY SANDRA WHITEHEAD

Art instructor Jill Muehlmeier used to stroll through the Milwaukee County Zoo imagining how exciting art classes among the animals would be. Now she knows.

"When children use the animals as their models, they not only learn about shape and form, shading and proportion. They also get a real sense of the animal by watching its behavior," she says. "That's important to art."

Muehlmeier, an adjunct lecturer in art at Carroll College, proposed an art camp to the Zoological Society. The camp, called Zoo Safari Artists, was launched successfully at the Zoo last summer. For five days middle-school-aged children dabbled in drawing, painting, sculpture, jewelry-making and design. Zoo animals provided the subject matter.

Muehlmeier encourages children to find their own sources of inspiration and their own ways of expressing it. "Everyone is creative. Part of what art classes accomplish is getting children to feel comfortable with what they create. I believe in lots of praise and encouragement. Art lessons offer children a step out of the competitive world they face in school and in sports. It is a moment to just be creative and express themselves."


A polar bear inspired Nolan Peck, 13, of Hales Corners, who is in eighth grade at Whitnall Middle School. He presented his first-ever canvas painting to his father, Dean, who is a polar

bear fan. The 12-inch by 18-inch tempera was impressive. "It's something I always wanted to do, but the materials can be expensive."

Megan May, 13, of Waukesha added her canvas painting of a snake to her "art wall" in the family's basement. "I'm into reptiles," says Megan, who is a seventh grader at Kettle Moraine Middle School.

Kurtis Holme, 12, of Milwaukee, prefers large mammals. "I really liked drawing the leopard. He was just sitting there posing for me. It was challenging to draw the spots. If you put too many or too few, it looks funny. And you have to get all the spots looking the same. It took me a long time, but it looked good." Morning and afternoon walks through the Zoo with a sketchpad provided an excellent starting point, says Kurtis, who is in seventh grade at Samuel Morse Middle School. What Kurtis liked best was making little people out of toilet paper rolls, using beads for eyes and colored paper for wings. "I liked using

my imagination and seeing what everyone else made. Each one was unique."

Next summer, Muehlmeier will give two 2-day camps. Some children may opt to take two back-to-back camps for ages 10-12 and two 2-day camps for ages 12-14. A Monday-Tuesday camp would include sketching, canvas board, watercolor and sculpture. The Wednesday-Thursday camp would cover (tentatively) jewelry, kachina sculptures, graphics and endangered species. Animal art camps are popular and fill up fast. So plan ahead. 



Jill Muehlmeier helps a student with a clay animal sculpture. Children's charcoal drawings are in the background.

Camps Brochure

There will be no in-person registration for Summer Camps on Zoo grounds in 2003. We are changing to a lottery mail-in registration. Look for the Summer Camps brochure in the February-March issue of *Wild Things*.

Art Contest

Middle-school students now can enter original artwork in the Zoological Society's annual Endangered Species Art Competition sponsored by the Robert K. and Joyce R. Cope Foundation. To receive information on entering, please call 414-258-2333.

Zoo Careers

What's normal?

BY PAULA BROOKMIRE

Wrangling alligators isn't a normal part of Dr. Bruce Beehler's job. Still, holding an alligator's snout closed was what he had to do 1½ years ago. That's when the Milwaukee County Zoo brought in a rare white alligator for a summer exhibit.

Deputy Zoo Director Beehler was filling in for the reptile curator when the alligator arrived. "It turned out I had more crocodilian experience than the other staff. I've been a veterinarian for 22 years, and I've taught courses on handling animals and restraining them. I've dealt with aggressive crocodiles up to 12 feet long. So I knew how to restrain those. I handled large caimans (also a crocodilian) when I was in Colombia, South America. In Malaysia I worked with crocs, too.

"Alligators are relatively tame beasts. They are fairly weak in opening their mouth; but they're very strong in closing the mouth. So when he arrived he had tape around his snout so that he would not bite anyone or break his teeth on something hard." Beehler and two zookeepers carried the alligator inside his container into a small exhibit space. To keep the alligator from getting upset, they slowly and

carefully opened the crate, unwrapped the alligator from his cozy blanket, removed the wet burlap that was keeping it comfortable, and – finally – took the tape off his snout. Beehler held the snout closed (top right photo).

Then the three alligator handlers left the area quickly and quietly (see below). "I was the last one to leave because I held



the mouth," says Beehler. It all went very well and the alligator remained calm and didn't hurt itself, which is exactly what they wanted, he adds.

So what are the more "normal" parts of Beehler's job? Here's a sampling:

- He's in charge of the Zoo's animals and of Zoo security, keeping animals, staff and visitors safe.

- He makes plans for what to do in animal emergencies. For example, a Dall sheep escaped last year, and zookeepers had to chase him across the Zoo. A timber



wolf jumped over his fence, but then all he wanted was to get back in with his buddies.

- He oversees the animal areas, and helps plan new buildings. For the last year, he has been spent a lot of time planning a new Zoo hospital that will be finished in summer.
- He helps plan new and improved exhibits. Example: "We're designing some watering bowls for rhinos, but they have to be big enough so the animals can't destroy them because the rhinos weigh thousands of pounds."
- He oversees animal programs, including research, conservation and training. He traveled to Chile for three weeks to help in Humboldt penguin research our Zoo staff has been doing for more than 10 years.
- He oversees the animal-care staff and helps set policy and procedures for the whole Zoo.
- He is involved with state, national and international programs for animals. He helps advise the people in government who make laws and rules about the care and conservation of animals.



The Serengeti Circle is an exclusive group of corporations and foundations that support the Zoo and Zoological Society through grants and sponsorship of special events, exhibits/attractions, education and conservation programs, and promotions at the \$2,500 level and above. For more information on sponsorship opportunities at the Zoo, please call Patty Harrigan, (414) 302-9485.

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* In-kind Sponsorships

Sponsors and grantors donating dollars and in-kind gifts after Nov. 1, 2002, will be recognized in the next issue of *Alive*.



Since 1999, Hawks Nursery of Wauwatosa has donated the 71 live evergreens that transform the Otto Borchert Family Special Exhibits Building into an indoor Fantastic Forest during the Zoological Society's Winter Wonderland holiday exhibit. The trees, most decorated in themes by area youth groups, were displayed in the exhibits building during December's Holiday Night Lights event, sponsored by We Energies.

The Zoological Society recognizes its major donors through membership in the Platypus Society. Platypus members have the option to receive exclusive VIP benefits. If you would like more information about the Platypus Society, please contact the Zoological Society's Development Department at (414) 276-0843, vmail 300.

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"I joined the Platypus Society recently so I could offer my employees the chance to visit the Milwaukee County Zoo anytime. I'm excited about all the plans you have for updating the Zoo. I have supported the Zoological Society's bonobo program in the African Congo for 3 1/2 years. I was happy to offer space in my shop last September for Dr. Gay Reinartz, head of the Bonobo Species Survival Plan, to give a lecture about her work

in the Congo. I admire her commitment. You're fortunate to have Dr. Reinartz as the Society's conservation coordinator. Bonobos are fascinating great apes and the fact that the Zoo has the world's largest group of captive bonobos (17) is one of its greatest assets."

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Zoo Photo photo

Penguin Update

Humboldt Penguin Exhibit

Last summer, the Milwaukee County Zoo's Humboldt penguin population suffered through an outbreak of West Nile virus. Tragically, 11 adult birds died. However, the heroic efforts of aviary and veterinary staff saved 10 birds. Staff provided round-the-clock medical care, administering fluids when needed, offering plenty of fish, tube feeding birds that would not eat, and attending to their every need to reduce stress. "If it were not for the dedication and talent of all involved, more birds would have been lost," says Bird Curator Kim Smith. "We all knew the birds that died very personally."

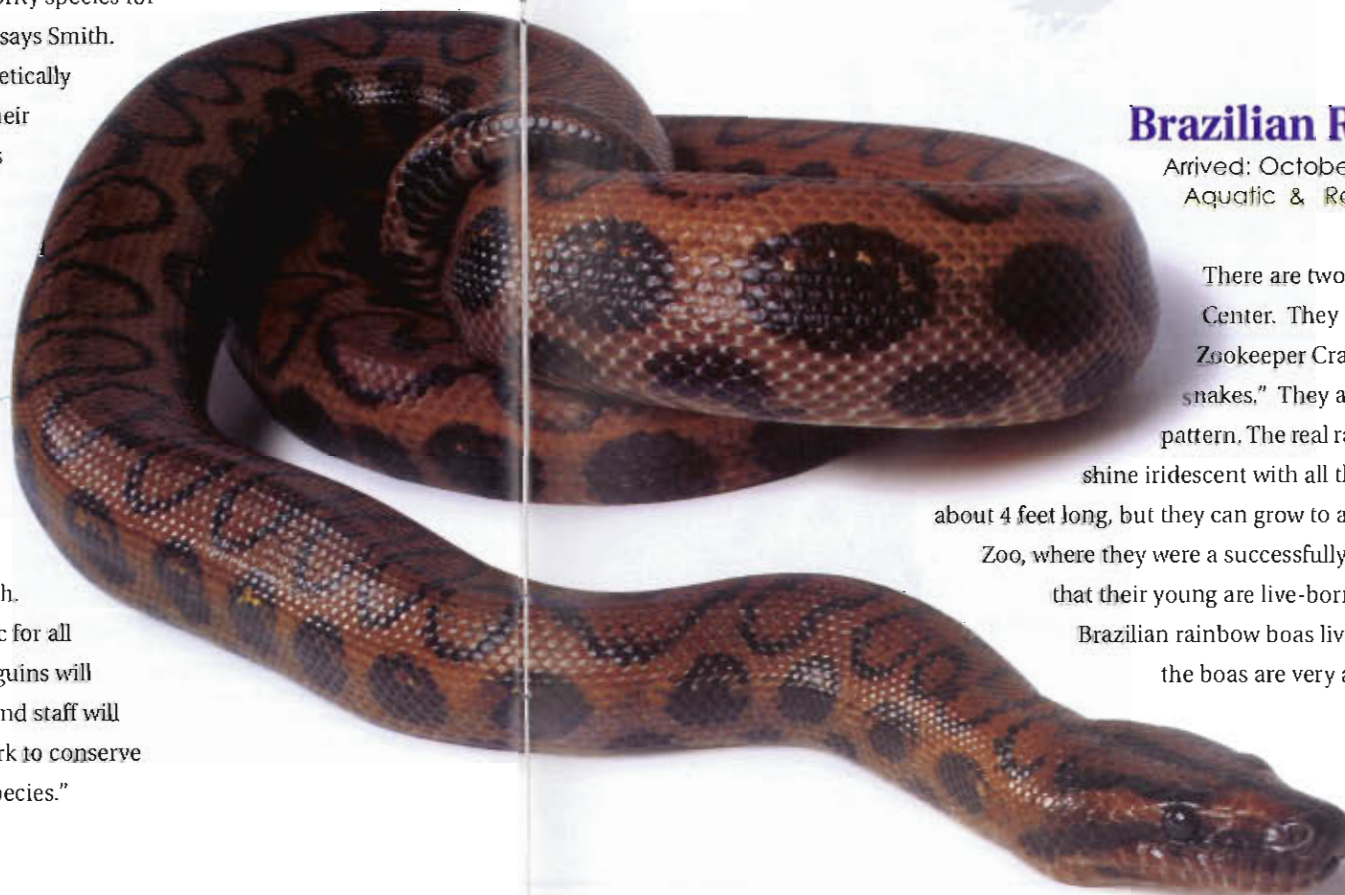
After several months in the Hospital, the surviving 10 birds went back into their outdoor exhibit in late November. The survivors include two chicks born last summer. Their exhibit is the first you see when you walk into the Zoo through its Main Mall.

West Nile virus affects mostly birds. Penguins are particularly susceptible to the virus, which is spread **only** by mosquitoes, not by touching. The Zoo is not a magnet for the disease, and visitors are no more at risk of catching the virus at the Zoo than anywhere else.

Smith is vice chair of the North American Humboldt penguin SSP (Species Survival Program), which promotes conservation

of these endangered birds. "This species has been a focus of conservation work in the wild (in South America) for our Zoo and is the priority species for the bird department," says Smith. Losing important, genetically diverse animals and their potential offspring has hurt the SSP.

Zoo staff is exploring ways to protect penguins and other animals from the virus. "This is a very complex issue, but we will find a way to protect our animals this spring," says Smith. "This is very traumatic for all involved, but the penguins will survive, and the SSP and staff will continue with our work to conserve this very important species."



Snow Leopard

Arrived: July 30, 2002
Feline Building

Last summer was a sort of homecoming for Lhasa, the Zoo's newest female snow leopard. Although she was born in New Mexico, and was most recently in Toledo, Lhasa technically belongs to the Milwaukee County Zoo. Lhasa's mom, Shiva, was born here in 1983, and Lhasa's grandmother was aunt to the popular Sahu. Sabu was one of the most prolific snow leopard moms in captivity in the world; she died in 2001 at age 15. Lhasa had one litter of cubs in 1992. "At 13 years old, Lhasa could still raise another litter of cubs, but the international Snow Leopard SSP (Species Survival Plan) coordinator has recommended that she not breed again," says zookeeper Chris John. The SSP coordinator controls the breeding of captive snow leopards. This promotes genetic diversity, which is important for endangered species. You can see Lhasa in the Feline Building's outdoor carousel exhibit across from the jaguars. You might have to look a little closely to find her as "she likes to tuck into a ball on the rock work" says zookeeper Val Werner. "So far she's been very cooperative," says Werner, "but in Toledo she had a reputation for being very sassy, and she gets very vocal in the holding area."



Brazilian Rainbow Boa Constrictor

Arrived: October 3, 2002
Aquatic & Reptile Center, Green Anaconda Exhibit

There are two new, and particularly beautiful, additions in the Aquatic & Reptile Center. They are Brazilian rainbow boa constrictors, one male and one female. Zookeeper Craig Pelke believes Brazilian rainbow boas are "one of the prettiest snakes." They are a brick-red base color with a dark blue, purple, and black circular pattern. The real rainbow appears, though, when they are in direct light, where "they shine iridescent with all the colors of the rainbow," says Pelke. Right now the boas are both about 4 feet long, but they can grow to a length of 6 to 7 feet. These new additions are from the Baltimore Zoo, where they were a successfully proven breeding pair. An interesting fact about boa constrictors is that their young are live-born; they don't hatch from an egg like most other snakes. Although Brazilian rainbow boas live in the rain forests of Brazil, where many animals are endangered, the boas are very adaptable and are not endangered.



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